

# Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies

## Newsletter



Fall 2014

## Director's Message



In late August, I had the bitter-sweet pleasure of celebrating Dr. Aviva Freedman's enormous contribution to Carleton University. We bid her and her husband Dr. Chuck Freedman a warm "l'hitraot" as they prepared to make aliyah and move to Israel.

As the University President, Roseann Runte, and Vice President Kim Matheson spoke of Aviva's collegiality, scholarship, and many accomplishments, I looked around the crowded room of smiling faces and marveled at the many lives she has touched and the real impact she

has had on Carleton's development as an institution. She has been a wise and generous mentor to me since my arrival at Carleton 8 years ago, and it has been my privilege and utter pleasure to work with her as Associate Director and now, for the past year, as Director of the Zelikovitz Centre.

So, perhaps she will forgive my territorial impulse to claim her as ours when I say that the ZC is very much her legacy here at Carleton, having nurtured it from the first Jewish Studies research group, through its evolution into the Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies and, most recently, as a Carleton University Research Centre.

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***The Babylonian Talmud tells us that when Rabbi Judah went to the house of learning he would carry a pitchfork on his shoulders, saying, "Great is labour, for it honours the person who does it."***

In the spirit of Rabbi Judah, the ZC team has been honoured intensively over the past year with a rich and diverse program of guest lectures, workshops, and the Israel Travel Course in May 2014. Our programming spoke to the rich disciplinary diversity of Jewish Studies — from Hebrew Bible to Israeli film, from archival research to survivor testimony.

ZC faculty researchers from across Carleton advanced their work through key publications, conferences and workshops, while our graduate students came together in a dynamic graduate conference exploring current interdisciplinary research. It was a year of strong partnerships both local and international, including: the Soloway Jewish Community Centre (SJCC), Ottawa Shoah Committee, Ottawa Jewish Historical Society, and Limmud, as well as Hebrew University, the Schusterman Foundation, and the Association for Jewish Studies.

This year brings new faces to the Zelikovitz team. Dr. Shawna

# Director's Message

(continued)

Dolansky completed her term as the Assistant Director of the Zelikovitz Centre in July. After two years of working closely together, I thank her for her contribution to the ZC and for being a support to me as I assumed the role of Director.

The ZC welcomes Lauren Tansley as our new Assistant Director. I am delighted to work with her again after her contribution as conference coordinator for our 2013 Holocaust Remembrance Conference. The Centre also welcomes new student members to the administrative team: Tobin Kaiman, Erin Drawson, Kilian McCormick, and Lewis Novack.

Many thanks to Jordan Stenzler, who has been an invaluable member of the Centre's administrative team. Jordan has graduated and we wish him all the best in his new role as Outreach Coordinator for Hillel BC.

As you will read, we are in the midst of a broad consultation with ZC researchers seeking out opportunities to support researchers through a variety of strategies. This has been, by far, one of my most enjoyable tasks as Director. It has been a pleasure to get to know our researchers and their work better, and we are all excited about the collaborative research initiatives that have already begun taking shape.

One of the first of these initiatives will be a symposium a symposium in late November that will open with a screening of the classic film, *The Train*, with a critical introduction by Dr. Mark Langer speaking to the presence / absence of Jews and the holocaust in Hollywood film. This will be followed by a research roundtable led by Professor Betina

Kuzmarov, discussing legal issues surrounding the restitution of Nazi-looted cultural properties.

We look forward to learning with you at Limmud Ottawa at the SJCC during the day on November 2, and sharing the innovative and deeply moving music of Taffilalt here at Carleton that same evening. We thank Margo and David Kardish and family for their generous support of the ZC's collaboration with Limmud for the second year. Such gifts allow us to build strong bridges between the university and the community to the enrichment of all.

**L'Shana Tova Umuteka,**

**Dr. Deidre Butler**

**Religion Program,  
Carleton University**

**Director,  
Max and Tessie Zelikovitz  
Centre for Jewish Studies**

# Welcoming...

## Our new Assistant Director, Lauren Tansley Slade!

We are excited to announce that Lauren Tansley Slade has joined the Zelikovitz Centre team as our new Assistant Director. Lauren was formerly the ZC's Conference Coordinator for "If Not Now, When? Responsibility and Memory After the Holocaust" (April 2013), which successfully attracted over 300 delegates. A Carleton alumnus, she holds a Bachelor of Humanities degree from the University, and got involved with the Centre while later obtaining her MA in Religion and Public Life. Welcome aboard, Lauren!



Lauren Tansley Slade is the Zelikovitz Centre's new Assistant Director

# Faculty Members' Corner



## DR. MICHAEL WOHL: WHY JOIN THE ZC?

By Lilloet Nordlinger, based on a conversation with Dr. Michael Wohl, Associate Professor of Psychology at Carleton University, Zelikovitz Centre Research Affiliate

For many faculty members, affiliation with a research centre is just another slice on an already full plate. At the ZC, we get it! You're busy. Very busy. We believe your affiliation should add to your research experience, not exacerbate your workload. That's why the ZC's objective is to draw upon the research that faculty members already do, and offer support while we're at it — both in terms of networking opportunities and infrastructure. Say you're applying for grants. As one of our research affiliates, the ZC would provide you with administrative services, such as staff who can make phone calls, do photocopying and scanning, send out social media messages, make website postings and do small amounts of research. We also have community connections available through our networks and partner agencies. Keep in mind that adjudication committees view affiliation with research centres as favourable when judging grant applications. In essence, affiliation with the ZC means more bang for your buck.

Thinking of applying for a grant? Come and talk to us. Maybe we can help!

**For more information on Dr. Wohl and his research, visit [goo.gl/4nvzdw](http://goo.gl/4nvzdw)**



## DR. IRA WAGMAN: MEMORY, ETHICS, IDENTITY

By Lilloet Nordlinger, based on correspondence with Dr. Ira Wagman, Associate Professor of Communication Studies at Carleton University, Zelikovitz Centre Research Affiliate

Throughout 2014-15, the Zelikovitz Centre will be hosting a series of luncheons, where in researchers from a variety of backgrounds will come together around certain research themes. We hope that these personalized learning opportunities will enable researchers to connect with one another, generate new ideas, and potentially collaborate on future projects. One of the ZC's long-term goals with this project is to assemble an assortment of ZC faculty members around an umbrella theme, and then eventually apply for a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) grant. One such cluster theme could involve Memory, Ethics, and Identity. These are some of the questions the ZC and its affiliates may be interested in exploring as part of a Research Node on Memory, Ethics, and Identity: *How are various modes of remembering — from online memorials to museums — part of the construction of Jewish*

*pasts? What do the great Jewish writers, thinkers, and artists, have to say about technology? How can Jewish writings on ethical issues associated with "sharing" or "learning" or "communicating" or "witnessing" be of value for making sense of various aspects of contemporary life?*

If this sort of research topic is of interest, we would like hear from you. **For more information on Dr. Wagman and his research, visit [irawagman.wordpress.com](http://irawagman.wordpress.com)**

## ZC ramping up research affiliate recruitment

This year, the ZC has started a new initiative geared toward research affiliate recruitment. Research Affiliate positions are unpaid, and may include students, independent scholars or faculty from other universities. All Research Affiliates have full online and on-site access to Carleton University libraries. In exchange, incumbents are expected to participate in one conference or event over the course of the 2014-2016 academic term. This initiative is part of the ZC's larger mandate of building a dynamic group of national and international Jewish Studies scholars. Our network of scholars and graduate students will contribute to an ongoing dialogue on the diversity of the Jewish experience.

Our recruitment campaign is ongoing. Interested candidates should email [jewish\\_studies@carleton.ca](mailto:jewish_studies@carleton.ca) with a letter of introduction, CV, photo, and short research statement, noting areas of interest as they pertain to Jewish Studies, which will be made public on our website. Applications should be sent as soon as possible, subject line: ZC Research Associate.

# Calling all **Limmudniks!**

## Inspiring day of Jewish learning and culture to return following last year's success

By Lillooet Nordlinger



"A Taste of Limmud" participants on October 20, 2013 at Congregation Beth Shalom. This year's event will take place November 2 at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre.

**L**immud is back! On November 2nd, Ottawa will enjoy another inspiring day of Jewish learning and culture. This year, the event will take place at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre. While this marks Limmud Ottawa's fourth year running in the city, it is its second time being held in affiliation with Limmud International.

Limmud has been described as a "communiversity," a place of Jewish learning without boundaries. As its mission suggests, "Wherever you find yourself, Limmud will take you one step further on your Jewish journey."

"If you've got a stereotype of what Jewish learning is, then you have to be prepared to shed it when you arrive," said Limmud International's senior consultant Clive Lawton, who was in town last August to meet with local organizers.

**Limmud 2013:** Last year, the Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies (ZC) coordinated a range of programming for "A Taste of Limmud," at Congregation Beth Shalom in 2013. Highlights included

"A Goddess in the Garden? The Fall of Eve," a talk by Dr. Shawna Dolansky on the literary prehistory of Adam and Eve; Tim McKay, social media and marketing manager of the Azrieli Foundation's Holocaust Survivors Memoirs Program, who shared information about the program; Stephanie Schwartz and Zev Moses from the Interactive Museum of Jewish Montreal; and a presentation by local historian Hagit Hadaya, "Once Upon a Time: Shtetl Ottawa," moderated by Emily Leonoff from the Ottawa Jewish Archives.

The ZC also provided staff, student volunteers (who were fulfilling the community service learning component of Dr. Deidre Butler's RELI2110 "Judaism" course), and student interns from the ZC's Developing Future Leaders (DFL) program

**Limmud Ottawa 2014** has something for everyone — across demographic and denominational lines, and in a variety of formats, such as panels, workshops, films and open discussions. Students, researchers, and the community at large will come together to learn in community.

Subjects range from "What does Classical Jewish Literature Have to Say about Climate Change?" with Dr. David Brooks to "The New Anti-Semitism" with the Honourable Irwin Cotler. Other sessions will include "My Mother, The Nazi Midwife and Me" (Gita Roitman), "Smoking Fish: Kosher Encounters of a Third Kind" (Louis Moscovitz), "Israel: Shifting Sands in the Middle East" (Dylan Hanley), and "The Tzadakah Project" (Michael Parkin).

Limmud will again see faculty from across Ottawa presenting: From Carleton University: Deidre Butler, Betina Kuzmarov, Allan Moskovitch, and Shawna Dolansky. From the University of Ottawa: Seymour Mayne and Peggy Kleinplatz.

The Zelikovitz Centre's contributions to Limmud are again made possible, in part, through the generous support of Margo and David Kardish and family.

### Taffilalt Concert:

The daylong conference will be capped off with an evening of music. A concert by the Jerusalem-based Taffilalt Ensemble is set to take place in Carleton University's River Building Auditorium.

**Getting to the concert:** A free shuttle from the Soloway Jewish Community Centre will provide easy transportation to the concert at Carleton.

**For more information, or to purchase tickets (which include concert), visit [www.limmudottawa.ca](http://www.limmudottawa.ca).** Tickets will also be available at-the-door while quantities last.

# An Evening With Taffilalt: Music for the Soul



(From left to right:) Taffilalt Ensemble members Yair Harel, Yonatan Niv, and Nori Jacoby

Limmud will conclude with a bang on the evening of November 2 — as well as a strum, beat, note and, probably, a big round of applause, too. The daylong Jewish learning conference is set to wrap-up with a concert by innovative Israeli ensemble, Taffilalt. This will be the band's Canadian debut.

Established in 2000, Taffilalt navigates the multicultural soundscape of 21st-century Israel, presenting deeply personal interpretations of traditional and modern Jewish material, including sacred Hebrew poetry (piyutim) from North Africa and the Middle East, Hassidic niggunim, secular Hebrew poetry, as well as original musical and literary compositions.

The ensemble has performed widely throughout Israel, the United States, England, Hungary, and Ukraine. Members include: Yair Harel (voice and percussion), a 2014 Schusterman Visiting Israeli Artist, Yonatan Niv

(cello and voice), Nori Jacoby (viola and melodica), and Carmel Raz (violin) — who will all be at the Ottawa show — as well as Yarden Erez (oud, accordion, xylophone, and more).

The group's name, which is pronounced tah-fee-lal-t derives its origins from a region in Morocco known for its tzaddikim (or righteous saints). The name is also a play on the word tefillah, which means prayer.

That's why it's no surprise piyutim are a prominent feature of any Taffilalt concert. Piyutim began as liturgical poetry adorning individual and communal prayers and religious rituals, and are typically sung in a communal framework. A piyutim workshop will take place earlier in the day at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre as part of Limmud's "Taffilalt Masterclass." Those interested in participating should go to [www.limmudottawa.ca](http://www.limmudottawa.ca) for more information.

**Date:** Sunday, November 2, 2014  
**Time:** 7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.  
**Location:** River Building Auditorium (RB2200), Carleton University  
**Parking:** The ZC has arranged a free block of free parking in the River Building lot itself. Spaces will be available on a first come first served basis.  
**Tickets:** Adults \$25; Students ages 18 to 25 \$10; Under 17 and Children Free; Early Bird Registration until Oct 5: Adults \$20; Students \$5.

Tickets can be purchased online at [www.limmudottawa.ca](http://www.limmudottawa.ca) or at the door (subject to availability).

The concert is made possible through sponsorship by the Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies, the Vered Israel Cultural & Educational Program, the Embassy of Israel, and the Canada-Israel Cultural Foundation.

**See you there!**

**Why not check out Taffilalt's Facebook page before the concert?!**



[facebook.com/Taffilaltensemble](https://www.facebook.com/Taffilaltensemble). or watch them on Youtube!

# Campaign proves innovative and effective

By Ilana Belfer

The Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies used an innovative new strategy called micro-giving to fundraise over \$3,200 for students who participated in its first-ever travel course to Israel in May.

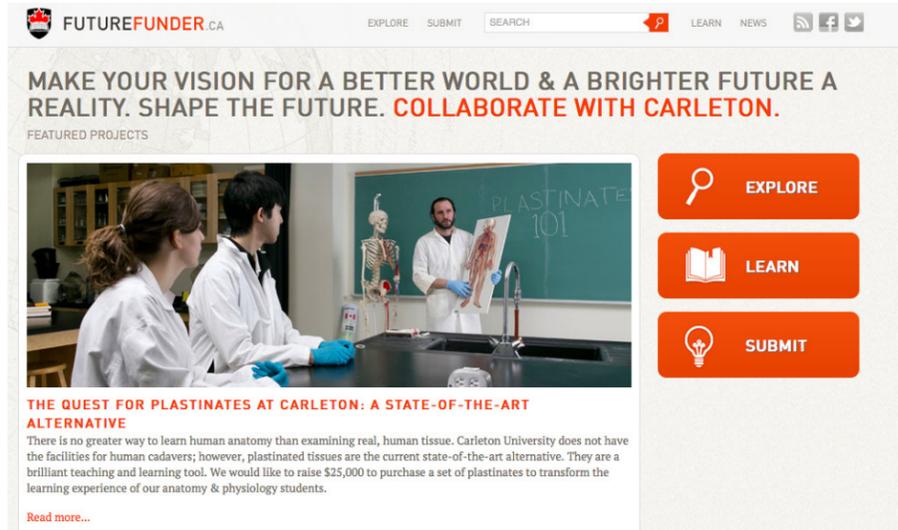
Micro-giving, also known as crowd-funding, works by raising many small amounts of money from a large number of people, typically through an online donations system. Websites, such as Kickstarter and Indiegogo, act as platforms through which anyone can contribute to a particular project or venture, or register their own campaign.

*The concept has even been making pop-culture headlines. For instance, filmmaker Zach Braff crowdfunded his latest movie project, which boasts a budget of more than \$2-million.*

*Carleton history professor Shawn Graham's crowdfunding initiative: setting up digital research fellowships for his students, was featured in the Globe and Mail last September. The Globe reported that met his \$5,000 goal by "bypassing the usual expert panels that hold the purse strings and taking his pitch directly to the public."*

In this case, the funds raised went directly toward lowering costs for participants of the ZC's three-week long Israel travel course. Eighteen dollars, for example, paid for a falafel lunch after touring the tunnels under the Temple Mount; 180\$ paid for all 19 students to visit the Israel Museum and view the Dead Sea Scrolls at the Shrine of the Book.

"Both in Canada in general, and in the Jewish community in particular, we understand education as a public good,"



said Dr. Deidre Butler, director of the Zelikovitz Centre and assistant professor of religion at Carleton. Dr. Butler led the course with Dr. Shawna Dolansky.

"Microgiving is ideal because it is in line with that sense that we are all invested in education together. Many people come together and show their united support for such a project," she said.

Nineteen students of various academic majors and ethnic backgrounds were accepted onto the course. Initially, there were concerns that some wouldn't be able to afford the cost unless fees were reduced. In the end, no one was turned away due to financial difficulties thanks, in large part, to micro-giving, as well as other fundraising initiatives.

"I [wouldn't have] want[ed] anyone not to go because they can't afford it," said John Osborne, dean of Carleton's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) in which the religion department is housed. He contributed \$15,000 from the FASS endowment.

"Students who take [travel] courses tell me afterwards that it was one of

the best experiences of their lives, and many say that their lives have been changed as a result," he said.

While the micro-giving model is a fairly new trend, Dean Osborne said, "If it gets results, then why not? So many of the special experiences we want to offer to our students and faculty depend on obtaining additional funding, beyond the university's base budget . . . so we try to be entrepreneurial."

The university is certainly encouraging the approach. Carleton created its very own micro-giving platform called Future Funder, which is where the Zelikovitz Centre set-up shop.

Unlike other websites, Future Funder doesn't charge for submissions and 100 per cent of the funds go directly to the campaign. Since Carleton is a registered charity, tax receipts can be issued to all donors.

"It was very successful, not only in raising funds for the course but in raising the profile of Carleton University, the Religion program that hosted the course and the ZC. Future Funder raised awareness," said Dr. Butler.

# Student Blogs ...from Israel Travel Course

In May, Professors Deidre Butler and Shawna Dolansky brought 19 students — Jewish and non-Jewish, alike — to discover Israel on a three-week travel course entitled, "God in Israel: Historical Encounters." As part of the class, students were required to post regular text or video blog entries about their experiences on [carleton.ca/studyisrael](http://carleton.ca/studyisrael), while drawing on course readings. Here is a taste of the trip as seen through their eyes (or rather, their words)! Note: Some of the following blog entries have been edited, condensed and/or are selected excerpts.

## DAY 7: City of David – Hezekiah’s Tunnel and Archaeology

After going through the supposed ruins of King David’s palace, we made our way to Hezekiah’s Tunnel. The story goes that in preparation for the attack on Jerusalem from the Assyrian king, Sennacherib, King Hezekiah ordered a tunnel to be excavated in order for the besieged city to have access to water. This story is recorded in the books of Chronicles and Kings. The result is a winding tunnel over 500 metres long that connected the spring to the Siloam pool underneath and across the city. Two teams excavated the tunnel from each side (it winds around), the two sides trying to meet in the middle.

We know they went in two directions because of the change in direction of the pickaxes. Halfway through, at the same level, there is an inscription describing the moment the two sides met. I can only imagine the cheers of the teams having met in the middle. I’m so glad that I ended up going through the tunnel, as I was worried that I’d find it claustrophobic. As I was getting used to the shocking temperature of the water sometimes going up above my knees, I kept my hand near my head so as not to hit it against the top of the tunnel, which would rise and fall. Once our group had finally made it through, we posed on the rocks of the nearby pool victoriously — wet pants and all.

-Natalia Pochtaruk

To Danny, our guide, who is an archaeologist as well, the Bible is necessary to understand the sites that are being uncovered. "Take the Bible away from here and it's just pottery shards and walls," he said. And that seemed to be the general consensus in our group. There is a danger in digging to match what the Bible tells us, especially taking into consideration some of the Historical Critical Method and Theory around the study of the Hebrew Bible, its authors and potential aims. However, the Bible is a product of this region and it is an explanation of a people's history, and we should be able to know something from the traditions and stories it holds, even if it is not an exact and precise history.

-Sophie Crump



# Student Blogs (Continued)



## DAY 12: Yad Vashem

In Edward Rothstein's *New York Times* article "Holocaust Museums in Israel Evolve," he argues that Yad Vashem is a "stunning counter-example" of Holocaust museums in Israel that "attempt to seduce us into shock" because it "scrupulously avoids moralizing or posturing." Based on my experience of Yad Vashem (with a guide who gave a performance that deliberately set out to induce tears), I completely disagree with Rothstein's observations. Although he does not specify whether he toured the museum on his own or with a guide, I would expect that, either way, the experience would certainly have been much different for the two of us (and for the thousands who visit the museum on a weekly basis). Nonetheless, the museum itself presents a clear chronology of many historical, sociological, and cultural events that not only increased the severity of anti-Semitism in Europe, but also influenced the creation and execution of the "Final Solution" during WWII. Along with this are hundreds of images, posters, articles of clothing, survivor testimonies, and video footage that account for the Jewish experience during that time. Together, these pieces certainly indicate that Yad Vashem is more than a piece of history, but also a memory with a moralizing tale to share with the world.

-Christina Pasqua



While the experience of walking through Yad Vashem was quite painful, I do think it was a vital part of the course and, at any rate, the readings helped us to contextualize the atrocities displayed and described within the museum.

For example, Rachel Auerbach's powerful "Yizkor 1943" provided a lyrical and near-poetic depiction of Nazi brutality and the sad fate of the Jewish people in this period. Auerbach's article is interesting for a few reasons. First (and most importantly), her vivid imagery and descriptions are extremely powerful and evocative, as she accounts for the different segments of Jewish society and what befell them. Yet her article is not merely an evocative catalogue of the suffering of the Jews. Rather, she frames her text through Yizkor, the Jewish mourning ritual. In this way, she is able to emphasize not only Jewish pain, but also the communal aspect of Judaism, since Yizkor is a public — and not private — ritual. In doing so, Auerbach seems to suggest Jewish community and solidarity as the only (or at least, the best) response to the Holocaust.

Although she acknowledges that the ritual of Yizkor, which is only performed four times a year, cannot possibly express the true brutality and loss of Holocaust victims, I see her emphasis on a communal ritual as a means of ensuring future Jewish survival and the continuation of the Jewish spirit. Secondly, her appeal to a traditional Jewish ritual can be seen as a means of reaffirming Jewish religious and cultural identity after the Holocaust sought to strip Jews of not only their lives, but also their heritage. Thus, while it is important to grieve for the victims of the Holocaust, Auerbach appears to suggest that we must place this grief within the larger practices and history of Judaism, as opposed to losing faith.

-Simon Zeldin



## DAY 17: Masada

The alarms went off at 3 a.m. We threw the last pieces into our luggage, carried our bags down a hill to the waiting bus and our patient bus driver, and sought out our pre-packed breakfasts, which were hiding somewhere on the hostel premises. Finally, all loaded onto the bus, we set off towards Masada. We arrived around 4 a.m. and began the climb up in total darkness, relying on the few prepared ones in our group to guide the way with their flashlights. Looking up ahead, we could see other groups already zigzagging before us, their flashlights bobbing up and down as they climbed.

-Sophie Crump

Visiting Masada as a student of religion was quite a different experience, since I was not looking at the site purely as a young Zionist, but, critically, as a scholar. Masada is famous primarily for Josephus's account of mass suicide on the part of Jewish zealots to avoid Roman enslavement, and is thus a significant symbol of Jewish sovereignty. However... [as outlined in "*The Credibility of Josephus*", by Shaye Cohen], the archaeological finds simply do not correspond with Josephus's story.

As a Zionist, I was initially a bit deflated to learn about the controversies of Masada, since Josephus's story has become so central to Jewish thought. However, upon reflection, I now believe that the Reception History of Masada has eclipsed the actual history in terms of significance, as it has reached near-mythic status within the Jewish corpus. As myth, the story is not necessarily subject to historical veracity. While validation of the tale would be ideal, especially since Josephus's writings are traditionally viewed in the context of history, I think the ways in which the story has shaped and influenced Jewish and Israeli identity are almost more interesting than any historical "truth." As a symbol of Jewish strength and solidarity, Masada has become central, both within Holocaust and Zionist thought.

-Simon Zeldin

To read posts in full and the rest of the student blogs, check out [carleton.ca/studyisrael/blog](http://carleton.ca/studyisrael/blog)

# Andras Award

## Congratulations to our Andras Award recipients

Congratulations Dana Murray and Christina Pasqua, recipients of the 2014-15 Andras Award. Endowed 1972 in memory of the late Mr. A. Andras, a member of Carleton's Board of Governors, and revised in 1978, The Andras Award serves to support the cost of a research project or paper undertaken by an undergraduate or graduate student attending Carleton University. This grant is awarded in alternate years for a research project in one of the following areas: (a) Jewish studies; (b) trade union history or the democratic socialist movement in Canada.

Graduate student, Dana Murray, (below) received the 2014-15 Andras Award for research in Jewish Studies. She is pictured here at the Baha'i Gardens in Haifa while on the ZC's travel course to Israel.



Graduate student, Christina Pasqua, received the 2014-15 Andras Award for research in Jewish Studies. She is pictured here (upper left) at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem on Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israeli Independence Day) 2014, while on the ZC's travel course to Israel.

## Developing Future Leaders program engages emerging generation

By Ilana Belfer

It's no secret that one of the central Jewish community questions of the day is: "how do we engage the emerging generation?" The Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre has been successfully addressing this concern through its Developing Future Leaders program (DFL) — but funding for the program may soon run out.

DFL, now entering its fifth year, is a program that pairs Carleton University and University of Ottawa students with partner agencies in the community for paid work placements. Agencies include, but are not limited to: the Jewish Federation of Ottawa (JFO), Hillel Ottawa, Congregation Machzikei Hadas, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs and Tamir Foundation. Interns are also required to participate in 20 hours of leadership training throughout the year.

Picture a team of interns analyzing a community issue and making recommendations before a mock board of directors. Let's say, a proposed multiplex synagogue on the Jewish Community Campus. For an air of authenticity, Mitchell Bellman, the Federation's then real-life CEO, leads the simulated meeting.

"I think DFL is a great program," Bellman said. "It allows young people to get experience working in Jewish organizations, it allows organizations to get input and support from these very capable students in a variety of ways, and I think it exposes to the students what Jewish professional work is all about."

"On-the-ground" experience can be hard to come by in a classroom-centric university setting. And, in this "age of the unpaid intern," some students are unable to take on certain apprenticeships due to financial constraints. A practicum

that comes with remuneration, like DFL, is especially rare.

"I've never been able to interview people before so I find that to be amazing," said Dana Murray, a former master's student of religion and public life, who helped the Ottawa Jewish Historical Society document the history of Jews in Lowertown last year. Outreach, project management and event coordination are other professional skills she said she gained.

Her supervisor, Joel Weiner, said the Historical Society has benefited as much as the interns themselves: "They're not working bees — they're thinking strategically and creatively about what we want to do and then going ahead and doing it." On DFL feedback forms, agencies noted the benefit of having an extra hand, as well as the ability to tap into the creativity and energy of the youth.



Fourth-year biology student Lewis Novack spent the summer working as head staff at Camp Kadimah in Nova Scotia, and returns to DFL for the third time as a senior intern this year. He's already begun his placement as the Zelikovitz Centre's new Social Media Director.

Ultimately, though, DFL is about building bridges between the student and partner agency, as well as the community-at-large. Many of the interns —



Third-year economics student Tobin Kaiman has returned from duty with the Israel Defense Forces, and is now interning for a second time with the ZC's Developing Future Leaders program.

both Jewish and non-Jewish — remain involved in the community even after their time with DFL has ended.

"I gained a much greater knowledge and understanding of the Ottawa Jewish Community, as a large part of my task was finding potential attendees for the openOttawa conference [in April 2011] and making them aware of the symposium," said third-year economics student Tobin Kaiman, speaking about his first placement.

Kaiman, who recently returned from reserve duty with the Israel Defense Forces during Operation Protective Edge on the Gaza border, is now a senior intern with the program and has resumed his new placement as the ZC's finance manager.

"The JFO has created the opportunity for our voice [the Emerging Generation] to be heard, but now it is up to us to be vocal," he said.

The challenge of engaging the under-40 generation is not solely an Ottawa problem. It is something with which Jewish communities across North America are struggling.

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## Project seeks to designate Jewish Heritage Conservation District

By Ilana Belfer  
for the Zelikovitz Centre

Lowertown East could be designated a Jewish Heritage Conservation District with the help of the Ottawa Jewish Historical Society (OJHS) and interns from the Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies' Developing Future Leaders (DFL) program at Carleton University.

The Lowertown Community Association approached the OJHS last year for assistance in developing a case to prove the region's historical significance. This was in the wake of a redevelopment proposal that would see several buildings demolished to make way for condominiums.

If the area is deemed a heritage district under the Ontario Heritage act, further development would be required to take the act into account.

"The early Ottawa Jewish community had a significant physical, social and economic presence in Lowertown East but ... this history is not

widely known today," said Joel Weiner. He is co-leading the project with Sylvia Kershman, a former "Lowertowner," whose old house is one that's scheduled for demolition.

"There's a tremendously rich but still largely uncovered story to tell," Weiner said.

Lowertown is the area north of Rideau Street, east of the Rideau Canal, south of the Ottawa River and west of the Rideau River, according to the Lowertown Community Association constitution. Lowertown West includes the ByWard Market. Lowertown East is on the other side of King Edward Avenue.

At the turn of the 20th century, Jews made up only 1.92 per cent of Ottawa's population, but, in Lowertown, it was 70 per cent. As the Jewish population of Ottawa ballooned from 20 families in 1889 to approximately 5,000 in 1961, so did the Jews of Lowertown and their contributions to it.

"The way it was when



Lithwick's Grocery Store, circa 1930. The owners were Abraham and Dora Lithwick. (Photo courtesy of Ottawa Jewish Archives)

they were living there, pretty much every store, whether it was a grocery or clothing store, was owned by a Jewish family," said DFL intern Dana Murray, a master's candidate in religion and public life at Carleton.

"The railway station would be full with people waiting there, seeking out new Jewish immigrants in order to help them settle," added intern Benita Arora, a fourth-year religion and French student.

They've gleaned such details by sifting through old city directories and archival material, and through interviews with community members.

The OJHS will produce a report on their findings this fall, which aims to document

Lowertown's Jewish roots from the 1800s onward, and to describe the achievements of its Jewish residents and their progeny.

Murray and Arora, who have been interning at the OJHS since September, follow in the footsteps of summer intern Arik Gershoig, and Melanie Guertin, who started as their first intern last November and has remained involved as a volunteer.

The DFL program pairs Carleton students with Jewish agencies in the city for a paid work placement, and provides them with leadership training, which allows the students to gain practical experience while adding value to the partner agency.

At the same time, it builds bridges between Ottawa's

Jewish community and the emerging generation.

The program is currently endowed for only one more academic year and is in need of funders to ensure it continues beyond 2015 to the benefit of projects, such as this — a project Weiner said will be successful whether or not the government approves the Lowertown Community Association's proposal.

"The report will be a first step in what we think is going to be an exciting, ongoing adventure of documenting the rich history of Jews in Lowertown," he said.

Anyone with stories or memorabilia relating to the Jewish history of Lowertown is encouraged to contact the Ottawa Jewish Historical Society at 613-798-9818, ext. 264.

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■ **Future Funder (cont'd from page 6)**

“One of the most positive results of Future Funder was only realized as we started to say thank you to our donors — so many different groups supported this initiative. We had received donations from faculty, staff, students, Carleton alumni, members of the Jewish community across Canada, students’ families, and the general public.”

But the ZC’s vision for the future extends far beyond the initial campaign and travel course. Dr. Butler said she, ideally, foresees a comprehensive five-year program with strong ties with Hebrew University, internships, teaching assistantships, travel support, and the development of Israel Studies resources at Carleton.

A new Future Funders campaign in support of the May 2016 Israel Travel Course is set to begin in the Fall of 2015. Meanwhile, Dr. Butler said gifts have already started to roll in through donors to the Zelikovitz Centre.

■ **DFL Update (cont'd from page 10)**

DFL — operating as a partnership between the Jewish community, Carleton University and private funders — has proven to be a successful model for how to interest young people in Jewish communal affairs, said program director Josee Posen.

The larger vision is to share that model with other Canadian Jewish communities, or even other ethnic and religious communities. There have also been talks with the Federation of using DFL as a feeder program to help revive dormant local Young Leadership programs, she said.

But DFL’s potential can only be realized with enough funds to go beyond the program’s current “sunset” this coming spring. “With the vision and necessary funding, the Canadian Jewish community can establish a reservoir of Jewish leadership capacity for the future,” Posen said.

**For more information, visit [carleton.ca/jewishstudies](http://carleton.ca/jewishstudies) or contact [dflprogram@carleton.ca](mailto:dflprogram@carleton.ca).**

In light of the New Year — both Jewish and academic, the Zelikovitz Centre is revitalizing its web presence. With a fresh approach to social media, we are aiming to create a digital space that’s as active and vibrant as the ZC itself. This will enhance connectivity between the ZC and the broader community, making it easier for people to engage with the Centre and its academics, as well as stay up-to-date on its research, events and overall happenings.

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