



Acting Director's Message

The ZC is entering its second decade. When Deidre and I first discussed my involvement with the ZC, my premiere thought was “what an amazing opportunity.” As the ZC’s Associate Director, I continue to be amazed at the accomplishments of this very special organization. One of its most important features – as I see it – is the ability to connect people and their interests not just across academic departments but also across communities: bringing academics and non-academics together to discuss ideas both find meaningful. I would like to see the excited exchanges evident at the January book launch (p.6) taking place more frequently. For the book launch we partnered with Kehillat Beth Israel and the attendant (and attentive) audience was a balance of academics, rabbis, and non-academics. Gathering together to share is its own special event – so stay tuned for more on this, and if you have ideas that you would like to see pursued in an informal setting please email me.

These past months have been a learning experience for me. I was not sure how my

academic background would cope with the administrative aspects of the position. However I think it is precisely my academic background (curiosity) that enabled me to engage in such a wonderful exchange of emails (see interview), not only with our upcoming guest speaker Ruth Gavison, but also with our guest musician for Limmud, Kiki Keren-Huss. I think that some aspects of the position went more smoothly as a consequence of my speaking “academese.”

As for the practical aspects of the job – I was an executive director in one life and was an administrator in another – positions where I learned that when you ask for help, people are only too happy to assist. The shift from paper billing and invoicing to the technical intricacies of eShop has had its challenges but the university offers staff relevant administrative and financial mini courses. The organization of ZC and its day-to-day running is assisted through the efforts of my supportive and wonderful ZC team.

As Communications Coordinator and Webmaster, Phil Angel’s primary responsibilities are updating and maintaining the website, and communicating via social media important information concerning the ZC and its operations. The website in particular

has undergone some extensive changes. Feedback is much appreciated. <<https://carleton.ca/jewishstudies/>>. Esther Guillen continues her work on the *agunah* project and has stepped in as chair for the ZC Student colloquium. She has been a supportive presence at ZC events, effortlessly responding to questions about the ZC and its activities. Esther Vininsky-Oakes is currently working with George Duimovich to organize a Digital Collections workshop in the library for ZC research affiliates (rescheduled for April 4), as well as working with him to come up with a format for cataloguing the ZC book collection, so it is organized and easy to access. Dr. Andrea Lobel, Assistant Director, Financial, stepped down at the end of February and Christine Shay, a Carleton administrator, has been hired by the ZC to take over its financial administration (see below).

The Developing Future Leaders (DFL) program, now in its sixth year, is flourishing. In the fall we welcomed new DFL Director, Cindi Resnick, new seminar leader, Carolyn Bickerton, and a new cohort of DFL interns. Read inside about

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The ZC Admin Team (Phil Angel, Esther Guillen, Esther Vininsky-Oakes).

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Acting Director's Message, continued

the group's effort to raise funds on behalf of the Jewish Family Service Program *Shalom Bayit*.

This past fall, The Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship (CHES) celebrated its first anniversary. Under Director, Mina Cohn, CHES produced and/or participated in a wide range of events and activities throughout Holocaust Education Month (HEM). Turn to pages 13-14 for a complete review of these events. A very special event was organized in the late fall by Claire Lewis (Advancement) and Mina Cohn to thank the donors whose financial contributions enabled the successful completion of the video-taping of Ottawa Holocaust Survivor testimonies, and the ten (10) Ottawa individuals who so generously shared their stories

In November, the ZC once again participated with Limmud Ottawa. ZC faculty affiliates, Deidre Butler and Betina Kuzmarov, used anecdotes drawn from their research interviews, to highlight the social and religious realities of Jewish divorce in Canada. Erin Drawson, former ZC staffer, and a recent graduate of the Masters in Religion and Public Life program, spoke about Christian Zionism and its use of digital communications to promote their cause. ZC faculty affiliate, Tom Sherwood, spoke about young adult Jewish Canadians and their self-perceptions as spiritual not religious based on stories from his *Listening to The Echo* research project. The ZC and Limmud in conjunction with the Schusterman Visiting Israeli Artist Program were able to bring Israeli composer and sound musi-

cian Kiki Keren-Huss, to Ottawa to perform for Limmud.

Recently, March 2, 2017, the ZC partnered with the School of Public Policy and Administration to present a panel discussion on Faith-Based Philanthropy. At the end of March, Israeli lawyer Ruth Gavison will be the Edgar and Dorothy Davidson speaker. A number of community organizations are sharing in the privilege of hosting. On Thursday evening, Ruth will be discussing the role of the state in marriage and divorce. A topic that is worthy of discussion within the Canadian legal framework – what are the boundaries and the conflicts that could arise for Jewish practices in these areas. Consider her talk and give some thought to participating in the ZC Faculty Colloquium on the Law and Jewish Thought/Practice/Custom.

Welcome Christine Shay to the ZC Team

The ZC has many designations. In keeping with the vision of Max Zelikovitz, the ZC broadly promotes Jewish Studies on campus and in the community. In keeping with ZC's designated status as a Carleton University Research Centre, the ZC continually seeks to support and foster Jewish research, and to nurture ZC affiliates and partnerships.

The financial supports required by ZC's various activities and programs can be quite complex.

At the end of February, Dr. Lobel stepped down from her position as ZC Director, Finance to continue her work as a writer and consultant. On learning that Dr. Lobel was leaving, Kim



Matheson, Director of The Canadian Health Adaptations, Innovations, & Mobilization (CHAIM) Centre, set up

an introduction between Deidre and Christine. As the CHAIM Centre is also a Carleton University Research Centre, Dr. Matheson, and Christine were very cognizant of the needs of the ZC.

Christine is currently the Administrator for The CHAIM Centre, Carleton's Health Research Centre, where her main roles give her further experience in Carleton finance systems, meeting and event coordination, and team management. An experienced professional with over ten years' experience in client services and a background in Business Marketing, the ZC team looks forward to working with Christine. Her experience and expertise will be an asset to ZC events and projects.

Becoming part of the collection of Canada's published heritage

In mid-November, an email exchange with Arlene Whetter, Acquisitions Librarian - Digital & Theses, Published Heritage Branch for Library and Archives Canada resulted in arrangements for past Zelikovitz Centre Newsletters, as well as future (yet to be created) newsletters to be archived on the LAC server. The ZC newsletters are listed as Open Access which means they are freely available to view via the LAC website. This is our Catalogue no. 44959949.

The ZC Library Collection

A unique aspect of the ZC's Open House (Dec 14) is meeting people who do interesting things and who have suggestions for interesting projects. One of our Open House visitors was George Duimovich, who was quite taken with our uncatalogued library. George is the Head of Systems, and Assistant Head of Cataloguing and Collection at Carleton University's MacOdrum Library.

The focus question was how to make our collection accessible to ZC researchers and others, who might find some of our Jewish material dated but fascinating. Our Junior Administrator Esther Vininsky-Oakes has taken the lead on these discussions, exploring possible catalogue options and looking at how the ZC collection could benefit from some additional search and access tools (possibly with some 'official' support).

The other piece arising out of our Open House conversation was to set a time and date to introduce any interested ZC affiliated researchers to MacOdrum Library's Open Access Publication and Repository Services (<https://library.carleton.ca/services/open-access>).

George will be offering a Digital Collections Workshop to ZC Staff,



Affiliates and Friends of the ZC on April 4 from 12-1.

The Workshop is "Open Access publication and repository services - how the Library can help"

What are your options for adhering to the Tri-Agency Open Access Policy on Publications? Are you considering starting an open access journal or transitioning a current journal to a new business

model? Do you have datasets that need to be published, or any digital works that you want preserved for long-term access and discoverability through library collections?

George will provide an overview of MacOdrum Library's publication and repository services with a special focus on digital collections and related scholarly communications support services.

Upcoming

The Spring 2017 Annual Zelikovitz Centre Graduate Student Colloquium



The theme for this year's Graduate Colloquium is "itinerant identities".

Past and present, immigration and religion have always created both a wealth of understanding and opportunity, as well as challenges and discord. What happens when identity is itinerant? What do religious and/or gendered identities look like in diaspora? How does thinking about gender complicate or enrich our understanding

of religious identity and the experience of diaspora?

Student Colloquium Chair Esther Guillen reports that the submissions for the upcoming student colloquium are "all excellent," and that preparations are under way to organize them thematically for presentation at the colloquium, as well as to create a souvenir program for both the presenters and the audience. **Please join us May 1, 2017, Room PA 303, Paterson Hall.**

The Zelikovitz Centre presents

THE 2017 EDGAR AND DOROTHY DAVIDSON LECTURE

State and Religions in Israel: The Regulation of Marriage and Divorce



Ruth Gavison

Azrieli Theatre 101, Carleton University

March 30, 2017

7:00 pm

The Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies (ZC) welcomes Israeli lawyer Ruth Gavison to Ottawa. Professor Gavison will be the keynote speaker for the annual Edgar and Dorothy Davidson Lecture, Thursday, March 30, AT101, Carleton University.

Ruth's visit to Ottawa has come about through her long friendship with Professor Jonathan Malino, Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at Guilford College, who moved to Ottawa in 2015. An active member of the Zelikovitz Centre Advisory Council, he noted this was a wonderful opportunity "to have her visit my new home and share her brilliance with my new community." Jonathan recalled he first met Ruth in Jerusalem in Fall, 1970, while he was teaching philosophy at the Hebrew University. Jonathan noted that he and Ruth share interests in ethics, law, religion and philosophy as well as a deep commitment to Israel as a Jewish and democratic state.

In an interview, Ruth commented that she chose law as a subject of study (she also took philosophy and economics) because of the strong connection it offered

between theory and practice.

Ruth shares that she has been an activist from the very start of her adult life. At the early stages of her academic career, the subjects of her study were not that close to the areas of her social activism. Ruth noted that she has been actively involved for many years with the struggle for human rights in Israel and that she is one of the founding members of ACRI, the largest civil rights organization in Israel.

She noted that she was strongly drawn to understand the world (theory) and as strongly compelled to change it (practice). Ruth shared that it gave her a deep sense of satisfaction when her academic fields of study became closer to her areas of social activism. For some years now she has dealt both academically and as a public intellectual with issues of state and religion, human rights, and Israel as a Jewish and democratic state.

She noted that some of her publications and teaching on these subjects are fully academic, while others are texts that are op-eds and products of public activity, such as the Gavison-Medan covenant on issues of state and religion among Jews.

It is this issue: "State and Religions in Israel: The Regulation of Marriage and Divorce," that Ruth will be addressing in her public lecture. Israel currently entrusts religious courts with exclusive authority over marriage and divorce services to members of their communities.

In a paper edited by her, "A Civil Framework for Marriage and Divorce in Israel," <http://marriage.hiddush.org/about/civil-framework-marriage-and-divorce-israel>, we learn that Israel is the only Western democracy that legally sanctions a religious monopoly over marriage and divorce. While this evolved from the Ottoman Empire's Millet system, today, the orthodox monopoly over marriage and divorce is considered to be a highly significant aspect of Israel's Jewish character, and an integral part of its definition as a Jewish state.

However, for many Israeli citizens, the religious monopoly on marriage and divorce impacts on their social, moral, legal, religious, and cultural rights. Professor Gavison will discuss these matters, suggest principles for reform, and explain the obstacles to their enactment.

Learning to ASK:

Update on this year's DFL interns.

The ZC Fall Newsletter introduced Carolyn Bickerton, DFL's Seminar leader for its 2016-2017 Professional Leadership Training Program.

Since September, the DFL interns have been integrated into their work places and have participated in several leadership training sessions.

The most recent session took place in January and Claire Lewis, who works in Advancement, spoke to the students about her role as a Carleton professional

fund-raiser.

The group project was to choose a group or organization who would be the recipient of their fundraising efforts. During their November seminar, the students decided (unanimously) to raise funds to support *Shalom Bayit* (the Jewish Family Service Agency program that offers confidential and anonymous support for women experiencing abuse).

With input from Claire, the students developed an ambitious fund raiser for

Shalom Bayit. The fund raising campaign would be comprised of three parts: a traditional event style fund raiser with a 50/50 draw, a small *Family Ask* campaign, and a targeted *Big Donor Ask* campaign. While the students are expected to participate in all three facets of the campaign, the students divided themselves into three work groups, covering the three respective fund raising efforts.

The traditional event style fundraiser was a night of comedy at *Absolute Comedy*, held March 5, titled, "Bring Back the Laughter". *Absolute Comedy* offered a very attractive ticket price for fundraisers on Sunday nights which allowed the students to potentially make \$1200.00.

The *Family Ask* is a very simple campaign where the students would directly ask friends and family not coming to the event to contribute between \$5 and \$25 to the campaign. A very generous donor is willing to match up to \$800.00. The students believe they can raise \$500, but with some luck and a well-tailored ask, Carolyn believes they will make it to \$800. If the \$800 target is reached, with the matching funds the group could potentially raise \$1600.00.

The targeted *Big Donor Ask* will have teams of two meeting with preselected sympathetic donors. Both Claire and Cindi have volunteered to help find willing donors to listen to the students' pitch. The students are going to tailor their pitch for both the *Family* and *Big Donor Ask* based on their successful and productive meeting with Sarah Caspi of *Shalom Bayit*.

The Sunday evening event was well attended and financially successful: it raised over \$1600.00. All funds from their GoFundMe campaign go directly to *Shalom Bayit*. If you can donate, \$18 would go a long way to ending domestic abuse in Ottawa. The link can be found here: <https://www.gofundme.com/shalom-bayit-fundraiser>.



Students from left to right are Esther Vininsky-Oakes, Cassandra Powell and Elise Bigley.

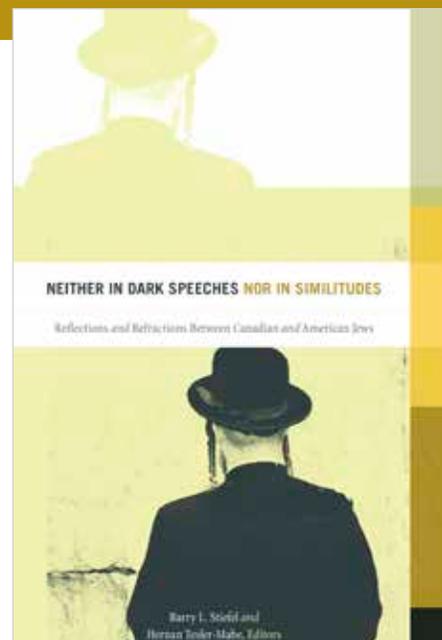


From left to right, Director of the DFL program, Cindi Resnick, and students Nehara Mor and Sasha Chuchin.

Book launch

The audience was small but active on January 29, when the Zelikovitz Centre hosted the launch of the most recent publication addressing the similar/dissimilar experiences of Canadian and American Jews: *Neither in Dark Speeches nor in Similitudes: Reflections and Refractions Between Canadian and American Jews* at Kehillat Beth Israel. Rabbi Eytan Kenter spoke on behalf of the synagogue, while the Zelikovitz Centre was represented by Acting Director, Dr. Susan J. Landau-Chark, who is also a contributing author to this volume. Professor Hernan Tesler-Mabe, co-editor, addressed the book's journey to publication, and its

initial inspiration. He also brought greetings from his co-editor, Professor Barry Stiefel. Two of the presenters spoke to their articles in the book, and Rabbi Kenter spoke on the essay by Dr. Ira Robinson about finding a rabbi for a congregation. Rabbi Kenter also spoke on the differences in being a rabbi of a small vs. large scale congregation. The three presenters also shared pieces of their own stories as Jews in North America, and then the floor was opened to questions. A question on the differences in anti-Semitic experiences between Canada and the US sparked a lively debate on whether one country had it any better than the other.



Faculty Updates



Michael Dorland, PhD, Professor and Editor, The Canadian Journal of Communication, School of Journalism and Communication

Michael Dorland's most recent exploration of the various techniques of remembering/forgetting is voiced in his most recent article, "The Black Hole of Memory: French Mnemotechniques in the Erasure of the Holocaust," *Mediatropes*, VI:2, 2016, 1-19. The lead article in the forthcoming next issue of *Mediatropes* on "War and Intelligence," ZC research associate Michael Dorland asks why it has taken France 70 years to come to terms historically and commem-

oratively with the fact of the Holocaust. His discussion demonstrates, in part, how this long process was profoundly tied up with France's deeply ambivalent role in the Holocaust itself so that the latter implied the recognition of the former.



Mira Sucharov with Amos Oz in the background. Tel Aviv book fair, June 2016

Mira Sucharov, Associate Professor, Political Science.

In June 2016, Mira Sucharov presented on a roundtable on Dov Waxman's

book *Trouble in the Tribe*, at the Association for Israel Studies annual conference, in Jerusalem. Her upcoming publication, "Feeling My Way Along the Seam Line of Jerusalem," *Journal of Narrative Politics* (forthcoming March 2017), is a commentary on her time there.

In June, and July 2016, Mira was a featured international presenter at Limmud-Australia where she presented in both Melbourne and Sydney on topics related to Israeli politics, Israeli television, Israeli-Palestinian relations and Jewish identity on campus.

In December, 2016, she presented on a roundtable discussion about teaching Israeli-Palestinian relations in the context of the field of Jewish studies, and issues surrounding Jewish identity and Jewish community at the Association for Jewish Studies annual conference in San Diego.

Mira Sucharov, along with Hasia Diner (NYU), is co-chair of a new, Wild Card conference division called "Jewish Politics" at AJS 2017 in Washington, DC in December. Please keep an eye out for the call for papers. They welcome round tables, panels and seminars on the theme.

Spotlight on our External Research Affiliates

Since its inception in 2006 the Zelikovitz Centre (ZC) for Jewish Studies has recognized the need to develop opportunities for scholarly collaboration. We have invited emerging scholars, graduate students, and fellow faculty at other universities, as well as independent scholars to partner with the ZC and our researchers. The ZC provides for scholars to share their works-in-progress, as well as their completed research and publications, thus encouraging cross-fertilization of ideas

and approaches, and where possible, inviting scholars from off campus to present to the public.

This past January, The ZC (in corroboration with Kehillat Beth Israel) hosted a book launch for *Neither in Dark Speeches nor in Similitudes: Reflections and Refractions Between Canadian and American Jews*. The co-editors of this informative collection of essays, Barry Stiefel and Hernan Tesler-Mabe, are also ZC External Research affiliates, and in this issue the “spotlight” is on them and their work.

Barry L. Stiefel, PhD



Barry Stiefel is an Associate Professor in the Historic Preservation & Community Planning program at the College of Charleston, as well as the current President of the Association of Canadian Jewish Studies.

He is a strong advocate for the preservation of Jewish heritage, as well as promoting research into how local preservation efforts affect regional, national, and multi-national policies within the field of cultural resource management and heritage conservation.

Currently, Barry, with Jeremy Wells (Roger Williams University, Bristol, US), is working on a project that advocates

for heritage conservation to develop a more people-centered approach. This requires the role of the heritage practitioner to move from controlling meanings associated with building or objects, to facilitating the gathering and interpretation of meanings with people. This shift in who interprets the meaning of heritage and cultural landscapes empowers communities to recognize, treat, and interpret their particular buildings and spaces. Consequently, built heritage practitioners need to collect and interpret these meanings with more depth and consistency than has been happening to date, using efficient and pragmatic

social science and humanities tools that do not currently exist.

The pedagogical methodologies designed to teach students to be open to people-centered approaches originated with his research as a preservation student. His case study of “The Places My Granddad Built”: Using Popular Interest in Genealogy as a Pedagogical Segue for Historic Preservation”, came about as a result of his personal explorations of the relationship between his ancestry and heritage (coming from Central and Eastern Europe, settling in Midwestern United States and Canada) with his history in general, as well as the state of condition/preservation of important places, material culture, and intangible traditions.

Barry notes if one does not take a proactive role in preserving one’s own heritage, in these respects, then who will?

Most recently (as noted above) Barry has published *Neither in Dark Speeches nor in Similitudes: Reflections and Refractions Between Canadian and American Jews* (co-edited with Hernan Tesler-Mabe, Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2016); *Community-Built: Art, Construction, Preservation, and Place* (co-edited with Katherine Melcher and Kristin Faurest, Routledge, 2017), and is currently addressing the question, with Jeremy Wells, of how human-centered conservation theory can and should change practice in their upcoming book, tentatively titled *Making the Past Less Foreign: Using Evidence Based on the Human Aspects of Heritage Conservation to Change Practice*.

Spotlight on our External Research Affiliates

Hernan Tesler-Mabé, PhD



A self-avowed “historian of the human condition,” Hernan engages in broad-ranging historical research devoted to better understanding our place in the world, as well as the way in which people have constructed and reconciled themselves to their contexts and realities.

His most recent published work *Neither in Dark Speeches nor in Similitudes: Reflections and Refractions Between Canadian and American Jews* (Wilfrid

Laurier University Press, 2016), co-edited with Barry Stiefel, explores the many historical trajectories that make explicit the similarities and differences between North American Jews. For this volume, Hernan authored a chapter devoted to Heinz Unger (1895-1965) a German Jewish classical musician who lived on the fringes of Canadian Jewish culture in the postwar period.

Alongside a developing academic inter-

est in the Holocaust, Hernan actively conducts research on non-Jewish subjects, having recently completed an article demonstrating how British cars serve as a vehicle for nationalism (forthcoming) as well as an article on the significance of the constructions of “Europeanness” at Walt Disney World (“A Mickey Mouse Kind of Europe: Representations of Europe in the Disney Narrative,” in *The Journal of Contemporary European Studies*, June 2016).

Hernan is a regular part-time professor at the University of Ottawa and has been teaching in the Department of History since 2009. He teaches a wide range of courses that center on modern Europe. After receiving his Ph.D. in History from the University of Ottawa in 2010, Hernan was employed as a subcontracted researcher for Canada’s Department of National Defence, as well as with Canada’s Department of Foreign Affairs (now Global Affairs Canada), producing a history of relations between Canada and Greece for the latter (“Moving Forward Together: Canada-Greece Relations since 1942,” (2012)). Hernan has been affiliated with the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies (ACJS) for over a decade, serving as a Board Member (2011-2014) and on the Executive since 2015.

The ZC Welcomes Research Affiliates

Affiliate positions are unpaid, and may include students, independent scholars, or faculty from other universities. All Research Affiliates have full online access to Carleton University libraries. This initiative is part of ZC’s larger mandate of building a dynamic group of national and international Jewish studies scholars.

Interested candidates should email 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.

Intro to Student Blogs

Dr. Butler's RELI 2110A JUDAISM course explores Judaism as a lived religious tradition. Taught from a historical perspective, the course explores the teachings, traditions, practices and formative experiences of the Jewish people. It also includes a practical approach through guest speakers and when possible, a field trip.

This past fall, the students of RELI 2110A were exposed to a range of guest speakers of whom one was Dr.

Thomas Hecht, philanthropist and Holocaust survivor. The write-up by student Shania Mahendranon describes Dr. Hecht's classroom visit. The field trip to Montreal, (excerpts only) are described by students Nicky Martino and LxSilver-Mahr (their extended blogs can be seen here: <https://carleton.ca/jewishstudies/2016-2017-jewish-studies-courses/examples-student-work/reli2110a-sample-work-students/>)

Thomas Hecht speaks to the students in Rel 2110



Shania Mahendran

This past October, Holocaust survivor, Dr. Thomas Hecht, spoke at Carleton University. Hecht was a child in Czechoslovakia when the Germans invaded. He painted a vivid image of his experiences during this time, stating that he cannot forget what happened to him.

At the age of 10, Hecht, like all other Jews living in Czechoslovakia, became subject to the Nuremberg laws. The children he went to school with, once thought to be friends, would no longer hold his hand, simply because of his religion. Soon after, Jewish properties were

being taken away, and Jewish children were being kicked out of school.

This persecution of Jews caused his family to flee their home. They took a train from Budapest to Paris, where they stayed until the Germans marched in. From Paris, they were constantly moving, along the roads of France, always trying to stay one step ahead of the Nazis. Their hope was to escape to Britain, but they were stuck in France.

As a means of survival, Dr. Hecht and his mother registered as Catholics in Nice, in the south of France to escape being persecuted as Jews.

Luckily, Hecht and his family were finally allowed into Lisbon, Portugal.

They had been in Lisbon for ten months, when they received a Canadian visa, valid for the duration of the war. Thomas arrived with his family in Montreal in 1942. This was not the end of their troubles, as anti-Semitic thought was very prevalent at that time throughout North America.

Despite his negative experiences, Dr. Hecht is part of a unique generation - a generation who witnessed the Holocaust, but who also saw the rebirth of the Jewish state. He has taken his experiences and dedicated his life to the Canadian Jewish community. Dr. Hecht is more than a survivor, he is an inspiration.

Intro to Student Blogs

Professor Butler and her RELI 2110A class take a field trip to Jewish Montreal

Professor Deidre Butler of the Religion program in the College of Humanities took students on a field trip to Jewish Montreal Nov 13, 2016. Students took a walking tour of the Plateau neighbourhood with the Museum of Jewish Montreal where they learned about immigrant and labour history, explored Jewish Outremont with Professor Steven Lapidus gaining a better understanding of the explosive growth of that community

and the political and social struggles it faces, visited the Holocaust Museum to appreciate the painful history of the Shoah and the ways in which Montreal (as one of the largest communities of Holocaust survivors in the world) has publicly remembered the Holocaust, learned more about kosher food and Jewish food culture, and were welcomed to Canada's oldest Jewish institution (1768), the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, by Rabbi Orenstein.



Dr. Butler (top row, right) with students.

For one of the students on the trip, Nick Martino, the visit to the Montreal Holocaust Museum stood out for him. He wrote:

For one of the students on the trip, Nick Martino, the visit to the Montreal Holocaust Museum stood out for him. He wrote:

The Holocaust museum in Montreal was the most moving part of the trip. The specific aspect that stuck out the most to me was not necessarily the Jewish communities' response to the Holocaust, but the global, and especially Canadian ones.

The global response was largely one of apathy and dismissal. Most countries ignored the pleas before the Holocaust, coming from Jewish refugees in Europe. "Thus the world seemed to turn its back on the German and Austrian Jewish refugees". It is important to note that all of this happened before the Holocaust had begun, as the Anti-Semitism in Europe was deeply rooted, sourced back to at least medieval times.

The global response to the plight of European Jews exacerbated what was already a nearly overwhelming problem. In Canada, the response was also extremely negative. Phrases like "No Dogs or Jews Allowed" dehumanized Jews, a tool that the Nazis in Germany were us-



A display at the Holocaust Museum

ing in their propaganda too, calling Jews untermensch, or subhuman. The Nazis also included the elderly in this group of subhumans, noting "... this practice has reached tremendous proportions: recently the inmates of old-age homes have also been included. The basis for this practice seems to be that in an efficient nation there should be no room for weak and frail people". By combining Jews, Gypsies and others with the elderly and the mentally ill, the Nazis sought to reduce them in stature even further, in a way attempting to prove that they could not exist in an efficient society, as they were less capable than those of a pure race. Seeing the same tools wielded in Nazi Germany, and in the Canada of the time is startling.

But more than that, seeing some of the rhetoric surrounding modern day Syrian refugees, and the Jewish response to the crisis really brings home the phrase "Never Forget", so commonly associated with the Holocaust. The most direct example I could recall while in the museum itself was from last year, when a leading candidate in the US Republican primary used the same language, dogs, to refer to the refugees, "For instance, you know, if there is a rabid dog running around your neighborhood, you're probably not going to assume something good about that dog... doesn't mean that you hate all dogs by any stretch of the imagination.". While this is obviously an example from the United States, the refugees were a key issue in our own election in Canada. Something stuck out at me, however, which was the number 25,000, which was the number discussed and argued about over the course of our election cycle. One of the plaques at the Holocaust museum (left), states "The U.S. offered to fill its restrictive German refugee quota, limiting entry to some 25,000 annually."

The Jewish community has not ignored these similarities, and in the spirit of remembering its own plights less than a hundred years ago, has responded much

Continued on next page.

more positively to the refugees than the general populous of the western world.

From hearing about it firsthand from Dr. Hecht, to seeing the Holocaust Museum in Montreal, to watching the

One aspect that struck Lx Silver-Mahr on this same trip, was the relationship between gender and Jewish life. Following is this excerpt from her blog on the class trip:

During our trip to Montreal, the relationship between gender and Jewish life was apparent. Our walking tour guide discussed how the wife of a poor rabbi rallied community resources to build a maternity center for Jewish women. At the time there was no dedicated Jewish hospital, leaving women with few options for healthcare. Pregnant Jewish women were reluctant and fearful of Catholic hospitals, for example, where their life came second to that of the pregnancy in the event of a complication (Wright, 1984). Jewish tradition, in contrast, places the mother's life first until birth is half complete; according to the Mishnah (Ohalot 7:6), abortion is required if a mother's life at risk. Lack of kosher food in hospitals compounded these potential problems, presenting another barrier for pregnant Jewish women. A rabbi's wife (Mrs. Taube Kaplan) saw a need in her community that was not being met, as well as the high infant mortality rate at the time, and went to work collecting donations at people's houses where she would teach. Her efforts were eventually noticed and large donors contributed to her cause. Jewish doctors volunteered their time and the center (Wright, 1984). Eventually, a Jewish hospital was built and the maternity ward was named after the woman who helped found the center (Wright, 1984).

The Mikvah is another important institution of gender in the Jewish community. The mikvah is essentially a religious bath, meant to restore ritual purity by full submersion in water (Puntel, 2002). Women are considered to be in a state of niddah, or ritual impurity, during and in the seven days following menstruation as well as after child birth. Women are

video of other survivors in class, the horrors of the Holocaust seem to grow the deeper into study I went. The Museum was a different, and extremely valuable take on the Holocaust, as it talked about

the prelude to the event, as much as the years it occurred over. It helped put into perspective how isolated the Jews of Europe were, and how much hatred had been built up over the centuries.



Lx Silver-Mahr (circled) and students on tour of Jewish Montreal.

not to have sexual relations until after going to the mikvah (Leviticus 18:19). Some orthodox communities extend this to include not being able to touch menstruating women. Due to their frequent use, mikvahs are the first thing a Jewish community builds. This is one of the only commandments directed specifically at women. Historically, in the period of the First Temple, purity laws applied to men and women. Over time, these laws eventually ceased being enforced for men. However, the institutionalization of women's bodies through mikvah continues today (Puntel, 2002). Those responsible for interpretations and decisions regarding Jewish law have been historically men, with the modern orthodox community permitting women to weigh in on these issues only within the last ten years (Lecture, 11/28/16). The stigmatization of menstruation through gendered purity laws reflects and reinforces misogynist

views which, I would argue, have been engrained by and through the primary institutions which women are required to navigate. Schools are a third institution organized according to gender norms.

In our tour of Jewish Montreal we saw the locations where some schools originally stood. Prior to reforms in Quebec, there were two streams for schooling: English-Protestant schools and French-Catholic schools. Jews fit into neither of these categories and were thus deemed "protestant" by the provincial government and school boards (Wright, 1984). For the Orthodox Jewish community this was not good enough and they went about setting up their own schools to provide a Jewish education for their children. Schools, particularly in the Hasidic and Orthodox communities, are separated by gender once children reach a certain age, generally 10 or 11. From that point, boys and girls receive a different education. Boys are immersed in the study of Torah and Talmud, whereas girls' schooling focuses on home making skills and the obligations of a Jewish wife and mother. Though some progression has occurred, within the Orthodox community emphasis lies on women occupying reproductive roles. Women are exempt from positive time bound commandments so that they are able to fulfill their duty to raise children (Lecture, 11/2/16).



Alice Abracen, Museum of Jewish Montreal Tour Guide speaking to RELI 2110A students

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Holocaust Education Month Activities

By Mina Cohn,
Director, CHES Committee

The Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship (CHES) offered a full complement of activities in November 2016 in observance of Holocaust Education Month.

On November 3, Library and Archives Canada played host to an Ottawa first: a symposium for children of Holocaust survivors. Dr. Paula Draper, Holocaust historian and interviewer for the Spielberg Foundation, and Dr. Paula David, University of Toronto Professor of Gerontology and Clinical Practice, led seminars for 80 participants. Dr. Diane Afoumado, an expert on the St. Louis, discussed her work at the tracing services at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. Local children's author, Kathy Clark, shared her experiences as the child of Holocaust survivors. Comments from the audience indicated a strong desire for more such events, and demonstrated that Second Generation survivors appreciate the opportunities to connect with



November 9 - The Grumach Family Tallit, rescued from a burning Berlin synagogue during Kristallnacht



November 9 - HEM Launch (From Left to Right) Pascale Claveter, recipient of the Arie Van Mansum Award, with Ria Euverman and Marg Harris, daughters of Ari Van Mansum, and Mina Cohn.

one another.

On November 8, the Polish embassy in cooperation with CHES, and the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, hosted a lecture by Professor Dariusz Stola, Director of POLIN Museum. Over 200 people attended this lecture at the Polish embassy. Professor Stola spoke about the new POLIN Museum in Warsaw, discussing the location and architecture of the museum, and the role of the museum in reconnecting with the 'Great Forgotten Past' of the Jews in Poland. POLIN has been awarded the title of "European Museum of the Year 2016", the most important museum award in Europe.

On November 9, the anniversary of the infamous *Kristallnacht*, the Night of Broken Glass, the official launch of Holocaust Education Month took place at Kehillat Beth Israel. The keynote speaker for this near-capacity audience was University of Toronto Professor Emeritus, Michel Marrus, noted Canadian historian of the Holocaust. He stressed the importance of accurately teaching the facts of the Holocaust, the significance of remembrance, commemoration, and of paying due attention to the testimonies of Holocaust survi-

vors. Two single-marked *tallitot* that had been rescued from the ruins of a Berlin synagogue were on display, bearing witness to the horrors of Kristallnacht. The Arie Van Mansum Award for excellence in teaching about the Holocaust



November 13 - From left standing in front, Judith Lermer Crawley, Berel Rodal, Mina Cohn, Cheryl Aroosi. Standing in the back are Kenjiro Monji Ambassador of Japan and his wife.

in the classroom setting was awarded Educator Pascale Clavette who teaches Grade 8 at Ecole Gisele Lalonde.

On November 13, at the Kailish Mital Theatre, Carleton University, a gripping dramatization, *Decision: Visa for Life*, about Japanese hero, Chiune Sugihara, was staged, in partnership



November 16 - Mina Cohn presenting Cantor Kraus with a copy of his testimony.



November 16 - Tova Clark sharing her story.



November 24 - Teachers' Workshop.

with the Embassy of Japan. Sugihara was stationed as Vice-Consul in Kaunas, Lithuania, during World War II. Despite the protestations of his government, Sugihara issued more than 6,000 transit visas to Lithuanian Jews desperate to escape the grip of the Nazis. Setting the play in context, local resident Berel Rodal vividly described how Sugihara rescued his father. During the question-and-answer period following the presentation, two other children of survivors present in the audience, explained how their families found refuge in Japan and later in Shanghai thanks to Sugihara's efforts. One week later, the Japanese Embassy screened the movie, *Persona Non Grata*, a new Japanese movie about Sugihara. More than 120 people attended this event, sponsored by the Embassies of Japan, Israel, and Latvia.

On November 16, at Carleton University, participants and donors had the opportunity to view a 30-minute excerpt of the survivors' interviews videotaped in the summer of 2016. This viewing was the culmination of a major project accomplished by CHES: the videotaping of the testimonials of ten local Holocaust survivors. Those who participated include Elly Bollegraaf, Tova Clark, Judy Young Drache, Jessica Fiksel, Vera Gara, Dr. Agnes Klein, Raoul Korngold, Cantor Moshe Kraus, Kati Morrison, and David Moscovic. The ten half-hour testimonial films are available on the CHES website <<https://carleton.ca/ches/resources/ottawa-holocaust-survivors-testimonials/>> as

well as the Carleton YouTube. The videos include 2-minute sound bites that can be used in today's educational settings.

On November 24, at Temple Israel, In keeping with our commitment to educating future generations about the Holocaust, CHES hosted its first Teachers' Workshop. The theme was the Nuremberg of Hate and the Nuremberg of Justice and commemorated 80 years since the imposition of the Nuremberg laws, and 70 years since the Nuremberg trials. The workshop opened with an address by the Hon. Irwin Cotler, former Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, and Chair of the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights. Professor Cotler inspired the teachers and guests with his message on the lessons of the Holocaust. Teachers from local school boards, Ashbury College, the University of Ottawa Teachers' Education Program, and Temple Israel Religious School practiced challenging and enriching teaching activities designed for the classroom environment. The teachers appreciated the quality of the handouts and were eager to implement these teaching strategies in their own classrooms. OCDSB teacher Patrick Mascoe explained his outstanding "Tolerance Initiative" program to the teachers. His former student, Sofia Mirzayee, described how Mr. Mascoe's program affected her own life. Mr. Mascoe's project involved pairing his mostly Muslim students with their counterparts in Hillel Academy.

CHES' mandate is to offer year-round educational programs and activities in order to promote a deeper understanding of the history and legacy of the Holocaust. Its purpose is to combat prejudice and racism and promote respect for diversity, social justice and human rights. This objective is even more critical in light of the recent wave of hate crimes perpetrated in the Ottawa area towards religious institutions.

International Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony, January 27, 2017



Audience at the Commemoration of the Liberation of Auschwitz.

By Marion Silver, Secretary,
CHES Committee

On January 27, 2017, a capacity crowd filled Ottawa City Hall's Jean Piggott Hall, to commemorate the 72nd anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. The Partnerships between CHES, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, the Embassy of Israel, the Wallenberg Citation Initiative, and the Embassy of Romania, worked to create this special event. The audience included Holocaust survivors as well as diplomats representing many embassies, as well as elected officials from the Municipal, Provincial and Federal Governments.

Master of Ceremonies Daniel Stringer called upon Cantor Pinchas Levinson to open the event with the singing of "Oh Canada" and then, introduced Mayor

Jim Watson. Mayor Watson affirmed Ottawa as an open, welcoming, and inclusive city and warned of the dangers of racism and stereotyping. He referred to the recent rally held at Machzikei Hadas to underscore Ottawa's determination to combat intolerance and hatred.

Ontario Attorney General Yasir Naqvi opened his remarks with the sober reminder that anti-Semitism still exists, and that hatred of any one group is equivalent to hatred of all. He also highlighted the rally at Machzikei Hadas, noting that a peak moment occurred when all the faith leaders present gathered together on the podium and declared their commitment to work together to ensure a society of acceptance and respect for all.

Lisa McLeod MPP, Nepean-Carleton, told the audience that she first learned about the Holocaust by reading, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, when she was the

same age as Anne Frank. She recalled, to resounding applause, that the Ontario Legislature voted to reject calls for BDS* and emphasized the importance of learning from history.

Catherine McKenna, Federal Minister for the Environment, brought greetings and a message of solidarity from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. He urged Canadians to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Holocaust in order to ensure that such a travesty never happens again. As well, Ms. McKenna hailed the importance of the video testimonials of survivors recently completed by CHES and declared that forgetting the dead would be akin to killing them a second time. She implored Canadians to

take a stand against anti-Semitism, racism and prejudice.

Mina Cohn, Director of CHES, reiterated Cotler's statement that although Jews were murdered in Auschwitz, anti-Semitism did not die there. Ms. Cohn went on to explain the "We Remember" campaign, the largest ever organized commemoration on social media. She encouraged everyone to post their picture holding the sign, "We Remember", on social media with the hashtag #We Remember.

Israeli Embassy Representative Shlomit Sufa, explained that she grew up in Israel hearing stories about the Holocaust and always wondered why nothing was done to stop it. She said that in the continuing face of human suffering, we must commit ourselves to instilling the values of tolerance and decency. The lessons of the

Continued on next page.

Holocaust must include fighting bigotry and racism in all its forms.

This year, Romania is the Chair of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. Adrian Ligor, the Chargé d'Affaires from the Romanian Embassy, said the Alliance is committed to research and increasing awareness of the Holocaust. This is especially critical as the rising tide of intolerance increases the erosion of human rights.

Keynote speaker David Kilgour acknowledged the presence of Vera and George Gara, Cantor Kraus, and Ottawa-raised Canadian Jew Alex Polowin. The latter was made a member of the French Légion d'Honneur for his service during World War II. Mr. Kilgour quoted the late Elie Wiesel and illustrated how he devoted his life to perpetuating the memory of the 6 million as well as

his fight on behalf of Soviet Jewry. He insisted that we must remain united against hatred and indifference and against nations that promote intolerance and racism. He cited the sad fact that only 4,000 Jews were allowed into Canada between 1938 and 1945.

Violinist Rlitsa Tcholakova entertained the audience with two folk dances, one from Romania and one from Latvia. Strains of Klezmer heritage could be heard in these moving selections.

At the conclusion of the event, a photo of the audience holding up We Remember signs was taken.

* Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) is a Palestinian-led movement for freedom, justice and equality. BDS upholds the simple principle that Palestinians are entitled to the same rights as the rest of humanity.

CHES Committee Update

CHES is pleased to welcome three new members: Sheila Robertson, Muriel Korngold-Wexler and Gonen Sagy who all promise to enrich the work of the committee. CHES committee members are a dedicated group of volunteers committed to safeguard the memory of the past and to educate future generations. The committee represents a broad range of professionals with educational and community experience. Membership on the CHES committee is open to new members. To support CHES please visit carleton.ca/ches/donate-to-ches

Meet CHES Committee Member and Holocaust Survivor Elly Bollegraaf

If someone observed that I have led at least a double life, if not more, they would be correct. I have been splitting my time in various diverse and important preoccupations, which I have performed simultaneously. Science pulled me in one direction, while social issues took me in another. Thus, I pursued and managed to make myself as useful as I could in both. I wanted my life to be meaningful and count for something while on earth. It had to be that way.

That as a Jewish child in The Netherlands I had escaped the clutches of the Nazis was a fact I was always aware of. My life had been preserved by having been hidden by good people. I had escaped the annihilation that the majority of my extended family had not. This reality compelled me subconsciously to take on important and critical issues, to be useful to society, and to make a difference to the world by my presence.

Always intrigued by science, I pursued an education that would permit me to

work in areas I viewed as important. I succeeded in this, in part by my own choices, but also because of indirect forces that propelled me to take on increasingly demanding challenges. My lengthy career included analysis and research in Microbiology, head of National Salmonellosis Surveillance, and Influenza Surveillance in Epidemiology, and eventually, as a Scientific Evaluator of Medical Devices.

My involvement in Holocaust Education and Remembrance was not overshadowed by my career choices. This involvement started very early on because my conscience would not let it be otherwise. I joined the Ottawa Holocaust Remembrance Committee in the early 1980's and remained an active member until mid-2015. I participated in all its endeavours. I produced the Ottawa Holocaust Documentation Book, which includes case histories of over 70 Holocaust Survivors living in Ottawa and information on additional survivors



from 35 children about their survivor parents. I have written numerous articles for the Ottawa Jewish Bulletin, on the Committee's events and Holocaust-related subjects.

I organized the Ottawa Hidden Children and Child Survivors Group,

Continued on next page.

which provided members with a much-needed and gratifying opportunity to, for the first time, open up about their war-time experiences. Their participation encouraged several to go public and to speak at schools.

My becoming a member of CHES was a natural progression, as I felt that an even greater and concerted effort was required to keep the memory of the

Holocaust (Shoah) alive. Future generations must not forget the past, and by studying past historical events, and by continually reminding the public and scholars of the dangers of what went on before, society will have the educational background to react and to counter obvious and dangerous trends in society. This will hopefully prevent similar acts of discrimination, unfounded hatred,

and annihilation to happen to different components of society, in Canada and elsewhere.

It is my direct contact and personal knowledge of the Ottawa Holocaust Survivors' community, the various teachers to whose classes I have spoken, and my years of involvement on Holocaust Education, that are an important contribution to CHES.

The Speakers Bureau

Marion Silver,
CHES coordinator for
the Speakers Bureau

One of the goals of CHES is to ensure the continuity of Holocaust education through the active involvement of Holocaust survivors and their descendants.

The Speakers Bureau is comprised mainly of survivors and children of survivors who visit educational institution by invitation to speak about their personal or their parents' Holocaust survival stories.

As a direct result of the teachers Workshop CHES received two new school invitations: St. Peter High School, and Immaculata High School.

CHES Committee member, Elly Bollegraaf, visited St. Peter's High School and shared her story with over 80 students and their two teachers as well as the principal. Elly Bollegraaf lived in Holland, and was born September 19, 1940, five months after the Nazis invaded, in May 1940.

She shared her story of survival and showed pictures of where she grew up, and of family members who did not survive the Holocaust.

Following her visit Scott Searle tweeted "Elly: Thanks so much for the kind



Kati Morrison visiting Immaculata High School

words. I learned a great deal from your presentation and shared stories from your talk with many of my friends and family over the holidays. I am very glad you enjoyed the small tokens of appreciation from our school. Your talk made a tremendous impact on our students and I am very grateful that you took the time. I hope to keep in touch!"

The second visit, by Kati Morrison, was to Immaculata High School

Beth Finn, teacher at Immaculata High School, noted,

"My World Religion class had an incredible hour with Kati. They were both very touched and grateful to her for sharing her life's story. My principal was going to write something for the online

parent newsletter and when it is sent out I will be sure to forward it."

Kati Morrison shared her experience of her visit: "I used the USB of my recorded testimony. It worked out very well. I could follow the pictures in my presentation and show the students a vignette from the testimony. Immaculata students were amazing. I got a package of questions ahead of time, as I had requested; they were very thoughtful. The teachers prepared them well. Beth Finn, the teacher of World Religion who invited me, asked me back for her next class in the spring. It is uplifting to see so many interested teachers and students who want to know what happened."

Phase II Survivors' Testimony Project

As part of phase II of the Survivor Testimony Project, CHES continues to work on developing educational resource materials that will benefit not only teachers and historians but researchers of many disciplines and will create a unique Ottawa base collection of Holocaust testimonies. Additionally, as part of Phase II CHES is editing an interview with the late Dr. Erwin Koranyi.

The longterm development of these materials as education resources is of vital importance to honour the remaining survivors, to give them a voice in our community, and to combat anti-Semitism, racism and to promote tolerance.

To support CHES and its many projects, please visit <http://carleton.ca/ches/donate-to-ches/>

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