



THE BULLETIN

Congregation Agudas Israel
Rabbi Claudio Jodorkovsky

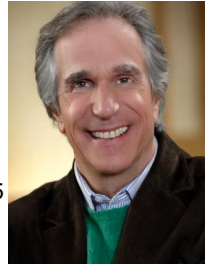
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President: Marsha Scharfstein

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 - A festive Shavuot dinner
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B'nai Brith Lodge #739
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Join us for a
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Friday, June 14th • 6:00 pm
Come to share an evening of hamburgers, hot dogs, nice food and desserts at the park next to our Synagogue.
Following the Barbeque we will have the Shabbat Service in the park.

Previous Winners of the Gerry Rose Volunteer Award

2000 Gerry & Gladys Rose	2005 Sam & Petty Landa	2010 Marsha & Grant Scharfstein
2001 Linda Shaw	2006 Walter, Lois & Susanne Gumphrich	2011 Ralph Katzman
2002 Bert Gladstone	2007 Ron & Jan Gitlin	2012 David & Randy Katzman
2003 June & Abe Avivi	2008 Heather Fenyes	
2004 David Kaplan	2009 Steven Goluboff	

This page is sponsored by Ann & Debbie Diament (wife and daughter of former Rabbi Saul Diament), of Toronto

This page is sponsored by Naomi Rose and Stan Sinai of Toronto.

Deadline for the next Bulletin is June 10, 2013

Raised on Camp BB

by Maxine Fischbein

For three generations, Camp BB-Riback – located on the shores of Pine Lake near Red Deer, Alberta – has provided a phenomenal Jewish camping experience by and for youth from Alberta, Saskatchewan British Columbia and beyond.

“The camp’s success is due to the power of the peer experience,” says Edmonton-based board chair Geoff Sky, who remembers the thrill of learning new skills from teenaged counsellors he looked up to and, in turn, teaching outdoor skills to the kids who followed him.

Since the mid1950s, kids from Western Canada and beyond have enjoyed great summers at Pine Lake and although all of them grow up – and most move on – it is clear that Camp BB-Riback continues to hold a special place in their lives.

Former campers and staff, many of whom hail from multigenerational Camp BB families, have taken much pride in giving back to the camp and the Jewish community at large, and

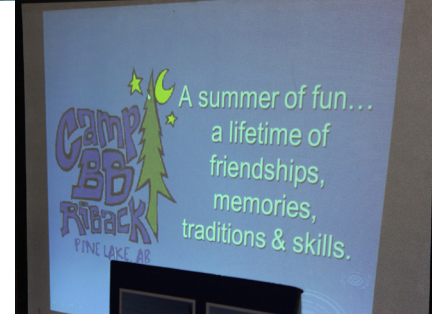


recent alumni are no exception. Former Edmontonian Josh Staav, who now

serves the Calgary JCC as manager of marketing and events, says that Camp BB played a major role in moulding him. A camper every summer since the age of eight, Staav later worked as a Junior Counsellor, Senior Counsellor, LTP Coordinator and then as an Assistant Director.

Director Jerrod Henoch

“I always really enjoyed camp,” recalls Staav, now 25. “I felt comfortable there and decided I was going to keep going until they said I couldn’t go back anymore.”



For the record, nobody told Staav he couldn’t return . . . he simply moved on to positions of increasing responsibility as a full-time Jewish communal professional and, most recently, as a newly minted member of the Camp BB-Riback Board of Directors.

Lessons learned during summers at the camp continue to inform his professional life and his ongoing participation as a Jewish lay leader.

“A lot of it comes from shared values and learning how to get along with others,” says Staav who adds that camp brought him together with some people he loved, some he liked and some he didn’t.

“We learned how to form a community independently of adults where everyone was treated with respect,” recalls Staav whose camp buddies remain his nearest and dearest friends.

Calgarian Kira Blumer also draws a straight line from her experience as a camper to her current position as Hillel Coordinator for

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We’re looking for SK Campers in Grades 1-10 and Staff (17yrs+) to welcome into our camp community and our hearts!



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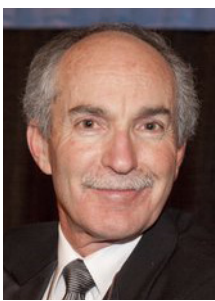
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This page is sponsored by Dr. Syd z'l & Miriam Gelmon of Vancouver



Editorial

by Steven Goluboff

Youth is our Future

Yes, we are finally emerging from the longest and most arduous winter in most of our memory. The snow is finally melting and there seems to be a hint that spring is upon us. As we contemplate upon spring, we think of new emergence, new ideas, youthful enthusiasm and of course, the practicality of continuing our active programming in the community. Having just commemorated the Shoah and celebrating Yom Haatzmaut, I reflect on the need for further involvement of our younger members in the community activities. We have already witnessed that trend with a more youthful Board of Trustees, and creative and new ideas in the Silver Spoon Dinner committee. Who would have thought, selling out 1000 tickets on Pic-A-Tic on line would successfully replace the time honoured but labour intensive pre-sale wine and cheese party at the Top of the Inn? Saskatoon B'nai Brith, led by too many "tired old men", will hopefully have a new executive with comparable creative approaches to programming and the 59 year old Silver Plate Dinner. Our Holocaust Memorial Weekend continues to overwhelm the hearts and minds of its participants. For the first time, with the creative direction of Ron and Jan Gitlin and Heather Fenyes, a Saskatoon March of the Living was inaugurated. It received headlines in the Star Phoenix as children from the Public, Catholic and Moslem school marched together with a challenge to write down on posters, "How our world can be a better place." The terror in Boston might be balanced by the optimism in Saskatoon. Max Eisen, our keynote speaker, challenged the young students he spoke to, to speak up against injustice and bullying and reminded them that not doing so is just as bad as perpetuating the acts. Finally, I reflect on the fact that we are part of a synagogue and regardless of our level of religious belief; I would encourage an even modest attendance at services. Rabbi Claudio delivers a short, educational and succinct Dvar Torah every week and engages in a post lunch study session which exercises our minds in creative ways. I have challenged Rabbi Claudio and the Shlichim to involve the children in our services both Friday night

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FROM OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY

The Mission Statement of Congregation Agudas Israel

Congregation Agudas Israel is a spiritual, religious, educational and social home committed to deepening the quality of Jewish life in Saskatoon and district. We are an evolving link in the historical traditions of the Jewish people. We are a progressive, democratic and sensitive congregation responding to the widest spectrum of Jewish thought and practice.

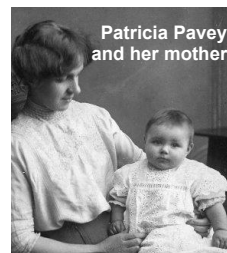
Written at the 2002 Kallah by the members of Congregation Agudas Israel

CONDOLENCES TO:

- Shoshana Goldstein and family** on the death of her son, Stuart Goldstein.
- Jean Davidner and family** on the death of her husband, Herschel Davidner of Prince Albert on April 10th, 2013.
- Toby Rose and Les Klein** on the death of Les' mother Anna Klein.
- Ilia and Lily Pekurovsky** and family on the death of Ilia's father, Anatoly, in Bremen, Germany.
- Heather Ross** on the death of her brother, Allen Ross who died April 8 in Thousand Oaks, California at the age of 46.

MAZEL TOV AND CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- Katherine Leah Dawson**, daughter of Karen and Joe Dawson who will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, June 22, 2013
- Arnie Shaw** who was recognized by the Saskatchewan Business Magazine as "Our 12th Annual Listing of the Leading Men Who Are Making A Difference in Saskatchewan".
- Patricia Pavey**, who has travelled to England to celebrate the 100th birthday of her mother.
- Abby Holtslander**, daughter of Gord and Franci, whose art has been on exhibit at the Mendel Art Gallery as part of the School Art annual exhibition. Abby is a member of the Mendel Youth Council.
- Amiel Jodorkovsky**, daughter of Rabbi Claudio and Rosie, whose art is also on display at the Mendel Art Gallery
- Leah Rosenberg**, daughter of Alan and Lesley Ann who competed in the Los Angeles ASICS International Marathon with a time of 3 hours and 43 minutes, 58th out of 817 entries in her age group (30-34), and 1,579th out of 23,000 runners. Matthew is the supportive brother supplying the flowers and champagne!



Patricia Pavey and her mother



- Simonne Horwitz**, who has been granted Tenure in the Department of History at the University of Saskatchewan and has been promoted to Associate Professor.
- Cantor Neil Schwartz** on the engagement of his son David to Miriam Aronin. Both have been accepted into graduate school.

The New Executive of Congregation Agudas Israel's Sisterhood:

- Lisa Shiffman** - President, **Zoe Litman** - Vice President, **Marsha Scharfstein** - Treasurer, **Robin Sasko** - Secretary, **Leona Wasserman** - Cards, **Marsha Scharfstein** and **Wendy Ditlove** - Gift Shop, **Linda Shaw** - Shabbat Family Dinner.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Caley and Sharon Zahavi Dallin and their children Inbar, Liam, and Mika. Last September, my husband, Caley and I moved to Saskatoon from Israel with our three children. Liam, who will soon turn four, and Mika and Inbar our twin girls, who are two and a half. Caley was born and raised in Saskatoon, and so our plans were to come and live here to give our children some Canadian culture and to share some time with Caley's family. I grew up in Rishon Lezion, Israel.



After high school I served as an army photographer, and continued to Art studies in University of Tel Aviv. I also worked as a flight attendant for EL AL. Later I worked as a coordinator between the airline and travel agents.

Caley travelled for several years, spending time in Mexico, Europe and India. He settled in Mexico for a few years and opened a Thai restaurant and a hostel. He alternated between travelling and coming back to Canada where he made his living as a painter. It was in India that Caley and I met. Caley moved to Israel and we were married and our children were born. In Israel, Caley worked as a chef, specializing in Israeli and Mexican food.

In Saskatoon, Caley has started his own painting company so we can build a life here in Saskatoon, but he still dreams of opening up a restaurant in his hometown. It has been a tough winter to start our life here but we are looking forward to a beautiful long summer. The kids are really enjoying our new life, snow and all, and we are all very happy to be close to our Canadian family and be part of a lovely and warm community.

Dr. Mordechai Macarthy. I am a naturalized American of Brazilian background, who just arrived in Canada five months ago working as VP for Quality, Regulatory and Clinical Affairs for Phenomenome Discoveries Inc. at Innovation place on the campus of U of S. I am a doctor and a lawyer. I completed two years of Jewish Adult education sponsored by the Florence Melton School for Adults in Rochester NY. My wife, Bev who is a financial analyst for one of the defence contracts in Pennsylvania and I have four children and eight grandchildren. One of our daughters is expecting twins in May.



This page is sponsored by Grace, Steven, Leila, Sarah & Shaina Goluboff

Person to Person

by *Marsha Scharfstein, President, CAI*

“I believe that one of the most important things to learn in life is that you can make a difference in your community no matter who you are or where you live.”

- Rosalynn Carter



Spring is coming! I promise! I know it doesn't exactly feel like it yet, but there is a small ripple of excitement in the air...you know the one...the one that makes school children extra squirmy in class, the one that makes you think about walks in the park and a cup of coffee at the cafe's outside tables...the one that makes you feel lighter somehow...and definitely happier! It is as if when we shed our heavy winter coats we can also shed the heavy burdens. Everything can start new, like the grass and flowers....and maybe the roads??

This past Sunday evening, I had the opportunity to attend the Oprah event. Just Oprah, me, and 14,000 of her closest friends! One of the many inspirational things she talked about was the concept of an “attitude of gratitude”. Maybe it was the way she presented it, or maybe it was because I was ready to shed my winter coat of darkness,

but it really made me think...about how many people in my life do things knowingly or unknowingly that make my life easier/happier/better. A very humbling experience. I have much to be grateful for! And so does this community...

This is also the time that the calendar of our community gets very busy. Okay, I know we are busy all year, but this exciting! We have just had the Holocaust Memorial weekend, which was inspirational on its own. In the next few weeks and months we will host the Silver Spoon Dinner and Folkfest... All of these events require massive amounts of volunteer time in planning, preparation and execution. I want to use this article to thank many people for their dedication to the life of this community. Maybe I will miss some people who have put in hours, and I do not mean to leave anyone out, but to not recognize anyone for fear of missing someone seems

counterproductive. So here goes my short list of gratitude for the month...it will go well beyond Oprah's suggested 5 things per day!

Linda Shaw, Heather Fenyes, Robin Sasko, Rebecca Simpson, and so many others have been working to achieve greatness yet again in the Silver Spoon Dinner...which is sold out at 1000 tickets. Ari and Tamar gave us a fun filled Yom Ha'Atzmaot celebration on April 13th. I can hardly imagine how many hours they spent getting the karaoke songbook and trivia games ready. They moved from that event to getting the displays prepared for the Holocaust weekend almost immediately! Harold Shiffman has organized the Membership Committee into a

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Divrei Harav – Rabbi Claudio's Message

by *Rabbi Claudio Jodorkovsky*

Pope Francis and the Jews

As a South-American, and especially having lived for nine years in Argentina, I gladly received the news about the election of Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio as the new leader of the Catholic Church. The reason for my enthusiasm is not only because he is the first South-American Pope but mainly because of his close relationship with the Jewish community in Buenos Aires and his strong background in Jewish-Catholic dialogue.

Cardinal Bergoglio, now Pope Francis, was the son of a middle-class Italian immigrant family who arrived in Argentina between the two World Wars. His father was a railway worker in Italy and decided to leave his country because of the coming of fascism. Like many Jews escaping from persecution and totalitarian regimes in Europe, he left his country with little economic resources and tried to begin anew in one of the few countries that was receiving and offering opportunities to immigrants. In that sense, Pope Francis' roots and the legacy he received from his parents are significantly connected with the experience of many Argentinian Jews. Additionally, he was raised in the “Flores” neighborhood in Buenos Aires, a place with a

large population of observant Sephardic Jews.

I had the honour of having met the future Pope during my rabbinical studies in an interfaith meeting. He came to share his thoughts with us at the Seminary, and in the same way people are impressed today with his simplicity and humbleness, so we were at that meeting. He was the type of human being who can get closer without much formality. I remember that together with my fellow rabbinical students we felt very attracted to his personality; we were inspired by his faith and vocation of service. At that time he was the Archbishop of Buenos Aires, an important position considering that Buenos Aires is a city of almost thirteen million people, of which 80% are Catholics. We were impressed at how interested he was in getting to know us and knowing about our “internal process” of becoming religious leaders. He also showed us how knowledgeable he was about Judaism.

In my rabbinical carrier I had the blessing of having studied with Rabbis with a very strong commitment for interfaith dialogue. Rabbi Marshal Meyer, founder of the Latin American Rabbinical Seminary, worked together with the Catholic Church in Argentina saving people from the political persecution during the times of the military

dictatorship. His students have continued this path of commitment to interfaith work and, fortunately for me, this influence was a strong presence during my rabbinical studies. Because of that close relationship between the Rabbinical Seminary in Buenos Aires and the Catholic Church, and especially because of a very strong friendship between the Pope Francis and my teacher, Rabbi Abraham Skorka - Chancellor of the Seminary, I am very optimistic that the election of Pope Francis will be promising for the Jewish People and our relations with the Catholic world.

After two thousand years of persecution and intolerance, during the Second Vatican Council in 1965 the Catholic Church took a very important step in improving Jewish-Catholic relations, and since then huge steps have been made in terms of dialogue, education, friendship and social work between the two traditions. Before the times of John Paul the Second it was impossible to think about a Pope praying at the Kotel (the Western Wall) in Jerusalem, or giving an offering at Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem, as Pope Benedict did some years ago. We now live in times of friendship, and

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This page is sponsored by Dr. Alan Rosenberg & Dr. Lesley-Ann Crone and family



Eulogies

Herschel Jack Davidner August 20, 1926 - April 10, 2013

by David Katzman

A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold. Proverbs

My eulogy cannot do justice to Herschel and to his family. Accord-

ing to Jewish tradition, the funeral is done very quickly and so there is little time to put together an accurate and complete history of Herschel's life. However, I take great comfort from knowing that Herschel's legacy and reputation are etched in the hearts and minds of his family, his friends, his neighbours and, of course, his customers. Herschel Jack Davidner, was born August 20, 1926 in Swift Current, SK the youngest of four children to Samuel and Esther Davidner. Herschel was a child of the Great Depression, and he had the equivalent of a Masters Degree in Economics by the age of 10. There were no free lunches, and you had to work for every nickel you earned. Even as a child, he worked side by side with his father. Of course, World War II was a turning point in his life, as it was with so many young men. Herschel was very proud of his time in

the service. He was honourably discharged in 1945, and promptly returned to work in the store. But a year later, the University of Saskatchewan beckoned and he enrolled in the College of Agriculture. There he met the love of his life, Jean, who was in training to be a teacher. They married in 1956 and soon had a family of three; the twins Les and Leah, and three years later Mark. By this time, he was managing a store that was to become an institution in the business and community life of Prince Albert. And what an institution it is. He provided quality merchandise at reasonable prices, with impeccable service, and his store expanded to meet his growing customer base. In 1963 the store expanded by adding 1000 sq ft, and just three years later the front of the store was replaced. These were followed by further modifications, always adding more square feet, in 1974 and again in 1979. Finally, he just had to move, lock stock and many barrels in 1985.

And as much as Herschel received from his community, he wanted to give back. The 4-H was one of his favourites, and he bought many a prize animal at a price that clearly indicated how important he thought supporting the 4H was. The Red Cross was near and dear to him, and he served as President and rolled up his sleeve more than 70 times. He

was an active member of the Lions Club and the Legion. He was a very proud Canadian, and served as president of the Canadian Club, working tirelessly to raise the membership to over 200. And the Canadian Cancer Society found him to be one of their most successful canvassers, a man to whom many could just not say no. For 25 years, he was a director of the United Way. He was recognized with a Life Membership in the Prince Albert Exhibition Association, and in 1992 he was the Citizen of the Year for this city. "Herschel Davidner, in a quiet, dedicated way, personifies the volunteer spirit."

My father is another PA boy and when I asked him to tell me about Herschel he immediately told me an incredible story. It seems that his home was a little too small and a basement would be really useful. So after a full day of work, and on Sundays, he dug out his own basement, shovel-by-shovel, wheelbarrow-by-wheelbarrow. He would push the wheelbarrow up a plank ramp, empty the contents into a borrowed vehicle, and dump the earth somewhere. There is probably a small ski hill not too far from this very spot; we should call it Herschel's Hill.

And he was a gardener; cucumbers, peas, corn and tomatoes. His children remember

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by Cantor Neil Schwartz

Herschel Davidner, Chayim Yitzchak ben Shlomo, was more than a beloved and honored community leader, a "steward of Downtown Prince Albert" to quote yesterday's newspaper. He was also a patriarch of a large family and of a Jewish community, both in Prince Albert and in Saskatoon.

In addition to being a civic leader who received many honors, Herschel was also the President of Beth Jacob Synagogue here in Prince Albert. The children mentioned the observance of Kosher dietary restrictions at home while they were growing up. U of S Music Professor David Kaplan recalled how happy Herschel always seemed to be when he attended High Holy Days services in Saskatoon after Beth Jacob closed. One of the nice parts of Yom Kippur afternoon each year was between services, when Herschel and Jean and I would relax on the comfortable couches in my office, solve the world's problems, and then take a nap for a couple of hours.

Our Funeral Director, Brian Stobbs, mentioned how Herschel was a main connection for him with the Saskatoon Jewish community when needed, and that now it is time to give

back to Herschel and to his family a measure of that same caring concern and respect. We remember Herschel for his sense of humor, his passion for business, and his passion for community service. He tended a large vegetable garden each summer, rooted for the PA Raiders and the Roughriders, and went kayaking at the lake well into his later years.

A personal anecdote illustrates how Herschel treated customers with care. On my first trip to Prince Albert I went to the store, and I described a warm type of mitten that I used to wear growing up in Northern Minnesota. We called them "choppers", a wool mitten inside a leather mitten, and Herschel had several types in stock. I chose an inner wool pair and an outer leather pair, and brought them to the counter. Herschel looked at them, and said with a straight face, "I won't sell you these." Seeing my startled look he said, "For only a little bit more, we have inner wool mittens that are *twice* as warm." My hands have been grateful for his caring approach to customer service every winter since that encounter.

Tomorrow we will read in the *Torah* from the Book of Leviticus a very strange section,

detailing the care of people who contract a skin disease that is incorrectly called leprosy. The main modern lesson that is often taken from this section is the need for a society to care for ALL its members, especially those who are sick or poverty-stricken. From what I saw on my visits to the store, Herschel treated everyone with respect, both the customers and the staff. He was quoted in yesterday's paper as saying, "... we've done our best to deal with the public in as courteous and careful a manner as possible, ..." We could not ask for a better example and a more profound legacy than this approach to human relationships.

We wish condolences to Herschel's wife of 57 years, Jean; children Les and Karen, Leah and Sandy, and Mark and Lynne; grandchildren Sarah, Amy, Lisa, Jamie, Shane, Donovan, Jordan, Jenna, and Justin; all of the great-grandchildren; sisters Petty Landa, Shirley, and Rhoda Broudy, and all of the nephews and nieces. *HaMakom yinacheim etchem b'toch sh'ar aveilei Tziyon Virushalayim* - May God comfort you among the mourners of our People.



CIJA (Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs) Meets in Israel

by Heather Fenyes, Member of CIJA Board

It's almost five am. I have been awake for an hour. Thirty six hours after returning from Israeli, I am unpacked. My clothes have been put away, but my feelings are still all over the place.

I went to Israel for a CIJA board meeting. We represent members across the country and our board includes a priest; Father De Sousa, and Lorne Nystrom, former NDP MP from Regina. The members politics are as diverse as their geography, and there is strong mutual respect among the group. Lorne Nystrom and his wife Hazel joked with me that we needed to travel to Israel to make a Saskatchewan friend.

That's so Israel. And it wasn't the only "so Israel" moment for me. Within an hour of my arrival to Jerusalem, I bumped into a cousin of mine who I hadn't seen for more than 20 years. Days later I met Jeff Petroff, a young man who had lived in Saskatoon and was a Hebrew School student of mine. He and his beautiful new wife were walking the streets of Jerusalem on Shabbat. Ayelet, Ora and I were doing the same, and we literally walked into one another! Kayla Hock's son-in-law recognized me at his restaurant in Jerusalem while at a CIJA dinner, and I met our Schlichah Ari's Dad at the kotel! These moments are so ingrained in, and unique to an Israel experience.

Our trip was designed to give the board a non-biased complete picture of the Israeli political scene. Even as I write this, I'm smiling. There is no "complete picture" of Israeli politics, and if I didn't know that before the trip, I certainly do now.

CIJA succeeded in its mission, and we were privileged to hear from all of the new comers and old guard of the Israeli

political scene. I have always had my own perspective, and this trip didn't really change it. It deepened my understanding, and confused me further.

It's safe to say that the theme of Israel is "it's confusing". My trip was just that; confusing, disheartening, hopeful, meaningful and inspirational. My fear for Israel and hope for her were juxtaposed and layered each day of my trip; sometimes, one moment after another.

A highlight for me was my participation in Women of the Wall. I didn't go to be arrested - but respected those who did. For me, it was a moment of pure Kavvana - "Intention". We, more than a 100 women strong, davened hallel. We were such a big group that the song was a wave and the wave had an energy of hope and change. Best of all - I met Ari's Dad who had come

to the event in support. He heard my name and said, "you are Heather?" The love in his voice was one of the most powerful moments of my trip. I didn't see the arrests that occurred. I left before. What I did see were the men behind who stood in support. More poignant, was a man who stood on "his" side of the kotel. He was perched on a chair, draped in a talit, wrapped in tefillin and leaning into the women's side. He sang loudly with the women and his eyes shone with support and pride.

This experience connected me to all the others. We heard from Palestinian and Israeli leadership and immersed ourselves in the complexity that is Israel.

Of course so much of Israel for me is the shlichim; and our Israel family is growing! I didn't get to see everybody, but had some very special visits. These visits helped to connect my politics with the people. Each offered me a perspective and personal insight to all that I had heard. Mostly, it was wonderful to be with the people who are my family.

It will take me a long time to process all I learned, and even longer to find avenues that

allow me to engage in the process in a way I find meaningful. I don't expect to affect Israel politics in Saskatoon. But I do intend to make a difference and support the ideals and efforts that Israel struggles to advance.

Israel is complex. There is a place and opportunity for every visitor to engage in the process wherever they stand. Social Justice, tikkun olam, and political activism are alive, well and unencumbered in Israel.



Heather Fenyes with Yair Lapid, Israel's Minister of Finance
photo by Phillip Tavitou

I was proud to be given the opportunity to listen, agree and disagree. I am hopeful for the changes that I believe are budding in Israel, and eager to find ways to be part of the change.



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An Open Letter to David Kaplan

from Gladys Rose

Dear David,
The Well-Tempered Klezmerer, inscribed "Hi Gladys, All the Best, David Kaplan," arrived in Toronto as a lovely and unexpected gift

from Patricia Pavey. I read every word and decided some comments were in order. So here they are.

For anyone who has never had a conversation with you, David, this book provides a golden opportunity to do so. Actually, it is more a monologue with commentaries from a wide variety of colleagues and friends, than it is a conversation. But its theme is clear. It is a MUSIC and a MENTSCH aka David Kaplan.

The first time I ever saw you, Harriett, Jonathan and Edward was shortly after your arrival in Saskatoon. All four of you were checking out the Jewish Community Centre, and the little boys were formally attired, wearing small jackets, shirts and even ties. Jonathan and Edward were the same age as my youngest children, Naomi and David, so they went through their growing up years in tandem, attending the same Hebrew School, High School, and participating in the same Jewish youth organizations.

Unfortunately, I am considered to be musically challenged, so my connection to you was

not through the world of music, but through the Jewish community. In that regard, I can vouch for your lifelong devotion to it and contributions at least equal to your musical gifts to Congregation Agudas Israel and to Saskatoon as a whole.

To my surprise, you said nothing in your memoir regarding the leadership role you took in having the congregation sponsor two Vietnamese brothers – their group was called "The Boat People." I am so sorry not to recall their names, but I certainly remember the gratitude they expressed at being supported and mentored by you for many years.

Another omission – when the former Soviet Union, partly in response to world Jewish pressure, opened its gates and allowed Jews to emigrate, Saskatoon was a favoured destination. It was in the 1980's and close to a hundred new Canadians were directed through federal Manpower offices to this community. You, David, rolled up your sleeves to assist with finding housing, furniture, job opportunities, advice and friendship. You were indefatigable.

And here is something else to thank you for. As you pointed out, I did succeed you as President of Congregation Agudas Israel and I appreciate your noting that I was the first woman President. That was a high point in my life of which I continue to be very proud.

Allow me to make a small correction. You

stated on p. 289, "In the Jewish tradition, there are three religious approaches: Reform, Conservative and Orthodox." There are some other approaches. One of them is the Reconstructionist movement and my Toronto shul of choice is Reconstructionist – Darchei Noam. It is a shul with a wonderful woman rabbi and great music. You would surely enjoy it should you choose to pay us a visit.

And now a word of appreciation to Susanne and her most engaging cover design for the Kaplan autobiography. It is a perfect complement to the contents and makes the book a pleasure to look at, as well as to read.

Here is another personal note. One of my many grandchildren, Isaac Kates Rose, a son of David and Marlene, is a scholarship student at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Rothberg School. Your son Yonatan (his Hebrew name) is its Head. It has always intrigued me that Yonatan is a scholar and academic in the history of Zionism. How about that for a Jewish kid from Saskatoon?

To conclude: keep on doing what you do so well, together with Susanne!

Much love,
Gladys

P.S. Thanks to Patricia for hand-delivery of this enjoyable work.

Ask the Rabbi

Please send your questions to Rabbi Claudio to his e-mail address:
rabbiclaudio@gmail.com

Why do some people finish the Pesach Seder singing Hatikvah (Israel's National Anthem)?

While singing Hatikvah is not a religious obligation, and for obvious reasons a modern practice, it has found, however, a place in many Pesach Sedarim due to the strong connection between the story of the Exodus and the wandering of the Israelites in the desert toward the Promised Land.

Pesach is the holiday when we remember that God took us from slavery in order to receive the Torah and to return to the Land of Israel from where the Israelites were originally since the times of Abraham, more than 400 years before. When God liberated our ancestors from the oppression in Egypt it was because that was part of His plan to make them a free nation in the Promised Land. In that sense, for those who sing the Hatikvah at the end of the Seder, the re-establishment of Jewish sovereignty in 1948 after two thousand years of Diaspora, is seen as the realization of the same promise that guided the Israelites to the Promised Land.

One of the most extraordinary characteristics of Pesach is that its message about freedom has been the starting point of many new interpretations and rituals. In fact, we know that the Haggadah is the most-edited Jewish book and almost every Jewish group or movement has created its own, based on their particular beliefs and ideals. New rituals have

been developed, giving space to the needs and quests of different people. In this context, for many Jews adding Hatikvah to the final part of the Seder is the natural continuation of the old-age statement "Leshana Habaah Virushalayim" – "The next year in Jerusalem".



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This page is sponsored by Alan, Linda and Sam Goluboff of Toronto



Building Unconventional Connections to Israel

by Steve McDonald

As we celebrate the 65th anniversary of Israel's Declaration of Independence, our thoughts naturally turn to the impact the Jewish state has had on our

community. For Jews around the world, both secular and religious alike, Israel has been a source of confidence and security – an extraordinary reprieve after centuries of vulnerability. Here in Canada, our community has been proudly Canadian (and done much to build our great country) while at the same time looking to Israel as a platform for the collective aspirations of the Jewish people.

It is noteworthy that the qualities we admire in Israel – a sense of history, entrepreneurship, vitality, and freedom – are increasingly appreciated by our non-Jewish neighbours. For those of us who work in advocacy, it is on this basis that we have been able to make Israel relevant to key audiences in Canada.

To a large degree, non-Jewish connections to Israel remain tied to religion. In 2011 alone, nearly two million Christians visited Israel, representing almost 60% of the state's tourism. Traditional pilgrimages, however, are increasingly being matched by decidedly untraditional points of connection, especially in trendy Tel Aviv.

Tel Aviv is increasingly seen in key circles as a hot-spot of culture, technology, and entrepreneurship – a gathering place for free thinkers in a Middle East desperate for freedom. A myriad of major tech firms have set up shop in Tel Aviv or elsewhere around the country, including Google, Yahoo, Microsoft, Motorola, Intel, AT&T, and Hewlett-Packard. The boom has been tremendous, with Israel now believed to be home to the highest con-

centration of tech companies outside the Silicon Valley. As investment icon Warren Buffett has said: "If you're going to the Middle East to look for oil, you can skip Israel. If you're looking for brains, look no further."

Despite the praise, Buffett is now being proven wrong on his first point – with the ground-breaking development of oil and shale gas now unfolding at various locations in Israel. Indeed, last year's signing of the Canada-Israel energy cooperation accord is just the latest example of how Canadians in key sectors are now relating to Israel as a land of opportunity and innovation. The signing of the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement in 1997 presaged billions in trade and expanded ties at all levels – federal, provincial, business, and academia. The resulting collaborative projects, university exchanges, and bilateral agreements have enabled a multitude of Canadians to experience Israel as never before.

Connections are increasingly being made in the most unlikely of places. Last year, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) co-hosted with Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs a tour of Israel by six Canadian comedians led by Yuk Yuk's founder Mark Breslin. The tour was captured by director Igal Hecht in a documentary entitled *A Universal Language*, which will be subject to several national broadcasts on CBC's Documentary Channel (and is worth looking out for at various international and Jewish film festivals in the months ahead). The film goes much deeper than the comedy tour (which saw the Canadians perform in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Herzliya), with emotional moments emerging from visits to the Western Wall and Yad Vashem. One reviewer described it as "a confrontational, hilarious study in comedy and religion" and a "brilliant and thought-provoking film."

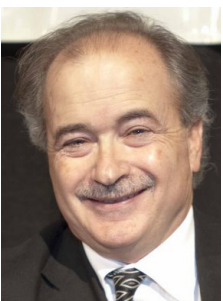


Yuk Yuk's founder Mark Breslin with Canadian comedians in Jerusalem as part of a 2012 comedy tour of Israel. (Photo credit: Judy Zelikovitz, CIJA)

Provoking thoughts inevitably helps to open minds, with *A Universal Language* exposing Canadians to a side of Israel that is often overlooked in mainstream coverage of the Middle East. "This project is an example of the sort of innovative advocacy work that enables average Canadians to experience the real Israel – dynamic, fascinating, and funny," said Judy Zelikovitz, Vice President of CIJA, who helped spearhead the 2012 trip. "This is especially the case given the participation of Yuk Yuk's, a household name across Canada. Through the lens of comedy, viewers are able to appreciate Israel on relatable terms as a place defined by our shared sense of humour and humanity, rather than conflict."

Zelikovitz's point is well taken. If we are to build lasting connections between our non-Jewish neighbours and the Jewish State, we must do so in creative and accessible ways. In other words, we must emphasize the same qualities that have led our fellow Canadians – whether government officials, academics, business leaders, or even comedians – to appreciate Israel.

Steve McDonald is Associate Director of Communications at the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) – the advocacy arm of the Jewish Federations of Canada



B'nai Brith Elections - May 5, 2013

by Randy Katzman

On May 5, 2013, B'nai Brith will elect a new slate of officers. I encourage all current members of B'nai Brith and those men in our community

who are interested in becoming members of B'nai Brith, to attend this meeting.

As I have been President of B'nai Brith for approximately 10 years, our award-winning Bulletin Editor requested that I provide a reflection on my tenure.

Being President of B'nai Brith gave

me the opportunity to attend, speak and even organize many worthwhile events. Annually, I attended the City of Saskatoon's Remembrance Day Service, offered remarks at our Congregation's Holocaust Service, presented rings to those celebrating a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, hosted and emceed the Gerry Rose Volunteer of the Year banquet and the B'nai Brith Men's Friday night service. I was actively involved in organizing Saskatoon's longest and outstanding dinner, namely the B'nai Brith Silver Plate Diner, acting as the Chairman of the "We Are Proud of You Award", selling tickets and obtaining corporate sponsorships.

One of the reasons I enjoyed being involved with B'nai Brith, was that I was able to experience the high esteem in which the general community holds B'nai Brith, and by reflection, the Saskatoon Jewish Community.

We are seen as generous supporters of many good causes, especially those focused on helping children. We should continue to remind everyone that we were the first sponsors of the Children's Health and Hospital Foundation and the Saskatoon Public School Board Foundation.

I look forward to electing the new executive of the B'nai Brith and hope they continue with all of its good work.

This page is sponsored by Mickey and Lucille Narun of Toronto.



Hadassah-WIZO News



CHW is Canada's leading Jewish women's philanthropic organization. Founded in 1917, CHW is non-political, volunteer driven and funds a multitude of programs and projects for Children, Healthcare and Women in Israel and Canada.

CHW Children Healthcare Women

by *Linda Shaw*,

I've just returned from the CHW National Executive Board meeting in Montreal. Jennifer Hesselson and I represented Saskatchewan. Two days of speakers, dinners, breakout groups and schmoozing ensured that we returned with enthusiasm and pride in Canadian Hadassah-WIZO and the amazing work we do. Yes, CHW's main purpose is fundraising to support our projects in Israel and Canada but along the way it has also raised a group of interesting women with amazing leadership skills. It was fun to meet with them and share ideas and I'll share them with you all in future articles.

In the meantime, a quick update of our Sarah Goldenberg Chapter: This year's Pesach Tea was actually a **Pre-Pesach Tea** held Sunday, March 26th. For a nice change we held it at **Ronald McDonald House**, a home-away-from-home for families of sick children traveling to Saskatoon to receive medical treatment. A child's illness can put a

terrible strain on a family both emotionally and financially but Ronald McDonald House Saskatchewan helps ease some of the burden by offering beautiful, friendly accommodations for a nominal \$10.00 per night fee. The Executive Director, **Tammy Forrester**, explained

the purpose of the House, took us on a tour of the facility and showed us the plans for the huge expansion that is currently underway. Thanks Tammy for making it an interesting and delightful Sunday afternoon.

Just like last April, I'm swamped with **Silver Spoon Dinner** planning. I'm organizing the hundreds of Door Prizes and working with Shannon Waldman and Allison Stromberg on the Silent Auction prizes and let me tell you, they are fabulous! Businesses in Saskatoon have been amazingly supportive and generous. This will be one of our biggest Silver Spoon Dinners ever. We've sold over 1000 tickets. Dinner details: it's **Monday, May 6th** at TCU Place. Guest speaker: **Henry Winkler**. We're sold out but perhaps you could volunteer to help that morning or evening? We need women and men. Remember, the funds raised from the Silver Spoon Dinner go to support Congregation Agudas Israel and Canadian Hadassah-WIZO, with 50/50's and Balloon sales going to the Crisis Nursery and



Saskatoon Interval House. It's important to our community's survival. Let me know that you can help. Please.

Check out the CHW website for much more Hadassah-WIZO news. Call Janet Erikson for all your Hadassah-WIZO card needs. And watch your emails for details of a Silver Spoon wind-up meeting at the end of June.



Tammy Forrester with an artist's rendition of the expanded Ronald McDonald House

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by Joel Bernbaum, Artistic Director

Sum Theatre

When I was six years old, my Baba Frances Bernbaum took me to the theatre. I had been to movies with her before, and frankly, the best part of those outings was the popcorn and candy. On a Tuesday evening in July, I held her hand and walked down to the riverbank to the red and white striped Shakespeare tent. This was my first experience with live theatre. I sat transfixed, watching Saskatoonian professional actors speak the speech. At age six, I wasn't following the iambic pentameter, but I was engaged by the charisma of the performers. The dynamic set. The magic of the costumes. It was my first time, and I fell in love. To this day, I remember scenes from this play. This experience was one of the foundational moments in my life as an artist.

There are many six year olds who are not lucky enough to have a Baba like mine. As Saskatoon grows, it is crucial that professional caliber theatre is made accessible to people across our city, regardless of their age, economic status, or previous experience with theatre. Whether you are six or sixty, whether you are attending your first play or your hundredth, a live theatre experience has the potential to enrich your life. Summer theatre productions in Saskatoon are currently limited to fixed-site performances and festivals. How can professional caliber theatre be taken out into the community?

Imagine a beautiful summer evening in Saskatoon. A neighborhood park is buzzing with activity, kids playing soccer, teenagers tossing a frisbee, parents chatting and a group of senior citizens arriving with lawn chairs. Tonight is summer theatre night. People gather to watch a play presented by local professional actors. The whole corner of the park is transformed into a stage, as actors use

trees, hills and even playground equipment to tell their story. Theatre for all ages – it is appropriate and amazing for toddlers, but still entertaining for adults. Almost a hundred people gather to watch the show. Neighbors meet each other for the first time while sharing an imaginative evening. This troupe tours around Saskatoon parks, bringing theatre to communities that may not attend “traditional” theatre – and bringing communities together through the arts.

This idea is not going to remain in our imagination. Thanks to generous support from

the City of Saskatoon, the Saskatchewan Arts Board, B'nai Brith Lodge #739 and Bernbaum Farms, my company (Sum Theatre) will make this project a reality for the summer of 2013 - with an original adaptation of a well loved theatrical tale that will tour Saskatoon parks.

Stay tuned for more details on this exciting project. In the meantime, if you are interested in joining us as a sponsor or volunteer, please contact me by email at sumtheatre@gmail.com or by phone at 306.880.4786.

Looking forward to seeing you in the park this summer!

*As my father planted for me before I was born,
So do I plant for those who will come after me.*

from the Talmud

The Saskatoon Jewish Foundation

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From Our Tel Aviv Desk

by Lior Bachar - (former Shlichut)



Although the elections seem light years behind us, it's only fair to follow up where we left off last time, not knowing the political outcomes that we were facing. There still aren't any significant deeds to report about but it seems the new government with its new politicians, have been trying to prove that there are signs of change, of different ideas and policies that might be implemented in the next few months.

The main issue at hand is the economy. Firstly, the deficit is high. I must admit that as an average citizen, my ignorance in finance makes it pretty hard to follow the numbers. They are reported by the press daily and seem to grow constantly. Before the elections I recall around 15 billion shekels (\$4 billion) and now the most common figure is 40. One should only hope the issue will be addressed soon, otherwise the deficit will keep growing by the day. Secondly, the world economic markets, especially in Europe, also deeply affect our small local economy. Thirdly, and consequently, cuts (and probably high taxes) are on their way. This of course is where we fit in, the citizens who will be most affected. That's why the biggest debate is on how to fill the gap. Should the money come from large scale, widespread cuts from all government offices; should the taxes take from all classes or only from the rich; can cuts be made from the security budget, from education or from health? These are tough and probably somewhat existential decisions, especially in a country that is under constant threat, with a deteriorating education system and very high inequality

in issues such as public health. Fourthly, are the new government and especially its two new political stars, Minister of Finance Yair Lapid and Minister of Industry, Trade and Labor Naftali Bennett, willing to deal with the root problems of Israel's social and economic illnesses, as they addressed them in their election campaigns? Will they really take care of the highly centralized economy, held by a few very wealthy families, the powerful labour unions in government owned companies, the very high inequality largely due to two significant parties in the society (Haredi's and Arabs, not taking a significant part in the main working class, each of which have their reasons. In other words, are we going to see more of the same - politics, policies, lack of creativity, or will there be a real, refreshing change, marking the beginning of a new era? Maybe, it is too much to ask but until proven otherwise, it doesn't hurt to hope.

The education system is also under the microscope, maybe confronting new winds of change, or just talking about change. The new minister, Rabbi Shai Piron, is an educator, knows this world pretty well and seems confident in making changes. That's a sign of hope in itself, and we are yet to see whether he really means it. On a more skeptical point of view, will he be able to implement change, against the dinosaurs of old politics, civil servants, unions and bureaucracy? The first topic making the headlines is a change in the exams that Israeli students undertake in high school. Today's system requires the students to begin their national standardized exams in 10th, 11th and 12th grade. There are quite a few compulsory subjects (math, Hebrew, bible, civics, history, etc.), some of which have different levels of difficulties to choose from. Beside those, there are more than a hundred optional subjects to choose from, all of which are nationally standardized. A degree in secondary education requires a

"pass" in almost all compulsory subjects and a few more optional ones. To make a long story short, the by-product is a system that is obsessed with passing exams, in all three years of high school, instead of spending time in educating.

There has been quite some talk on the public sphere about reform in the education system. Two major teacher reforms were implemented in the last few years, one for primary and another for secondary education, aiming mostly at improving the very low wages teachers earn. The media has also focused on comparisons with some outstanding systems, such as Finland's (and the professionals also point out Canadian provinces), and there is a feeling that the moment is right for more substantial change. One of the outcomes of all this is the teacher's council I mentioned in the last Bulletin, and there might be more to update on in the next edition.

I'll leave you with one of the riddles about Israel's education system. If it is in such bad shape, and that's pretty much of a consensus, why has this education system seen such successful individuals grow from its playgrounds, Nobel Prize winners, inventors, world reknown doctors and professors, high technology entrepreneurs and so on? Is it because they were educated a few decades ago, when the system was supposedly better (though there isn't any evidence to back such a statement, making it very skeptical or somewhat like "the older I am the better I was")? Or is it because they get their excellence from somewhere else, not school? Many other optional answers come to mind, but it is something to think about.

Take care and enjoy the spring.



March 22nd until May 26th
the Mendel Art Gallery is presenting

School Art 2013

displaying paintings, drawings, photographs, sculptures and other art works by more than 200 students in Saskatoon. One of those paintings is from **Amiel Jodorkovsky, daughter of Rosie and Rabbi Claudio: "The Art Owl"** (pencil, crayons, marker on paper).

From Leonard Landa BBYO

by Maxwell Waldman

We were supposed to be hosting IRK here in Saskatoon in April but due to cost problems in Calgary and Edmonton not enough members would be able to attend. It was very disappointing and a lot of hard work in Saskatoon was wasted. If the Alberta chapters can save up we hope to have IRK next year in Saskatoon. Len Landa members helped

Ari and Tamar set up the Holocaust exhibit in the synagogue, and also helped out with the service. The final Spring Convention of the year will elect a new regional board and all of the fourth year members will read their life speeches and give their pins away. It's sure to be a great convention and we're hoping to get as many members out as possible.

This page is sponsored by Arnold z'l & Claire Golumbia of Vancouver

Surprising Israel facts

by Tamir and Ari

As part of the Yom Ha'atzmaut sing-along we enjoyed in mid April, celebrating Israel's 65th anniversary, we played a short game of Israel-trivia. This gave us the idea of sharing with you in this issue a few lesser-known facts about that far away country, where it currently averages around plus 30 degrees.

Funny how temperatures like that have become as hard for us to imagine as minus 30 was only eight months ago. Ahh, "spring" time in Saskatoon.

So, here are a few interesting things you should know:

1. Does Israel have a Constitution?

• If you were to ask a random Israeli on the street this question- the answer would probably be: "NO..." or "I wish there was...". But in fact, Israel does have an informal constitution! Up until 1992, there wasn't even that. There were laws called "Basic laws", but they had no more practical significance than any other law. In other words, if you were to claim in a court that a certain law, proposed by the Knesset, was "unconstitutional" there would have been no way to examine that since all laws held the same degree of importance. In 1992 what came to be known as the "constitutional revolution" accrued when two "Basic laws" for human rights were legislated - the "Basic Law: Freedom of Profession" and the "Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom". These laws serve de-facto as a constitution, and that is how they are regarded by the courts. As in many other constitution-based countries, Israel has three degrees of law: Basic laws, "regular" laws, and regulations. The basic laws may not be contradicted by any other law or regulation and are very hard to modify (just like a constitution).

2. Who lives in the Negev?

- 62% of Israel is a desert. The word Negev, which describes essentially the southern half of Israel, means desert (originating in the Torah).
- Although it is such a large portion of Israel, only 413,000 people live there. That is, 9% of the population of Israel. Out of which, 200,000 are Bedouin living in 7 Bedouin cities and in scattered tent-villages.
- In the southern most part of the Negev, called the "Arava", which means wilderness and constitutes 30% of the Negev, live 4,500 people. A few of them are Ari's family.
- There is a ministry in the government that is in charge of developing the Negev and the

Galil (in the north of Israel). A lot of effort is put into attracting people to live and work in the Negev and it is fast evolving.

3. Some facts you might not know about the IDF -

- The largest unit in the IDF is "Unit 8200", of the intelligence corps. The unit equips some of Israel's brightest and most talented youth in a wide array of skills, in order to maintain the IDF's superiority in the technological surrounding. It is known to have trained many Israelis who, through their army experience and qualifications, have come to generate some of the world's most successful start-up companies and technological patents.
- Every combat-soldier in the IDF would have to take the "Bar-Or" fitness test every six months (specialty and elite units have different tests). To achieve a perfect score in this assessment one would have to be able to do 75 push-ups (45 for Girls), 86 sit-ups, and run 2 km in less than 6:48 minutes - not a simple task!
- The IDF is the only army in the world to have an entire "education corps", the purpose of which is to ensure that all soldiers and commanders are "trained" in education and values along with their professional training. Every unit has an education officer (which is what Tamar did in her service) and a few instructors who regularly educate the commanders and soldiers in their unit about moral dilemmas, Israel, Judaism and the IDF values.
- In the past there were no women serving in the air force, navy and other specialized units but over the past two decades that has changed and today there are women who serve as fighter pilots, naval officers and in almost every unit in the army.
- The IDF's welfare branch takes personal care of every soldier whose family is in need of financial assistance. In many cases families are provided with furniture for their home, maintenance services, long term financial support and special holiday gift packages. The welfare branch is also responsible for the wellbeing of the lone-soldiers - those who for any reason do not have a family in Israel or are incapable of staying with their families. The IDF takes complete financial care of these soldiers, and provides them with several fun days of attractions every year.



4. A bit about Arabs in Israel -

- Arab Israelis make just over 20% of Israel's population. Out of which, 83% are Muslims, 9% are Christians and 8% are Druze.
- Life expectancy among Arab Israelis has increased by 27 years since 1948. Arabs in Israel tend to live 10 years longer than Arabs in the immediate-neighboring countries.
- Since the founding of the State in 1948, the Knesset, the Israeli parliament, has had Arab and Druze members. All transactions in the Knesset are simultaneously translated into Arabic, and Arab members may address the Knesset in Arabic.
- Arab Israelis take part in essentially every aspect of Israeli society, such as - ambassadors, Supreme Court judges, beauty queens and IDF major generals. To learn more about Arabs in Israel join our discussion on June 6th at 7pm in the JCC.

5. As you are reading this, people in Israel are walking around in sandals. Sweating. May you have a - "aviv na'im", a pleasant spring.

A circular graphic with a yellow background and a smiling face. The text inside the circle reads: "Last Breakfast club of the season! Join us for breakfast and after that a few clips about Comedy and parody in Israel! We will have a good laugh and a delicious breakfast On May 26th at 10am in the JCC. Prepare for a seriously good time!!!".

Last Breakfast club of the season!
Join us for breakfast and
after that a few clips about
Comedy and parody in Israel!
We will have a good laugh
and a delicious breakfast
On May 26th at 10am in the JCC.
Prepare for a seriously good time!!!

This page is sponsored by Jeffrey and Sherril Stein.



by Daniel Stern, Campaign Director and Director of Regional Community Services,
Jewish Federations Canada – UIA

All The Elders



receiving the Law at Sinai. In Exodus 12:21 it is written that “Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them...” Moses then explains that each Hebrew is to take an animal from their own flock to be used as a Pascal offering, a central theme of Pesach.

What is of interest in this passage is that even though everyone was obligated to bring this offering, Moses only calls the elders to tell them about this Mitzvah. Perhaps, as the

Midrash Rabbah states, ‘...in truth it is the elders who preserve Israel.’ The Haggadah encourages us to rely on elders throughout the holiday, to tell the story of Exodus and answer the Four Sons’ questions.

But what happens when the elders are, well, too elder? Specifically, what happens when leaders pass on or are no longer able to lead their people? Many Jewish communities across Canada are asking themselves this question in different ways right now, or at least they should be. Our Canadian Jewish population is aging and will soon begin to contract. In most regional and smaller communities, this tendency is even more pronounced. As I have learned in my role

of working with Jewish communities across the country, you cannot fight demographic trends.

Jewish Federations Canada – UIA is beginning to engage in consultations to develop some type of leadership training that will be available to regional communities so that they can strengthen their next generation of leaders. The next several years will be a critical window for Jewish leadership in Canada. Each and every community should be asking questions like these, so that years from now we will be able to say that when we saw the writing on the wall, we moved towards the right strategy.

Have a Shavuot filled with good health and happiness.



by Geoffrey Katz

At The Roxy
<http://www.sonyclassics.com/thegatekeepers/>

Whither now, O Israel?

Review of *The Gatekeepers* שומרי הסף

A film made in Israel for Israelis by an Israeli, the film has nevertheless elicited many articles, review, and debates, apparently, both in Israel and outside of Israel. The Globe and Mail alone seems to have at least three reviews, LaPresse at least two, and a quick look at Rotten Tomatoes http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/the_gatekeepers_2012/ seems to list over 80 reviews from various United States and English media. This is in addition to the reviews and discussion in Israeli media such as at The Jerusalem Post or Haaretz, and the Jewish (not-necessarily Israeli) media such as Tablet.

The general drift of the commentaries seems to recognize the boldness of the filmmaker and the ex-heads themselves to make such a film. Commentaries seem to laud the film’s candour, and recognize that these men

know Palestinians and Palestinian-Israeli relationships as few others do. Commentaries observe the ex-heads’ disappointment and even disdain for their own political leaders. Commentaries generally seem to recognize that these extremely tough men, who do not hesitate in their security work, recognize the security system’s role to effectively manage risk and reduce threats while not in itself being able to achieve a lasting peace.

From a historical perspective, the film looks back to the Palestinian intifadas and Jewish religious extremism that eclipsed the peace process in the 1990s, including the assassination of Rabin and the rise to power in Israel of a coalition of right wing and religious parties.

For non-Israelis, the history is probably useful, interesting, and even instructive. After all, for such a film to be successful, it would likely have to achieve good box-office returns in the United States, not to mention Canada and European countries. But Israelis, it is probably safe to say, know their recent history so the film isn’t here to tell what happened as much as to pull out what the filmmaker wants to talk about.

Which brings us to today, and the possible waning of that religious extremism movement. Maybe it is because the settler movement leaders are just getting old and the 250,000+ settlers (other than in Jerusalem suburbs) are now more of an existing condition than a moving force. One commentator observed

Director: Dror Moreh
1hr 35min. Documentary. In Hebrew with English subtitles.
Initial release: November 26, 2012 (USA)

The Gatekeepers consists of extensive and rare interviews with the six surviving former heads of the Shin Bet: Ami Ayalon, Avi Dichter, Yuval Diskin, Carmi Gillon, Ya’acov Peri, and Avraham Shalom. The interviews are interspersed with newsreel and archival footage and computer-generated imagery. The film is divided into seven segments that are thematic and loosely chronological.

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continued on page 18

The Wicked Child



by JoAnn Jaffe

I've been given the privilege of reflecting on the four sons, and specifically the "wicked son"—Rabbi Claudio knows that this is one of my favourite parts of the seder, and one that I've spent some time thinking about. When I was growing up, I, like (I suppose) many Jewish children who participate in the seder, wanted to be a wise child, and not wicked or simple, and not to be one who didn't know how to ask. This passage did its part in molding me, and how I thought about myself in relation to Jews and Judaism.

Those of us who are parents, or who think about the emotional life of children, might ask, "How can we label children like this; is any child actually wicked—what does it mean to give them this identity? How would it feel to carry this label?" And this question, this wickedness—"what does this ritual mean to you?"—what drives the child to ask it? Is the child alienated, doubting, detached, suspicious, fearful, wondering if he would be accepted if he included himself? The four sons are supposedly four different types of people, but aren't most of us all of these at one time or another?

Perhaps we could get more insight into this by putting it through a gender lens. If the children were girls, "the wise son" who asks "what is the meaning of what we are commanded to do?" might translate to the "smart" or "good

girl", who asks, "what can I do for you?". The "wicked son's" equivalent might be the "bad girl", who would ask, "what do you expect from me?" implying that she would do the opposite. From this perspective, we might see the wicked son's wickedness as rebelliousness. But rebelliousness of what sort? It can't just be any kind of rebelliousness, as our tradition has a creative tension with some types of nonconformity. And we are encouraged to ask questions, although perhaps the questions need to be of the right kind. Apparently, some questions are still out of bounds.

According to our tradition, the wicked son is one who puts himself outside the circle, who by cutting himself off from the community denies the community its very essence. The wicked son stands on the outside, a little snide and superior. The problem is, Jews as such and Judaism can't exist without the community. We have no central authority, but carry out our Jewishness and understand ourselves through local communities of practice. In many ways we could say, you can't be a Jew alone. The wicked son denies his connection to and responsibility for the community. The problem is, our fate is tied up with each other; we share in the *nachas* and we share in the pain. Some who would prefer not to be thought of as Jews have been forced to take on that identity; that one Jew represents all Jews (the mark of the plural) is often put on us, and some of us also accept it for ourselves.

But as we talk about the wicked son, perhaps

we should also talk about wicked communities—and the individuals in them—who would deny the possibilities of Jewish individuals by playing the same outsider/insider game. I've thought about this in my work with the Fellowship for Reconciliation and Peace. As a critic of Israel, as a feminist, a questioner, I still claim my place as a Jew and an insider, and want to be understood as such. Some other people, though, who would put themselves on the Jewish inside would draw the boundary with me on the outside. Calling themselves Torah-true Jews, they would say I'm an apostate, a goy, or worse; as True Friends of Israel, they label me a self-hating Jew.

This tension expressed in the story of the 4 sons is one that is on-going. It echoes the long-standing friction between the particularistic and the universalistic impulses of Judaism. Should we care more about Jews than others? As Hillel said, "If I am not for myself, who will be for me?". But, "If I'm only for myself, what am I?" Just as no child is purely wise or wicked, Judaism and the Jewish people can't survive solely by looking out for itself or, conversely, only after the concerns of others. And we need both the insider and the outsider perspectives. But we also need to be careful who we put outside and who we allow to define what the boundaries are.

Editor's Note: JoAnne Jaffe is a Sociology Professor at the University of Regina and a member of CAI.

Divrei Harav.. from page 4

that is the reason why, every time a new Pope is going to be designated, we ask ourselves about what will be his attitude toward the Second Vatican Council and Jewish-Catholic relations. In this case I think we have many reasons to be optimistic.

Father Bergoglio has been tremendously active in Jewish Catholic relations. He has participated several times in Jewish celebrations, ecumenical Passover dinners, visited many synagogues and attended multi-faith events. Rabbi Abraham Skorka, as I mentioned, is his close friend, and after many years of dialogue and sharing a TV program where they expressed their personal views about different topics - including politics and current events - they wrote together a book which summarizes those dialogues. From this book, called "Sobre el Cielo y la Tierra" ("On Heaven and Earth"), we can learn about his vision on inter-faith dialogue:

"Dialogue comes from a respectful attitude toward other human beings, from being convinced that the other has something good to say. It supposes creating space in our heart to his point of view... to his opinion and to his

proposal. To have a dialogue implies a warm reception and not a preconceived notion. In order to have a dialogue you need to lower your defenses, open your home's doors, and offer human warmth. With Rabbi Skorka I never had to negotiate my Catholic identity, the same way he never had to do it with his Jewish identity. And this is not because of the high esteem we share toward each other, but because we understand interfaith dialogue in that way. The challenge was to walk together with respect and appreciation, to walk together under the presence of God. This book is a testimony of that. Rabbi Skorka is my brother and my friend..."

During his installation sermon, Pope Francis singled out the Jewish delegation in the audience from among the other non-Christian representatives in thanking them for coming. The following day, meeting with representatives of other faiths, he reaffirmed in his opening address his commitment with Second Vatican and the Jewish-Catholic dialogue:

"And now I turn to you distinguished representatives of the Jewish people, to which

we are joined in a very special spiritual bond, since, as the Second Vatican Council affirms, the Church of Christ acknowledges that 'the beginnings of her faith and her election are already, according to the divine mystery of salvation, in the Patriarchs, Moses, and the prophets. Thank you for your presence, and I am confident that, with the help of the Almighty, we will be able to continue profitably that fraternal dialogue that the Council advocated and that has actually been accomplished, bringing many fruits, especially in recent decades'".

I think these words toward the Jewish representatives in Rome, together with his thoughts about his friendship and dialogue with Rabbi Skorka, are extraordinary coming from a new Pope and very good news for the Jews.

We hope his designation will be the best opportunity for Jews and Catholics to continue working together in the path of dialogue and *Tikkun Olam*, showing the world that reconciliation and friendship is possible even after hundreds of years of disagreements.

B'birat Shalom,
Rabbi Claudio

Biography of the Month: Hannah Senesh

by Stan Schroeder

Note: I originally published this biography in 2009 after I saw the documentary film of her life story. I am submitting it to The Bulletin at this time because we just commemorated Yom Hashoah at the time of this writing and will soon celebrate Yom Ha'atzma'ut, Israel's 65th Independence Day. I believe Hannah exemplifies the connection.

Ordinarily I choose someone who was born during the month of the Shir Notes issue. However I recently saw the movie *Blessed is the Match: the Life and Death of Hannah Senesh*. I have known the story of Hannah Senesh for many years, but I was so moved by the movie that I am choosing her so that I can share her life and legacy.

Hannah Senesh was born July 17, 1921 in Budapest, Hungary into an assimilated well-to-do Jewish family. Her father Bela, a journalist and playwright, died when Hannah was six. Her mother Katrina raised Hannah and her brother Giora, one year older. Hannah enrolled in a Protestant private school for girls which also accepted Jewish students (for three times the tuition). She was an exceptional student, had a charming personality, and was popular with her classmates. She excelled in literature and was elected as her class representative in the Literary Society.

However the school rules forbade a Jew from holding any office and a new election was held. This was a heavy blow for Hannah and a turning point in her life. Although Judaism had not been a significant part of her life, she now realized the effects of the virulent anti-Semitism in Hungary and became an ardent Zionist. At seventeen she joined Maccabea, a Hungarian Zionist students organization, learned Hebrew, and prepared to move to Palestine.

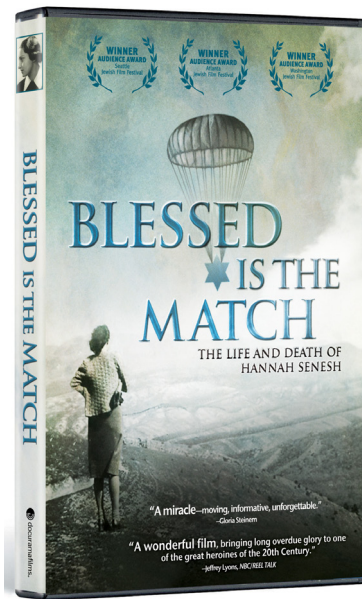
Despite her mother's concerns Hannah not only wanted to move to Palestine, she wanted to "work the land" in the labor Zionist tradition. So in September 1939 she set sail to study in the Nahalal Agricultural School and began to apply herself to the actual

chore of living, learning, and building up the land of Israel. She was enthusiastic about her life ahead and wrote her mother of her experiences, including hand-drawn pictures. She was imbued with Zionist ideology, studying works of many of the various Zionist and Jewish thinkers. She also began writing her poems in Hebrew.

In 1941 she finished her studies at Nahalal. In the ensuing time, she visited various settlements to see where she would settle. Finally she decided upon Sdot Yam, a kibbutz near Haifa on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea. She was given a tent and survived a difficult and freezing winter there. She was accepted as a member and became its Supply Officer.

At this time the war was raging in Europe and her heart was with her mother in Hungary and her brother in occupied France. A representative of the Palmach, the armed forces of the Jewish Agency, contacted her concerning a mission in Hungary. The purpose was to organize and prepare the Jews for escape from the inferno of Europe.

After several months she was accepted, but her assignment required special training and enlistment in the British army. For this she was transferred to Egypt. Upon completion of her training as a parachutist and radio operator she returned to Haifa where she met her brother, Giora who had just arrived in Palestine. The



next day she left for the mission.

On March 15th, 1944 Hannah and several others were parachuted into Yugoslavia. While there at a partisan camp, Hannah wrote the poem *Blessed is the Match*:

Blessed is the match consumed in kindling flame. Blessed is the flame that burns in the secret fastness of the heart. Blessed is the heart with strength to stop its beating for honor's sake. Blessed is the match consumed in kindling flame.

Partisans helped the team cross the border into Hungary on May 13th.

Unfortunately they were quickly captured by the Nazis, probably alerted by an informant. Hannah was taken to a Gestapo prison in Budapest. She was tortured in an attempt to get the radio codes, but refused to divulge them. Her mother was imprisoned and tortured in front of her - she still refused. Hannah was executed November 8, 1944, leaving a last letter to her mother.

Her body, and those of six other paratroopers who died, were flown to Israel in 1950 and buried in the Martyrs section on Mt. Herzl in Jerusalem.

The movie is a remarkable tribute to a brave woman, a gifted writer, and a national heroine. It includes interviews with those who served with her and were imprisoned with her.

Editors Note: Stan Schroeder is the Editor of Congregation Shir Ami's "Shir Notes" in Los Angeles which also won a Gold Medal for "Bulletins." He writes biographies of famous Jews and has offered to share them with us.



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This page is sponsored by the late Dr. Lou and Mrs. Ruth Horlick

the Calgary Jewish community and BBYO Regional Director serving the youth of Calgary, Edmonton and Saskatoon.

Blumer was a veteran camper by the time she made her way to Camp BB-Riback the summer before she entered high school in 2002. She had already spent many summers at a secular camp in the Rockies together with public school friends. Living far from the epicentre of Jewish life in southwest Calgary, her involvement in things Jewish was limited to synagogue where her social circle steadily declined following her bat mitzvah. But, when her previous camp filled up before she had a chance to register, her mother convinced her to give Camp BB-Riback a try.

“From the website it looked similar enough to my camp, but with two major improvements . . . performing arts and Jewish peers. I was excited by the prospect of meeting other Jewish kids that also shared my personal interests. And this is exactly what happened,” recalls Blumer.

“For the first time in my life, I was not defined by what made me different than the other kids at school. I wasn’t the Jewish girl and I wasn’t the dancer. I was just me.

“I was pushed to consider my relationship with Israel and Judaism more thoughtfully. I loved Shabbat programs about Jewish values, identity and ideals because they helped me develop my own perspective. Shabbat at Camp BB was my first exposure to Judaism as an individualistic, dynamic aspect of one’s life that extends beyond the synagogue.”

Blumer liked that experience so much that she returned the following year for an entire season as a counsellor in training. During the following three summers she worked as a counsellor and on the ropes course, giving campers of all ages a summer to remember.

Camp friends introduced Blumer to the

B’nai Brith Youth Organization (BBYO) and her family moved so she could go to school with her new-found friends. After years at Camp BB-Riback she went to work at the Calgary JCC after-school program, eventually becoming assistant director of Camp JCC. Then, as a student at the U of C, she joined Hillel and volunteered for BBYO.

“My time at Camp taught me the value of community and tradition, while instilling confidence, leadership skills and responsibility. It also taught me how to let go, have fun and

“For the first time in my life, I was not defined by what made me different than the other kids at school. I wasn’t the Jewish girl and I wasn’t the dancer. I was just me.

be myself,” Blumer told the JFP.

“Camp BB is not just a camp, it’s home . . . It’s a safe and fun place for kids to test out overnight camp. Program wise, there’s really something for everyone, too. The staff are energetic alumni who are emotionally invested in the program. This is one of the greatest reasons for its success,” adds Blumer.

“I already know that no matter where I end up in the world, my kids will be Camp BB kids.”

The camp has been an especially significant Jewish lifeline for kids and families hailing from smaller towns and cities which, lacking a critical Jewish mass, do not offer the same variety of Jewish opportunities enjoyed by many children and youth in communities like Calgary and Edmonton.

Saskatoon native Zac Waldman says that summers at Camp BB-Riback, both as a camper and as a long-serving staff member, have made a huge difference in his life. About to serve for a third consecutive summer as camp medic, Waldman – who is currently

completing his third year toward a nursing degree at the University of Saskatoon – previously also served as canoe specialist.

He follows in the footsteps of his father, Ron, who spent summers at Camp B’nai Brith while growing up in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. Zac’s younger siblings, Max and Molly, are also veteran campers who will be working at BB-Riback this summer.

“It shows you how passionate our family is about the camp, and I am also very fortunate that camp has given me the opportunity to gain real skills in my professional field,” Zac says.

“My Jewish identity was formed at camp. My family isn’t very religious . . . Camp gave me a way to learn about Judaism in a fun and unforced way.”

According to Waldman, highlights include reciting blessings before and after meals and other fun camp traditions like *Shira*, or singsongs that include traditional and modern Hebrew music.

“I couldn’t have experienced it in Saskatoon to the same extent,” says Waldman who, like other members of very small Jewish communities, is particularly grateful for having had the opportunity to enjoy immersive Jewish camp experiences in the company of an expanded range of peers.

While he acknowledges that there are fancier summer camps, Waldman says they’d be hard pressed to deliver the “magic” that abounds at Camp BB-Riback.

The alchemy arises from unique camp traditions that are preserved by successive generations of young people entrusted as the keepers and transmitters of Jewishly-infused camp culture.

“Camp BB is by the kids and for the kids,” says Waldman.

“The more serious roles are played by staff with more extensive experience, but the front line is cool, older kids who form real relationships with campers. It’s like having big brothers and sisters.”

Fortunately, the camp has a long and proud history of attracting very dedicated camp directors who provide a solid framework and skilled guidance for staff who, in turn, get kids unplugged, enabled and empowered.

“I am excited to swing open the camp gates for summer 2013 and I’m already proud of the staff that will make it all happen,” says Camp BB-Riback Director Jerrod Henoah.

“They are enthusiastic, hardworking and thrilled to be giving kids the kind of summer that keeps us all coming back to Camp BB-Riback, from one summer to the next and one generation to another.”

Maxine Fischbein is a Calgary-based freelance writer whose daughters were raised on Camp BB!



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Herschel Davidner Eulogy... from page 5

his very special tomato space, an elevated feature that looked way too much like a little green coffin.

And he was a father. Leah and Les are twins. Les is a computer guy, living in Calgary and Leah worked with Herschel in the store. Politely, one could say she was the Yin to his Yang. They had different perspectives, but business is business and family is family, and she was beside him for 22 years. Mark, the baby, lives in Boston and is a chartered accountant.

And he was Jew.

I met Herschel at the Saskatoon synagogue. I was trying to sell tickets to the B'nai Brith Dinner in Saskatoon and Herschel was the man to talk to in PA. I knew he was a great salesman because the Dinner tickets are expensive and you had a 90-minute drive each way. Yet, year after year, Herschel sold a table and he and his crew showed up. He was

not a young man and I remember introducing him to the 800 men at the dinner as a personal friend of Moses. It wasn't easy for him in the last decade, but he never complained and he always produced.

And he was a husband. Jean was a part of Herschel. At the synagogue, Herschel always let Jean go first and held the door for her when he could. Of course, it was really Jean who demonstrated her love for Herschel by falling in the biblical footsteps of Ruth; Where you go, I will go and where you live, I will live and your people shall be my people. In 2013, this is a difficult thing to do, but in 1956 it was an obstacle that most couples would not attempt to challenge. But Jean did it, and she did it with enthusiasm and conviction. She gave up much to be with the man she loved.

And I want to talk a little bit about the dignity he displayed in the face of death. He arranged for his own casket, a Jewish

casket, to be in the basement of the store so it would be there when needed; it had to be of simple wood, with no metal, because metal is used in war. He composed a letter to Cameco, literally on his deathbed, regarding an upcoming supply contract. He articulated the benefits of buying Canadian, and from his store. He helped the family plan for the meal of condolence that will follow this service. And on Tuesday night, when the nurse said she needed to move him so that he might breathe a little easier, his family could clearly hear him telling the nurse that he would move himself, that she didn't need to do that for him. And just a few hours later, he slipped away.

Herschel Jack Davidner was a proud, honest man who knew how to love and how to work and his name will be a blessing to his family and to all those who knew him.

Person to Person.. from page 4

vibrant, well oiled machine. It is now much easier to connect with our community if you are new to the city, or just new to exploring the possibility of joining. In Harold's case, I guess technology does work! The Holocaust Memorial Weekend, led by Ron and Jan Gitlin, was a singularly spectacular effort and the work done by everyone on that committee has made us proud. Rabbi Claudio and the people who helped him prepare for the Pesach Seder did a wonderful job. It was a lot more work to get this building clean than anyone expected but they made it look effortless. For those who attended, it was a joyful, family gathering. Heather Ross

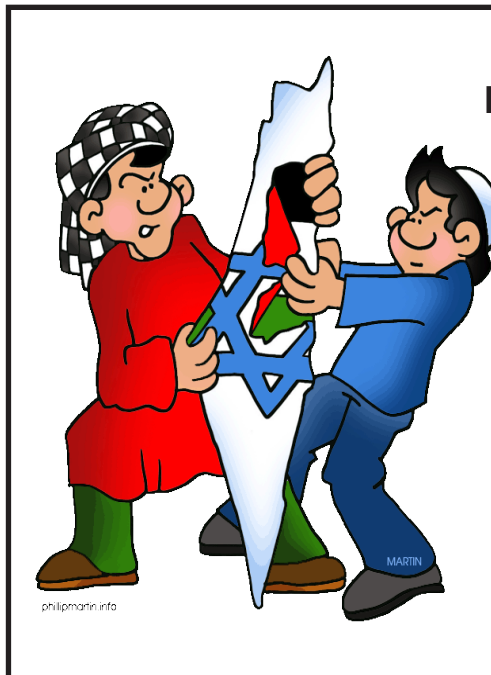
spends every Sunday afternoon updating our Website so that all we (or anyone else looking for us) have to do is go there to see what is going on. Steven Goluboff and his crew gather informative and interesting articles for every Bulletin to make sure we stay engaged and connected to the community. David Katzman and his committee are gearing up for Folkfest this August. We know they will need lots of help so please consider offering before he has to go looking for you. Lesley-Ann Crone, as our new Chevra Kadisha Chair, is organizing an in-service for this most caring and compassionate committee. The work they do is so much appreciated!

This may be a small sampling of the things that go on here, but I think you get the idea that behind every event, every program there is a team of volunteers giving their time, sweat, and ideas, to give the rest of us something wonderful.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank each and every person who helps make this community the strong, vibrant, relevant, connected, and financially viable place it is. I am grateful for your efforts, grateful for the results, and grateful that I am part of you. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Editorial.. from page 3

and on occasional Saturday morning services, (possibly every six weeks). Having attended my first Shabbat morn service with my three year old grandson Cohen a few weeks ago, I marvelled at his ability to actually observe and engage in what was happening and was moved by him coming onto the Bema with me and following me as I carried the Torah around the congregation. Yes, by 11:45, he was getting impatient, hungry and expressed some desire to see his Mommy, but with some cookies and carrots, he actively reengaged with everyone at lunch. If we don't involve our children and grandchildren in a synagogue service, not only will that not develop a comfort, but they will not have the essential basics to make the choice to continue with a true Jewish life as they grow up.



Lets talk about: "The Arab population in Israel" :

**Are they Israelies or Palistinian?
Do they serve in the army?
What is their involvement in the
Knesset?**

**Who are the Bedouin?
What is unique about the Druz?
What is their veiw on the conflict?**

**We have a lot to talk about!
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See you there, Ari & Tamar

Yahrtzeits

May 3/4 Iyar 23/24

Solomon Dragushan	May 3 (23)
Herman Green	May 3 (23)
Leah Gladstone	May 4 (24)
David Rabinovitch	May 4 (24)*
Sam Hock	May 4 (24)
Mildred Berlow	May 4 (24)*
Edith Roth	May 4 (24)*
Cherna Friedman	May 4 (24)*
Sylvia Sandbrand	May 4 (24)
Esther Solsberg	May 5 (25)*
Rachel Muscovitch	May 6 (26)
Fred Mendel	May 6 (26)*
Ruth Shear	May 6 (26)*
Eliezer Goodman	May 7 (27)*
Broche Minovitz	May 8 (28)
Fanny Rapaport	May 8 (28)*
Ethel Spector	May 8 (28)*
Frank Gertler	May 9 (29)*
Jack Litman	May 9 (29)

May 10/11 Sivan 1/2

Jack Kaslow	May 10/1
William Kutz	May 10/1
Bernard Sharzer	May 10/1*
Abraham Bruser	May 12/3
Rita Eptstein	May 12/3*
Jacob Mazer	May 12/3*
Arthur Rose	May 13/4*
Abram Hoffer	May 13/4
Ben Tartar	May 14/5
Albert Epstein	May 14/5*
Joe Katzman	May 14/5*
Anita Lefebvre	May 14/5
Bernard Lehrer	May 14/5*
Harry Coehn	May 15/6*
William Grobman	May 15/6*

May 17/18 Sivan 8/9

Libba Korbin	May 17/8*
Rose Litman	May 17/8
Rose Manolson	May 17/8*

Paul Swartz	May 17/8
Goldie Brounstein	May 18/9
Semyon Furman	May 18/9
Lloyd Hock	May 19/10*
Ida Domey	May 20/11*
Samuel Golumbia	May 21/12
Florence Russell	May 21/12
Sophie Cornfield	May 22/13
Abraham Prober	May 22/13
Clare Richman	May 22/13
Bessie Golumbia	May 22/13*
Rose Levinton	May 23/14
Nettie Steiger	May 23/14

May 24/25 Sivan 15/16

Harry Hillman	May 24/15*
Samuel Schacter	May 24/15*
Seda Margolia	May 25/16
Bathsheba Baron	May 26/17
Marlene Ditlove	May 26/17*
Jack Mallin	May 26/17*
Amelia Sandbrand	May 26/17
Selma Green	May 27/18
Clarice Buckwold	May 28/19
Sonia Churchill	May 28/19*
Sam Landa	May 28/19
Lottie Levitt	May 28/19*
Bertha Adler	May 29/30
Bessie Gladstone	May 29/20*
Bessie Ames	May 30/21*
Frances Bernbaum	May 30/21
Anna Lehrer	May 30/21*

May 31/June 1 Sivan 22/23

Sophie Drabinsky	May 31/22*
Sheila Krolik	May 31/22*
Myron Melamede	May 31/22
Bert Gladstone	June 1/23*
Clarice Schwartz	June 1/23
Jacob Claman	June 2/24*
W. Beryl Flikshteyn	June 2/24
Ruth Bondar	June 3/25
Herman Levine	June 3/25*
Sam Zaitlen	June 3/25*
Vera Barsky	June 4/26

Benjamin Rachamin	June 4/26
Israel Rodoff	June 4/26
Kathryn Cooper	June 5/27*
Robert Floom	June 5/27*

June 7/8 Sivan 29/30

Solomon Cramer	June 7/29*
Leo Lipcovic	June 7/29*
Bernie Reznick	June 7/29
Sara Charach	June 8/30
Nathan Gropper	June 8/30*
Max Hock	June 8/30*
Rosa Jerman	June 8/30
Max Gropper	June 9/Tammuz 1*
Bert Schwartz	June 9/1
Ben Shiffman	June 9/1
Stella Hearn	June 10/2*
Irma Altschul	June 11/3*
David Baltzan	June 11/3*
Nathan Richman	June 11/3*
Sameul Forgan	June 13/5*
Zakhar Isaakov	June 13/5
Rabbi Louis Jacobs	June 13/5
Bessie Switzer	June 13/5
Chaim Tzalkovich	June 13/5

June 14/15 Tammuz 6/7

Sidney Buckwold	June 14/6*
Patricia Holtslander	June 14/6*
Evelyn Ross	June 14/6
Pearl Trute	June 14/6*
Beatrice Adilman	June 16/8
Mary Lifshen	June 17/9*
Etta Tadman	June 17/9*
Toba Waldman	June 18/10
Anna Dragushan	June 18/10
Irving Jacobson	June 18/10
Nathan Adilman	June 20/12

June 21/22 Tammuz 13/19

Walter Merchant	June 21/13*
Ralph Sugarman	June 21/13*
Louis Epstein	June 22/14
Minnie Filer	June 22/14*
Reva Mathews	June 22/14

Maria Kilominsky	June 25/17*
Faigel Lyons	June 25/17
Schulem Singer	June 25/17
Harold Waldman	June 25/17*
John Adelman	June 26/18
Jack Teskey	June 26/18*
Jack M. Sklar	June 27/19*

June 28/29 Tammuz 20/26

Etta Gross	June 29/21
Louis Pollock	June 29/21*
Sarah Schacter	July 1/23*
Sam Shafer	July 1/23
Abraham Kassen	July 2/24*
Abraham Katz	July 2/24
Gerald Gitlin	July 3/25*
Joseph L. Brans	July 4/26*
Sarah Goodman	July 4/26*
Joseph Purkin	July 4/26
Daneil Weitzman	July 4/26

July 5/6 Tammuz 27/28

Lena Kassen	July 6/28
Nekhama Stone	July 6/28
Ruth Stoffinan	July 7/29
Frances Dashefsky	July 7/29
Nina Fogel	July 7/29*
Farhad Hebron	July 7/29*
Helen Teskey	July 7/29*
Ettie Wiss	July 7/29*
Vera Helfgott	July 8/Av 1*
Lloyd Landa	July 8/1*
Dolphy Neuman	July 8/1
Frances Paul	July 8/1
Margret Poplack	July 8/1
Lucille Katzman	July 9/2
Wilma Katzman	July 9/2
Joseph Volansky	July 9/2
Barney Kutz	July 10/3

Review of the Gatekeepers.. from page 13

that many young Israelis don't know what the "Green Line" is. And isn't the current Israeli government the first Israeli government in years that does not include a religious party in its coalition?

So the real point of the film, maybe, is to insist on a collective effort among disparate Israeli and disparate Palestinian groups to participate in a renewed – and non-violent – discussion about the future of Israeli-Palestinian, and Israeli-Israeli relationships. The film asks questions of

- Political will
- Moral judgement
- Leadership and collective vision.

Coming from the former heads of Shin-Bet, that message and those questions might be heard.

Now this might have been a good place to end this review - except that we are in Canada,

not Israel.

A review of the Canadian press commentaries seems to reflect a growing polarization of opinion among the Canadian public / media toward Israel.

As examples, Gerald Caplan in the Globe and Mail March 28, 2013:

"... This film must be seen by anyone who wants to grasp Middle East realities. In a sane world, that would include the Prime Minister of Canada and certainly his Foreign Affairs Minister, whose unaccountable, almost visceral personal hostility towards the Palestinians knows few bounds. ..."

Or Agnes Gruda in La Presse March 13, 2013

"... Et c'est au stratège Carl Von Clausewitz qu'ils empruntent la principale conclusion du film: la victoire, c'est de créer une réalité politique meilleure. Pas d'écraser son ennemi.

Et ici, Israël a lamentablement échoué. ..."

The current Canadian government support for Israel seems to rub many Canadians the wrong way, to say the least, and there seems to be an element of "Ha we told you so" among Canadian commentators – as if to say "We told you how ugly the Israeli effects on the Palestinians etc., etc. – and here are leading Israelis saying just what we have been claiming ..."

But care is needed that simplistic, uninformed, and knee-jerk reactions typical of many Canadians does not come to overwhelm an informed and penetrating discussion in Canada - y compris le Quebec - and Canadian response to the legitimate values and needs for social justice within Israel and within the Palestinian territories.

Yisrael in a Nutshell

Israel wins 'Best in the World' at Cookbook Oscars

Israeli chefs took top awards at the Gourmand World Cookbook Awards at the Louvre in Paris. The international committee chose Seafoodpedia – a design cookbook edited by Shalom Maharovsky, owner and founder of Mul-Yam (Across the Sea) restaurant in the Tel Aviv Port – as the Best in the World in the fish and seafood category.



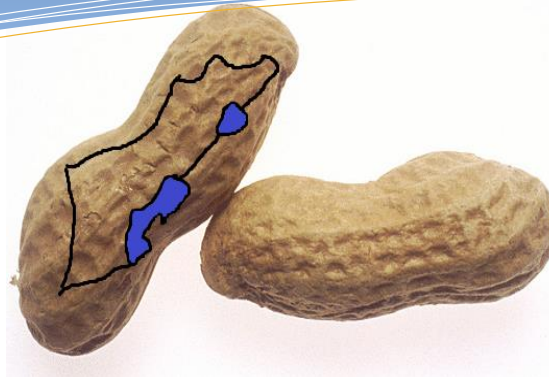
Recommended

Link -

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_Bandv02&feature=player_embedded



A fun clip about President Barack Obama's comments regarding Tel Aviv ("Wish I could wear a fake mustache and wander around Tel Aviv")



Quote of the month -

"In Israel, in order to be a realist you must believe in miracles"

David Ben Gurion

Israel sets up 'field hospital' to treat injured Syrians

In the past month, several Syrians who were injured in the fighting between rebels and forces loyal to President Bashar Assad have been treated in northern Israel hospitals.

In light of the steady increase in the number of wounded Syrians Israel has been treating, the IDF has set up a "military field hospital" at army outpost 105 in the Golan Heights.



Jewish, Arab, and Druze Youth Build Connections through Hockey

17 Israeli children and three coaches came to Winnipeg to be immersed in Canadian hockey. They are students at the Canada Israel Hockey School (located in Metulla), and the group comprises Jewish, Arab and Druze boys from communities across the northern Galilee and Golan Heights. This unique program seeks to build peace and understanding through sport.



The Israeli hacker who saved Facebook — twice

Nir Goldshlager found a serious security breach in the social media network — and then found a hole in the ostensibly repaired code, too.



As a "white hat" hacker who has tested computer security systems for some of the biggest companies in the world, Goldshlager is once again a hero. For the second year running, he is the No. 1 name in Facebook's security "hall of fame", featured on a page thanking hackers "for making a responsible disclosure to us, on behalf of over a billion users".

What does Israel have most Per-Capita of (yes, in the world)?

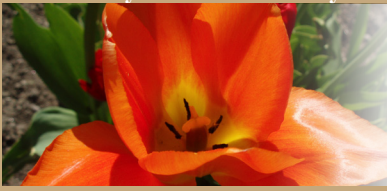



- Museums
- Libraries
- University degrees
- Orchestras
- Startup companies
- Books published
- Engineers
- Facebook usage
- Physicians
- NASDAQ listed companies
- PC's
- Fruits & vegetables consumption



For more information regarding any of the contents please contact -

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May 2013 • Iyar / Sivan 5773

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Iyar 21	2 Iyar 22	3 Iyar 23 8:34 pm Candle Lighting 6 pm Family Service Italian Potluck *Randy Katzman	4 Iyar 24 B'HAR B'HUKOTAI *Heather Fenyes Havdalah - 9:36
5 Iyar 25 B'nai Brith Meeting 11:45 am JCC	6 Iyar 26  No Hebrew School	7 Iyar 27	8 Iyar 28	9 Iyar 29	10 Sivan 1 8:45 pm Candle Lighting	11 Sivan 2 B'MIDBAR *Steven Goluboff Havdalah - 9:51
12 Sivan 3	13 Sivan 4 Bar & Bat Mitzvah Class 6:30 pm	14 Sivan 5  Tikun Shavuot Program 6:30 pm 8:52 pm Candle Lighting	15 Sivan 6 OFFICE CLOSED Service with Yizkor 10 am 9:59 pm Candle Lighting *Marsha Scharfstein	16 Sivan 7 OFFICE CLOSED Shavuot / Yizkor Havdalah - 10:05	17 Sivan 8 8:56 pm Candle Lighting 7 pm Service *Simonne Horwitz	18 Sivan 9 NASO *Lesley Ann Crone Havdalah - 10:05
19 Sivan 10 Tefillah & Tefillin 9:15 am 	20 Sivan 11 OFFICE CLOSED	21 Sivan 12	22 Sivan 13	23 Sivan 14	24 Sivan 15 9:06 pm Candle Lighting	25 Sivan 16 B'HA'ALOTEKHA *Perry Jacobson Havdalah - 10:18
26 Sivan 17 Last Breakfast Club 10 am 	27 Sivan 18 Bar & Bat Mitzvah Class 6:30 pm	28 Sivan 19	29 Sivan 20 Board of Trustees Meeting 7 pm Hebrew School Picnic 4:15 pm	30 Sivan 21	31 Sivan 22 Hebrew School Service - 6 pm Potluck 9:15 pm Candle Lighting *Steven Simpson	

June 2013 • Sivan / Tammuz 5773

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Sivan 23 SHELAH-LEKHA *Harold Shiffman Havdalah - 10:30
2 Sivan 24	3 Sivan 25	4 Sivan 26	5 Sivan 27	6 Sivan 28 Arab - Israel Discussion 7 pm	7 Sivan 29 9:23 pm Candle Lighting *	8 Sivan 30 KORAH *Harold Shiffman Havdalah - 10:40
9 Tammuz 1 Kayefet - 12 Tefillah & Tefillin 9:15 am 	10 Tammuz 2 Bar & Bat Mitzvah Class 6:30 pm	11 Tammuz 3	12 Tammuz 4	13 Tammuz 5	14 Tammuz 6 6 pm Family Service with Barbeque 9:28 pm Candle Lighting *Jose Andres 	15 Tammuz 7 HUKKAT *Simonne Horwitz Havdalah - 10:46
16 Tammuz 8	17 Tammuz 9	18 Tammuz 10	19 Tammuz 11	20 Tammuz 12	21 Tammuz 13 9:31 pm Candle Lighting	22 Tammuz 14 BALAK Katie Dawson Bat Mitzvah *Michael Gertler Havdalah - 10:49
23 Tammuz 15  Gerry Rose Dinner	24 Tammuz 16 Bar & Bat Mitzvah Class 6:30 pm	25 Tammuz 17	26 Tammuz 18 Board of Trustees Meeting 7 pm	27 Tammuz 19	28 Tammuz 20 7 pm Service 9:31 pm Candle Lighting *David Katzman	29 Tammuz 21 PINHAS *Seth Shacter Havdalah - 10:48
30 Tammuz 22						

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