



## Memo

**To:** Jewish Federation of Ottawa Board of Directors  
**From:** Andrea Freedman, President and CEO  
**Date:** April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
**Re:** President's Report

---

I am pleased to provide an update to the Board on activities and issues since our last meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup>.

### DEVELOPMENT

---

**Campaign 2018** As of March 19<sup>th</sup>, there are 1,771 donors, with 189 of them having not given last year. \$4.3M has been pledged, representing a 4.1% increase on a gift-by-gift basis. We still have 235 open dollar cards and the team continues to work on concluding the campaign on a positive note.

**Canvasser Appreciation** 80 canvassers and their spouses attended the evening which featured comedians from IllumAbilities's Comedy on Wheels troupe.

**Staff** – there have been significant staff illnesses/absences in the department which has been challenging to manage and may result in some slight budget overages as some temporary help has been needed to ensure that fundraising remains on track.

### FEDERATION PROGRAMMING AND SERVICES

---

#### Community Building

**Ben Gurion Society Dinner on Parliament Hill, March 20<sup>th</sup>:** The Emerging Generation Campaign's BGS donors were invited to a dinner with MPs Erin O'Toole (Conservative) and Michael Levitt (Liberal). 20 BGS donors attended the event that was organized in conjunction with our partner, CIJA. The purpose of the dinner was to have a discussion with the MPs about policy issues important to the Jewish community including anti-Semitism, support for Israel and support for persons with disabilities.

**EG Happy Hour, March 28<sup>th</sup>,** at the Lieutenant's Pump on Elgin Street. Approximately 20 people attended.

#### Hillel Ottawa Update:

Hillel Ottawa was involved in mobilizing students to defeat a BDS motion brought forward to the University of Ottawa student government. This activity took place between March 1<sup>st</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, and mobilized hundreds of students. After successfully defeating this motion, a 3<sup>rd</sup> vote was called for March 25<sup>th</sup> and was once again defeated. Based on the comments at the meeting, it is clear that yet another vote may be called. Hillel Ottawa and CIJA are doing a tremendous job on strategy and Hillel and Chabad Student Network are working tirelessly to mobilize students. The need for constant vigilance is taking a negative toll on students, as campus is not a particularly welcoming space right now. Federation leadership has spoken with University president Jacques Fremont and is also meeting with some legal experts to explore possible legal action.

Due to significant attention to the BDS issue (and the need to support students 1:1), Hillel programming for this time period is slightly reduced. March saw the continuation of recurring programs including JewU, Aleph Bet Fellowship and the Darash Fellowship, as well as the following additional programs:

- **March 1<sup>st</sup>** - Bagels & Schmear with a Purim twist for over 30 students at University of Ottawa and Carleton.
- **March 6<sup>th</sup>** - Jews, Schmooze & Brews - 25 students attended an evening with Tel Aviv University and Hebrew University.
- **March 15<sup>th</sup>** – WordSwap - A diverse group of Israelis (Jews, Druze, etc.) engaged over 300 students at Carleton University while allowing for personal conversations that help change perception about Israel on campus.
- **March 16<sup>th</sup>** - Pints for Peace with Shai Tamasi - Openly gay IDF soldier and current media personality shared his story with 35 students.
- **March 19<sup>th</sup>** - Bagels & Schmear After Dark – an evening Bagels & Schmear with Board Games- Over 30 attended.
- **March 20<sup>th</sup>** - Lattes with Leora - 18 students attended.
- **March 20<sup>th</sup>** - Israel 101 session - Over 20 attended.
- **March 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Family style Shabbat dinner - 120 students attended.
- **March 24<sup>th</sup>** - Don't Kiss and Tel Aviv event- Over 50 attended.
- **March 27<sup>th</sup>** - Graduation ceremony for 12 participants who have completed the year-long JewU course.
- **March 28<sup>th</sup>** - Matzah Baking & Decorating

#### **ShinShinim Update:**

The Shinshinim, Idan and Noa, brought Israeli flair to Purim celebrations in Ottawa including to the OJCS, Kehillat Beth Israel, Federation Staff celebration, Hillel Lodge and others. They continue to run activities on a regular basis at OJCS, OMJS, Talmud Torah, TIRS, KBI, Temple, OTC, and Machzikei.

- **March 6<sup>th</sup>** – Engaged almost 30 seniors on life in Israel with AJA 50+ Creative connections.
- **March 18<sup>th</sup>** – Participated in Limmud Ottawa.
- **March 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>** – Participated in FROSTY Spring Board Convention with local teens. This was a program of Temple Israel.

**Federation's Fund for Innovative Capacity Building:** Grants were approved in March for the following:

- Camp Bnai Brith (\$2,910) - cooking program.
- Hillel Lodge (\$5,000) – funding to help implement new HR System.
- JET (Jewish Education through Torah) (\$3,850) – new digital multi-media educational component.
- Jewish Family Services (\$5,000) - Education Workshops on the topics of Raising Kids with Challenging Behaviors and Caring for Parents with Dementia.
- Ottawa Modern Jewish School & Ganon (\$10,000) – New Smartboard for the shared classroom space.
- Temple Israel, Kehillat Beth Israel, and Or HaNeshama (\$3,000) – to develop and implement training and management system for Jewish Spiritual Care in Ottawa.

There are two opportunities each year for funded agencies and synagogues to apply for funding. The next round of applications will be in May.

## **FINANCE**

---

As at January 31<sup>st</sup>, the Federation was operating close to budget. Finance staff have been working on allocations from Foundation which are expected to be paid out by April 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **CORPORATE SERVICES**

---

Charles Brazeau, Director of Property Management, will be leaving in mid-April to pursue another opportunity. The Federation has commenced a search for his replacement.