



# Memo

**To:** Jewish Federation of Ottawa Board of Directors  
**From:** Andrea Freedman, President and CEO  
**Date:** December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
**Re:** President's Report

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I am pleased to provide an update to the Board on activities and issues that have taken place since our last Board of Directors meeting on November 26<sup>th</sup>.

## DEVELOPMENT

- The Philippines' Relief Fund has now grown to just over **\$27,000**.
- Under the leadership of Charles Schachnow and Leiba Krantzberg, the 2014 Annual Campaign is now in the home stretch. Currently, the campaign has raised **\$3.7M**, which represents a **6.8%** increase on a gift-by-gift basis over last year. There remain approximately **250** donors from last year who have yet to make a gift, representing **\$550K**. The pace of the campaign continues to exceed last year.
- While Charles and Leiba continue working to ensure the successful conclusion of the 2014 Annual Campaign, Leiba and her new partner, Campaign Chair Jeff Miller, have already started planning for next year.

## COMMUNITY BUILDING

- **Emerging Generation** programs included:
  - November 22 – Shabbat@Shopify III (175 emerging generation participants)
  - November 24 – Micro-Grant “Elevate Yoga” event (40 participants)
  - November 30 – After-Party for Emerging Generation following the Community Wide Chanukah Ball (20 participants)
- **Other community events included:**
  - November 28 – JFO, in cooperation with the Ottawa Torah Centre, hosted a Menorah lighting at the Ottawa Senators game. The lighting attracted over 200 people and was attended by the new Israeli Ambassador to Canada, Rafael Barak, as well as Minister of Immigration and Citizenship, Chris Alexander, and MP Bernard Trottier.
  - The Karski exhibit, part of Holocaust Education Month, was open from November 15-29 at the Canadian War Museum. 290 people participated in guided tours.
  - December 1 - Congregation Agudath Israel and the PJ Library partnered to host a Chanukah Party at Loblaws College Square, with 28 children and their parents/grandparents in attendance.



- Mitzvah Day (February 9, 2014) planning is under way and the event chairs are Linda and Warren Melamed.
- **Hillel on Campus** programming included:
  - **Holocaust education Month:**
    - Dinner with Holocaust Survivors on November 7 brought out 130 students - the largest number of students to date for this annual event.
    - Louis Lemkow visited Carleton University for an intimate conversation with 30 students on November 11.
    - Hillel paired up with the uOttawa LGBTQ Law student group 'OUTlaw' to screen the film "Pink Triangles" for 40 students on November 12.
    - Hillel's revamped Holocaust Exhibit visited each Ottawa campus and was seen by hundreds of students during the month of November.
  - Shabbat dinner took place on November 15 where student campus leadership (CUSA & SFUO) were invited to hear from CIJA's Dylan Hanley about the negative impact BDS has on campuses and how the Jewish community & Israel contribute to Canadian campuses.
  - 55 students came together on November 16 for a fundraiser (pub crawl) to support Save a Child's Heart in Israel.
  - The Israel Awareness Committee hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Israeli Wine and Canadian cheese event. 70 politically-minded students had the privilege to hear inspiring words from MPs of each of the three parties: Mark Adler - Conservatives, John McCallum - Liberals, and Peter Stoffer - New Democrats.
  - Hillel hosted the largest annual Student Chanukah Ball on November 30 with over 150 students in attendance.
- Applications from local agencies for the Federation's program funding were due on November 22, and the Grants & Evaluation Committee is starting to review applications for funding. The committee will submit its funding recommendations to the board in May. The new on-line application and review system is working well.

## **CORPORATE SERVICES**

- Steven Kimmel and I represented Ottawa at the December 1<sup>st</sup> meetings of Jewish Federation of Canada (JFC). Decisions with a local impact, include:
  - A budget of **\$4.2M** was approved, representing a decrease of approximately **\$950,000**, including the elimination of 7 positions in Canada and Israel. To better understand the scope of these latest budget reductions, it should be noted that JFC's budget was **\$8M** in 2006. The primary local impact of the most recent budget reductions is the closing of the missions' department. While alternative arrangements are being made, the level of service will inevitably be affected. There are on-going discussions to further reduce the budget, including the potential off-loading of Partnership2Gether costs to local federations.
  - It will take several years before the system sees the full savings from the budget reductions as there are severance costs (current and historical) that are being paid on a fair share basis.



- The Canada Centre in Northern Israel, a source of both pride and on-going financial responsibility for Jewish Canada, will be transferred to the municipality of Metullah within the next year. This was not an easy decision and there are still several issues to work through (e.g. naming rights); however, the timing is appropriate as the Centre is currently on sound financial footing.
- A group of JFO leaders are meeting with representatives of Beth Shalom on January 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss their option to build on campus.
- The redesign of the Ottawa Jewish Bulletin has been receiving positive feedback. The website is still being fine-tuned, with some glitches being worked out. We are hoping this new website will result in increased interactions with the community; to that end, there have already been a modest amount of postings and comments.

## **FINANCE**

- Successful audits were just completed for the Bulletin, Campus, Kerr and the JFO. The results of these audits will be reported on at the January board meeting.
- Erica Geller recently began a 3-month contract as the Tribute Card Associate for the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation, filling a maternity replacement gap.
- Due to the exceptionally tight deadline to complete monthly finance reports, these documents will now be distributed at board meetings (or the day before) and not as part of board packages.

I wish you all a wonderful vacation.