



# Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies

CARLETON UNIVERSITY

Newsletter | Spring 2018

## Director's Message



*“Who is wise? One who learns from every man... Who is honorable? One who honors his fellows.”*

One of the best known Talmudic aphorisms comes to us from the second century sage Simeon Ben Zoma who asked,

“Who is wise? One who learns from every man ... Who is honourable? One who honours his fellows”

These two sayings bracket a series of rhetorical questions that point to the values of Torah. Together, they illuminate an ideal moral order of teaching, learning, inclusiveness, and respect.

As we prepared this newsletter, Carleton staff were on strike. As a professor who teaches about the history of Judaism and the Jewish people, my thoughts turn to the history of Jewish activism in unions and the role of Jews in social justice movements. Such activism has its roots in Jewish understandings of what it means to create a just world. Often expressed in terms of Tikkun Olam, the mystical concept of healing the world, these values have been expressed Jewishly in both religious and secular forms. As we reflect on what has been

accomplished over the last year and as we look forward to the coming year, I am struck by how often the scholarship we support engages that ethical vision of learning.

Nowhere was this tradition more evident than in the public lecture by Justice Rosalie Abella where she explored questions of identity by pointing to this history of ethical advocacy, its place in Jewish literature and culture, and a vision of equality for Canadian society and the world at large.

Simeon Ben Zoma’s rhetorical question about learning is followed by a question about how one honours others.

I can think of no clearer bridge between learning and honour than the work done by CHES and so I extend our thanks to CHES Director Mina Cohn and her team of volunteers for the stimulating programs that they have offered throughout the year.

The skill with which scholars, survivors, researchers and supporters are brought together to learn, to share stories, and to

remember is made possible through the tireless service of the CHES team.

They have forged another bridge this semester through working with my students in my seminar on religious, philosophical and cultural responses to the Holocaust.

CHES’ Batia Winer has been working my students to develop a mock grant application for CHES to develop materials for teachers visiting the National Holocaust Monument here in Ottawa. Students are learning key professional skills while also

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providing materials useful to CHES as they move forward on developing educational materials.

We are particularly proud of how in early February, the Developing Future Leaders interns worked with JET (see article p.) to present the movie Rosenwald. Julius Rosenwald epitomized what it means to honour one's fellows by building schools for African American communities in the Southern United States. This powerful film was screened as part of a fundraiser to raise funds for both JET (Jewish Education through Torah's educational programs) and to purchase a Quillq (ritual lamp) for use at the Centre for Indigenous Initiatives. We are so fortunate to have had Carolyn Bickerton's leadership on this project through her role as DFL Seminar Leader. Thanks also to DFL Director Cindi Resnick who so ably led the program through another successful year. She is already receiving applications from students and proposals from partner agencies for 2018-2019.

I am also grateful to the many donors who have supported Carleton students by contributing to the upcoming travel course to Israel: Religion in Historical and Contemporary Contexts in the 'Holy Land.' Fundraising enriched

the course by facilitating partnerships with Hebrew University and Tel Aviv University, several group meals, and providing many travel scholarships to lower barriers to participation. Professor Mary Hale (from St-Mary's University in Halifax) and I are looking forward to 3 weeks with our 19 student travelers. Students and I will be sharing photos and blogs on the ZC website and the Study Israel with the Zelikovitz Centre Facebook page throughout May. Our preparations for the course began with a provocative lecture by Professor Carol Meyers who spoke about the politics of archeology in the "Holy Land". Co-sponsored by the Canadian Institute for Mediterranean Studies and the College of Humanities, the talk illuminated how the history of archeology in Israel is bound up with contemporary issues of identity, nationalism, and politics. Travel course students extended their introduction to contemporary Israel shortly before Passover when representatives from the Israeli embassy joined us for an evening of Israeli food and culture. Embassy diplomats shared tips about Israeli culture and taught key Hebrew and Arabic phrases (Sababa and Yala will clearly be useful!). We are looking forward to a film night in

April where MA student Brittany Greier will use film as an entry point for thinking about cultural and religious diversity. Shortly before we fly, we look forward to Sara Vered speaking to the students about her experience as a teenager in pre-State Israel.

As the year draws to a close, I must extend my gratitude to Associate Director Dr. Susan Landau-Chark for her tireless efforts on behalf of the Zelikovitz Centre and its programs. I also want to thank the ZC team of Christine Shay, Phil Angel, Arden Hody and Belle Riley Thompson for their contribution to this year's success.

Finally, let me offer you a sneak peek into what we have been thinking about for the future of the Zelikovitz Centre. At our last board meeting we were inspired by the tremendous accomplishments of the New Sun Conference on Aboriginal Arts at Carleton and wondered what a Jewish Studies version of an arts focused public gathering might look like. We are still in the earliest exploratory stages and there is much fundraising to do to make such an endeavour a reality, but the possibilities are tantalizing!

### **The ZC Library Collection: Visible and Accessible**

Working together with our work-study student Arden Hody, MacOdrum Library's George Duimovich is supporting a small project to give online visibility to the various works contributed to the Zelikovitz Centre's reading room over the years.

It's a small collection but one with many unique books covering aspects of Jewish life, culture, and history. Although the collection is primarily used for local reference by research affiliates and visitors, the online catalogue will be helpful not only to give additional public exposure to the donated works, but also to better inform us about what books are widely available in libraries and those that are more unique to our collection (it's a small space we have to work



with!).

The work in progress is visible here: <<https://www.librarycat.org/lib/zclibrary>>

If you are a research affiliate of the Zelikovitz Centre, we also encourage you to reach out to George Duimovich at the MacOdrum Library if you'd like to explore how the library can promote wider access to any digital initiatives, collections, or individual works related to your research.



### **The 2018 Annual Zelikovitz Centre Grad Student Colloquium**

The theme for this year's Colloquium is "Bridging Gaps: Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Study of Religion".

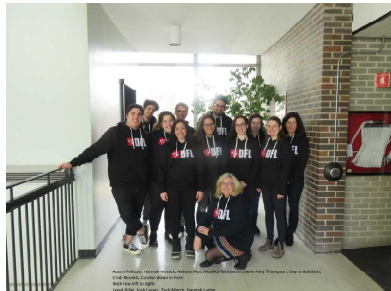
Each field has its own way of thinking about religious practise. Though interdisciplinary work is rewarding, it can be difficult to navigate: its ambiguous and unruly, and sometimes a source of contention. How can we use cross-disciplinary approaches to fill gaps in our thinking and

enhance the richness of our research? What new directions, limits, and intersections are emerging from interdisciplinary research on religion? How can we more effectively collaborate across disciplinary boundaries?

**Please join us April 13, 2018, Room PA 303, Paterson Hall.**

### **The Developing Future Leaders Program:**

#### **The Next Generation of Community Thinkers and Leaders**



By Austin Pellizzer

Very few university and college students have the privilege of obtaining internships to expand their knowledge and prepare them for the outside world of a workplace environment. I am lucky to have received this kind of experience with the Zelikovitz Centre's Developing Future Leaders Program, affectionately known as "DFL".

My placement at Limmud Ottawa has helped me hone a

multiplicity of skills. It has given me a chance to improve on workplace skills such as teamwork, time management, and professional interaction with the public. I have been able to apply these valuable skills in many areas of my life. Not only am I now more organized in my studies, I also find I am far more effective in my extracurricular activities; such as being an executive on my Pro-Israel campus group at Carleton University and University of Ottawa. I also have improved my professional communication skills and see a direct improvement in my abilities as a team member.

I believe most importantly I see a place for myself in the Jewish Community. The unique experience that the Developing Future Leaders program has given me the gift of skills and

engagement, which I plan to give back to the Jewish Community with continued involvement.

Concurrent with our internships (which run September to March), we attend seminars, four times through the seven-month term. Each five-hour seminar covers a range of skills to aid the interns' success in their placements. Students discuss different topics, ideas and listen to a variety of guest speakers who not only contribute to the whole of the discussions we hold, but also show us a wider variety of what leadership and community involvement entail.

In November we heard from three very different leaders, Rabbi Bulka, Mark Zarecki of Jewish Family Services, and Dr. Jonathan Calof from the Telfer School of Management. Each gave us different examples of how

each had found their unique path to leadership.

In January, we had Oliver Javanpour, the Chief Executive Officer of Cyrus Echo Corporation. Mr. Javanpour was able to offer a look at what his volunteerism embodies; what he chooses, and how he chooses organizations. He pointed out the importance of choosing organizations that speak to our core values and that truly motivate us as individuals. Amy Ramnarine of Carleton Advancement spoke on the different aspects of planning and creating different events entails, and the different leadership tools needed to make a successful event. January's final speaker, Benny Michaud (a two-spirit eagle clan Michif (Metis) woman) offered an intersectional view on how leadership works in the Indigenous, Metis and Inuit communities in Canada. She spoke of what leadership, culture and community means to the Indigenous, Metis and Inuit students that come to Carleton. As an Indigenous Liaison Officer, she works at the Centre for Indigenous Initiatives at Carleton University which offers support and resources to indigenous students and individuals who wish to stay connected with their roots. As the interns of the DFL Program, we identify strongly with the need for cultural and religious support from our own community. It seemed a natural decision to look outward and use our fundraising efforts and contribute to the work of the Ojigkwanong Centre, which is the social hub of the Centre for

Indigenous Initiatives.

On February 6th, Jewish Education Through Torah (JET) and the Zelikovitz Centre were the co-sponsors of the Rosenwald Movie Night and Silent Auction. I was part of the committee of DFL students that ran the silent auction. I am very pleased to announce that our efforts have raised a net profit of \$1738.77, half of which will go to the educational programs of JET, and half which will be donated to the Ojigkwanong Centre. My fellow interns will continue the fundraising efforts through a Peer to Peer Campaign and a Big Ask Campaign.

We are so pleased to be able to help these two amazing organizations. As students in Ottawa we have benefitted enormously from the support we have received from the Ottawa Jewish Community. It is a great honor to be able to do that in turn for another minority student community. The Ojigkwanong Centre is a safe home base for Indigenous Students and provides for their spiritual and cultural needs.

I have found the experience fascinating, looking into another culture and perspective that I have not previously known. While in many ways different, there are some poignant similarities. Both communities struggle with maintaining feelings of empowerment, identity and community in the face of the majority culture. Continuity in both communities is a major concern. It has been a very eye-opening experience to see these issues within another

community, and it has expanded the importance in my own mind of young leadership within my own Jewish Community and Israel. This new perspective has helped the interns in the Developing Future Leaders Program come to a greater understanding of community leadership in both the academic and professional spheres. These lessons learned will serve us well in our future roles in the greater Jewish Community.

**Austin Pellizer** is an intern with the ZC's Developing Future Leaders program, and his placement is with Limmud Ottawa. Just finishing his third year of studies at Carleton University, he is doing a major in Political Science and a minor in African Studies.

*Limmud Ottawa is highly appreciative of his very positive energy, his organizational skills, and his team orientation.*

In late fall Austin applied to participate in The Hasbara Fellowships Israel Program which is an exclusive 16 day Israel advocacy training program. The program's requirements are very specific and only highly recommended and engaged students will be accepted to the program.

*The ZC/DFL is proud that Austin was chosen to attend the program.*

<<http://www.hasbarafellowships.org/israel>>

*In the article below Austin writes about his experiences and observations while in Israel (Dec 25, 2017-January 9, 2018).*

## **My Hasbara Fellowships Experience:**

### **Seeing Israel Like Never Before**

While it is true that many students my age have life changing experiences when it's their first time in Israel, mine however was like no other. I had the honour of being selected from over eighty different Colleges and Universities across North America to be on the Hasbara Fellowships winter trip to Israel from December 25-January 10, 2018. Hasbara Fellowships is an organization which provides students who are involved on their home campuses in pro-Israel or Jewish campus life clubs a unique experience to explore, see and learn about Israel. Since Hasbara Fellowships is more focused on the political aspect of the Israeli experience, this does not take anything away from what I was able to experience. From learning about minorities and diverse communities who call this nation home, to being able to see strategic points in some of Israel's most contested and important areas, and to even being able to understand how narratives shape a person's life and outlook on the world, I was able to see why Israel isn't just all beautiful scenery, but a lifeline to understanding a conflict that has been going on for over seventy years.

While Israel is mostly known for their predominantly Jewish population, Israel is also made up of other unique, and diverse minorities on the religious, ethnic and cultural levels. So much so that Israel is one of the only places in the Middle East where cohabitation between groups is not only widely tolerated but also prospers. In my experience on the trip I was able to meet a magnitude of different individuals who helped me see how diversity thrives here. This was evident through a visit one night, when our guide brought us to a community of Israeli Druze who have lived in this area for hundreds of years. The Druze are a religious and ethnic population which has a very small community that only makes up about a million members worldwide. They inhabit areas of the Middle East such as in Lebanon, Jordan and of course Israel. We were not just able to interact with them and learn more about their communities, but also had the opportunity to experience an authentic Druze dinner. This experience was able to show me a part of Israel I had never thought existed and demonstrated how special and ethnically/religiously a nation can be.



A second aspect to the Hasbara Fellowships trip which really changed my perception of Israel was being able to see and tour strategic and politically important areas. Some examples would be taking a strategic tour of Jerusalem and the old city in which we discussed the history of the different quarters, the 1967 war which Israel won back old Jerusalem, and being able to hear from different narratives as to why this city is so important and so contested in today's politics. Another area we were able to tour was Sderot where we got to experience how people's lives are significantly impacted by the rocket attacks launched from Gaza into this town, so much so that almost every street you go down bomb shelters are a constant sight and

where their children instead of learning and having fire drills, they have rocket attack drills. These experiences not only helped me see what Israel is fighting for, but also see how this conflict is more than we see in the media and able to fully comprehend here in North America.

While being able to meet particular individuals, as well as see specific sights that make Israel what it is, one of my personal favourite parts of the Hasbara Fellowships trip was being able to talk and listen to the narratives of people who not only live in Israel but are impacted by conflict, war and adversity. One example was being able to talk to an Arab Israeli and seeing her different narrative on how Israel treats this demographic of the population. Another individual who I was able to speak with was a woman who had been a victim of a terrorist attack and miraculously lived to tell the tale. As well, I also met some IDF soldiers and other individuals who help keep the citizens and Israel safe on a daily basis.

With being able to have this once in a lifetime trip one thing I would have to say really sticks out. While it is true that many people think of Israel as a state and the only Jewish State in the world, the fabric of this land goes much farther than just this. From the rich culture, history and spirituality that Israel offers to all who step foot in this land, it is easy to see why and how this place is so very important to defend. Not just to uphold the values and morals, but to shine light on the people and stories that make Israel like no other place in the world that make me proud to say I will defend it with all my heart and soul.

## Developing Future Leaders Program Carleton University Zelikovitz Centre

The Developing Future Leaders Program funds student interns to develop leadership skill through work placements in Partner Agencies in the Jewish Community.

Develop your leadership skills and gain valuable work experience through DFL paid internships.

Applicants must possess a basic knowledge of Judaism.

Apply now for Fall internships at [carleton.ca/jewishstudies/developing-future-leaders-program/](http://carleton.ca/jewishstudies/developing-future-leaders-program/). Applications will be accepted beginning April 1

For more information, visit the website or email us at [dfllprogram@carleton.ca](mailto:dfllprogram@carleton.ca)  
[www.facebook.com/ZelikovitzCentre](http://www.facebook.com/ZelikovitzCentre)  
Twitter: @ZelikovitzC



### Faculty Corner



Peggy J. Kleinplatz, Ph.D. is an Adjunct Research Professor in the Department of Psychology, Carleton University and a research affiliate with the ZC. She is also Professor of Medicine and Director of Sex and Couples Therapy Training at the University of Ottawa. She was hired to begin developing and introducing the first courses in Human Sexuality at the University of Ottawa over 30 years ago.

Early in her career in clinical psychology, she chose to specialize and became certified in Sexuality Education and obtained her Diplomate in Sex Therapy, as well as becoming a Certified

Supervisor of Sex Therapy and Sexuality Education.

She began providing workshops in sexuality, spirituality and religion in 1983. She has been teaching Sex Therapy at Saint Paul University's Department of Counselling and Spirituality since 1993. In 2000, Kleinplatz received the *Prix d'Excellence*, the Professor of the Year Award (APTPOU) for teaching Human Sexuality at the University of Ottawa. More recently she was honoured by her peers and received the American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counsellors and Therapists Professional Standard of Excellence Award (AASECT) in 2015.

The many myths surrounding sexuality and religion have always been important parts of her work. Kleinplatz has been offering workshops on sexuality and spirituality in Judaism since 1983. In 2007, David Ribner, DSW and Kleinplatz wrote "The Hole in the Sheet' and Other Myths about Sexuality and Judaism", published in *Sex and Relationship Therapy*.

Kleinplatz has edited four books, including *Sadomasochism: Powerful Pleasures* with Charles Moser, Ph.D., M.D. and notably *New Directions in Sex Therapy: Innovations and Alternatives* (Routledge, 2nd Edition), winner of the AAASECT 2013 Book Award. In her own work as well as with Dr. Moser, and as a member of the Working Group for a New View of Women's Sexual Problems, Kleinplatz has critiqued the pathologizing of sexual difficulties in the DSM and called for alternate ways of conceptualizing them. More recently, she edited *Sexuality and Ageing* (2015) with Walter Bouman, M.D. Her clinical work focuses on eroticism and transformation. Her current research focuses on optimal sexual experience, with a particular interest in sexual health in the elderly, disabled and marginalized populations.

At the other end of the continuum of human experience, Kleinplatz has spent decades attempting to investigate the history of coerced medical interventions during the Shoah. In

her Limmud session (March 18), Kleinplatz introduced an area of research never before addressed: Routine Pharmacological Procedures against Women in Auschwitz: An Unspoken Narrative.

## Affiliate Presentations and Publications

The ZC is always pleased to showcase the research, papers and publications of our affiliates.

### Sarah Phillips Casteel, PhD

Department of English / Institute of African Studies / Institute for Comparative Studies in Literature, Art and Culture

Sarah recently gave two papers drawn from her current book project on literary and visual representations of black victims of the Holocaust:

"Globalizing Holocaust Memory in Contemporary African Diaspora Fiction: John A. Williams' Clifford's Blues." Association of Jewish Studies. Washington, D.C., December 2017.

"The Literary Afterlives of Black Victims of the Nazis." Beyond Camps and Forced Labour: Current International Research on Survivors of Nazi Persecution. Birkbeck, University of London and Wiener Library, London, UK, January 10-12, 2018.

She is also currently in the process of co-editing with her colleagues Anna Guttman and Isabelle Hesse a special issue of The Journal of Jewish Identities

on "Jewishness and Postcolonial Literature and Culture."

### James W. Nelson Novoa, PhD

Department of Modern Languages and Literatures/Medieval and Renaissance Studies/ Département des langues et littératures modernes/Études médiévales et de la renaissance

University of Ottawa

In 2017 James presented in Florence and in Rome:

"I cristiani nuovi portoghesi in Toscana nel crocevia della fede, il Mediterraneo e l'Atlantico", presented at the Firenze nella crisi religiosa del Cinquecento. Dalla morte di Savonarolla all'incoronazione di Cosimo I de' Medici, University of Florence/Medici Archive Project/Istituto Sangalli, Florence 23 - 25 November 2017.

"Negotiating Portuguese Identity in Rome (1578-1668)", Presented at the Early Modern Rome 3 1341-1667 conference, California University Study Center in Rome, October 5 - October 7 2017.

For your reading interest, James has recently published the following book chapters:

"La nazione cristiana nuova portoghese a Roma (1532-1668)", in Venire a Roma, restare a Roma. Forestieri e stranieri fra Quattro e Settecento, eds. Sara Cabibbo, Alessandro Serra, Rome, Roma trE-Press, 2018.

"António and Francisco Vaz Pinto: Portuguese homens da nação in the Court of Rome", in Portuguese Jews, New Christians and 'New Jews': A Tribute to Roberto Bachmann, eds, Bruno Feitler,

Claude Dov Stuczynski, Leiden, Brill, 2018 (in print).

"Negotiating Identity Among the Nação in Early Modern Rome", in Early Modern Ethnic and Religious Communities in Exile, ed, Yosef Kaplan, Newcastle upon Tyne, 2017, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, pp. 242-276.

### Mira Sucharov, PhD

Department of Political Science

At the recent meeting of the Association of Jewish Studies in Washington, DC (December 2017), Mira was co-creator and co-chair of the new Jewish Politics division. The Jewish Politics division of AJS is intended to bring together scholars to investigate how Jewish identity is mobilized, deployed and represented in historical and contemporary political debates and struggles; how political experiences in various geographical spaces and in various eras have, and do, shape Jewish identity, and how the profession of Jewish Studies contends with politics, particularly around questions of identity, loyalty and dissent.

She is currently co-editing (with Aaron Hahn Tapper) a book for course use called Social Justice and Israel/Palestine: Foundational and Contemporary Debates (under contract with University of Toronto Press).

## Spotlight on our External Research Affiliates

The Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies (ZC) recognizes the need to develop opportunities for scholarly collaboration. We regularly invite emerging scholars, graduate students, and faculty at other universities, as well as independent scholars to partner with the ZC and our researchers.

Although Research Affiliate positions are unpaid, the ZC offers scholars a place to share their work-in-progress, and their completed research and publications, to encourage the cross-fertilization of ideas and approaches.

Where possible, the ZC invites scholars from off campus to present to the public, and participate in Carleton courses. 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 their 3 year term.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in becoming an active member of the Jewish Studies research community at the Zelikovitz Centre please encourage them to contact us.

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 contain subject line: ZC Research Associate.

Here we highlight recent Research affiliate Steven Lapidus.

Steven Lapidus is Director of the Jewish Learning Initiative (supplementary Jewish pedagogical programming & professional development at the Montreal Federation CJA), and a Montreal-based scholar of the history of Orthodox Judaism, with a focus on the North American manifestation of Haredi Judaism.



He has lectured on western religions and Jewish history and culture at Concordia University, where he received his doctorate, as well as at the State University of New York at Plattsburgh. A former co-curator at the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre, he has published articles and book chapters in both English and French on Canadian Jewish history and the Hasidic experience in North America, some of which have appeared in *Canadian Jewish Studies*, and *Jewish History and Studies in Religion*. He has published extensively on the Montreal Hasidic community.

Forthcoming is “Love Thy Neighbour: Hasidic Social Relations in Quebec,” in *Living in Quebec: Ethnicity, Race, and Gender from the 19th to the 21st Century*. Montreal: McGill-Queen’s University Press. This past year, Steven published « Les hassidims dans la ville : regard sur la cohabitation » in *Vivre ensemble à Montréal : épreuves et convivialités / sous la direction de Annick Germain, Valérie Amiraux, Julie-Anne Boudreau*. Montréal (Québec): Atelier 10, [2017].

He has also worked with Yolande Cohen on religious infrastructure among Moroccan immigrants to Montreal and contributed a chapter called “Crises identitaires des sépharades à Montréal: entre laïcité et orthodoxie,” to her recent publication, *Les Sépharades du Québec: parcours d'exils nord-africains* [Montréal]: Del Busso, [2017].

With William Shaffir (McMaster), Steven has been engaged in a large-scale study on the Hasidic community of Montreal. Forthcoming in a book edited by Ira Robinson and Pierre Anctil is « La complétude institutionnelle parmi les Hassidim des quartiers Outremont et Mile-End de Montréal », which focussed on the institutional completeness of the community. This research, which shows the extent of the socio-economic infrastructure of the community, supports the theory that the larger the number of services offered by an ethnic community, the fewer the points of contact with outside society. This will eventually be integrated into his own published oeuvre on the Montreal Hasidic community.

Currently in press is “Memoirs of a Refugee: The Travels and Travails of Rabbi Pinchas Hirschprung.” The dramatic story of how twenty-nine rabbis and their students were brought to Canada in late 1941, just before the attack on Pearl Harbour, via Siberia, Japan and Shanghai, adding to the community and making Montreal a centre of Orthodox Judaism.



## NEW MUSIC CHAIR AT CARLETON NAMED FOR HELMUT KALLMANN

Elise Bigley is currently working with the Embassy of Israel as their Director of Cultural Affairs. She recently graduated with her Master of Arts in History (November 2017) from Carleton University. Her Masters project focused on the internment of Jewish Refugees in Canada during the Second World War.

While a grad student, she was also part of the Developing Future Leaders program. Elise did her internship with CHES, Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship, and when her internship finished, she remained an involved and active member of CHES.

When the announcement about the naming of the new music chair at Carleton was made public, Elise wrote me that in the final chapter of her master's thesis, she had written extensively about the "Ex-Internees Newsletter" which Helmut Kallmann edited for all other Jewish internees in the 90s and early 2000s. Below is a short piece by Elise about the Helmut Kallman she encountered in the pages of the "Ex-Internees Newsletter."

Last December Carleton University proudly announced the creation of the Helmut Kallmann Chair for Music in Canada. Many know Helmut Kallmann through his musical contributions in Canada. I, however, encountered Kallmann through my research on the internment of Jewish Refugees in Canada during the Second World War. Kallmann, along with over 2,000 Jewish Refugees, spent years during the war in various internment camps in Ontario and Quebec.

Throughout the years after his release in Canada and amongst his many accomplishments, Kallmann grappled with the part of his identity linked to internment in Canada. While searching for meaning, he published several issues of a post-internment newsletter, the *Ex-Internees Newsletter*, for those Jewish refugees of Nazi oppression who were interned in Canada decades earlier.

Kallmann felt that other literature concerning internment only dealt with the history of internment and thus he argued for better representation and acknowledgment of what internees had accomplished and contributed to Canadian society (and abroad) since their release. The newsletter became a form of conversation within the post-internment community, a conversation of belonging within a complicated history. May Kallmann be remembered for not only his musical contributions but as a man who overcame incredible challenges in his life and tackled the hard questions of identity and belonging.



## MARYLENE PILON ON ISRAEL TRAVEL COURSE

Marylene Pilon has signed on to participate in Israel 2018 Travel Course (RELI 3850-5850) taking place May 2 - May 17. She shares why she has signed up for the upcoming trip in May.



A graduate student studying Religion and Public Life, her areas of interest are Israelite identity-formation, tracing influences from ancient Near Eastern states, and the early sources and biblical texts.

A high school trip to Italy when I was 16 piqued my interest in history and archaeology at a

young age, but more than this, it gave me the 'travel itch'. Ever since, I have been interested in a broad spectrum of academia, which is why, when I completed high school I was attracted to the Liberal Arts. Despite the integration and diversity of my discipline, the Humanities which I love and continue to pursue, it still doesn't compare to the immersion and wonder of traveling.

In my third year as an undergraduate student, I took a 21-day studies-abroad course in Greece offered by Carleton, which covered the Bronze Age period. I met amazing people on this trip, I made friends and we worked hard on our schoolwork throughout the trip, but more than anything else we had fun together, and shared this memorable experience. I have benefitted from a versatile education, and I embrace a multi-disciplinary approach to scholarship, and to life. After having completed my BA, as an alum in 2015, I went abroad for my third academic trip. This trip was organized by Carleton and as a graduate I went as an auditor, and I was responsible for researching and lecturing on one site. The trip covered Turkey and Greece and lasted 21 days, and I added an additional 7 days to the end of the trip on my own to visit Derinkuyu, Nemrut Dag, and Gobekli Tepe. Still, I don't feel as if my thirst to travel has been quenched--in fact, each trip fuels the urge to go on another, to meet new people, make new friends, and experience more new sites.

In my estimation, physically traveling to a historical place, and immersing myself in a culture or tradition, in situ, offers countless insights which book-learning, and even the best of documentaries,

can never convey. When it comes to life, traveling is 'priceless'. No monetary value can be slapped on the depth of knowledge that can come from travel. As I undertake my graduate work, looking forward to this trip to Israel in May motivates me, sustains me, and encourages me. The academic life is quiet and bookish, it's often solitary and sometimes can seem lonely. Traveling is the opposite of that--it is physical, immersive, engaging, social, energetic, and healthy; but equally it offers all the things I love about my studies--traveling means learning, it means discovering, it's cerebral and stimulating in all the ways that an education should be.

Students traveling to Israel in May will be hearing from many world class scholars through partnerships with Hebrew University and Tel Aviv University. We are delighted that we will also reconnect with Dr. Sigal Barkai in Jerusalem where she will speak to students about the place of the Holocaust in Israeli life through the lens of artistic response. Additional guest lectures include Boston University (and Hebrew U Visiting Professor) Professor Paula Fredriksen who will speak on the Early Christian community and its Jewish contexts; Yeshiva University Professor Steven Fine who will speak about his ongoing work on the Arch of Titus; Dr. Dani Kranz, senior research fellow at Bergische University Wuppertal, Germany will speak about identity after the Holocaust in Germany and Israel.

### **Carol Meyers Speaks**

Carol Meyers is the Mary Grace Wilson Professor Emerita of Religious Studies at Duke University, has lectured and published widely in several fields: biblical studies, archaeology, and gender in the biblical world. Under the auspices of the Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish

Studies, Meyers was invited to give a public lecture in Ottawa, where she spoke to an enthusiastic audience of over 100 people, about Holy Land Archaeology: Where the Past Meets the Present

She shared her thoughts on archeology and noted that archeology is commonly understood as the study of human life in the past by analyzing the material remains of the past. It is not usually recognized that the archaeological quest for the past is often shaped by the excavators' present. Carol Meyers described four specific digs: Beit Alpha,



Hazor, Masada, and Sepphoris, to illustrate the intersection between the discoveries at ancient sites and the realities of the modern world.

Meyers noted that the action of choosing a site to investigate is often affected by the policies and politics of the host government. Archeology is concerned with identity issues, territorial issues and even one's roots can be challenged by archeological findings. These concerns often affect how the material findings are interpreted, as well as the emphasis given to one set of findings over another set.

This inexorable connection between past and present was encapsulated by her sharing a quote from a student's blog who observed that archeology is an umbilical cord tethering the

present to the past.



### **Pavel Polian**

Even though the ZC often seeks to include the wider community in its events (Justice Rosalie Abella, Carol Meyers), there are those occasions when it strives to be a meeting point solely for scholars and interested students.

Recently (March 19), Professor Jeff Sahadeo's class on the Soviet Union hosted guest lecturer Pavel Polian, affiliated with the School of Philology, Higher School of Economics, and Laboratory of Geopolitical Research, Institute of Geography, Russian Academy of Sciences, both located in Moscow.

Pavel spoke on a topic requiring further research - Soviet Jewish prisoners of war. The starting point for his talk was his

publication "First Victims of the Holocaust," which addresses the plight of Soviet-Jewish prisoners of war in German captivity. Professor Sahadeo commented that the topic was fascinating, and that Pavel presented clearly. Pavel noted that the students were serious and interested.

### **A successful partnering: LIMMUD and the ZC**

Through its activities and events, the ZC continues to make connections between academics and the broader community. Each year the Zelikovitz Centre partners with Limmud Ottawa to deliver a rich program for this international adult learning conference. On March 18, the Zelikovitz Centre researchers joined other scholars, researchers, artists and the community at large to share in this day long celebration of Jewish learning.

This year's presentations emphasized the scope and variation of the research undertaken by Zelikovitz Centre affiliates: Presenters Hernan Tesler-Mabe spoke about Hans Krasa's *Brundibár* (1943), a children's opera, first performed in Theresienstadt, which had its English language

premiere in Ottawa in 1977; Sigal Barkai's slide presentation displayed the works of contemporary Israeli artists who bring the Holocaust into their artworks; Allan Laine Kagedan spoke about the movement in the Soviet Union (1920s) to create a Russian Jewish homeland; Peggy J. Kleinplatz addressed the use of routine pharmacological procedures (an injection received in the left breast) on women immediately on arrival in Auschwitz and its consequences (no further menstruation at the time plus long-term fertility issues); Andrea Lobel spoke on astronomy and rabbinic authority; Susan Landau-Chark reflected upon Jews and politics in 19th century Canada, and Seymour Mayne entertained and informed with creative readings drawn from the midrashic tradition of commentary, Deidre Butler moderated a session on the role of women in interfaith community programs.

*Join the ZC mailing list to receive updates invitations to our future events.*

**Please email us:  
[jewish\\_studies@carleton.ca](mailto:jewish_studies@carleton.ca)**

## **Centre for Holocaust Education & Scholarship**



### **Words from the Director.**

Thanks to the dedication and effort of our committee members Holocaust Education Month 2017 was a great success providing stimulating and educational programming for all who attended our events. November also saw an effective fundraising campaign through Carleton's FutureFunder Program. On behalf of Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship (CHES) I want to thank all our supporters. The strength and permanence of CHES, including the quality of educational programs and research we can offer, continues to depend on the generosity of our supporters. CHES activities will continue to help combat anti-Semitism and racism through education and teaching about the Holocaust.

The Holocaust is an effective subject for examining basic moral issues. Today more than ever we know that the unthinkable is possible and we must educate the young to guard against such thinking and its horrific consequences. The theme for International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2018 was "Holocaust Remembrance and Education: Our Shared Responsibility", a theme that emphasizes the universal dimension of the Holocaust and encourages UN Member States to firmly reject all forms of racism, violence, and anti-Semitism. In Ottawa, as part of the commemoration event, Mayor Jim Watson issued a Proclamation of the Day urging all citizen of Ottawa to commemorate this day to honor all victims of the Nazis. This is the first time such a proclamation has been made in Ottawa. With anti-Semitism on the rise, the Mayor's Proclamation is clearly very meaningful and special. Annette Wildgoose, a CHES committee member and a child of a survivor from Germany accepted the Proclamation on behalf of CHES and all partners.

*View it online at <http://tiny.cc/Proclamation>*

Finally, a number of CHES members were in attendance at a recent grassroots consultation meeting chaired by CIJA. Attendees were asked to identify topics of interest that could be brought to the attention of CIJA and the Ottawa Jewish Federation for policy development and action. The presence of CHES members played a key role in identifying the promotion of Holocaust Education in the public-school system as a priority.

We are looking forward to sharing with you many interesting and meaningful programs we are developing for 2018.

### **2017 Arie van Mansum Award for Excellence in Holocaust Education**

The annual Arie van Mansum Award is awarded each year to a teacher who has done exemplary work in Holocaust education. The award was initiated as a tribute to Mr. Arie van Mansum, a Righteous Gentile from the Netherlands, who lived in Ottawa.

Marg Harris and Ria Euverman, Arie van Mansum's daughters, presented the 2017 award to Mr. Larry Henry who is a grade 12 teacher at Thousand Islands Secondary School at UCSB. To view the award presentation please visit: <https://carleton.ca/ches/videos/>

To nominate a teacher, please visit the CHES website:

<https://carleton.ca/ches/resources/for-educators/teacher-nomination-submission-form/>



## **FIRST NIGHT OF CHANUKAH MENORA LIGHTING**

CHES partnered with Rabbi Mendelsohn on December 12th, the first night of Chanukah, for a unique moving and uplifting ceremony - the lighting of Chanukah candles at the new National Memorial Monument in Ottawa. Over 30 people braved the frigid minus thirty degrees weather.

Among the participants in this outdoor event were, MP A. Housefather, Irwin Cotler and Elizabeth May, Cantor Krauss, a local Holocaust survivor.



## **CHES Teachers' Workshop during Holocaust Education Month (HEM) 2017**

CHES's annual educational workshop offers teachers a much-needed opportunity for guidance in teaching the Holocaust and the important lessons it imparts today. Teachers from Ottawa Catholic School Board (OCSB), and the Ottawa Carleton District School Board (OCDSB), and private schools in the Ottawa area come back each year for new ideas and resources so that they can effectively teach the Holocaust in their



classrooms. Participating this year were teachers of literature, history, law, geography, arts, and human rights. All rated the workshop to have been excellent.

Each year the workshop focuses on a different topic and we make every effort to match our educational goals with those of the Ontario Ministry's Curriculum. In addition to the outstanding speakers, the 2017 workshop provided specific case studies that can be shared with students to deepen their understanding of this aspect of the Second World War, and the world as it evolved following it. Teachers who participated in the workshop were actively exploring various strategies under the guidance of Minda Chaikin, the chair of the CHES education subcommittee and were thankful for the opportunity to engage with the speakers. Each teacher received, in addition to educational materials, a certificate of completion at the end of this workshop.

Our experience has shown that the outcome of the workshop is reflected in the expressed interest, motivation, and excitement of the teachers to share with their students what they have learned during the workshop.

From our participants:

"The talks were so inspiring for the times in which we live and their messages even more relevant today," said Murray Letts, Department Head of Religious Education at Immaculata High School.

"Thank you again for organizing such a profound and important session on a very vital subject matter," wrote Mark Couturier of St. Peter's High School.

The Educational resources provided at the workshop are available for free on the CHES website: <https://carleton.ca/ches/resources/2017-teachers-workshop/>

## Speakers' Bureau

Our Speakers' Bureau strives to continue to offer Holocaust education through the active involvement of Holocaust survivors and their descendants. Through this program, survivors and children of survivors are invited to visit educational institutions to speak about their personal or their parents' Holocaust survival stories.

As a direct result of the 2017 Teachers' Workshop, CHES received numerous school invitations. CHES is pleased with this increased interest by teachers in offering their students the unique experience of meeting a survivor and learning first hand about their experiences during the Holocaust. Elly Bollegraaf, Vera Gara, Kati

Morrison, and Judy Young all child survivors, visit area schools to share their stories of survival with the students.

This winter Kati visited Temple Israel and Carleton University in November; December saw her visiting Immaculata High School (OCSB) to speak with well-prepared students, and in February, she was at St Paul High School (OCSB) to present to students plus staff. This March, Kati gave a presentation to the Carleton University Retiree Association as well as visited St Marks HS (OCSB) in Manotick, where she shared her story with 100 students.

"It is a very rewarding to experience that teachers consider education about the Holocaust important and the students are very attentive to learn about ways to stand up against bullying" says Kati Morrison

In November, Elly Bollegraaf visited Mr. Lairson's Grade 10 History class at Woodroffe High School (OCDSB). In December she visited Cairine Wilson Secondary School for the third time in 2017. She is scheduled to visit All Saints High School (OCSB) in Kanata this April, as well as the Thousand Islands Secondary School in Brockville (UCDSB).

She finds the experience of speaking to students gratifying and wishes that the Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship (CHES) could convince schoolboards to establish a more permanent and viable program to have survivors (and eventually their descendants) participate actively in teaching about the Holocaust in the public education system.



## Elly Bollegraaf Shared Her Story with the Brockville Theatre Guild

The Brockville Theatre group is planning to produce a version of the 'Diary of Anne Frank' this April. The theatre recently reached out to CHES to secure a visit of a Holocaust survivor who could share experiences with the cast and crew to help prepare them for the play. Elly Bollegraaf, child survivor from the Netherlands, and a member of CHES, travelled to Brockville, and met with the group on Sunday, March 4th.



"The Brockville Theatre Guild is the oldest amateur theatre group in the Province of Ontario" said Peter Lynch. He believes the group is in its 83rd year. "The Diary of Anne Frank" will be presented on April 20th at 7:30pm and April 21st at 2:00pm and at 7:30pm at the Brockville Arts Centre. Mr. Lynch, who portrays Albert Dussel in the play, said: "We were very fortunate to have Elly Bollegraaf speak to the cast about her Holocaust involvement; she cautioned us to play these characters as ordinary people under extreme stresses, and not to treat them as historical

martyrs exclusively. I think I can speak for the rest of the cast in saying our afternoon with Elly will always be remembered..."

The director of the play is Barry Whiteland who has always loved this play. He has been very concerned lately, as many others, about the emergence of ultra-right wing hate groups. As such, Mr. Whiteland and the theatre group feel it is the right time for this production. "We have to be very thankful to those who are soon

bringing the play to a huge audience in Brockville” said Elly. Anne is played by Jesse Gonidis, a 14-year-old student who impressed Elly as “such a delightful, intelligent, inquisitive and thoughtful young girl with profound thoughts.

*For information about the play, please refer to [www.brockvilleartscentre.com](http://www.brockvilleartscentre.com)*

*To read the article published about Elly’s visit by the Recorder and Times of Brockville visit: <http://www.recorder.ca/2018/03/05/survivor-brings-holocaust-to-life>*

*The theatre which was built in 1858, is a state of the art facility and was totally refurbished several years ago.*

## **Upcoming Professional Development Day with the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board**

CHES is thrilled to share the news that the Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship received an invitation to present a workshop for Social Science teachers employed with the OCDSB during the Board’s upcoming PD Day on April 27th.

The day is an opportunity for teachers to enrich their own personal learning by participating in a variety of workshops that will allow them to refine their own practice and engage with other educators. This a great way for teachers to network and reflect on their own teaching and incorporate a wide variety of new materials into their courses.

The details for this workshop are being planned and will include a discussion on the importance of Holocaust testimonials for teaching the history of the Holocaust. Pedagogically, one of the most powerful tools to teach and learn about the horrors of the Holocaust is by meeting and listening to a survivor telling his/her personal story. Ottawa has a wonderful group of survivors who have been visiting schools for years. Additionally, the testimonials of ten survivors recorded by CHES during 2016 are another tool which will be shared and discussed with the teachers.

## **Carleton Media Relations Media Blitz Helps CHES Spread the Story**



Adam Van der Zwan, Stephen Cook, and Naomi Librach, three journalism students at Carleton University’s School of Journalism and Communication responded to a media blitz by Carleton Media Relations Office regarding International Holocaust Remembrance Day, by deciding to explore the topic of Holocaust Education for their projects.

Following phone interviews with Mina Cohn, Naomi, a fourth-year journalism student, produced a Q&A audio that aired on 93.1 CKCU FM at Carleton. Stephen, a Master of Journalism Student, is looking at the future and what it holds for Holocaust education. He has reached out to other centres in Canada to learn about how they prepare for the time when survivors will no longer be around. Adam, a journalism graduate student, is using the information for current affairs stories for his radio class. Kathleen Fisher, another student was at the event at Ottawa City



Hall to cover the story on behalf of Carleton radio station; she produced an additional radio segment which was aired on 93.1 CKCU and included recordings from the event: <http://cija.ca/listen-international-holocaust-remembrance-day-radio-piece/>

Sheri Shefa from Canadian Jewish News (CJN) also contacted us following the same media blitz and asked us to write an article about the importance of Holocaust education today. To read the article please, visit: <https://carleton.ca/ches/wp-content/uploads/holocaust-education>

## **Righteous Among the Nations ceremony at the Israeli embassy in Ottawa**

By Judy Young Drache



“Righteous Among the Nations” is an official title awarded by Yad Vashem on behalf of the State of Israel and the Jewish people to non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust. The title is awarded by a special commission according to a well-defined set of criteria and regulations. The term “Righteous Among the Nations” in Hebrew: Chasidei Umot HaOlam (חסידים אומות עולם) is an ancient concept in Judaism, taken from the Literature of the Sages.

First-hand testimony from those rescued about an individual's role in the rescue must be provided. If testimony does not exist or cannot be found, there must be undisputable documentation of the individual's participation in the rescue and the conditions surrounding it. In recognition of their actions Righteous Among the Nations are presented with a certificate and a medal and they are granted with an honorary citizenship of the State of Israel or a commemorative citizenship if they have passed away.

It is rare to have such a ceremony in Ottawa and to be part of it. The Centre of Holocaust Education and Scholarship (CHES) was invited to the ceremony arranged by the Embassy of Israel this past February 9th, when the title “Righteous Among the Nations” was awarded to members and descendants of the Lehotay family, originally from Hungary, who harboured then 5 year old Andrew Kun and found safe places for his pregnant mother, thus saving their lives in the last months of 1944 in Budapest. The Kuns survived, moved to Canada after the war, and stayed in touch with the Lehotay family whom they helped to come to Canada after the 1956 revolution in Hungary.

The ceremony was a moving and solemn occasion with Ester Driham, National Director of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem, presenting the medal and certificate to Dennis Lehotay on behalf of his parents Victor and Mary Lehotay who saved the Kuns. Dennis was a childhood friend of Andrew Kun. Twelve members of the Lehotay family came to Ottawa from different parts of Canada and the US to receive the award.



### **Meet CHES Committee member and Holocaust Survivor, Judy Young Drache**

I became a founding member of CHES when I joined the committee of the Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship (CHES) in 2015. The same time that CHES had opted to become part of the Zelikovitz Centre at Carleton University. It made good sense after 25 years of inching closer to identifying myself as a “survivor.” Better late than never, as they say!

I was born in Budapest in 1943. In 1944, one year later exactly, my parents, three of my grandparents and numerous other members of my family were picked up by gendarmes of the Nazi- allied Hungarian authorities, put into cattle-cars, and sent off to Auschwitz. Almost half a million Hungarian Jews were deported in the three months between May and July 1944. The vast majority of them,



including my parents and grandparents, never returned.

Unfortunately, my adoptive parents never spoke about what had happened, and in Communist Hungary the Holocaust, religion, or Jewish traditions were not subjects for discussion. So I grew up knowing very little of what happened to our family; the only person who occasionally spoke about my parents was my grandmother-by-adoption who was a sister of my maternal grandmother. I remember her showing me my parents' wedding photo and telling me that my mother was pregnant when she was deported.

In early 1957 we left Hungary and arrived in England as refugees. Though the first couple of years were hard, in retrospect, I am most appreciative of the education I received both in high school and at the University of Oxford where I studied Modern Languages, primarily German literature. I became as English as could be, integration being an instinctive mechanism of self-preservation. I knew that I was Jewish but nobody around me spoke about it.

The gap in my Holocaust education continued. I was married in 1966, finished my BA, and moved to Canada with my husband and baby daughter Katherine to undertake graduate work at McGill. My second daughter, Sarah, was born in Switzerland where we spent the year 1971/72 studying and working. Back in Canada, I was offered a job in the Multiculturalism Programs of the (then) Secretary of State Department where I stayed for almost 25 years. I enjoyed my work, retiring as director for arts and academic programs; I learned much about Canada's diversity and the need to fight discrimination – but had not been able to find the time to research my life story.

While on a work trip in 1980, I returned to Hungary for the first time and met with my mother's cousin. At his suggestion I met Professor Alexander Scheiber, Director of the Rabbinical Seminary, who had known my father when he was a student there in the late 1930's. Thus began my search for family – intermittently at first as I was still working full time and busy with my own growing family. However, from about 1989, when I met my current husband, my Jewish identity became more important to me, and I felt encouraged to continue my search.

After taking early retirement in 1998, I went back to Oxford to do a one year master's diploma in Jewish studies including courses on Judaism, the Holocaust, and, inspired by my father's work, in Biblical Hebrew. Several trips to archives in Hungary, Israel, and the US followed. I learned that my father had played a major role in the work of the Hungarian Jewish Museum in the years 1940-1944 as Biblical archeologist and curator - gathering information and materials about Jewish life in Hungary and writing for the Museum's scholarly journal until a couple of weeks before his family's deportation to the camps.

Though retired, I continued working on some international projects on pluralism and published articles in related fields. I also undertook volunteer projects of interest including with the scholarly association of Hungarian studies in Canada. In 2006, the 50th anniversary of the arrival of Hungarian refugees to Canada, we established the Canada-Hungary Educational Foundation which supports educational projects for young people from Canada and Hungary and promotes the positive influence of the refugee experience in Canadian society.

I consider it very important to impart some of the knowledge I have gained to my grandchildren, Tristan and Lilah, in the hope that they will grow up without the trauma that my daughters' and my generation inherited - and will not only remember but live accordingly. Age does not make it easier to deal with the Holocaust as it affects a survivor's life; if anything the opposite is true. The older I get, the more I feel the need to work away at the Sisyphean task of trying to gain some understanding of the catastrophe that was the Holocaust – both for me personally and for millions of others.

Through serendipity, on my first trip to Israel searching for people who had known my father, I found a classmate of his, Zvi Kedmi, who attended the same Rabbinical school. He told me that my father did not die in Auschwitz: he was transferred to a subcamp of Buchenwald and died there around the time of the liberation of the camp in April 1945. My father had asked Zvi to look for me should he survive and take me to Eretz Israel. He explained that I had been left in the care of relatives with a letter expressing his wish that I be brought up as a Jew. Being a Jew for me means working to ensure that the truth about what hatred can do is known and acted upon; that we stand up against injustice and racism and promote human rights; that we welcome the stranger among us. This is also why I am a member of CHES.

## The MS St Louis - Ship of Fate Exhibition, March 21 to April 29th, 2018

The exhibition opened on March 20 with 300 people in attendance. It is on display in the Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae Gallery of the Canadian War Museum. This is a travelling exhibition produced by the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, a part of the Nova Scotia Museum, in collaboration with the Atlantic Jewish Council and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

Fleeing Nazi persecution in 1939, more than 900 Jewish refugees boarded the German ocean liner St. Louis. They expected to find safety across the Atlantic — instead, they were denied entry to Cuba, then the United States and, finally, Canada. The exiles returned to Europe, where many were killed in the Holocaust. Through photographs, texts and audiovisual materials, St. Louis – Ship of Fate explores the circumstances that led to this tragedy, including the rise of Nazism, international indifference to the plight of refugees, and the dark history of Canadian immigration and anti-Semitism during the 1930s.

*The Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship (CHES) has cooperated with the Museum on the public programming associated with the exhibition.*



### Yom Hashoah

On Yom Hashoah, April 12, at 7:30 pm, [film screening at 7:00 pm], Dr. Diane Afoumado, Chief of the Research and Reference Branch at the Holocaust Survivors and Victims Resource Center of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, and a specialist on the St. Louis, is scheduled to give a presentation on the MS St Louis and the refugee crisis.

Dr. Afoumado's research on the experience of Jews on the St. Louis, as they attempted to make their way to Cuba, and then the United States and Canada, is part of her Ph D. dissertation (Conscience, Attitudes and Behavior of the Jews in France Between 1936 and 1944). She looks at the St. Louis's passage as an international event, using Captain Schroeder's diary along with

newspaper coverage, and delineates the roles that other nations played in sealing the fate of the ship's nine hundred hopeful Jewish passengers.

This is her second visit to Ottawa.

**On April 26, at 7 pm**, the Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship (CHES) will screen a 30-minute video testimonial featuring Ottawa resident David Moskovic. This short film is one of a series of testimonials recorded by CHES in 2016. In the late 1930s, the fates of Moskovic and his family were sealed when the Nazis came to power and the world turned a blind eye to the abuse and indignities visited upon Jews by the Nazis. The family was ultimately sent to Auschwitz, where most of them perished. With unflinching clarity, Mr. Moskovic describes life before, during and after the Holocaust — a story reflecting the fate of millions who might have been saved if countries like ours had taken steps to welcome them. The film will be followed by a short talk on "The Enduring Importance of Eyewitness Accounts" by Professor Jennifer Evans of the Department of History at Carleton University. A Q&A session with



Mr. Moskovic and Professor Evans will follow the screening.

Both events will be at the Barney Danson Theatre at the Canadian War Museum. Both the lecture and the film screening are free.

RSVP is required:

<https://billets-tickets.museedelhistoire.ca/WebStore/shop/ViewItems.aspx?CG=CWME&C=CWMESpecialEvents>

## **Yad Vashem's 2018 Ambassadors of Change Program**

This is the third year CHES is coordinating the attendance of Ottawa high school students for the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem (CSYV) annual Ambassadors of Change Educational Program.

The Ambassadors of Change Program is a gathering of 200 students of varied faiths and cultures from Montreal, Ottawa, and Toronto. It will take place at the Canadian War Museum on April 18th. High school students will meet with Holocaust survivors for two hours in small intimate groups to hear their firsthand experiences about the Shoah. The organizers believe that personal accounts of Holocaust survivors and witnesses enable the new generation of Canadians to shape their multicultural identity and forge true Canadian values of equality, justice, democracy and respect of fundamental human and civil rights. In the current world climate of rising intolerance and violence, the importance of standing up against hatred and discrimination are more crucial than ever.

The Ambassadors of Change program provides students with an opportunity to define their own roles as responsible Canadian citizens. CHES is looking forward to another rewarding program. The program is open to grade 11 students by registration on a first come, first served basis. The National Memorial event that follows at 3:30 pm is open to the public.

## **The Evidence Room**

Several members of CHES had the opportunity to participate in a guided tour of "The Evidence Room" at the Lightroom Gallery of the Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism at Carleton University in early February. This is an ambitious and powerful reconstruction of key architectural elements of Auschwitz which looks at the disturbing relationship between architecture and the horrors of the Holocaust.

To learn more about exhibit, read the article by Sheila Hurtig Robertson in the Ottawa Jewish Bulletin. Read it online at this link: <http://tiny.cc/CriminalArchitecture>



From left: Sheila Robertson; Architect Zachary Colbert; Muriel Korngold-Wexler; Judy Young; Batia Winer

## **Save these Dates!**

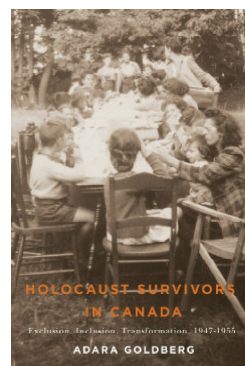
*The public is invited to both lectures.*

## **Imre Rosenberg Memorial Lecture**

*May 10th, Temple Israel*

Dr. Adara Goldberg, will be at Temple Israel as the guest speaker for the Imre Rosenberg Memorial Lecture. Dr. Goldberg's presentation will examine the reception of 35,000 Jewish survivors of Nazi persecution in the years following the Second World War in Canada. Her talk is based on her book *Holocaust Survivors in Canada: Exclusion, Inclusion, Transformation, 1947-1955* published in 2015.

*On Saturday May 12th at 10:30 am, following the morning service, Dr Goldberg will discuss Belonging or Faith? Survivors, Shuls and Organized Religion After the Holocaust.*





**June 11th, 7:00 pm**

**IN CONVERSATION WITH JEANNE BEKER  
UP CLOSE WITH MEDIA PERSONALITY AND SURVIVORS'  
DAUGHTER JEANNE BEKER**

“Some survivors of the Holocaust choose never to speak of the horrors they endured. My parents talked. They were adamant about telling us every detail of their war experience, time and time again. I remember hiding under the bed as a small child – I didn’t want to


hear any more of their “war stories.” Now I realize it was precisely their storytelling that made me who I am, colouring my personal philosophies, imparting a sense of resilience and instilling in me a precious instinct for survival” writes Jeanne Beker in the Globe and Mail. June 5th 2017.

Jeanne Beker is a descendant of survivors and a celebrated Canadian media personality, fashion editor, author and newspaper columnist. Jeanne, who lives in Toronto, will be our guest in Ottawa on June 11th. We are looking forward to hosting her and thank the Azrieli Foundation for the vision to publish the Beker family’s memoir and for their suggestion to present Ms Beker to an Ottawa audience. Stay tuned for details.


**Membership on the CHES Committee is open to new members. To support CHES, please visit: [www.carleton.ca/ches/donate-to-ches](http://www.carleton.ca/ches/donate-to-ches)**

The ZC, as a longstanding policy, generally does not cross-promote events. We normally report only on our own events or those with which we are directly involved.

We made an exception in this case. We want to give our members and supporters the opportunity to hear this outstanding, world-renowned Jewish scholar!

 **Kehillat Beth Israel**  
*Presents an evening with*  
**Dr. Avivah Gottlieb Zornberg**  
“And I am a stranger”: Becoming Ruth

**MONDAY, APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2018**  
at 7:00 p.m.



**Dr. Avivah Gottlieb Zornberg**

**Lecturer, Academic & Author**


*Bewilderments: Reflections on the Book of Numbers*  
*Genesis: The Beginning of Desire*  
*Moses: A Human Life*  
*The Mumbling Deep: Reflections on the Biblical Unconscious*  
& many more...

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