

News & Views
1641 Ouellette
Windsor, Ont. N8X 1K9

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Telephone: (519) 973-1772
FAX: (519) 973-1774

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WJCC STAFF

Jay Katz
Executive Director
Extension 226
jay@jewishwindsor.org

Anna Gindin
Director of Programming & Senior Services
Extension 227

What I Experienced In Israel

Bedouin constituents, was shaken and very concerned that years of relationship building would be negatively impacted by these events.

Throughout this difficult situation, there were three Canadian missions visiting Israel from Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver. Montreal's Israel and Overseas group had just completed their steering committee meetings and a young leadership group was visiting the region. Lay and professional leadership from communities across Canada including Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver, attended the World Zionist convention, Keren Hayesod and Jewish Agency meetings.

Despite the new wave of random and unpredictable terror activity, Canadians were present and fulfilling their responsibilities. We stood together at the Western Wall for the opening plenary of the Jewish Agency to hear the Minister of Internal Security and Strategic affairs, Gilad Erdan, and Natan Sharansky, Chairman of the Executive of the Jewish Agency.

Their messages were powerful and clear. We must deal with a double assault - internal and external - and a double standard. We must present Israel as the inspiring innovative place that it is; we must confront lies and tell the truth.

We attended a MASA mega event with thousands of young adults from all over the world who are spending a few months in Israel in interesting internships. We heard French spoken in the streets as Aliyah from France continues to increase. We participated in an interac-

tive Global Forum on the subject of engaging millennials.

While we were visiting Israel, it was slightly uncomfortable to live with the fear of not knowing when or where or if there would be another attack. But that feeling pales in comparison to the everyday life of Israelis, who deal with relentless waves of terror with shorter and shorter periods of relief and no resolution in sight - not even containment. Yet they go on with their routines, taking their children to school and going to work. Because - as in the words of Daniel Gordis, scholar with the Shalem Centre - we have to tough it out because we have no other place to go. It is our home.

We also know that Israel's accomplishments, its achievements both in Israel and beyond, its progress as a start up nation, its growth and creativity, its values, are something that we can be proud of and share.

While I was in Israel, Canadians went to the polls and voted for change. A liberal government has been elected. This transformative election, and the right to exercise the democratic right to vote, reminds us how fortunate we are as Canadians.

We are also keenly aware that we can count on support for Israel, for its land and its people, for its right to exist and for its right to defend itself, because Israel's security and the security of the Canadian Jewish community are intertwined.

The Chanukah season is soon upon us. I close with a wish and a prayer for the heroes, the Maccabees of our day and for peace for World Jewry and Israel.



By Linda Kislowitz
CEO: JFC-UIA

Like so many of you, I have been to Israel dozens of times - at least 40 in the past 10 years alone in my capacity as President and CEO of Jewish Federations of Canada - UIA.

I have visited during times of joy and celebration and in times of difficulty and despair - during the intifada, after the 2006 Lebanon war and last year during Operation Protective Edge.

On my most recent visit, I arrived on October 14, 2015. This was a difficult day for Israel. Several terror incidents that day left the country reeling in pain and fear. The quiet in the streets was deafening.

In typical Israeli fashion, with a visible and necessary increase in police and security forces, there was a gradual return to routine, as more people walked in the streets and shops and restaurants opened for business. The highways were busy and traffic was heavy. All this despite the fact that everyone remained on edge and a bit insecure.

On October 18th, there was an attack in the central bus station in Beer Sheva, Montreal's twin city. That particular attack was very difficult, not just because of the obvious, but because an Eritrean migrant worker was mistakenly killed amidst the chaos and panic that erupted.

This attack forced a new kind of soul searching, not to mention investigation. The leadership of Beer Sheva, who have for years worked tirelessly to build good relations with their

From The Executive Director

By Jay Katz

There is much to report, as we begin our 2015 Chanukah celebrations. This past calendar year has been a very busy one for the Federation. We have seen a significant increase in our membership and a growing number of young adults are spending time in Israel. We have also seen a significant increase in our fundraising efforts. This past calendar year has been a very busy one for the Federation. We have seen a significant increase in our membership and a growing number of young adults are spending time in Israel. We have also seen a significant increase in our fundraising efforts.

Please read more about Brundibar on subsequent pages

