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Rabbi enjoyed dual careers in pulpit, education

Rabbi Howard Finkelstein prepares to retire, make aliyah to Israel

BY MICHAEL REGENSTREIF
EDITOR

Rabbi Howard Finkelstein, the long-time spiritual leader of Congregation Beit Tikvah of Ottawa, and dean of Judaic studies at the Ottawa Jewish Community School (OJCS), is preparing to retire this summer. With his wife, Rivka, the rabbi is planning to make aliyah to Israel in September.

Rabbi Finkelstein said he's been thinking about retirement for a long time.

"I told my shul about two years ago that I was thinking about [retiring] around now – and here we are," he told the Ottawa Jewish Bulletin in an interview in his OJCS office.

Rabbi Finkelstein, who grew up in Brooklyn, was ordained in 1977 following rabbinic studies at Yeshiva University in New York. He also holds master's degrees in Jewish secondary education from Yeshiva University and education from New York University – as well as a principal's certificate from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education.

After working in Jewish education in New York City for a couple of years, Rabbi Finkelstein assumed his first pulpit in 1979 at Beth Israel Congregation in Kingston, Ontario, where he served as spiritual leader of the then-modern Orthodox congregation until 1991 when he moved to Congregation Beit Tikvah of Ottawa (then known as Beth Shalom West).

Since arriving in Ottawa 28 years ago, Rabbi Finkelstein has been a major figure in Jewish education in the city. At first he taught in the Ariel Program, then a Jewish studies program at Nepean High School, and at Machon Sarah, an Orthodox high school for girls. Then, in 1995, he became Judaic studies principal at the newly founded Yitzhak Rabin High School – a Jewish community all-day high school combining Jewish studies with the Ontario Ministry of Education curriculum.

In 2009, when Yitzhak Rabin merged with Hillel Academy to create the Ottawa Jewish Community



Rabbi Howard Finkelstein plans to make aliyah to Israel once he retires as dean of Judaic studies at the Ottawa Jewish Community School and as spiritual leader of Congregation Beit Tikvah.

School, Rabbi Finkelstein became dean of Judaic studies.

Rabbi Finkelstein has never hidden his disappointment that OJCS – after years of low enrolment in Grades 9 to 12 – closed the high school division in 2015, and feels that a community high school is vital to the future of Ottawa's Jewish community.

"I feel it was unfortunate that the high school closed. It took away an option for parents and students who were interested in pursuing a [Jewish] high school education," he said. "As a result of that, families that could have come here [to Ottawa] did not come here, and some families that were here, moved out."

Rabbi Finkelstein believes revisiting the idea of re-establishing a high school should be a Jewish community priority should the opportunity arise in the future.

He notes that many of the 141 students who graduated from the high school have gone on to leadership positions in Ottawa's Jewish community and beyond.

And while he laments the closure of the OJCS high school division, he remains enthusiastic about the community day school – particularly as it has continued to develop in recent years under the leadership of Head of School Jon Mitzmacher, and applauds the school's dedication to Jewish education at the elementary level.

Speaking about his congregation, Rabbi Finkelstein notes that when he arrived at the shul in 1991, Beth Shalom West, as it was then known, was a satellite of Congregation Beth Shalom, then an Orthodox congregation on Chapel Street in downtown Ottawa.

"The congregation has really developed over the years," he said.

Although it remains an Orthodox shul, the rabbi said Beit Tikvah's membership comes from across the religious spectrum – "from non-observant to ultra-Orthodox."

"We now have two services every Shabbat morning, one Orthodox, one ultra-Orthodox, happening simultaneously, in order to provide opportunities for different types of worship," he said.

"The people in the congregation have been phenomenal to me and to me my wife over these 28 years," said Rabbi Finkelstein, who also lauds his congregation's members for their involvement in the wider Jewish community and for their ongoing quest for Jewish learning.

Making aliyah to Israel has been a lifetime goal, said Rabbi Finkelstein.

"I want to take the sabbatical I've never had and spend a year in Jerusalem and then either stay there or move elsewhere in the country," he said.

Congregation Beit Tikvah will honour Rabbi Howard Finkelstein and his 28 years of service to the shul on Sunday, June 2, 7 pm. Visit <https://cbto.org/rabbi/> for information or to order tickets.

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Coalition urges federal government to fight online hate

Organizations call for expedited refugee process for people at risk of genocide

BY MATTHEW HORWOOD

Jews have a responsibility to make sure groups “in danger of being eradicated” are able to find a home in Canada, said Martin Sampson, vice-president of communications and marketing of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA).

CIJA was part of a coalition of organizations that held a press conference, April 10 in the Press Gallery Theatre on Parliament Hill, to launch an awareness campaign for Genocide Remembrance, Condemnation, and Prevention Month. Other participating organizations were the Armenian National Committee of Canada, Project Abraham, Romanipe, the Rwandan Humura Association, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, and the Yezidi Human Rights Organization.

In 2015, the House of Commons unanimously passed M-587, which designated April as Genocide Remembrance, Condemnation and Prevention Month.

The coalition called on the federal government to act on three fronts: 1) to create a national strategy to combat online hate; 2) to expedite and enhance the refugee process for at-risk groups (including Yezidis in Iraq, LGBTQ persons in Chechnya and Iran, and Rohingyas in Myanmar); and 3) to formally recognize the genocide of the Romani people.

“These are matters of life and death,” said Dafina Savic, founder of Romanipe.

“Genocide begins with words and is unfortunately not limited to the past. People are being persecuted and killed in countries around the world simply because of who they are,” she said.

“As people who have experienced – and continue to experience – the impact of these crimes, we ask the government of Canada to create policy solutions to tackle this problem before more people are radicalized online,” added Savic.



Dafina Savic of Romanipe speaks at a press conference launching a genocide awareness campaign as (from left) Richard Marceau of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, Sevag Belian of the Armenian National Committee of Canada, Araz Essw of the Yezidi Human Rights Organization, and Ihor Michalchyshyn of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress look on, April 10.

Araz Essw of the Yezidi Human Rights Organization said that for the Yezidis, “the nightmare is still happening, even for those of us who managed to escape death and slavery.”

Essw said while his immediate family was “fortunate enough” to come to Canada, he lost 10 members of his extended family to the Islamic State’s genocide against the Yezidis.

“Yezidi survivors grieve from loss, from separation from surviving loved ones, and the horrific memories of what took place,” he said.

According to Essw, there were once 23 million Yezidis in the world, but after 74 genocides there are now less than one million “scattered around the world.”

“Families have been ripped apart by death and distance, and we can’t get back what we lost: our homes, our possessions, our culture, and the precious lives of

those who perished,” Essw said.

“We should work together to fight for equal rights for all, so we can live on this earth as one happy family, with dignity and respect for human beings,” he said.

According to CIJA’s Sampson, the three policy asks are a way to not only commemorate and remember acts of genocide, but also “to say ‘what lessons did we draw from history, and how can we apply them to today?’”

Sampson said this is especially important this year, as the Federal government finally apologized this past November for Canada closing its doors to the Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi Germany on board the *MS St. Louis* in 1939, and in view of how recent mass murders at a synagogue in Pittsburgh and at mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand showed how “online hate can translate into offline violence.”

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‘Their fight has been etched in history,’ Israeli ambassador says

Ceremony marks Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

BY MICHAEL REGENSTREIF
EDITOR

Diplomats from Israel and Poland, as well as Holocaust survivors and representatives of the Jewish and Polish communities, gathered at the National Holocaust Monument in Ottawa, April 16, for a wreath-laying ceremony marking the 76th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

The uprising began on April 19, 1943, the first night of Passover, and continued until May 16, 1943.

Master of ceremonies for the event was Israeli Deputy Head of Mission Shlomit Sufa who introduced the ambassadors of Israel and Poland for their brief remarks.

“On Passover, nearly 76 years ago, the uprising began and continued for nearly an entire month,” noted Israeli Ambassador Nimrod Barkan. “Knowing the chances for victory were nil, Jewish fighters heroically and courageously fought for 27 days, longer than several European countries. As a result their fight has been etched in history.”

The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, Barkan



(From left) Defence Attaché Captain Krzysztof Książek and Ambassador Andrzej Kurnicki of Poland, and Ambassador Nimrod Barkan and Defence Attaché Colonel Amos Nachmani of Israel gather at the National Holocaust Monument following a wreath-laying ceremony marking the 76th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, April 16.



The wreath laid by Ambassadors Nimrod Barkan of Israel and Andrzej Kurnicki of Poland at the National Holocaust Monument to commemorate the 76th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. The yellow daffodils on either side of the wreath symbolize the yellow Stars of David which the Nazis forced Jews to wear on their clothing.

noted, inspired resistance to the Nazi oppressors in the Treblinka and Sobibor death camps and in Belgium.

The Jewish fighters in the Warsaw Ghetto, the ambassador continued, “displayed enormous courage that we, today, cannot fathom. To choose to fight, knowing only death is promised, and to fight not only for yourself, but for the dignity of the Jewish people, is a level of unmatched heroism.

“When the Germans destroyed

the Warsaw Ghetto following its liquidation, they could not destroy the memory of those whose courage and sacrifice sustained the fighting spirit of the Jewish people; that inspired Jewish resilience through the war years and beyond.”

Polish Ambassador Andrzej Kurnicki said the young Jewish fighters of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising “knew that their chances of survival were minimal, but they chose to fight and die to defend

the honour of the Jewish people.”

After the two ambassadors laid the wreath, Kaddish was recited by Cantor Pinchas Levinson.

Yellow daffodils, symbolizing the yellow Stars of David the Nazis forced Jews to wear on their clothing, were distributed to many of the people who assembled for the ceremony. Following Kaddish, those with daffodils approached, one or two at a time, for a brief moment of reflection and to lay their flowers on either side of the wreath.

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Group provides tools to engage in dialogue on Israel



Beit Ha'am Journey participants take part in a "Cooking up in Hebrew" class.

Beit Ha'am Journey offers unique programs

BY PAM ROSENBERG
SOLOWAY JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Beit Ha'am Journey will be in Ottawa this spring bringing four days of conversations and workshops to our community.

The Beit Ha'am Journey was launched by the Department for Diaspora Activities of the World Zionist Organization and The Canadian Zionist Federation to encourage conversations and raise important questions about Zionism, Israel and the Jewish people.

"This program gives us a chance to engage in the issues which concern Israelis and, through dialogue and discussion, understand Israel in a more nuanced fashion," said Soloway Jewish Community Centre (SJCC) Assistant Executive Director Maxine Miska. "Through this process the community will be able to respond in a more knowledgeable and complex fashion to criticism of Israel."

The journey begins Thursday, May 23 and wraps up in the evening of Sunday, May 26. Over the course of the weekend, several programs and classes will run simultaneously at the SJCC as well

as at participating Jewish organizations throughout the city.

The Vered Israel Cultural and Educational Program, Kehillat Beth Israel, Temple Israel, Hillel Ottawa, Congregation Machzikei Hadas, the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, and AJA50+ will host programs like "Cooking up in Hebrew," a hands-on cooking class, "Walking a Tightrope," a discussion about Israel's Supreme Court, and "My Jerusalem," a conversation on the modern history of Israel's capital. Saturday Shabbat services will use elements of the Journey.

"We are thrilled for an opportunity to bring to Ottawa a group of Israeli educators and facilitators who have a large set of tools for leading meaningful discussions on personal identity and connection with the Jewish people and Israel," said Vered Israel Cultural and Educational Program Manager Ella Dagan.

In addition to several stops in the U.S., the Beit Ha'am Journey has visited Vancouver, Calgary, Saskatoon and Toronto.

Beit Ha'am Journey programming is open to the community and while most programs are free of charge, there are some that require registration and a fee.

For more information, visit www.jccottawa.com or contact Ella Dagan at edagan@jccottawa.com or 613-798-9818, ext. 243.

YOM HAZIKARON

Memorial ceremony for Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terror

Tuesday, May 7 • 7:00 pm

Soloway Jewish Community Centre • 21 Nadolny Sachs Private

In partnership with Vered Israel Cultural and Educational Program and The Embassy of Israel in Canada



SolowayJCC VERED ISRAEL CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM  The Embassy of Israel in Canada

Israeli Flag Raising Ceremony

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11:15 am
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A bus will be available to take people to and from the event. If you are interested in taking the bus please contact Ella Dagan.

The bus will leave the SJCC at 10:30 am.

SolowayJCC VERED ISRAEL CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM  JEWISH FEDERATION OF OTTAWA

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

An SJCC Membership Card or photo ID must be presented in order to gain access to the SJCC



Thursday, May 9, 2019 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Soloway JCC, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private

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The Nozyk Synagogue, the only surviving prewar synagogue in Warsaw, located in the city's former ghetto, stands under a modern office building. SEAN GALLUP/GETTY IMAGES

Notre Dame Cathedral will be rebuilt – but most European Jewish sites won't

BY RUTH ELLEN GRUBER

BUDAPEST (JTA) – Architecture and built heritage can be powerful symbols.

Notre-Dame de Paris was one of the most famous and familiar buildings in the world, visited by an astonishing 30,000 people a day, or 13 million people a year. It was embedded in global collective consciousness and immortalized around the world in a zillion holiday snaps, videos, works of fine art and memories.

My Facebook and Twitter feeds last month were full of posts grieving over the great cathedral's fiery fate and heaving sighs of relief that much of the 800-year-old building and its treasures apparently will be saved.

But they have also been full of posts questioning why so much emotion – and money – is (or will be) spent over the fate of one building, however old or iconic, while myriad other important heritage sites are under threat worldwide and millions of people are homeless or go hungry.

My most recent visit to Notre Dame, last October, was for the opening event of an international conference about how to save the thousands of abandoned or endangered churches, synagogues and other sites of religious heritage in Europe. I've been working to document and preserve crumbling Jewish heritage sites for three decades, and it's often been an uphill battle.

Unlike the damage incurred by the vast majority of vulnerable heritage sites, the Notre Dame fire happened dramatically, in real time, as thousands watched by the Seine and millions followed online or on TV. Millions of those who watched the flames had a direct, tangible connection with the building, even if just as a tourist who visited once with a group. What's more, the fire was sudden, unexpected and – unlike so many other cases – it was not due to war or, as far as we know, attack.

People need symbols, and the world needs culture,

beauty and art. Notre Dame was and is a symbol of all such things – and an important symbol of continuity and connection.

The global response shows how built heritage can transcend the specific and become a potent symbol for society at large.

Back in 1999, then-French culture minister Catherine Trautmann sought to make this point in an address to an international conference on Jewish heritage in Europe held in Paris and sponsored by the French government.

"Jewish heritage in France is also the heritage of all the French people, just as the cathedrals of France also belong to France's Jews," she said.

Her statement was a noteworthy expression of a new way of thinking that has still not fully permeated society – namely that Jewish built heritage is part and parcel of European heritage, not distinct from it.

During the Holocaust, Jewish heritage sites were more than symbols – they were surrogates: In addition to the mass murder of Jews, the Nazis deliberately targeted the physical places that Jews held dear. Untold hundreds of synagogues, prayer houses and Jewish cemeteries were destroyed during the Second World War, and following the war, hundreds more were either destroyed, left derelict or converted for other uses that totally obscured their original identity.

In the decades that I've been involved in the Jewish heritage field, many once-ruined synagogues have been restored, and some have been rededicated with high-level ceremonies: in Berlin, Budapest and Krakow, as well as smaller towns and cities. Some are used again (or still) as places of worship. Others now play prominent roles as cultural landmarks.

In Warsaw, once home to 350,000 Jews and the most important pre-Holocaust Jewish centre in Europe, **See Warsaw on page 16**



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**FEDERATION
REPORT**



**ALLAN SHEFRIN, CHAIR
OTTAWA MARCH OF THE
LIVING COMMITTEE**

The responsibility of remembrance and education is ours

Wind,” a song he wrote that has inspired Jewish communities ever since.

Hearing it, I could visualize what he’d seen – the empty barracks – and was inspired by his lyrics “for the songs you could not sing, I promise, yes I promise I will sing.” Beginning then, I knew what our responsibility was and is. We must tell the stories that the victims of the Shoah cannot tell.

Now, more than ever, these stories are so vital to hear, to record and to tell. Our opportunities to connect with survivors are diminishing and our responsibility to ensure this never happens again is growing. Recent studies revealed that more than half of Canadians and almost two-thirds of millennials do not know that six million Jews died in the Holocaust.

We must reverse this trend.

It is my privilege to have taken over as chair of Ottawa’s March of the Living (MOL) Committee from Karen Palayew. Under her leadership, the Ottawa MOL contingent grew and became more active in the community. While this is

an off-year for our program, our alumni continue to share their experiences with Ottawa’s Jewish and broader communities. MOL alumni, and their characteristic blue jackets, are omnipresent at every local Holocaust event. In my tenure as chair, I want to prioritize re-engaging all of our alumni in Holocaust education and MOL activities.

MOL alumni, with the assistance of committee members Minda Chaikin and Janice Friedlich, are working on the MOL Alumni Project. In partnership with the Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship, this project pairs alumni with Holocaust survivors who are part of the centre’s speakers’ bureau. As part of this program, alumni and Holocaust survivors are planning and delivering presentations at various local schools. The alumni will ultimately become the survivors’ voices by carrying on sharing their stories.

Our committee has been busy planning for Ottawa’s next MOL contingent. In April 2020 students from Ottawa will join the Canadian Coast-to-Coast group,

along with Holocaust survivors, to learn firsthand about the horrors of the Holocaust, and themselves become witnesses.

Over a dozen families attended our first information session with MOL National Director Eli Rubenstein. We are holding a second session on Monday, May 6, 7 pm, at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre. There will be a third in the fall. These sessions allow interested families to hear from past participants, parents and survivors to prepare themselves for joining the trip.

We are also actively seeking chaperones for the 2020 trip. The deadline to apply is June 30.

The responsibility of remembrance is falling on our generation and our children’s generation. March of the Living is here to help and to do what we can so that never again means never again.

If you are interested in joining the MOL or being a chaperone in 2020, please contact Lindsay Gottheil at lgottheil@jewishottawa.com or 613-798-4696, ext. 355.

The March of the Living started in 1988, and to this day offers an unrivaled, unique, immersive educational experience. Jewish high school students, joined by Holocaust survivors, visit the death camps and ruins of the Jewish community in Poland. This is followed by visiting Israel to experience the rebirth of the Jewish people and nation.

I first learned about the March shortly after it first began. Vadim Dreyzin, a schoolmate in Winnipeg, returned from the trip and at our Holocaust commemoration program, performed “The April

**FROM THE
PULPIT**



**RABBI IDAN SCHER
MACHZIKEI HADAS**

The line connecting Passover to Yom Ha’Atzmaut

“Egypt is not so bad,” and they would not take that daunting step into the wilderness to realize their national destiny.

There would be a moment of inspiration when God would say, “Go,” and if they did not seize that moment of inspiration, we quite possibly could have still been slaves in Egypt today. Remember, too, that even after they left in haste, they had moments of second thought.

When you think about it, life is like that. We all want to live inspired lives. We all want to live really meaningful lives suffused with truth and goodness. But day-to-day life all too often holds us back from our aspirations. The lesson here is that living an inspired life does not just happen on its own, because inspiration fades so quickly. Living an inspired life requires conscious effort. It requires setting time during the day to recalibrate. This, by the way, is one of the many beautiful layers of meaning in our three times daily prayer obligations.

It means seeking out moments of inspiration, not expecting them to come to us. And it means taking advantage of each moment of inspiration that we find. A discerning eye and heart can find a plethora of inspiration all

around, and we are blessed to have a community committed to offering these moments of inspiration as much and as often as possible.

But the point is, if we are not invested in taking the inspiration around us and translating it into something concrete in our lives, and with some immediacy, then the inspiration will fade and we are left where we started. There is a line connecting Passover to Yom Ha’Atzmaut that further develops our point.

We left Egypt in haste, yet we were able to endure 2,000 years of exile! For a people in a hurry, that is a long time. For anyone, that is a long time. How were we able to combine the haste of leaving with the patience of waiting? Perhaps in our reliving the Exodus every year at the seder, we gained a deeper understanding of the haste.

We left quickly, but we waited hundreds of years until that great moment came. We had the patience to be ready for the redemptive moment! The rebirth of Israel combines these two capacities: the patience to survive through the travail of exile, followed by the haste to rebuild. How else can you explain the unbelievable achievements of Israel in such a short time?

I am writing this two days before Passover and although it will be just before Yom Ha’Atzmaut by the time you read it, I cannot seem to get my mind off of Passover and, specifically, our Exodus from Egypt.

I am thinking about the idea that the Jewish people left Egypt in “haste.” It seems very clear that God intended for them to leave in a hurried fashion. In fact, the Jewish people were commanded to eat the Pesach offering “with their loins girded, their shoes on their feet, and their staff in their hand,” completely prepared for the trip out of Egypt, so that the moment they were told to leave, they could do so. It seems as if there was concern that if they would not leave in haste, they would have second thoughts, they would conclude that

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FROM THE EDITOR



MICHAEL REGENSTREIF

On the night of Thursday, April 18, police in Winnipeg, Manitoba, responded to a call at what was described in reports as “a kosher restaurant.”

A woman inside the BerMax Caffé and Bistro had allegedly been assaulted during a robbery attempt – later reports identified the alleged victim as one of the café’s owners. The restaurant appeared to have been badly vandalized and the word “Jew” was spray-painted on windows and in the parking lot, and swastikas were spray-painted on the walls.

The police opened a hate crime investigation into the incident. Reports said this was the fourth anti-Semitic incident at this restaurant in the past five months. The case was widely reported in both mainstream and Jewish media around the world – we published several JTA reports about it on the Ottawa Jew-

Hate crime or not, it was a tragic case

ish Bulletin website.

Six days later, police laid charges in the case. And, no, the alleged culprits were not extremist right-wing hate-mongers or left-wing anti-Zionism zealots. The police charged the owners of the café – Alexander and Oxana Berent and their son, Maxim – with staging the incident.

Although the charge was public mischief, the word “mischief” sounds almost benign in a case that Winnipeg Police Service Chief Danny Smyth said was a serious waste of police resources.

“Over 25 officers have invested nearly 1,000 hours through a busy holiday weekend trying to bring this investigation to a close,” the chief said.

At this point, I think it’s important to interject with a couple of caveats.

The first is that the alleged suspects must be given a presumption of innocence unless and until they are convicted in a court of law. That is why we use the word “alleged” in advance of a conviction.

For their part, the owners have denied they staged the incident. “We don’t joke about swastikas on our walls,” Oxana Berent told Manitoba CBC Radio. “My grandmother’s family, they died in the Holocaust. Just her and her little brother survived, the whole family. We don’t joke about that.”

The second caveat is that the BerMax Caffé and Bistro should not be referred to as a “kosher restaurant.” According to a report in the Canadian Jewish News, “BerMax had been operating as a kosher restaurant until last fall, when the family chose to drop its kosher certification, citing higher costs and losing business due to being closed on Shabbat.”

Hate crimes are serious. Whether involving mass murder as we have heartbreakingly seen all too recently at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, and at mosques in Quebec City and Christchurch, New Zealand, or in the series of anti-Semitic and racist graffiti attacks we witnessed here in Ottawa in November 2016, such crimes hit us hard as a community, and as individuals.

So, to hear that a Jewish family allegedly staged an anti-Semitic attack on their own business is deeply disturbing (and, reportedly, Winnipeg Police are now investigating the possibility that the previous anti-Semitic incidents at BerMax were also allegedly staged).

When the latest incident at the restaurant was first reported, the Jewish community in Winnipeg rallied their support behind the Berent family. The broader community responded as well: an interfaith rally of support was

scheduled to be held on April 25 but was cancelled after news of the charges were made public.

But the feelings of many were captured in a statement released by the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg on April 24: “Anti-Semitism is growing globally and here in Canada. This is why we were alarmed by the alleged incident at BerMax Caffé and were grateful for the diligent response of the Winnipeg Police Service and outpouring of support from the broader community.

“We are shocked and deeply disturbed by today’s news. It is deplorable that anyone would make false allegations of anti-Semitism, especially claims of such a serious nature, for any kind of gain.

“Filing false complaints of criminal acts of anti-Semitism are not only illegal, they undermine the important work necessary to counter anti-Semitism and hate in all forms. We reiterate our appreciation of the work of the Winnipeg Police Service and their continued support for the Jewish community.”

Despite this sad turn of events, we must remain vigilant in the face of real anti-Semitism, and all other forms of hatred. And no matter how this case is resolved, there is no doubt that lives have been ruined – and that is tragic.

IDEAS AND IMPRESSIONS



JASON MOSCOVITZ

It is one of the saddest things to experience. That period of time when you realize a parent may or may not know who you are anymore. I had heard many people say this as their parents suffered through the last phase of their lives, but to actually live the reality hurts through and through.

It is not personally hurtful because you understand the circumstances. What hurts is how cruel it is. From the beginning of the downward slide, the most consistent thing is how you can never hope that your parent is ever going to get better. What hurts even more is seeing how quickly one’s mind can literally disappear.

It seems to go from irrational thinking, to memory loss, to losing the ability to speak. From that point on, it is a steady,

You never forget your mother’s heartfelt commitment to family

sad march to increasingly losing more and more mental and physical capacity. It is hard to imagine anything worse, and yet there are so many people, and so many families, in and outside of our community, who endure this every day.

It is the everyday part that gnaws at you. A day doesn’t go by that you don’t have this awful feeling in the pit of your stomach. There is a big gaping hole in your family’s life that relentlessly goes on and on with everyone feeling and knowing they are powerless to change the feeling of losing a parent before you actually lose them.

Visiting loved ones in long-term care homes is never easy but, as dementia worsens, as it always does, the visits become increasingly difficult. The point is reached when there is no means of conversation, and words aside, it is so hard to visit when there is so little, if any, eye-to-eye recognition, and seemingly no way to communicate the simplest things like, “Hi, it’s Jason, your son.”

You find yourself in this twilight zone of nothing making sense. A lifetime of memories explodes in your head from years gone by as you wish you could

remember the last meaningful conversation you had. And then you think of how beautiful it would be to go for coffee and talk about children and grandchildren and what they are up to.

Knowing that conversation will never happen doesn’t stop you from wishing it could. It would all be good and positive, and I know my mother would be very proud of all 12 of her great-grandchildren because nothing was more important to her than watching her family grow.

Pesach is family time. Seder nights are a time to be together. It is when and where family traditions begin. It is often where a child’s Jewish memories begin. But when a living matriarch can no longer attend because of a prolonged health issue, seder nights change significantly.

Nothing is forever, and while change is constant in everyday life, you grow up thinking family seder nights will never be different because every year, for so many years, seders were a standard-bearing constant in your life. Aging, death and terrible illness shatter the mould.

In most families, needless to say, seders can and do take on new life in new locations. But thinking of the moth-

er who brought you into the world, the mother who worked tirelessly to make seder nights as special as she could for her children and grandchildren: you never forget your mother’s heartfelt commitment to family.

While it is so disappointing to see my mother as incapacitated as she is, this Pesach, her third year away from a seder table, helped me come to grips with the intrinsic value of my memories of seders past. The memories are many. Through those memories I see so many phases of my life pass in front of me.

I remember my first seder at my mother’s parents’ apartment. In the ‘60s, I remember how only a seder could overtake the importance of an NHL playoff game in hockey-crazy Montreal. In later years, I remember loading the car and four children and rushing from Ottawa to Montreal to get there on time.

Most of all, I remember how beautiful and how special my mother tried to make everything. She wanted everything and everyone to shine. The best linen, the best silver, and the best food.

I wish she were well enough to hear me tell her that.

*The Chair and Board of Directors of the
Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation cordially invite
all fund holders and members of the Community to attend the*



OJCF Annual General Meeting Wednesday, June 6th, 2019

**Call to Order: 7:00 pm
with Desserts and Light Refreshments**

Social Hall of the Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building
21 Nadolny Sachs Private

Any two members of the Corporation may nominate additional directors at any time up to seven days prior (May 30th, 2019) to the meeting so long as such nominations are made in writing and deposited with the Foundation Associate (info@ojcf.ca).

Successful candidates will serve a three-year term from June 2019 to June 2022. Nominations will not be accepted from the floor at the Annual General Meeting.

Members shall have the right to exercise one vote each. Any member may, by means of a written proxy, appoint a proxy holder to attend and act in the manner and to the extent authorized by the proxy. A proxy holder need not be a member.

**RSVP prior to May 30th, 2019
to Solange Ashe at 613-798-4696 ext. 252,
or at sashe@jewishottawa.com**

A copy of the meeting materials will be available on our website (ojcf.ca) prior to the AGM.

"Investing in our Future"

OJCF.CA

Notice of Annual General Meeting



**The Jewish Federation of Ottawa will hold its
85th Annual General Meeting on
Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at 7 pm
in the Social Hall of the Joseph and Rose
Ages Family Building, 21 Nadolny Sachs Pvt.**

**The entire Jewish community
is invited to attend.**

The Nominating Committee proposes that the following individuals be elected to serve a term of two (2) years as members of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, serving to June 2021:

Kevin Barwin, Secretary
Harold Feder, Treasurer
Stacy Goldstein
Sender Gordon
Jeff Laks
Karen Palayew
Michael Polowin, Chair
Ian Sherman, Vice Chair
Nikki Shapiro

Continuing to June 2020 in completion of an existing two (2) year term:

Jessica Greenberg
Victor Rabinovitch
Hartley Stern, Immediate Past
Chair
Danya Vered

The Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa thanks the following directors who will be completing their terms in June 2019:

David Appotive
Linda Kerzner

Section 11.22 of the by-laws state that " At least thirty (30) days before the annual general meeting, the board of directors shall send the Nominating Committee report to each Full Member and invite each Full Member to provide the President and Chief Executive Officer, at least fourteen (14) days before the annual meeting, the name of any additional candidates which he/she wishes to nominate, together with a letter of support from five (5) other Full Members of the Corporation and a statement by the candidate of interest and qualifications."

Submissions should be sent to Cibeles at crossa@jewishottawa.com no later than 5 p.m. June 5, 2019 with the following subject line, RE: Nominating Committee Report, additional candidate.

Nominating Committee:

Tamara Fathi
Jonathan Ben-Choreen Freedman
Andrea Freedman, Staff
Debbie Halton-Weiss
Rabbi Eytan Kenter
Linda Kerzner
Sam Levine
Michael Polowin
Hartley Stern

Please address any questions to
Cibele Rosa at crossa@jewishottawa.com or 613-798-4696 x236



Dan Mader
Board Chair



Lynda Taller-Wakter
Executive Director

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

Thank you to our volunteers

**Volunteer week has come and gone,
but the spirit of volunteerism lasts forever**

Over the past few years, JNF Ottawa volunteers have helped raise funds to improve the lives of children with special needs at ALEH; give hope to at-risk youth in Kiryat Shmona; support the collaborative creativity of Jewish, Druze, Muslim and Christian teens working on robotics in Misgav Galilee; fund research at ALUT to help the future path of children with autism; give farmers in Yiron a functioning water reservoir so they can continue growing and harvesting apples; protect Ofakim residents with safe spaces; and create medical advancements through research into cardio-metabolic disease. Volunteers have also helped to raise funds for new security plantings and restoring forests burned by terror attacks.

**About the importance of
JNF Ottawa volunteers**

We appreciate all of our volunteers – from our die hard Tu Bishvat telephone callers to our trailblazing past and present Honourees, formidable Dinner Chairs, Honourary Dinner Chairs and committee members for working tirelessly to achieve goals, reaching out to their friends and business colleagues and sharing the truly valuable work that JNF is doing in Israel.

**Miles to go...so much more to do...
we need you to...**

Raise funds, volunteer for the Tu Bishvat campaign, get friends to events, champion a JNF project, collaborate with shuls/agencies, Chair a Mission to Israel, Chair an event for Young Professionals...the possibilities are endless to get involved on a year-round basis and to make your individual contribution to the mission of JNF – building the future of Israel.

Sign up for our Eblasts and stay in touch with us directly!

Sign up for JNF Ottawa's e-blasts at JNFottawa.ca

To see who planted trees in Israel

Listings are sent out monthly

• All occasions • Holiday wishes • Year round

613-798-2411 Ottawa@JNF.ca
www.JNFottawa.ca

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Sefer Bar Mitzvah

Mazel tov to **Ari Kotkowski**, inscribed by his parents Bethany and David.

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Celebrate all occasions
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Charles Frost

Musica Ebraica, shown rehearsing at Hillel Lodge, will perform May 28 at Temple Israel.

Musica Ebraica concert celebrates 18 years

BY MINDA WERSHOF
MUSICA EBRAICA

What do 19th century Austrian composer Franz Schubert and contemporary Ottawa composer of Jewish music Leo Lightstone have in common? The answer is “Psalm 92: A Song for the Sabbath.”

In Vienna, Schubert befriended Solomon Sulzer, a well-known chazzan and composed “Tov L’Hodos, Psalm 92” in Hebrew. Leo’s “Shir L’Yom Hashabbat” is based on the same Hebrew text.

On Tuesday, May 28, 7:30 pm, at Temple Israel, 1301 Prince of Wales Drive, you can hear both these beautiful pieces, and many others, as Musica Ebraica

celebrates 18 years of singing interesting and beloved Jewish selections. This concert is a collection of the singers’ favourites and ranges from modern Israeli compositions and arrangements of ancient Sephardic tunes, to compositions by Canadian legends Srul Irving Glick and Sid Robinovitch, the “Jewish Halleluyah Chorus” by Louis Lewandowski, a quartet by Solomone Rossi of Renaissance-era Italy, Second Avenue ditties, and much more.

The choir will be joined by Cantor Jason Green who will add his beautiful voice, and by recent graduates of the University of Ottawa music program. A special treat will be the klezmer/jazz sounds of Tumo Klezmer, a duo from Montreal who will delight us with

their original take on Jewish soul music.

Laurence Wall will be the master of ceremonies.

Musica Ebraica is conducted by Saeideh Rajabzadeh, an accomplished singer and master’s student in musicology at the University of Ottawa. The accompanist is Carol Gurofsky. We welcome new members who are comfortable reading music and share a love of the music we sing.

Tickets are \$20 (general admission) and \$10 (students). For tickets or more information, contact Toby Yan at 613-224-4560, Minda Wershof at 613-224-7073 or tickets@musicaebraica.ca. A dessert reception will follow the concert.

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Dedicated volunteers to be honoured at spring tea



Jerry and Lily Penso will be honoured for their lifetime of volunteerism by CHW Ottawa at its annual spring tea, June 2.

BY ANNA BILSKY
FOR CHW OTTAWA

This year the annual spring tea of the Amit, Mollie Betcherman and Ina McCarthy chapters of Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CWH) will honour Lily and Jerry Penso. For almost six decades, Lily and Jerry have been tireless and selfless volunteers whose generosity with their time knows no bounds.

Jerry retired 20 years ago after running an IGA with Lily's brother, Max, while Lily worked as a legal secretary for about 15 years. Together they raised three children. During 60 years of marriage, they have been an unstoppable team that continues to volunteer for many worthwhile projects.

Lily volunteered with ORT and the UJA. She was an area fundraising chair for the Canadian Cancer Society. Jerry served on the board of Agudath Israel Congregation and was a founding co-chair of the Ottawa Kosher Food Bank. He volunteered with the Ottawa Deaf Centre for five years where he learned sign language. He was also active on a committee to help refugee families from Kosovo and Argentina.

Together, Lily and Jerry loved to help students in the ESL program in their local public school. They also help Israelis with their language skills via Skype through the Israel Connect and People Words and Change programs. And they help feed the homeless through Kehillat Beth Israel's Sunday Sandwich program, as well as serving lunch at St. Luke's Church on Somerset Street.

Many are aware that Lily and Jerry founded Tamir

in 1985, the sole Jewish organization in Ottawa dedicated to ensuring people with developmental disabilities receive the care and support they require and are able to realize their potential through opportunities for personal growth and community involvement. Lily was Tamir's first president. Tamir has grown to support over 100 individuals through a variety of services including housing and support, respite care, day services, and a vibrant Judaic outreach program.

"There are so many ways to help out. We do volunteer work to give back and help other people," Lily and Jerry said in 2005 when they were the recipients of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa's Shem Tov Community Volunteer Award.

Lily and Jerry are a treasure in our community. They serve as a model for all. Even after all these years, when others slow down, Lily knits toques for Israeli soldiers and Ottawa street people and lap pads for people in wheelchairs.

Please support the CHW Spring Tea and help us all honour this amazing couple. The tea will be Sunday June 2, 2-4 pm, at the home of Roslyn and Steven Fremeth, 11 Craigmohr Court.

Funds raised by the tea will support the Healing Broken Families program at the CHW Hadassim Children and Youth Village in Israel. This program helps children-at-risk receive the support they need to grow and succeed and to bring them together with their parents for specialized counselling.

Visit www.chw.ca/ottawa-spring-tea to RSVP or to make a donation. For further information, contact Debbie Baylin at 613-521-9092.

Federation's IMPACT

The Next Generation

THE ISSUE: Young people in colleges, universities, and in the professional world are faced with traditional and new challenges. How do we help them make Jewish decisions and serve their unique needs?

HOW WE HELP:

Federation creates opportunities to help young adults develop meaningful connections to Jewish life.

Glebe Shul



230

young professionals participated in monthly Shabbat dinners, holiday programs and small group learning opportunities.

Hillel Ottawa and Chabad Student Network



600+

university students enjoyed Jewish programs, Shabbat dinners, educational, recreational programs and leadership development opportunities.

Jewish Federation of Ottawa



EMERGING GENERATION

560

young professionals and families participated in 7 events that were funded by Emerging Gen Grants.



60+

newcomers to Ottawa's Jewish Community were welcomed in 2 events



See the full *Our Impact* report online at jewishottawa.com/reports

For more information contact Sarah Beutel at sbeutel@jewishottawa.com or 613-798-4696 x253



Lunch with the prime minister of Canada and president of Israel

GUEST COLUMN
JOSEPH NEWMAN

On April 1, I had the privilege of attending a luncheon at the Shaw Centre hosted by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for Israeli President Reuven Rivlin, who was on an official state visit to Canada. The visit commemorated the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Israel and Canada, as well as the two countries' shared values of democracy and freedom.

Rivlin was born in Jerusalem in 1939 during the era of the British Mandate. He is a seventh-generation Jerusalemite and the 10th president of Israel, currently in the fifth year of a non-renewable seven-year term. According to Israeli opinion polls, he is the most popular Israeli leader. This is perhaps due to the mostly non-political nature of his office. Additionally, having had the opportunity to hear him speak, I think that some of his popularity comes from his very sincere and personable nature.

At the luncheon, Trudeau spoke about the countries' shared values and how they have led to strengthened cultural and economic ties, as demonstrated by the recently-updated Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement. He also referred to current negotiations of a bilateral Youth Mobility Agreement, which would allow young people from both countries to work in the other country while visiting. The

prime minister also spoke about his trip to Israel to attend the funeral of Shimon Peres, Israel's former president and prime minister, in 2016, and about his positive impressions of Jerusalem.

Rivlin echoed those thoughts and feelings in his own speech, going into more detail about Israel's commitments to democracy and equality, two values that he emphasized as being an ideological bridge connecting Canada and Israel, and leading to opportunities for greater cooperation between the two countries.

Both Trudeau and Rivlin emphasized the need to support Israel at an international level, citing movements such as BDS and Israel Apartheid Week which hold Israel to higher standards than other countries.

In my opinion, it is perfectly legitimate to voice concern or criticism over the policies of any country. However, when those criticisms become disproportionate and cross the line into statements of hatred – that is something that we cannot tolerate and must actively combat.

We have seen these types of attitudes numerous times over the years at the United Nations, and more recently with U.S. Congresswoman Ilhan Omar's statements about Israel that reflect anti-Semitic generalizations.

Today, in an age where Israel is demonized on the international stage and is condemned by so many, it is our responsibility more than ever before to be advocates for it to be regarded in a more positive light throughout the world. I was pleased to hear our prime minister speak out against anti-Semitism and the imposition of double-standards against Israel.



Grade 9 student Joseph Newman, a 2018 graduate of the Ottawa Jewish Community School, attends Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Ottawa luncheon for Israeli Prime Minister Reuven Rivlin, April 1, at the Shaw Centre.



KESHET FOR KIDS 2019

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- Collaboration with and ongoing support to families and the host camps
- Tamir may provide an in-house summer camp program depending on need and availability of resources.

Parent comments, Keshet for Kids 2018:

"Keshet was the first time my son could participate in something, on his own, without worry."

"My child had an amazing summer. Tamir provided the expertise to make it work."

More Information:

To enroll or obtain more information about the program, contact Estelle Allen at 613-851-7476 or estelleallen@tamir.ca.

THE OTTAWA JEWISH COMMUNITY SCHOOL has a way of doing things, distinct from any other school in our city. OJCS is dedicated to enriching the lives of our students along with strengthening their character and instilling their love for Israel. Inspired by Jewish values and heritage, a love of learning, and guided by innovative teaching practices, our students reach for their potential to become the leaders of tomorrow, and responsible citizens of the world. Our trilingual curriculum combines the teaching and understanding of Judaism and the Hebrew language with the bilingual culture of our nation's capital city. This is the OJCS difference.

The OJCS Board of Directors is looking for talented experienced volunteers to fill strategic roles in our governance structure. Predominantly, we require individuals with very specific skill sets to augment our current committee teams. In our experience, the best way to join the OJCS Board of Directors is to volunteer on a committee and get to know us, and let us get to know you. Individuals with prior board experience may be considered for appointment directly to the OJCS Board. Experienced volunteers with the following backgrounds are most desirable:

- Innovation and entrepreneurship
- Academic
- Legal and accounting/finance
- Fundraising and development
- Public relations and strategic communications
- Human resources and talent management

If you want to learn more about OJCS, we encourage you to visit our website at: <https://www.theojcs.ca>

If you are interested in applying please send your CV to president@theojcs.ca by May 15 2019. There are exciting things happening at OJCS and we look forward to having you involved!



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The Board of Directors of the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation acknowledges with thanks contributions to the following funds as of February 28 to March 13, 2019.

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Josh Engel on becoming managing partner at GGFL by Cynthia and David Blumenthal

Susan and Sam Firestone on their daughter Jessica's engagement to David Kepecs by Cynthia and David Blumenthal

IN MEMORY OF:
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REFUAH SHLEMA TO:
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Irvin Hoffman on his retirement by Leah Chodikoff and Glenn Chodikoff
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Jacob Krane-Paul on his academic accomplishments and being accepted to the Faculty of Law at McGill University by Mom and Dad

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What will be your legacy?

Learn about the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation's Legacy Challenge at ojcf.ca

Contact Micah Garten at 613-798-4696 ext. 270 or email mgarten@jewishottawa.com

AJA 50+ Trivia Night returns for sixth season

BY MAUREEN R. KATZ
FOR AJA 50+

AJA (Active Jewish Adults) 50+ is excited to announce that the 2019 edition of our annual Trivia Night fundraiser will take place on Sunday, May 26, 6:30-9:30 pm, at Temple Israel, 1301 Prince of Wales Drive.

The architects of this fun-filled and engaging evening are Arnold Finkelstein and Fred Tabachnik who, as always, are eager to test your brain and recall in a wide variety of Canadian and worldly subjects. AJA 50+ is delighted to have Rabbi Steven Garten return as MC, stand-up comic and maître-de-questions. New to this year's event and sure to be a big hit will be a mini-live auction of interesting and unique items on which to outbid your neighbour.

The entire community is invited to

participate in Trivia Night, no matter your age or knowledge of trivia. You may register your own team of up to 10 persons per table or simply come out, bring a friend and you will be placed with a team. Please register your participation as soon as possible with Flo Morgan at (613) 224-8286 or on-line at www.aja50plus.ca/store/. The cost is still \$25 per participant which includes a fabulous dessert table and refreshments.

AJA 50+ invites you to join us for this great evening of trivia, socializing and fun, and encourages you to consider the outstanding cultural, educational, health, social and recreational programs offered throughout the year. For more information, visit www.aja50plus.ca and put Trivia Night on your calendar. We're looking forward to seeing you on May 26 – and that is no trivial matter.

To advertise in the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin*, contact:

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Warsaw: Only one synagogue remains

Continued from page 5

only one prewar synagogue remains standing today. No synagogues were rebuilt when parts of downtown Warsaw, primarily its war-leveled Old Town, castle and cathedral, were reconstructed from rubble after the Second World War. As far as I know there are no plans to rebuild any in the future.

A year ago, however, a powerful public installation in the heart of Warsaw elevated the symbolism of Jewish built heritage in a way aimed at touching the city as a whole.

Held on the 75th anniversary of the outbreak of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, the installation, (a second edition was held this year on April 18), entailed the public “virtual reconstruction” of the Great Synagogue, the most imposing of the city’s destroyed shuls.

A stately domed building that seated 2,000, the Great Synagogue was blown up by the Nazi occupiers on May 16, 1943, following the destruction of the ghetto. A sleek skyscraper known as the Blue Tower now stands on the spot.

Directed by the artist Gabi van Seltmann and organized by the Open Republic Association Against Anti-Semitism and Xenophobia, the “virtual reconstruction” featured a multifaceted sound collage integrated with a visual centrepiece – an animated projection onto the walls of the Blue Tower of a



A Star of David stands in the Nozyk Synagogue, Warsaw's only surviving prewar synagogue.

shimmering, ghostly image of the grand synagogue that once stood there.

The huge projected image, organizers said, was “animated in such a way that the viewer will have an impression that the building is rising from the ruins.”

Warsaw's Great Synagogue will never be physically reconstructed.

I look forward, though, to the day when Notre Dame is.

18TH ANNUAL SPORTS BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS

Celebrate our community's athletic heroes of the past 12 months. Middle school, high school and university athletes will be honored along with our community volunteers and team champions.

SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2019

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Soloway JCC

Kosher Buffet Breakfast

Children 13 and under: \$10

Adults: \$15

An SJCC Membership Card or photo ID must be presented in order to gain access to the SJCC

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

SHARON KOFFMAN MEMORIAL ATHLETIC AWARD: Recognizes outstanding sportsmanship, participation and dedication to personal goals of excellence by a university-level varsity athlete.

JACK & MORLEY GOLDFIELD MEMORIAL AWARD FOR YOUTH ATHLETICS: Given to two high school students in recognition of their achievement, participation and organizational involvement in athletics during the past year.

THE IRVING “SHAPS” SHAPERO ATHLETIC AWARD: In recognition of long-term contributions to sport and recreation as a participant and an organizer.

THE B'NAI BRITH CANADA PARLIAMENT LODGE NO. 2159 GRADUATING STUDENT ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: Given to two graduating high school students for outstanding athletic achievements throughout his/her high school years.

LOU HONIGMAN AWARD: Presented to a local Jewish athlete who, on account of his/her perseverance, courage, ability and strength of character, distinguishes him or herself in a local sporting activity over a significant period of time.

NOAH CANTOR MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC AWARD: Presented to a male and a female student for outstanding athletic achievement during the past school year (grade 7 & 8).

OTTAWA JEWISH SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

ATHLETES CATEGORY: Nominees must be retired from their given sport for two years and have participated at an elite level, (provincial, national level championship. Major Junior, CIS, NCAA, Professional level).

Please submit all nominations to the Selection Committee at jbraun@jccottawa.com by May 13, 2019.

File this under “promises made; promises kept”

WE ARE THRILLED to share that our school will be making a \$50,000 investment to ensure an increasingly excellent French education, to grow the number of students who successfully transition into French immersion programs in Grade 9, and to increase the odds of their success once placed. This comes directly from the hard work of our French Language Faculty, the changes we began this year as a result of beginning this conversation last year, the leadership of our Board and the generosity of our donors. This is a great day for those who already know a Jewish day school education does not preclude an excellent French education; it is an even better day for those who want to believe it, but needed a little more than anecdotal evidence to go on.

If you are new to this conversation, I encourage you to read my blog post from last February which lays out a detailed history of French education in Ontario, how it impacts OJCS and what the state of affairs was like when we began this work last school year.

Here are a few reminders and updates:

We remain committed to annual surveys of our alumni and frequent check-ins with the high schools in our community. We do know, for example, that 50% of the students who graduated OJCS last year from French Extended are currently in Grade 9 French Immersion in high school (the other 50% opted out). They report being successful and having been adequately prepared. It may not be statistically significant (this was not a large class), but it lines up with last year's data and the ample anecdotal evidence we do have that OJCS students can and do successfully transition from “Extended” to “Immersion” in Grade 9.

Here is what we committed to for this school year:

- Conversations with parents about their hopes and expectations for maximal French contact time will begin during the admissions process. Students who may require additional support to place into “Extended” need to be identified early.
- The selection process in Grade 3 will be more rigorous, begin earlier, come with more parental engagement, etc., so that students who do continue into “Extended” for Grades 4 and higher are even better prepared for Grade 9.
- We will increase the rigor and immersive experience of what contact time we presently make available. We need to squeeze every moment of immersive French possible. This includes a philosophical shift in K-3 that raises the bar – rather than aim towards the middle and wait to see who rises up, we will aim towards immersion and stream those who prefer what is emphasized in a Core context (i.e. English language instruction for Social Studies).
- We adjusted our schedule to increase contact time with French. Students in OJCS have more contact time with French in each grade (except K which was already frontloaded).

Here is how our French Language Faculty put it when we met with parents recently at our “French Q & A Sessions”: *Vivre en français à OJCS*

- At OJCS, the FSL (French as a Second Language) faculty has made a commitment to speak French with their students everywhere in the school, so if you walked through our hallways, you would hear us speaking French to our students, increasing the interaction and contact time with our students.
- Our enhanced FSL program with its consolidated class time (blocks of periods), all within a trilingual school where the francophone culture is alive and regularly celebrated, produces students capable of successfully communicating and learning in French.
- Students practice their language skills in various environments, such as on the playground, and during coaching on our various OJCS sports teams.
 - Our French faculty is committed to offering authentic OJCS learning experiences.



While we believe we are on a gradual path towards clarity around French outcomes and increased excellence in French education, we are also aware of how serious an issue this is for a meaningful percentage of our families. We have also seen how the use of consultancy has jump-started innovation and growth at our school. What we are announcing here is going to do for French what our other consultancies have done for OJCS – dramatically speed up the process of moving from good to great.

We have identified a few different consultancies that would provide OJCS with the following features:

- One to two years of professional development for OJCS French Faculty from the same folk who train the Immersion and Francophone programs in the public boards, including multiple in-person observation and direct training.
- Shareable tools for benchmarking and tracking individual students over time.
- New and updated French curriculum.
- Individualized paths forward for high achieving students from the OJCS “Extended” program to full Immersion programs at their next schools of choice.

The tools, the curriculum and the paths would be ours after the consultancy and would become part of the budget moving forward.

We are in the process of finalizing our consultancy and will share out additional information when confirmed. Additionally (not part of the \$50K), we are also committed to adding French Resource. We feel this will bring much needed resource not only for students who have IEPs, but for any student who would benefit from extra support.

We enjoyed the opportunity to share our progress and our plans with parents. We appreciated the candor and the tough questions we were asked. We are pleased to share it more widely here. Interestingly, we heard similar feedback that we heard last year about three areas. One we tried to do something about and couldn't get it off the ground; two we need to pay even closer attention to...

- There was a very positive response to the idea of OJCS offering French enrichment as part of an after-school program and/or as part of a summer day camp experience. We surveyed parents last year about it for this year and did not get a critical mass. We will try again.
- There was a strong feeling that using Grade 4 as our arbitrary split into “Core” and “Extended” is unnecessary and that we

are missing an opportunity to increase the immersive exposure in Grades K-3 when it could potentially have even more value. We addressed this issue this year with a philosophical shift (aiming higher), but we could also choose to address it structurally (actually streaming earlier). This will be worth exploring through consultancy.

- There remains a meaningful percentage of our families (particularly ones who are from and/or are familiar with the model in Montreal) who would like to see us offer a full immersion track, if not embrace a full immersion model. Although our cultural context is different, we do have a responsibility to pay attention to these families. We will continue to survey and assess this need; we will also try to better calculate the opportunity cost of not having it – who is not coming to OJCS (and, thus, not getting a Jewish day school education) because we can't offer it.

This is where you come in. We very much want to know what you think...

- ...what questions did this answer for you?
- ...what questions did this raise for you?
- ...what do you want to know more about?
- ...what else do you want us to know?

We cannot encourage you more to email, comment or come in for a conversation. We need all voices heard as we work towards clarifying and enhancing our French mission and vision – next year and in the years ahead.

Author: Jon Mitzmacher



Dr. Jon Mitzmacher is the Head of the Ottawa Jewish Community School and co-founder of edJEW-con. He was most recently the VP of Innovation for Prizmah: Center for Jewish Day Schools. He is the former Executive Director of the Schechter Day School Network. He is also the former head of the Martin J. Gottlieb Day School, a K-8 Solomon Schechter, located in Jacksonville, FL, and part of the Jacksonville Jewish Center. He was the founding head of the Solomon Schechter Day School of Las Vegas. Jon has worked in all aspects of Jewish Education from camping to congregations and everything in between.



**In support of the Bess and Moe Greenberg Family Hillel Lodge
In the Joseph and Inez Zelikovitz Long Term Care Centre**

613-728-3990

Your donation to the Lodge assists in providing high quality care for our Jewish elderly.

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Card donations go a long way to improving the quality of life for our residents. Thank you for considering their needs and contributing to their well-being.

On behalf of the residents and their families, we extend sincere appreciation to the following individuals and families who made card donations to the Hillel Lodge Long-Term Care Foundation **between March 27 to April 15 inclusive.**

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Unlike a bequest or gift of life insurance, which are realized some time in the future, a named **Honour Fund** (i.e., endowment fund) is established during your lifetime.

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

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

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Maureen and Henry Molot wishing you a happy and healthy Passover by Cheryle and Manny Gluck

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In Honour of:
Max Mosion Happy special Birthday by Carole Zagerman

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Diane Granofsky by Marilyn and David Akman and family

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Sheila Hartman by Harry, Myra, Allan and Robert Kamen, Marilyn and Will Newman, Bob Applebaum by Roz and Stan Labow
Elie Paroli by Peter and Minda Wershof
Anita Rappaport by Betty Steinmetz and Myra and Sidney Marko
Estelle Backman by Myra and Sidney Marko
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Roslinde Klyman by Peter and Minda Wershof, Golda and Ned Steinman and Lily Feig
Julie Bousfield by the residents and the staff and Boards of the Lodge and LTC Foundation
Joel Diena by Seymour Berger
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Dena Gosewich Happy 80th Birthday by Beverly Friedman
Carol Tolchinsky Best wishes on your Birthday by Bill and Laurie Chochinov
Sylvia Freeman Wishing you lots of health and happiness on your Birthday by Fina and Mel Groper

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

Yom Ha'Atzmaut: Dreams fulfilled and unfulfilled

Happy Birthday, Israel. It's your 72nd birthday this week. As with most 70-year-olds, you're celebrating what you have achieved and what you wish to yet achieve.

In honour of your birthday, let's reflect on your achievements and blow out the candles with some birthday wishes.

Like the birth of a child, your birth was accompanied by exuberant joy. Jews around the world had watched with horror as the nations of the world permitted the destruction of two-thirds of the Jews of Europe, and then watched with surprise and shock as the same nations voted to recreate a Jewish state after a 2,000-year hiatus.

Your birth gave hope to oppressed Jews throughout the world. Jews in Arab lands persecuted and marginalized by events beyond their control were rescued by your birth. Jews traumatized by the horrors of Stalinism in the Soviet Union risked their lives to celebrate the miracle of your birth. From the prison cells of the Gulag and Moscow, your birth gave new meaning to the word "Jew" on a Soviet passport. When your ambassador attended a Simchat Torah celebration in Moscow, thousands of hidden Jews risked arrest and torture to bear witness to the rebirth of the Jewish homeland.

The Jews of Ethiopia, France, Argentina, Sweden, Poland and many in the Baltic not only owe their lives to your birth, but their Jewish souls as well. Where else could Jews of nearly 50 countries bicker with each other in a language which had not been spoken on the street since the third century? Every Jew who was afraid to wear a kippah or Magen David in public, but now does so, owes you a hearty "Happy Birthday."



Your strength in the face of unimaginable adversity gives power to the powerless.

These past 72 years your presence in the United Nations, your ambassadors to the world's countries, your army, your sports heroes, your cuisine, your unparalleled technological successes, have sent shivers down the spines of Jews throughout the world. The list of your scientific accomplishments are too many for a birthday card. The output of your authors outstrips countries four times your size. Few 70-year-old countries boast Nobel Prize winners in literature, science and peace. In fact, that trifecta is matched by few countries.

So Happy Birthday, Israel!

Perhaps, though, before your celebration is complete, there might be a moment to reflect on some of your dreams that are not yet fulfilled.

You are still struggling with the stated goal of melding a national liberation movement built to safeguard and represent one ethno-religious group with the principles of liberal democracy, in which everyone is equal under the law. That tension is most brutally obvious in the West Bank. But it also exists inside Israel proper. A state whose Declaration of Independence proclaims its commitment to equal rights for all citizens must

become far more inclusive of its Arab/Palestinian citizens. We Canadians have been struggling for more than 150 years to actualize the promise of economic equality to our Indigenous citizens. We have finally recognized that history is not an excuse for inaction. My dear birthday country, Israel, you too, must face up to your obligations.

It is challenging to run a democracy when people are more loyal to their particular groupings than to the state that supports them and, supposedly, supersedes them. You lovingly support Orthodoxy for its value to Jewish religious continuity, but you do so to the exclusion of all other expressions of Jewish religious life. A Jewish state means all definitions of being Jewish.

In the past 72 years, you have asked your young people to protect you from rockets and terrorism amid continuous threats to their physical well-being. But, as with every birthday, it's necessary to look back and ask what was sacrificed in the name of physical/economic success. It's not just religious pluralism that has been ignored in the name of politics. It's not just democracy and equality which have been trounced in the name of security. It's not just economic equity that has been sacrificed in the name of the "Start-Up Nation." It is the clarion call of our tradition to "remember that we were once slaves," and therefore your gates must be open to refugees fleeing oppression and persecution.

So Happy Birthday, Israel. May you live to be at least 120. May your successes continue. May the next time we celebrate our hearts be overflowing with uninhibited nachas at your ability to overcome adversity and challenges and be the best Israel you can be.

Bess and Moe Greenberg Family Hillel Lodge

ADVERTORIAL

Get To Know Us



Kay Blacker

Kay Blacker (better known as Katie) was born on December 21st (I'm not allowed to say which year) in Montreal to Hyman and Hannah Abramovitch. Her parents had emigrated from Russia separately, met in Montreal and were married in Canada. Katie remembers growing up at 3809 Avenue Coloniale at the corner of Rue Roy – a block or so from where Schwartz's Deli is today. She was the seventh of eight children. As Kay said "my mother was always very busy."

Katie attended Devonshire public school (near Bragg and Clark) and then she attended Strathearn High School (near Jeanne-Mance and Prince Arthur), all within walking distance of home and the Jewish neighbourhoods near St. Lawrence Street (or the Main as many referred to it). You can almost smell the Eastern European delicacies that Jewish immigrants brought to Montreal...such as pickles in barrels of brine, smoked meat, and bagels that were soaked in water before being baked in wood ovens.

One of Katie's longtime girlfriends introduced Katie to her brother – Gerald Blacker, and after "going together" for a while they were married on May 31, 1942. Katie recalls that Gerald or Jerry as he was better known received a call from the Canadian Army after he tried to enlist for WWII. The only problem was that Gerald's mother answered the phone, and the army official asked to speak with George Blacker...and in proper Yiddish she replied honestly that she didn't know any George Blacker.

Katie and Jerry have two daughters, Sharron and Glenda (two son-in-laws – Barry and Chris), two grandchildren (Daniel and Jessica) and one great granddaughter (Karleigh). Sharron is a cruise specialist and Katie shared with me stories of traveling to many places with Sharron including Hawaii. Ask Katie about cruising, she smiles and tells you that "it is amazing – everything you can imagine in one place". She loved the entertainment, the food and of course - Sharron's company.

Glenda inherited Katie's love of showbiz, dancing and theater. Katie shared that Glenda was one of the Dean Martin Golddiggers. Glenda auditioned in Montreal for the Golddiggers Touring Group and if it hadn't been for the older Jewish band leader who assured Katie that her baby would be safe – Glenda may not have been on tour with the Golddiggers. When I asked Katie if she had the opportunity to meet any stars - she looked me in the eye and said that she has a photo of herself with Tony Bennett.

Then Katie shared with me that her niece Tina Lousie Blacker was also in showbiz. You may remember her as "Ginger Grant" from Gilligan's island. She recalls a family visit to Florida where someone asked Tina if she was "The Tina Louise – the TV star"...and Tina replied "Stars are in the sky, I am an actor".

Katie moved from Montreal to Ottawa to be closer to her daughters and their families, and now calls Hillel Lodge her home. Katie always has a big showbiz smile on her face when the Lodge's recreation program brings in quality entertainers who can sing and dance. In addition, she enjoys watching the young students who visit and perform for the residents.

By Mitch Miller, Executive Director, Hillel Lodge LTC Foundation



World record powerlifter and Jewish teenager Naomi Kutin

If you're looking for a positive young role model for your daughter or granddaughter, 17-year-old Jewish American powerlifting champion and multiple record holder Naomi Kutin of New Jersey fits the bill. Naomi – nicknamed Supergirl – began powerlifting at age eight. When she was nine and weighed 88 pounds, Naomi broke the world record for her weight class by squatting 205 pounds. With lots of determination, hard work and the support of her parents and four siblings, Naomi has continued to break regional and U.S. records as well as achieve new personal bests.

Naomi sees herself as a trailblazer in more ways than one. As well as shattering stereotypes by being a female in a male-dominated sport, she says that at some competitions she's been the first Jew that people ever met.

It's not just Naomi who's passionate about powerlifting. Her father is her coach. Her mother is a health coach. Her father and her younger brother also compete in powerlifting. She says it's an amazing feeling to have her family involved and cheering her on.

Participating in competitions while adhering to Orthodox Judaism poses some challenges, however there are no obstacles too great for the young, determined athlete and her family to overcome. The lack of kosher restaurants and kosher cooking facilities near competition venues means the family packs their own meals. They also accommodate their Shabbat observance. When women's competitions fall on Shabbat, the event organizers accommodate Naomi by moving the event to Sunday or by permitting her to compete with the men on Sunday, both of which suit her and her family. When Naomi competes, she changes out



of her modest Orthodox Jewish clothing and into the standard powerlifting singlet and t-shirt. Naomi and her family are comfortable with their decisions. And despite being in the minority at competitions in terms of gender and religion, Naomi says she's never had any negative experiences.

Powerlifting is comprised of three events: the squat, the deadlift and the bench press. Naomi's current records are a 321-pound squat, 365-pound deadlift and 132-pound bench press. Never one to shy away from challenges, Naomi is working towards and getting close to achieving her latest goals: a 350-pound squat, 400-pound deadlift and a 150-pound bench press. I asked her what advice she can give to young girls who are thinking about getting involved in any sport. She suggested talking to their parents, learning the basics, finding support in family or friends and setting goals.

"If it's safe and you enjoy it, go for it," advises Naomi, who wants girls to know the benefits of participating in sports include developing determination, self-discipline and being active and healthy.

Being known as Supergirl, Naomi feels some responsibility because she knows people are watching her. People tell her she inspires them or their daughters. She says it's an opportunity that makes her want

to be a good person.

In order to stay strong and fit, Naomi mostly eats healthy food including protein and vegetables. Sometimes she must lose a pound or two before a competition in order to meet a weight-class requirement, but she has a positive body self-image and indulges in junk food after a competition. She developed confidence being around and growing up with strong, confident women. A comment she often hears is, "You're so small! Where are your muscles?" She says a common misconception that girls have about strength training is that they'll develop big, bulky muscles.

Naomi trains one to two hours on weekdays, rests on Shabbat and trains most of the day on Sundays.

"I am someone who works really hard towards my goals and doesn't give up until I get them," she says. "I'm the most normal, ordinary person."

Despite her incredible accomplishments, being the subject of a documentary called "Supergirl," and all the media attention she's received, Naomi has remained humble and lives a balanced life.

After graduating from high school this spring, Naomi is looking forward to taking a gap year and attending a seminary in Israel. If time permits, she hopes to fit in some training at the school gym. After that, she's looking at university and possibly a career in genetics counselling. With her outstanding physical strength and a good head on her shoulders, Supergirl will undoubtedly become a Wonder Woman no matter what endeavours she decides to pursue.

You can see jaw-dropping video of Naomi's recent lifts at <https://tinyurl.com/y476vyu2> and learn about the documentary at www.supergirl.doc.com.

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Please see Temple website for more information

Friday Kabbalat Shabbat Services	6:15 pm
Torah Study Saturday	9:00 am
Saturday Shabbat Services	10:15 am
Thursday morning minyanim	7:30 am
<i>Second and fourth Thursdays</i>	

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Rabbi Emeritus: Steven H. Garten
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Limiting screen time for parents

Let it go! Let it go,” belted out my toddler, as the song from “Frozen” played in the background.
 “Canholiba anymore!”
 I lifted my head from my phone, where I had been checking social media.
 “Can’t hold it back anymore!” I sang, correcting her. She ignored me and kept singing.
 My eyes darted back down to the luring glow of my screen: photos, videos, status updates, clickbait headlines. When I looked up again, my daughter was watching me, gently mouthing the words to her favourite song.
 It was in that moment that it hit me: For a parent who worries that her kids are getting too much screen time, I am doing exactly what I am trying to teach my girls not to do. Talk about modelling bad behaviour.
 But the days with young children can be so long, and the temptation is always there.
 Even the baby seems to notice that aqua case with the interesting lights that mommy plays with on and off all day. If she ever manages to grab my phone, her face lights up with wonder. Why wouldn’t she be fascinated with it? Mommy carries it around everywhere.
 I think I spend an unhealthy amount of time on my phone, and it is not lost on my kids despite how young they are. As a mother on maternity leave, my phone is my lifeline to the outside world: family, friends, daycare and what’s happening in my community, country and around the world. It also contains a treasure trove of images of my family and my life before kids.
 And let’s face it: sometimes you just need a virtual babysitter for a well-deserved break. Or a shower. Or to



As a mother on maternity leave, my phone is my lifeline to the outside world: family, friends, daycare and what’s happening in my community, country and around the world.

be able to make dinner. It’s called survival.
 My perspective on this is obviously limited to having young children, and I know it only gets harder as they grow. Older kids now live on their phones, and they are a big part of their social lives. I won’t be able to enforce screen limits if I don’t follow them myself.
 I’ve read about how smartphones can be addictive by appearing to stimulate the same areas of the brain as drugs. I sometimes think about their long-term effects on our health. What don’t we know yet?
 Still, our devices are also a learning tool for ourselves and our kids. For a family with relatives who live far away, a vital link to grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.
 When I was a kid and needed to learn about some-

thing as a child, I went to the dusty shelves of the library to flip through an encyclopedia. If I wanted to see photos of family or friends, I opened an album. If I wanted to say hi to Safta on the phone, my mom made me keep it short due to the incredible cost of long distance to Israel.
 Those days are over. There is no denying we now live in a dual world where the virtual and physical are intertwined. And that requires being plugged in to feel part of it.
 Ultimately, everyone has to find that happy medium that works for their children and parenting philosophy.
 My brother sees nothing wrong with himself or his kids being on their devices. He spent hours on our desktop computer as a kid and now earns a great living working for a giant tech company. He taught himself the bedrock of what he knows today during those long solitary sessions.
 The American Academy of Pediatrics even recently softened its stance on screen time for children under two, though it remains pretty limited. The Canadian Paediatric Society still recommends avoiding it completely.
 But this is a column about screen time habits for parents. And I think it’s worth reflecting on that every once in a while.
 Our kids grow up so quickly and these early years are precious. Do I really need to check social media while my toddler is trying to entertain me? Probably not.
 In no time, the tables will be turned and I will find myself talking to a wall while she scrolls through her phone.
 Now how will I feel about that?

64th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OTTAWA JEWISH HOME FOR THE AGED JOSEPH AND INEZ ZELIKOVITZ LONG TERM CARE CENTRE,
10 NADOLNY SACHS PRIVATE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2019 – 7:00 P.M.
Members of the Lodge and Community, Residents, Families, Staff and Volunteers are welcome to attend

BUSINESS AGENDA

Annual General Meeting:

- Welcome – Dr. A. Rosenbloom
- Greetings from the Jewish Federation of Ottawa
- Greetings from the Long-Term Care Foundation
- Adoption of Annual General Meeting Minutes – May 30, 2018
- Business Arising from previous AGM, May 30, 2018
- Approval of actions taken by the 2018/2019 Board

- Amendment to the Bylaw – M. Black
- Treasurer’s Report – A. Libin
- Appointment of the Auditors 2019
- Thank you -Outgoing Board Members – Dr. A. Rosenbloom
- Report of the Nominating Committee – Dr. I Kreisman
- Election of Incoming Board 2019/2020
- Election of Officers 2018/2019

- Award Winner 2018/19 – Dr. I Kreisman
- Medical Director’s Report – Dr. D. Levine
- Report of the CEO – T. Cohen
- Report of the President – Dr. A. Rosenbloom

BOARD OF DIRECTORS -2018/2019

NOMINATIONS	INCUMBENT COMMENCING NEW TERM	INCUMBENT COMPLETING TERM	OUTGOING MEMBERS
Sam Firestone Peter Stelcner	Marcia Aronson Marty Black Joel Diener Irwin Kreisman Adina Libin	Jeff Pleet Arlene Rosenbloom Janet Dollin Jim Farrow	Heather Evenchick Carl Raskin Charles Schachnow Rosalie Schwartz

- BOARD INVITEES:**
- Long-Term Care Foundation Representative – Russell Kronick
 - The Auxiliary of Hillel Lodge - Roz Fremeth

EXECUTIVE

President – Dr. Arlene Rosenbloom	1st Vice-President – Jim Farrow	Treasurer – Adina Libin
Past President – Dr. Irwin Kreisman	2nd Vice-President – Joel Diener	Secretary – Issie Scarowsky

PAST PRESIDENTS

Dr. Irwin Kreisman	Dr. Irwin Pencer
Stephen Saslove	Lillian Kimmel z”l
Russell Kronick	Dennis Newton z”l
Seymour Mender	Sylvia Goldblatt z”l
Jeff Miller	M. Sidney Green z”l
Ingrid Levitz	Theodore Metrick z”l
Anna Telner Wex	Dan Doctor z”l
Morris Kimmel z”l	Dr. M. Ralph Berke z”l
Eric Weiner	Ben Levin z”l
Melane Hotz	Dr. Joseph Greenblatt z”l
Shlomo Mayman	Samuel Berger z”l
Irving Greenberg z”l	Judge J.C. Horwitz z”l
Noreen Bosloy	Dora Lithwick z”l

FURTHER NOMINATIONS: Additional nominations may be made by any member in good standing of the Corporation. Such nominations may be made at any time up to fifteen (15) days prior to the date fixed for the Annual General Meeting, by mailing the same to the above address, attention: Ted Cohen. All such nominations must be in writing and signed by the nominee and by at least twenty (20) members in good standing of the Corporation. There will be proposed changes to the existing Bylaw of the Ottawa Jewish Home for the Aged, otherwise known as the Bess and Moe Greenberg Family Hillel Lodge at the 64th Annual Meeting, Wednesday, May 29, 2019. To request a copy of the amendments and/or the revised By-law document, please call the Lodge at 613-728-3900. The notice of the AGM will also appear on www.hillel-ltc.com.

2018/2019 AWARD WINNERS

Thelma Steinman Direct Service Award – Sheila Hartman z”l Shalom Perel President’s Award of Merit – Issie Scarowsky

Refreshments to Follow



Foundations of Jewish Family Living: A Course for Parents

This curriculum brings to life the master stories from our tradition and the profound messages they convey. This rich learning experience is designed to bring the Jewish conversation home to share with your young child.

Open House for the Foundations of Jewish Family Living: with Rabbi Garten, Director, Melton Ottawa: **Wednesday, May 15, 7:30pm** Boardroom of the Soloway JCC. Classes begin Fall 2019.

Fall 2019 Programs

Jewish Medical Ethics: With Rabbi Reuven Bulka, Rabbi Emeritus Congregation Machzikei Hadas – Dates TBA

This new 10 week courses explores what Judaism has to say on a number of challenging issues: human and animal cloning, surrogate motherhood and multiple parents, genetic identity, and assisted suicide/aid in dying.

Core Year 2 Programs – September 18-December 4

Wednesday 10:00 am – 12:15 pm

Crossroads of Jewish History
Ethics of Jewish Living

Registration for both Fall Programs Begins on Monday, June 3.

To register please visit www.events.org/Melton/Ottawa

For information please call Roslyn Wollock, Adult Education/Melton Administrator at (613)798-9818 ext. 254



LINDSAY GOTTHEIL

Holocaust survivor shares her story: On April 15, 74 years after she was liberated from Auschwitz, Eva Olsson shared her story of surviving the Holocaust with students at Sir Robert Borden High School in a program organized by students who had been on the March of the Living.

(From left) March of the Living Committee members Anne Khazzam and Adam Freedman, Eva Olsson, March of the Living Committee members Sydney Leith and Neilah Shapiro.

Grassroots Activism to Avert the Abyss

Fighting annexation, saving the two-state vision

Israeli annexation of the West Bank is a clear and present danger. Israel is heading towards a disastrous one-state reality. The head of Israel's premier peace movement will tell how progressive Israelis are fighting back to save their democracy and the two-state solution and to prevent a future of endless strife for both Israelis and Palestinians.

Shaqed Morag
Executive Director of Peace Now/Shalom Achshav

Head of Peace Now since July 2018. Former Chief of Staff of the Meretz Party. Veteran Israeli anti-poverty and women's rights activist. Ninth generation Israeli.



Wednesday, May 15, 7:30 pm
Soloway Jewish Community Centre
21 Nadolny Sachs Pvt., Ottawa
RSVP: info@peacenowcanada.org
Admission Free • Donations Welcome



Sponsored by
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HOWARD SANDLER

"TEDxodus: From Slavery to Freedom" with Leah Hecht, Erez Zadok and Rabbi Aaron Goldscheider of OTS Amiel Bakehilla, an Israeli program to "enhance the connection of Jews around the world to their own community, to their heritage, and to Israel," was held April 8 at Congregation Beit Tikvah. The event was co-sponsored by Beit Tikvah, Congregation Machzikei Hadas and Ottawa Torah Centre Chabad.

(From left) Leah Hecht, Erez Zadok, Rabbi Menachem Blum, Rabbi Howard Finkelstein, Rabbi Idan Scher and Rabbi Aaron Goldscheider.

WHAT'S GOING ON | May 6 to 26, 2019

FOR MORE CALENDAR LISTINGS, OR TO SUBMIT EVENT LISTINGS, VISIT WWW.JEWISHOTTAWA.COM/COMMUNITY-CALENDAR

ONGOING EVENTS

Bereavement Support Group

7 - 8:30 pm, monthly on the second Wednesday, Kehillat Beth Israel Congregation, 1400 Coldrey Ave. Contact: Deborah Zuker rabbizuker@kehillatbethisrael.com Free Jewish bereavement support group.

MONDAY, MAY 6

March of the Living Information Session

7 - 9 pm, Contact: Lindsay Gottheil lgottheil@jewishottawa.com Learn more about this life-changing experience for students entering Grades 10-12 during the 2020 school year. Chap-erone applications now being accepted.

Wampum Belt Chronicles with Darren Bonaparte

7 - 9 pm, Temple Israel Ottawa, 1301 Prince of Wales Dr. Contact: Lynne Oreck-Wener tehwener@rogers.com In his presentation, Darren Bonaparte, a Mohawk story teller, writer and artist from Akwesasne, will provide a historical narrative through the significance of wampum belts which were a symbol of the most solemn of commitments.

TUESDAY, MAY 7

Yom Hazikaron

7 - 8:30 pm, Contact: Ella Dagan edagan@jccottawa.com Community-wide Yom Hazikaron ceremony, in memory of Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism, sponsored by Vered Israel Cultural and Educational Program, SJCC, The Embassy of Israel

THURSDAY, MAY 9

Yom Ha'Atzmaut Flag Raising Ceremony

11:15 am - 12:45 pm, Ottawa City Hall's

Marion Dewar Square, 110 Laurier Ave. Contact Ella Dagan edagan@jccottawa.com

Help us pay tribute to Israel's 71st birthday with a flag-raising ceremony. A bus will be available to take people to and from the event, leaving the SJCC at 10:30 am. If you are interested in taking the bus please contact Ella to reserve your spot.

Yom Ha'Atzmaut Celebration

5 - 9 pm Contact: Ella Dagan edagan@jccottawa.com Celebrate the independence of State of Israel. Sponsored by SJCC, Vered Israel, JFO **FRIDAY, MAY 10**

Teddy Bear Shabbat - Celebrating Israel!

5:30 - 7 pm, Kehillat Beth Israel Congregation, 1400 Coldrey Ave. Contact: Deborah Zuker rabbizuker@kehillatbethisrael.com Tots, parents/caregivers, and their Teddy Bear friends are invited to this free family-friendly program. This week we celebrate Israel's birthday with a kid-friendly dinner, tot-style service, and special treats. Open to the community, and welcoming to all.

Mental Health Shabbat

6:45 - 10 pm, Congregation Machzikei Hadas, 2310 Virginia Dr. Contact: office@cmhottawa.com Presented by The Royal Ottawa Mental Health Institute and Machzikei Hadas. As part of Mental Health Week, help us raise awareness and break the stigma surrounding mental health. Register online at www.cmhottawa.com/events or by contacting the shul office.

TUESDAY, MAY 14

Malca Pass Library Book Discussion Group

7:30 - 9 pm, Kehillat Beth Israel 1400 Coldrey Ave.

Contact: Maureen Kaell mkaell@rogers.com Book review and discussion.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

Grassroots Activism to Avert the Abyss

7:30 - 9:30 pm, Contact: Gabriella Goliger goliger@rogers.com An evening with Shaqued Morag, Executive Director of Peace Now/Shalom Achshav, discussing the dangers of annexation of the West Bank and how progressive Israelis are fighting back to save their democracy and the two-state solution. Q&A to follow. No charge. RSVP info@peacenowcanada.org

SATURDAY, MAY 18

Tot Shabbat at KBI

10:30 - 11:30 am, Kehillat Beth Israel Congregation, 1400 Coldrey Ave. Contact: Deborah Zuker rabbizuker@kehillatbethisrael.com Share prayers, songs, stories, and special Shabbat treats. Free and open to the community - all welcome to stay for the congregational kiddush lunch following!

TUESDAY, MAY 21

Party with a Purpose - Jewish Federation of Ottawa Women's Event

7 - 9 pm, Bayview Yards (RBC Foundry) 7 Bayview Rd. Contact: Sarah Beutel sbeutel@jewishottawa.com Join us for a 2-hour cocktail and dessert reception, meet people and learn about three incredible programs serving our Jewish community. Make an immediate impact by donating to support your choice of the presenting programs.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

Shirley Berman Lecture Series - Dan Mackay on Lilian Bilsky Freiman

7:30 - 9 pm Donations accepted at the door.

Contact: Roslyn Wollock roswollock@jccottawa.com

The Ottawa Jewish Historical Society in partnership with the Soloway JCC presents the story of Lilian Bilsky Freiman and her many contributions to our city. Guest speaker for the evening is Dan Mackay.

THURSDAY TO SUNDAY, MAY 23-26

Beit Ha'am Journey program by Canadian Zionist Federation

1 - 3 pm Contact: Ella Dagan edagan@jccottawa.com Led by professional staff of experienced Israeli educators, a meaningful educational seminar for the Jewish Community. See article on page 4 for more details.

SUNDAY, MAY 26

Books and Bagels

9:30 - 11:30 am, Temple Israel 1301 Prince of Wales Dr. Contact: Shayla Mindell shaylamindell@rogers.com Rabbi Steven Garten, Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Israel will review *The Weight of Ink* by Rachel Kadish. A bagel breakfast at 9:30 am is followed by the book review and discussion.

CANDLE LIGHTING BEFORE

MAY 10	8:02 PM
MAY 17	8:10 PM
MAY 24	8:18 PM
MAY 31	8:25 PM

BULLETIN DEADLINES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8	FOR MAY 27
TUESDAY, JUNE 4	FOR JUNE 24
WEDNESDAY, JULY 3	FOR JULY 22
WEDNESDAY, JULY 31	FOR AUGUST 19
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14	FOR SEPTEMBER 2

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:

Bob Applebaum

Sidney Finkelman

Roslinde Klyman

Anne Monson-Baylin

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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