

# ma koreh

Highlighting Jewish Life in Regional Communities across Canada  
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[www.jewishcanada.org/makoreh](http://www.jewishcanada.org/makoreh)

## Message from Dr. Mark Siegel, Chair of RJCO



As 2015 begins, it's a timely moment to take a look back at the year that was.

Jewish people across the globe have faced great challenges in 2014. This summer,

as rockets rained down on their streets, Israelis across the country were gripped in a state of anxiety for months. Operation Protective Edge succeeded in quelling the attacks, but communities in Southern Israel are still struggling to recover from the psychological and economic damage. Nationwide, Canadians donated millions of dollars in support of social welfare and educational programs directly related to the recent crisis.

For most of 2014, Eastern Ukraine was gripped in a violent conflict between separatist forces and the Ukrainian government. According to the United Nations, as of the end of October 2014 more than 4,000 people were killed, 9,000 wounded and 930,000 displaced.

The continuing state of conflict has had a deep impact on all Ukrainians, including the 211,000 Ukrainian Jews eligible for Aliyah. A total of 4,465

olim arrived in Israel in January-October of this year, an increase of 178% from last year.

In Ukraine, as around the world, our partner the Jewish Agency has been there for Jewish people in times of emergency

Thanks to the essential support of the members of the Jewish community like you, the Jewish Agency has been able to evacuate refugees and facilitate Aliyah. The Jewish Agency has also been able to provide aid to those who choose to stay behind and to continue vital educational programs that provide inspiration to the Ukrainian Jewish community, securing its Jewish future.

Here, at home in Canada, we are blessed to live in a state of relative peace and tranquility, for which I am grateful.

As we begin a new year, I pay tribute to Jewish people across the globe – and across the ages - who have proven that we, as a people, have demonstrated time and time again that we possess the courage and spirit to persevere in the face of the most fierce adversity.

## Thank you for your generosity.

*This year, donors from non-federated communities across Canada gave over \$1.3 million to Jewish Federations of Canada- UIA. Your renewed annual commitment to the larger Jewish community will continue to improve Jewish lives - in Canada, Israel and overseas.*

**Learn more about how your generosity changes lives at [www.jewishcanada.org](http://www.jewishcanada.org)**

The Kingston Jewish community celebrated the 2nd night of Chanukah at the 8th annual 'Light Up the Night' in Confederation Square. Hosted by the Kingston Jewish Council, this lively and festive event brought together almost 100 people.

Rabbi Karen Soria and Mayor Bryan Paterson greeted the crowd, which later sang along with the Kingston Jewish Council Choir. Chanukah candles were lit by event organizer Leonard Harris. The celebrations moved indoors to Memorial Hall where everyone enjoyed latkes, dreidel games, crafts activities and a raffle.



### CAMPUS NEWS: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & PROGRAMS



**On campuses across Canada, student interest in many Hillel initiatives continues to grow.**

In mid-September, Queen's Hillel sponsored a "Life's a Beach" themed party in concert with CIJA's "Size Doesn't Matter" campaign. This Israel engagement initiative attracted over 700 students - by far the best attended Hillel program in recent memory.

Over 100 students came out to a recent Shabbat dinner at McMaster Hillel, triple the average attendance.

Halifax Hillel has reported exceptionally strong student interest in Jewish life, witnessed by the largest Hillel opening BBQ ever staged.

Laurentian University has seen a three-fold increase in the attendance of their programs, receiving the positive attention of the student government.

Every year the University of Guelph supports 'Peace Week', a campus-wide program. Guelph Hillel took part by co-hosting a free vegetarian kosher multi-faith dinner.

Hillel Canada efforts have been focused on the professional development of our campus staff, as well as enhancing their activities on campus. In August, 50 campus professionals attended a 2-day seminar organized by Hillel Canada and the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA). Workshops focused on honing operational skills, enhancing communication abilities and developing security protocols on campus.

A major goal of the conference was to bring together campus professionals in a supportive and collaborative environment. Advocacy sessions with CIJA covered the gamut of advocacy and media strategies, as well as critical components of safety and security preparedness. The group was addressed by Consul General of Israel in Toronto DJ Schneeweiss.

*"Hillel professionals from across the country joined together for two intense days to learn new skills, share best practices and get to know each other. Sessions focused on creating safe spaces for students in light of the expected difficulties on campus, and developing strategies to allow Hillel professionals to continue to do their important work in an abnormal environment. They are confident in the community's resources to support them in their important work on campus."*

- Daniel Fine, Director of Hillel Canada



# Walk for Israel 2014

June 15  
Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario



On June 15th, over 100 people walked for Israel in Kitchener-Waterloo, raising over \$10,000 for Youth Futures, a leadership program for youth-at-risk.

In attendance was survivor Max Iland from Sault Ste. Marie, who recently celebrated a Bar Mitzvah atop Masada in Israel while on March of the Living.

Congregational leaders in attendance included Rabbi Nevo Zuckerman from Beth Jacob Congregation and Rabbi Moshe Goldman of Chabad Waterloo.

A kosher meal sponsored by the Waterloo Region Jewish Community Council was served afterwards.



Rabbi & Rebbetzin Goldman (Chabad Waterloo) with sons Berel & Mendel



Rabbi Nevo Zuckerman's children Shmuli & Adva



Max Iland (L), Sault Ste. Marie, with Howard Dolman (R)

## Aviva Barth Outreach Program for Youth Aged 11-18

We are excited to announce that Jewish Federations of Canada – UIA has entered into a partnership with Camp Gesher to offer two tracks of the Aviva Barth Youth Outreach Program this school-year: a high-school program and a new program for participants in grades 5-8. This means that any member of an Ontario regional Jewish community aged 11-18 can participate in this year's programs.

This program is divided into three groups: Juniors (Grades 5-7), Seniors (Grades 8-10) and Mentors (Grades 11-12). The groups will be separate for most programs but will occasionally participate in joint activities.

The first event in Niagara Falls in November focused on fun, learning and leadership development. At a second event in February the groups discussed the Canadian Jewish community, recent antisemitic acts in France and the upcoming Israeli elections.

Remaining sessions will examine Jewish life in the Diaspora and Israel as the Homeland of the Jewish people. Remaining 2015 Shabbaton dates are:

March 27-29	Seniors, Mentors - Toronto
May 1-3	Seniors, Mentors - Camp Gesher

Direct questions and comments to Shaul Zobary at [sgesher@rogers.com](mailto:sgesher@rogers.com) or [www.facebook.com/RegionalJewishCommunitiesofOntario](http://www.facebook.com/RegionalJewishCommunitiesofOntario)

**By supporting Jewish Federations of Canada – UIA, you are supporting Jewish life in Canada, Israel and overseas. Your donations help:**

Provide vulnerable populations in the Former Soviet Union with social welfare and health services and community programs.

Strengthen the future for at-risk youth in Israel through leadership training, skills development & community programs.

Enhance Jewish identity in Canadians of all ages with educational and cultural programming.

**Jewish communities, throughout the world, continue to need your help, 365 days a year.**

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THE NEEDS OF THE JEWISH WORLD

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