



# Memo

**To:** Jewish Federation of Ottawa Board of Directors  
**From:** Andrea Freedman, President and CEO  
**Date:** November 22, 2016  
**Re:** President's Report

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I am pleased to provide an update to the Board on activities and issues since our last meeting on October 26.

As Shelley Crawford will be leaving her position as CFO on November 25, an interim CFO has been hired on a 3 month contract. Sylvain Beaudry is a CPA (CMA)-MBA and comes to the position highly skilled with extensive experience in finance and business. His most recent position was as the Vice President, finance and operations at the United Way/Centraide.

Four recent incidents of anti-Semitic vandalism in Ottawa have prompted a unified response from Ottawa Police, government officials at all levels, and our Ottawa community that this type of behavior will not be tolerated. A mosque and church were similarly targeted. As reported, a suspect was arrested overnight on Friday. Since then, we have been liaising with police to learn more details and also request that patrols continue around Jewish institutions because of the risk of copycats. In the coming days, we will debrief with CIJA to discuss our protocols. While they worked extremely well, there is always the opportunity to learn from these types of incidents.

## DEVELOPMENT

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- As of November 16, Campaign 2017 has received **\$3,351,811** in pledges on **1,359** closed gifts representing a **2%** increase. This includes Women's campaign totals to date of 651 pledges totaling \$849,511, a 3.1% increase over last year. EG has brought in \$20,724 on 84 gifts closed for a 39.4% increase to date. Almost 70% of total cards have been closed at a pace ahead of last year.
- Our final **telethon** call night on November 1st brought in an additional \$4,000 on 30 cards, making our total \$90,000 on over 350 cards for this year's Superweek and Telethons, the highest total Federation has ever recorded.
- The 10th Annual **Choices** Dinner took place on November 2nd at Kehillat Beth Israel. A sold out room of 300 women donors heard a powerful, impassioned talk from Jeannie Smith, daughter of a Polish hero who saved Jews at great personal cost during the Shoah.

## FEDERATION PROGRAMMING AND SERVICES

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### Shabbat Project:

- November 10: **Women's Community Challah Bake** at Kehillat Beth Israel. The 2<sup>nd</sup> women's community challah bake was a huge success with 200 women of all ages and backgrounds joining together to prepare challah. This event was co-chaired by Sarah Gordon and Melanie Fremeth, accompanied by a very dedicated committee who made the evening possible.

- November 12: **Unity Havdallah**. Approximately 250 community members gathered at the SJCC to celebrate the closing of Shabbat, with an interactive and high energy Havdallah concert. Feedback from non-Orthodox participants was very positive, with some negative feedback coming from Orthodox participants.
- Federation produced a calendar of events taking place in honor of the Shabbat project and worked hard to help promote activities taking place throughout the community. I was honored to be the keynote speaker at Congregation Machzikei Hadas.

#### **Hillel Ottawa has been having record numbers for attendance and outreach this month:**

- October 14: Mexican themed BYOM (bring your own Manischewitz) Shabbat Dinner at the Hillel House, with over 60 students in attendance.
- October 15: The first '*cholent & chill*' where 20 students enjoyed cholent and played board games on Shabbat.
- October 19: The *Shakshooka and Hookah in the Succah* event attracted over 20 students.
- November 1: Welcome back from reading week *Bagels & Schmear* with 20 students at Carleton University.
- November 2: Welcome back *Jews & Brews* event with 15 students at Carleton University.
- November 4: Hillel hosted two Shabbat dinners: one dinner for student leaders on campus to help foster meaningful relationships, 21 students attended. The other dinner co-hosted by the Jewish Law Students Association had 30 students in attendance.
  - Unity Yoga, promoted inner peace while raising awareness for desire for peace in Israel, 16 students were in attendance.
- November 8: *Jews & Brews* event at Hillel House, 10 students watched the US election coverage and discussed Jewish perspectives.
- November 9: *Bagels & Schmear* at uOttawa, 15 students attended.
  - Chicken Soup Hotline Kickoff, from now until end of winter semester, students who are sick can order a liter of chicken soup and have it delivered to them. 3 students have used this service thus far.
- November 11: Shabbat Project, Shabbat Around The World featured foods from around the world, 30 students attended.
- November 14: *Jews & Brews* trivia night for charity, 8 students attended.
- November 16: *Bagels & Schmear* at Carleton, 12 students attended.
- November 17: Climb with Hillel rock climbing evening, 8 students attended.
- November 19: '*Cholent & Chill*', 10 students had Shabbat lunch and played board games.
- More this month Hillel started a '*Humans of Hillel*', where they showcase a different student active in campus life. Coming up November 30, *Jews & Cues*, a pool event co-hosted by AEPI.

#### **EG Casino Night:**

- On Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 100 members of the Emerging Generation got together at the SAW Gallery for a night of Casino games, drinks, delicious food, and good company. Casino Night was a fundraiser for the EG Campaign; non-donors made an \$18 donation as part of their ticket entry to the event (\$522 raised from new donors) and a silent auction was also held to raise even more funds for the Campaign.

#### **Holocaust Education Month:**

- Federation coordinated a display at the SJCC from Nov. 1-4, by the Embassy of Romania entitled "***The Lasi Pogrom***". Romania is taking over Chairmanship of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance in March.
- Speaker **Jeannie Smith** (Choices speaker) addressed 250 students at Sir Robert High School on November 1. She shared the gripping story of how her mother rescued Jews during the Holocaust. Students were taken with Jeannie and her mother's inspiring life, and asked many questions.
- On November 14, 200 people from the Jewish, Italian and cycling communities came together at the SJCC to hear co-authors Aili and Andres McConnon speak about the process of writing their book. ***The Road to Valour*** recounts the historic rescue of Righteous Among the Nations and two time Tour de

France cyclist Gino Bartali. During World War II, Gino Bartali saved hundreds of Jewish lives by delivering false papers to Jews in Italy, hiding these papers in his bicycle frame.

- On November 15, Aili McConnon, co-author of the *Road to Valour*, was invited to speak to a group of 100 grade 10-12 English, politics and history classes at Nepean High School. Students were engaged in Aili's presentation, and asked very thoughtful questions.

### **Shinshinim**

- Ottawa's two Shinshinim, Noga Weiss and Canaf Ahituv, are settled into a routine at OJCS, synagogues and supplementary schools. Over the course of the High Holidays they participated in many events and led various sessions with youth at Kehillat Beth Israel and Machzikei Hadas, where they are each placed until December. They will be doing a brief presentation at Federation's Members' Meeting on November 29 and have planned a community program on November 28<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the Jewish Ethiopian Holiday – Chag Hasigd.

### **Workshop for Jewish community board members and volunteers**

- Federation is partnering with GGFL again this year to present a workshop for agency board members and volunteers on the top 10 things that non-accountants on boards and committees need to understand. The workshop will take place at the SJCC on the evening of December 6. GGFL is also sponsoring dinner for participants.

## **OPERATIONS**

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### **Ottawa Vaad Hakashrut**

- The OVH Catering Policy was approved in part by the board in September, though two items require further discussion by the OVH lay committee. Those edits are expected to be presented to the board in December.
- The OVH Arrears Task Force has met to discuss the collection of past due monies and to propose a process to ensure the OVH is paid for its services. Recommendations will be forthcoming.

### **Campus**

#### **Building 11**

- Final inspection of the new roof took place. Overall, the installation is satisfactory but the service was not.

#### **Building 21**

- The pool re-opened on Wednesday, October 6th, although the ventilation project is still on-going. Effort is being made to improve control and efficiency of the system. Progress has been slow, however, the contractor has committed to place additional time and resources on the project to complete it.
- The exterior foundation repairs in the pool area are now complete. The foundation leakage issue was a result of poor quality workmanship at time of the original construction. The problem has been corrected and additional preventative measures have been taken to ensure water drains away from the foundation.
- IT and Campus management are jointly working with Direct Energy (Airtron) to upgrade the Building Automation System (BAS) controlling the heating and cooling in Building 21. The BAS controls will be maintained on a more robust server instead of the existing PC. This upgrade will enable key personnel to access the software remotely within the on-site network. Work is expected to be complete by the end of November.

### **Ottawa Jewish Archives**

- **Ottawa Jewish Bulletin Digitization Project update:** Cover-to-cover digitization and online upload of the Ottawa Jewish Bulletin (1937-2009) has been completed by the Internet Archive Canada in

Toronto. Editions of the Bulletin from 2010 to present have been published in pdf format and will be added to the digital library in the coming weeks. The Ottawa Jewish Bulletin digitization project was funded in part by the 2016 City of Ottawa Heritage Funding Program and a contribution by the Ottawa Jewish Historical Society.

## Social Media

<i>As of Nov. 7, 2016</i>	Twitter followers	Increase from Oct. 11, 2016	Facebook "likes"	Increase from Oct. 11, 2016	Instagram followers	Increase from Oct. 11 2016
Jewish Federation of Ottawa	1,286	+7	11,609	+819	50	+3
Ottawa Jewish Bulletin	162	+1	5,575	+448	n/a	n/a
Ottawa Jewish Archives	n/a	n/a	832	+ 2	n/a	n/a
PJ Library Ottawa	n/a	n/a	275	+6	n/a	n/a