



Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies

CARLETON UNIVERSITY

Newsletter | Winter 2019

Director's Message



Each newsletter I think about my Director's Message in terms of an apropos aphorism or phrase from a Jewish text. This issue's phrase, "*Every place of study has its own innovation*," speaks to the notion of place and context. This is particularly appropriate this year as we have completed the final stages of moving into our new space on the quad in Paterson Hall. Thanks to Dean of FASS Pauline Rankin, our newly renovated space includes a small office for staff, and a central meeting space for scholars, students, and the community. We were delighted to welcome visitors to our new home (PA 220A) and to share Chanukah *sufganiyot* (traditional doughnuts) and coffee at our annual Researcher Open House which was held December 10.

As we go to press, we have just heard that this phrase has yet another resonance: Professor Emerita Aviva Freedman, the first Director of the Zelikovitz for Jewish Studies, and one of the founding members of the Jewish Studies research group that would become the centre, has just been recognized by Carleton University in being awarded the Founders Award. She is directly re-

sponsible for the space, both intellectual and physical, that the Zelikovitz Centre occupies. Her innovation, in bringing together scholars working in Jewish Studies, through teaching or research, expanded the conversation of scholarship beyond Jewish Studies in a Religion program, where the Zelikovitz Centre is a true meeting place for scholars, students, and the community. *Yasher Koach Aviva!*

Every place of study has its own innovation [BT, Hagigah 3a]

Reflecting on how we learn from, and in different spaces / places is both an opportunity and a challenge. As a professor of Jewish Studies, I want students to share my joy in scholarship. I want them to share in my delight for the complexity that is Judaism, its diversity, contradictions, and tensions. That richness is not only intellectual, it is, and has always been embodied and lived in particular times and places. Experiential learning, where students experience some aspect of what they are studying, asks learners to "**learn through** reflection on doing." In May (May 2-May 22), I traveled to Israel with my colleague Professor Mary Hale, Religious Studies, St Mary's University, Halifax, and 19 students (16 from Carleton, including 2 graduate students, from the College of Humanities, Music, Psychology, Public Policy and Administration, History, Social Work and BIGnS). The Israel Travel/Study course **Religion in Historical and Contemporary Contexts in the 'Holy Land' / Religion and Public Life in the "Holy Land"** allows students to learn experientially, engaging religion in Israel from the ancient period until the present day. And indeed, every place of study on this intensive study tour had its own innovations and afforded students

a chance to not only enrich their understanding of what we studied, but also interrupt their assumptions about that place, Israel, that most of them knew only from the headlines. Students met with lecturers and researchers from Hebrew, Tel Aviv, and Ben Gurion Universities, independent scholars, as well as representatives from religious communities across Israel (among them Muslims, Bedouins, Druze, and Christians) [see pages 7-9 for student blogs and pictures].

Expanding the boundaries of the classroom is another way of thinking about this Talmudic quote. Here I think particularly about the ways in which we at the Zelikovitz Centre are a meeting place, both on campus and in the community, for scholarship and learning. That engagement is central to CHES' mandate. We are so fortunate to have Mina Cohn leading her team of volunteers on behalf of CHES. Working with the Azrieli Foundation, CHES brought the well-known Canadian television personality and fashion entrepreneur Jeanne Beker to speak at Carleton this past June (read p.14). This year is the 80th anniversary of Kristallnacht. CHES

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Join the ZC mailing list to receive updates invitations to our future events. Please send an email to: jewish_studies@carleton.ca

arranged an important and moving program [read more on p.16]. As part of HEM, the ZC, in partnership with CHES, Temple Israel, and the Ottawa Jewish Archives created a Pop-Up Museum, which will also become a virtual museum on the ZC website in the new year. The Pop-up museum took place at Temple Israel, Nov 4 and 5, and was particularly successful in engaging young people. Kudos to student chair Lx Silver Mahr, and Temple Israel Religious School Principal Sue Potechin for their hard work and leadership. (see p.16). Guest speaker Professor Robert Ehrenreich, Director, National Academic Programs, The Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, USHMM spoke on the topic of material culture with his lecture "Let the

Artefacts Speak: Returning Humanity to Holocaust Victims." He argued for the value of artefacts and archeology in contextualizing the lives of those who lived and died during the years of the Shoah.

This year's DFL cohort is particularly strong with 6 junior interns and 3 seniors under the able leadership of Cindi Resnick and Carolyn Bickerton (see following article). They are already hard at work on their capstone project of a fundraiser for Tamir.

We are pleased to welcome back Belle Riley Thompson who is a senior DFL intern this year. The ZC is also pleased to welcome student Shaked Karabelnicoff as our social media coordinator and Carleton administrator Mirka Snopkowska as our financial coordinator for our programs,

and who has also taken on the support and maintenance of the ZC website. We also say thank you and **B'chatzlacha to those who have moved on:** Phil Angel, who was ZC's Communications Coordinator for 2 years is now fully immersed as an MSC Candidate in Zoology at UBC, and Arden Hody graduated in June with her BA from the Humanities program. Our inestimable financial administrator Christine Shay left to take on an expanded role with increased responsibility within the CHAIM Centre and the Youth Futures project. Finally, there are few better things than having a wonderful colleague to work with whose strengths support you, thank you to Susan Landau-Chark for her hard work and leadership.

Developing Future Leader's Program

The ZC is pleased to welcome back Cindi Resnick, Director, DFL and Carolyn Bickerton, DFL Seminar Facilitator.

At the close of DFL's 2017-2018 season, one query stood out from both students and the agencies with whom the students were placed. "It would be really useful to have DFL FAQs and other information in one place."

With thanks to Cindi's initiative, and DFL intern Tamar Spitzer's writing and editing skills, the interns in this year's 9th DFL cohort now have an orientation – procedures manual for DFL that targets both students and agencies. Cindi noted "the manual is a guide to policies and any FAQ's that may arise about the DFL program. It is intended to be a living document that can be revised and updated as the need arises."

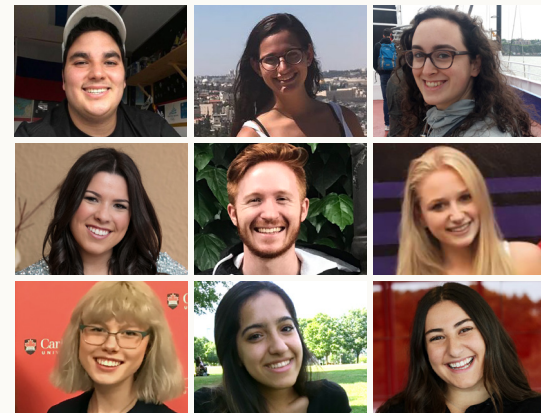
This year's cohort has nine interns - three are returning seniors: Austin Pellizer, Mushka Teitelbaum, and Belle Riley Thompson. There are six juniors: Danya Baird, Dario Chaquin, Lindsay Eiley, Rotem Fellus, Shaked Karabelnicoff, and Alexandra Silver-Mahr. Junior intern Alexandra Silver-Mahr is entering her 4th year of the Bachelor of Social Work program. This past summer she was awarded the A. Andras Memorial Award for her term project completed in RELI 3130

(Winter 2018) which explored Jewish masculinity. The podcast and website for the project "Inventing, Envisioning and Governing Jewish Masculinity" can be found here: <https://sites.google.com/view/reli-3130-final-project/home>. Lx is also this year's recipient of the Salomon (Mundi) Bergstein and Lily Porter Bergstein Memorial Bursary in Jewish Studies.

Participating agencies are the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies, Rohr Chabad Student Network of Ottawa, Embassy of Israel, Hillel Ottawa, Jewish Education through Torah (JET), Jewish Federation of Ottawa, LIMMUD Ottawa Ottawa's Jewish Home for the Aged (Hillel Lodge), and the Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies

Aside from their placements, interns are required to attend the four compulsory training sessions held during the academic year. In September the first of these four seminars took place. From all accounts the seminar was very successful, "students are keen and enthusiastic, and the year is off to a good start."

As in previous years, the introductory session provides a space for the interns to get to know one another and to share their work-related experiences. The students are asked to prepare ahead of time their responses to three questions: What was



your first job with a real employer? What was your favourite thing about it? Finally, what were the three most important things you learned?

The interns also undertake a fundraising project to support an Ottawa Jewish organization. This provides "hands-on" experience as they learn about and participate in various aspects of fundraising. This year's cohort has elected to raise special event funds for the clients of Tamir. Tamir clients enjoy movies, concerts, comic-con, and other events that are often outside their budgets. The funds raised will help them to participate in events many of us take for granted. DFL interns are planning to raise funds through a campus movie night planned for **January 31, 2019**. When you see the posters, or receive an email asking you to join their movie night, please come out, and support the students and this worthwhile cause.

Faculty Members' Corner

Presentations and Publications

Sarah Phillips Casteel, PhD
Department of English
Language and Literature



Sarah has recently developed two graduate courses relating to Jewish and Holocaust studies. Last winter she taught a seminar on “Holocaust Representation and Global Memory.” This fall, she offered a seminar on “Diaspora Theory” that takes Jewish and Black historical experiences of displacement as its starting points.

Both courses reflect Sarah’s research interest in advancing the emerging conversation between postcolonial and Jewish studies. Towards that end, she is currently co-editing with Heidi Kaufman an essay collection entitled *Caribbean-Jewish Crossings: Atlantic Literature and Culture*, which is under advance contract with the University of Virginia Press. This edited collection builds on Sarah’s 2016 book *Calypso Jews: Jewishness in the Caribbean Literary Imagination*, which won a Canadian Jewish Literary Award.

In October, Sarah was in Washington to conduct research at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum for her current book project, “Global Itineraries of Holocaust Memory: Black Victims of Nazi Persecution in Literature and Art.” In November, she drew from this project to present a paper entitled “Jazz Fiction and the Holocaust: Valaida Snow in Literary and Graphic Narrative” at the Lessons and Legacies Holocaust studies conference in St Louis.

Mira Sucharov, PhD
Department of Political
Science



Mazel tov and congratulations to Mira on receiving the following awards from Carleton University: in February she received a Teaching Development Grant through Teaching and Learning Services and in March she received a Research Productivity Bursary through the Office of the Dean, Faculty of Public Affairs.

This past September (Sept 21) she presented at An International Workshop on Post-Orientalism/Un atelier international sur le post-orientalisme, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON. The conference marked the 40th anniversary of Orientalism. Mira spoke on “Representation, Justice and Subjectivity: The Challenges and Demands of Allyship from a Public Intellectual Platform.”

Online now is her chapter entitled “Israel and the Jewish Diaspora” (September 2018) written for the *Oxford Handbook on Israeli Politics and Society* (eds. Alan Dowty, Reuven Hazan, Menachem Hofnung, and Gideon Rahat),

<http://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190675585.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780190675585-e-31>

Forthcoming (November 2018) is her article “Scholarly and Public Engagement in Jewish Politics: A Journey Through Liminal Space in Ten Short Chapters,” *SHOFAR: A Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies* 36, 3.

Ira Wagman, PhD
School of Journalism and
Communication



Ira’s most recent publication explores some of the moral and ethical questions associated with communicating in a world dominated by social media platforms. It considers how our many and varied digital devices, connected to each other through the Internet, are analogous to the third book of life that is opened on Rosh Hashonah.

Tractate Rosh Hashonah, Chapter 1: R. Kruspedai said in the name of R. Johanan:

Three books are opened on New Year’s Day: one for the utterly wicked, one for the wholly good, and one for the average class of people. The wholly righteous are at once inscribed, and life is decreed for them; the entirely wicked are at once inscribed, and destruction destined for them; the average class are held in the balance from New Year’s Day till the Day of Atonement; if they prove themselves worthy they are inscribed for life, if not they are inscribed for destruction.

This is a fascinating and thought-provoking article. It can be found here: <http://perspectives.ajsnet.org/the-oldnew-media-issue/the-facebook-of-life/>

The ZC is always pleased to showcase the awards, courses (Jewish-related), research, papers and publications of our faculty members.

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.

Awards, Presentations and Publications of our External Research Affiliates:

Judith Cohen, PhD



Ethnomusicologist, singer, performer on medieval and traditional folk instruments, teacher

This past summer Judith traveled extensively – from the northern Europe (Warsaw and Cracow) to the South (Lisbon, Zamora, Toledo, Calahorra and Leon) with a stop-over in Beijing sharing her interpretations and renditions of traditional Sephardic and Yiddish music.

She also performed and presented at a number of conferences both in Canada and Europe:

- “A Canadian Jewish Scholar-Performer Sings and Talks about Canada, Performance and Jewishness” - Performance-Talk, Association for Canadian Jewish Studies, Montreal, May 13, 2018.
- “Sephardic music from Turkey to Morocco,” The 12th Symposium of the ICTM Study Group Mediterranean Music Studies: Music and Sound at the Mediterranean Crossroads hosted by the Association Essaouira-Mogador, Dar Souiri Essaouira, Morocco, June 18-23, 2018.
- “Caminhamos e andamos”: Music and shifting identity among Portuguese B’nei Anusim,” International Conference on the Jews of Portugal and the Spanish-Portuguese Jewish Diaspora
- University of Porto, Oporto, Portugal, July 2, 2018.
- “Shared themes in Sephardic and Yiddish balladry,” Session entitled: Vernacular Musical Genres Between Tradition and Modernity. XIth Congress of the European Association for Jewish Studies, Krakow, July 15-19, 2018.
- “A Diaspora Chronicle: singing through the decades leading to Israel at 70,” Performance Talk, Israel@70: Critical Perspectives on Diaspora Relations, Identity and Antisemitism, International Symposium, York University, Toronto, October 7-9, 2018.
- “Music in the Three Religions of Medieval Iberia,” The Harry and Sylvia Rosen Symposium in Jewish Studies, Queen’s University, Kingston, Tuesday, Oct 16, 2018.
- “Portuguese and Jewish Musical Culture among Crypto-Jews in Portugal and the Diaspora.” Expressions of Lusofonia Conference, York University, Toronto, October 25 -27, 2018.

Sharon Gubbay Helfer, PhD



Oral Historian, Video Biographer, Core Member, Concordia Institute for Oral History and Digital Storytelling

(COHDS), Research Associate, Concordia Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies

A hearty *yasher koach* to Sharon, who was awarded a SSHRC Insight Development Grant (June 2018).

The grant will support the project is “Rabbis and Imams in 21st-century Montreal: Their different paths into the present, towards a shared future”. This project is under the direction of Ira Robinson at the Concordia Institute of Canadian Jewish Studies with the collaboration of Patrice Brodeur of Islamic Studies at the Université de Montréal.

Sharon is the postdoctoral researcher for the project, together with Azeddine

Hmimssa, whose expertise is in Islamic Studies focusing on issues of law, citizenship and modernity, with case studies carried out in Quebec. Azeddine Hmimssa will begin interviewing this semester. Sharon will continue to interview rabbis. To-date she has completed life story video interviews with rabbis Adam Scheier of the Shaar Hashomayim, Lisa Grushcow of the Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, Reuben Poupkof of Beth Israel Beth Aaron, David Sabbah, Grand Rabbin Séfara de du Québec and Binyomin Weiss, Chief Rabbi and Av Beth Din of the Jewish Community Council of Montreal.

Spotlight on our External Research Affiliates

Dani Kranz, PhD



Dani Kranz is the director of Two Foxes Consulting and senior research fellow at Bergische University Wuppertal, Germany. Trained in anthropology, social psychology and history, her areas of expertise cover migration, ethnicity, law, politics and processes of statehood. She has been engaged in fieldwork in Europe and the Middle East since 2002. Within these, her fields of interest, she has worked on various intersecting issues ranging from interfamilies and interchildren, citizenship to intergenerational transmission in Israel and Germany as an academic and as an applied academic. Her latest work concerns the trialectic between Jews, Muslims, and Christians in Germany, the perceptions of Israeli Jewish and Palestinian/Arab Muslim migrants as well as the Middle East conflict in Germany.

In May, Dr. Kranz was in Jerusalem the same week as students participating in the FASS/ZC travel Course Religion in Historical and Contemporary Contexts in the 'Holy Land'. Arrangements were made to meet following their tour of Yad Vashem, Dr. Kranz, drawing on her research, spoke to the students about Israeli and German society relations, including competing German perspective on the Holocaust, and issues of the politics of memory. She addressed the underlying presence of the Holocaust in many aspects of Israeli society and how it impacts domestically, as well as how it affects relationships with other countries. For example, Dr. Kranz pointed out that some Israelis continue to distrust and dislike Germans because of their role in the Holocaust, while a close relationship has developed between the two countries on other levels.

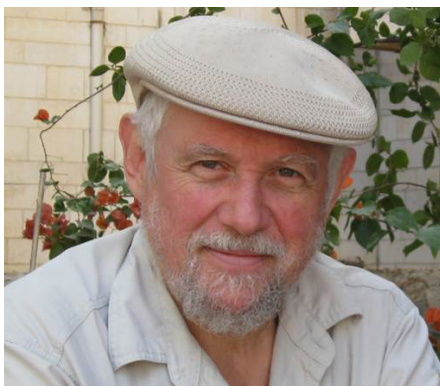
Dr. Kranz has a number of timely articles and chapters forthcoming 2018:

- The Global North goes to the Global North Minus? Intersections of Integration of non-Jewish, Highly Skilled, Female Partner/Spousal Migrants from the Global North in Israel in *International Migration Review* (forthcoming 2018)
- Navigating Mythical Time: Israeli Jewish Migrants and the Identity Play of Mirrors, in *The Future of the*

German Jewish Past: Festschrift of the Centre of German-Jewish Studies of the University of Sussex (ed.) Gideon Reuveni (forthcoming 2018)

- "German, Non-Jewish Spousal and Partner Migrants in Israel: The Normalisation of Germanness and the Dominance of Jewishness," *Journal of Israeli History* 2018, 36 (2): <https://doi.org/10.1080/13531042.2018.1548297>
- "Anthropological Perspectives on German NGOs in Israel/the Palestinian Territories in Between Jerusalem, Ramallah and Tel Aviv" in *German Political Foundations Abroad: A Kaleidoscope of Perspectives* (eds.) Anna Abelmann & Katharina Konarek. Berlin: Springer 2018. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/324800943_Foreign_NGOs_in_Israel_An_Anthropological_Perspective>
- Vom Ort des Traumas zum Ort der Sehnsüchte: Anthropologische Beobachtungen zur intergenerativen Tradierung von Trauma und Deutschsein unter Jeckes in Israel (From the Place of Trauma to the Place of Yearning: Anthropological Observations of the Intergenerational Transmission of Germanness amongst Yekkes in Israel), in *Psychotherapie im Alter*, 2018, 15 (3): 277-292.

Seymour Mayne, PhD



Kudos to Seymour Mayne of the Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program at the University of Ottawa, and external affiliate

of the ZC. The Canadian Jewish Literary Awards (CJLA) were held in October. Sponsored and administered by the Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies at York, the awards celebrate excellence in Canadian writing on Jewish themes, and cover eight categories: fiction, memoir/biography, poetry, history, scholarship, Holocaust literature, Yiddish and books for children and youth. Seymour Mayne received an award in the Yiddish category (2018) for his recent publication, *In Your Words: Translations from the Yiddish and the Hebrew* (Toronto: Ronald P. Frye and Co.). The collection offers translations from the work of

Yiddish Canadian poets, Rachel Korn, Melech Ravitch, J.I. Segal, and Abraham Sutzkever, one of the great poets of the Holocaust. Complementing the Yiddish is a selection of poetry in translation from notable contemporary Hebrew poets.

Another collection, *Dream the Living into Speech: A Selection of Poems and a Homage to Yiddish*, was recently published as a full double issue of *Shirim*, the oldest Jewish poetry journal published in English. This collection interweaves poems by the author along with translations he has rendered from the Yiddish and is

Continued on next page

Spotlight on our External Research Affiliates

interspersed with memoir passages about growing up in the Yiddish-speaking neighbourhood of Montreal in the post-war period.

His third publication this past year is *Le chant de Mose/The Song of Moses* (Montreal: Mémoire d'encrier), biblical poems translated into French by Caroline

Barry Stiefel, PhD



Associate Professor, College of Charleston, Department of Art and Architectural History, Historic Preservation & Community Planning Program.

Articles published this year are:

- Stiefel, B. (2018) "The Places My Granddad Built: Using Popular Interest in Genealogy as a Pedagogical Segue

Lavoie. Seymour notes, I was introduced to the stories of the Hebrew Bible very early—in kindergarten.... From those early years the stories of our matriarchs and patriarchs were imprinted on my imagination. What made them so vivid was their resemblance to the behaviour of my immigrant Ukrainian-Russian Jewish

to Historic Preservation", in *Human-Centered Built Environment Heritage Preservation: Theory and Evidence-Based Practice*, edited by Barry L. Stiefel and Jeremy C. Wells. New York: Routledge.

- Stiefel, B. (2018) "Experimenting with Acceptance: Jews as Aliens in the Seventeenth Century English Caribbean", in *The Torrid Zone: Colonization and Cultural Interaction in the Seventeenth-Century Caribbean*, Louis H. Roper, ed. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 162-75.

In October, Barry presented an intriguing case study "A Message from the Past: The Transformation of German-Jewish Life in Late Eighteenth Century Rural Hesse," at the conference *Agents of Cultural Change: Jewish and other Responses to Modernity, ca. 1750–1900*

family.... So, I read my family through the filter of biblical stories and I understood the tales of Genesis as they reflected family experience." This collection includes an introduction by the author and highlights English originals (with French translations) that draw on creative readings from the midrashic tradition of commentary.

International Conference German Historical Institute, Washington DC (GHI), October 8–10, 2018

The study addressed how one particular village Jewish community was affected by the modernizing world. The example Barry used, the story of the Katz barn built in 1779 in the village of Rauschenberg, in rural Hesse, Germany, was the story of his patrilineal ancestor Isaak Katz (Stiefel). Around 1812 the Katz family of Rauschenberg was forced to change their last name due to Napoleonic reforms to make Jewish families more like the local inhabitants. The new surname they chose was "Stiefel". Barry shared that when he first visited Rauschenberg in 2002, it "blew [his] mind when [he] saw the barn... which was also the exact moment that inspired [him] to consider an academic career in heritage preservation."

Zoe Thrumston, MA



The ZC is also pleased to welcome as a new external research affiliate, Zoe Thrumston, archivist at the Ottawa Jewish Archives.

Zoe's educational background is Middle Eastern Studies, Jewish Studies, and Library Science. She has a Master in Middle Eastern Studies (collaboratively

with Jewish Studies) from the University of Toronto, and a second Master's in Information Studies from the University of Ottawa. Her research focused on the intersection of Jewish and Muslim experience in the Middle East, and on the memorialization of Middle Eastern Jews in Israel.

Zoe began working with the OJA this past June and is now focusing on local Jewish history and in making Ottawa's Jewish past more accessible to the local community. On November 4th and 5th, CHES, Temple Israel Religious School, the ZC and the OJA hosted a very successful pop-up Museum at Temple Israel. The ZC was thrilled to have the OJA as one of our partners and very much appreciated the hands-on participation provided by Zoe and her volunteer, Carlie Macpherson.

The ZC Welcomes Research Affiliates

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 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.

May 2018 Israel Travel Study Course

Students participating in RELI 3850: Religion in Historical and Contemporary Contexts in the 'Holy Land' (May 2018) toured famous sites throughout Israel: Biblical Israel at the Temple Mount; origins of Christianity out of Judaism in the Galilee and in Jerusalem; Second Temple Judaism at Qumran and Masada; Rabbinic Judaism in ancient synagogues and in a special exhibit at the Israel Museum: Crusades at the ruins of a Crusader fortress; Jewish mysticism in 17th century Safed, and the Holocaust at Yad Vashem. Students were also introduced to the religious diversity in Israel by hearing from Women of the Wall, learning with local Arab, Jewish and Christian uni-

versity students, spending time with Druze and Black Jews, sharing a traditional Shabbat in Jerusalem, exploring a modern kibbutz, visiting the Baha'i Temple in Haifa, and observing the meeting of secular and religious life on the beaches of Tel Aviv.

One of the requirements was that they write several blogs to illustrate how they were connecting their readings and lectures with the sites and places they were visiting. Below are 3 excerpts: for a more complete reading, and to see all the blogs students wrote go to this link: carleton.ca/studyisrael/blogs/

Ryan Guy is in the Bachelor of Global and International Studies (BGInS) program. His participation in the Israel travel course helped him to fulfill the overseas experience requirement that is part of his program. He wrote his first blog about "Tel Maresha, Tel Lachish, Avshalom Cave, Arrival in Jerusalem."

Today was quite the adventure, and I thought it would be appropriate to start the blog here considering the ancient history which we covered. We started off with our departure from Tel Aviv Yafo, a city of rich history and beautiful beaches, making our way towards the first archaeological site of the day, Tel Maresha. To say I was in awe is an understatement. We witnessed the history of Hellenistic Jews and their life before they were wiped out by the Hasmoneans around 50 CE. We were actually able to dig out and find pieces of pottery, almost 2500 years old, which was mind-blowing. This leads to the theme which I want to centre this blog around, which is contemporary Israeli identity and history (shown through archaeology).

Since we've arrived in Israel, through our readings in Chapter 2 of the *Essential Israel: Essays for the 21st Century* book, by S. Ilan Troen and Rachel Fish, as well as lectures, I've been confronted with the idea of Jewish people "returning" to Israel, and I wasn't quite sure what it meant and certainly not the historical depth that it carried. Judging by what we have experienced, the history of Jewish people in the land of Israel has become pretty clear, and the concept of returning to the land is starting to make more and more sense, as



Students in cave dig for a day at Tel Maresha

well as the importance that it carries towards the national identity of the country. In reality, Jewish settlers have been here for 2500 years.

The history of Tel Maresha was explained to us more in our readings as well, where we learnt why the city was sacked in the first place. The city was occupied throughout 3 periods, which include the Iron Age, and the Persian and Hellenistic periods. It was destroyed by the Hasmoneans essentially because the city didn't pay their taxes, and rulers tend not to take things like that too kindly. When the city was invaded, their houses were destroyed, and their basement storage and tunnel systems were filled with rubble and pottery to prevent the land from being used in the future.

Our short visit at Tel Lachish following the dig site evoked some of the same feelings I felt walking the streets of Jaffa and digging at Tel Maresha. Old civilizations really do bring a certain feeling of nostalgia to the mind. It truly is interesting to see the remains of civilizations who were once flourishing with their individual, and also interconnected social lives. A visit to the Avshalom caves acted like a cherry-on-top of an already extraordinary day and showed me more about the different aspects of Israeli nationality, but through a different, more historical and nostalgic sense. A rich history plays a very important role in encouraging one to be proud of his/her country, I feel.

May 2018 Israel Travel Study Course

Rowan Christy who is majoring in both history and religion wrote on “The Politics of Archaeology: How the Bible Influences Projects in Israel.”

Throughout the past 11 days of the trip, Professor Butler, our guide Tikva, and speakers we’ve encountered along the way, have highlighted the importance of archaeology and its place within both the religious and public spheres in Israel. The role of the bible in archaeological digs throughout Israel is indicative of the tendency towards Jewish-oriented practices throughout other spheres of Israeli life. Strategies employed by certain archaeology organizations often involve the bible as the primary source that leads

archaeologists to certain destinations. Often deemed to be the only accurate source, this can sometimes undermine the finds uncovered at digs. During our trip, we’ve encountered two different archaeology organizations; The Sifting Project, a Jewish-based organization working on dirt remaining from the temple mount during the second Temple period, and the group Archaeological Digs, working at Tel Maresha. Beyond the initial parallels between the two groups, there is evidence of a difference in the perspective behind the digs. While participating with Archaeological Digs, the finds, which included primarily pottery and bones, were distributed into their appropriate buckets, and sent off for analysis after a thorough

sifting. The Archaeological Digs focused primarily on the historical value of the dig, and its importance to the society. Three days later, this archaeological experience was juxtaposed with The Sifting Project. The introductory lecture had a more pro-Jewish, anti-Muslim slant. At the end of the sifting portion of the tour, one of the archaeologists discussed various finds with us, immediately categorizing them into different periods, and their relationship with the Second Temple. The narratives of the two experiences contained some parallels, but different in level of biases and in some ways, the purposes of the digs.

The politics of archaeology were not only evident in these two digs, but in the relaying of information in museums and other locations we’ve visited throughout the trip. The topic has been integrated into most of the historical areas discussed by our various speakers. Dr. Butler has reminded us occasionally of the different in narrative between different information we’ve heard, which has been helpful for me to take a pause and analyze the information I’ve been accumulating. The careful relationship between religion, specifically Judaism, and archaeology can be further examined in *Essential Israel: Essays For the 21st Century*, edited by S. Ilan Troen and Rachel Fish, particularly when examining the role in biblical archeology in cementing the Jewish ties to the land. The “Holy Land” has thousands of years of historical evidence, some of which remains untouched due to the religious significance of the area.

Research from a wide variety of disciplines including biblical scholarship, archaeology, theology, history, and social sciences supported the Jews’ deep and vital historical connection to the Promised Land even as it is used today to argue competing Jewish and Arab claims to Palestine (Troen, ch. 4, pp. 81).

Lx Silver-Mahr going into her last year as an undergraduate in the School of Social work wrote one of her blogs on “Citizenship.”



Top photo: Students at the Bahai Gardens in Haifa. Bottom left photo: Anna Seguin and Rowan Christie-Day near Via Dolorosa, Jerusalem. Bottom right photo: Khadija Othman, Olivia Kirkwood, and Madeleine Carlisle at the Akko Mosque.

Continued on next page

May 2018 Israel Travel Study Course

Identity provides context. This is particularly true in the state of Israel where identity plays out publicly in all aspects of life and is the foundation upon which the country was built. I feel it is important to situate myself as a Jew living in the diaspora. This a situatedness allows me to explore what the effects of this positionality is vis-à-vis my identity. Such an exploration reveals some of the ways in which the familiar/strange, and the public/private interact to define identity.

As a Jew raised in the diaspora, it is a strange feeling to be in a place supposedly founded on my behalf. Being in Israel revealed dichotomies, such as between insider and outsider, and greatly shapes/d my experiences of the place. In many ways, being in a city like Tel Aviv can feel almost more familiar than being in a Canadian city. Civil citizenship, and cultural citizenship plays an important role in feeling connected to place. The nation of Israel, and the Jewish people, to which I feel a belonging is very different than an allegiance to the state of Israel, the county of which I am not a citizen. As such, I share civil citizenship with most people in a Canadian city, but in Israel I share a cultural citizenship with the majority as a Jew. This shared cultural citizenship creates a feeling of familiarity, as I enjoy membership in the 'tribe' so to speak. Bayme describes the concept of Jewish people being bound together internationally, through a collective heritage and shared homeland, bearing responsibility towards one another as "deeply rooted in the Jewish historical experience (Bayme 2007) This narrative is a nice, compact story. However, drawing on the heuristic of strange/familiar, what is considered familiar can be rendered strange when one starts to unpack it. Shared cultural citizenship, for example, can be teased apart upon close inspection.

Jewish culture is not monolithic, but rather a mosaic. Ashkenazi, Sephardi and Mizrahi Jews have very different cultural practices. Hasidim would have trouble seeing similarities between themselves and reform Jews, and vice versa. The idea of a totally shared cultural experience must be questioned. Nonetheless, cultural and civil citizenship intersect in Israel. As Kranz states, "Israeli

citizenship, as far as possible, is geared exclusively at individuals of familial, biogenetic Jewish descent, and it is preferable geared at Jews who are essentially Jewish in terms of having a Jewish mother to ascertain the ideal fit between religion and ethnicity (Kranz 2016)". Through the *law of return*, which requires one to have at least one Jewish grandparent, I would be eligible for an Israeli passport and civil citizenship (Divine 2017). Despite identifying and being raised as a reform Jew, I would have an easier time attaining civil citizenship in Israel than religious (cultural) citizenship because I do not have a Jewish mother. In the eyes of the rabbinate, who act as the gatekeepers to Jewish religious citizenship in Israel, I am not a Jew. Because there is no separation between religion and the state, every citizen in Israel has a registered religion and an ethnicity (Kranz 2016). There is friction and tension between both types of citizenship. In a very real sense, one can be both a Jew and not a Jew at the same time. The politics of

language in Israel is another example of how religion has influenced public life.

Those things at home, in Canada, that are kept and seen only in the context of my private sphere are displayed publicly in Israel. For example, I do not speak Hebrew, but it is a language that I grew up hearing and seeing (within the context of religious practice for the most part) in shul and at home. My experience with the language felt strange. What to me was confined to the private sphere was now on road signs and menus. Hearing Hebrew spoken everywhere made me acutely aware of how language is both intimate and shared, both foreign and familiar at the same time. In her writing on citizenship and democracy in Israel, Divine states "language is an instrument of identity formation, and the capacity to use it in public life is critical to defining a community and safeguarding traditions (Divine 2017)". With a shared language, shared cultural bonds are possible.



Participating in the Sifting Project - Sam Henderson, Olivia Kirkwood, and Emily Charman

Congratulations to Professor Emerita Dr. Aviva Freedman

The ZC congratulates Professor Emerita Dr. Aviva Freedman on winning the Founders Award.

The Founders Award is Carleton University's highest non-academic honour recognizes and pays tribute to the individuals who have made significant contributions to the advancement of Carleton University through their dedication, generosity and commitment to the values of the university.

Throughout her teaching career, Aviva Freedman has been the recipient of awards and accolades from Carleton University in recognition of her excellence in teaching, her dedicated service to the university and for her unwavering support to students.

Much of her research and scholarship

is devoted to understanding the nature of teaching and learning at the academic and professional levels and to expanding possibilities for all students.

In 2006, through the generosity of the Zelikovitz Family, Dr. Freedman initiated the incorporation of the Carleton Jewish Studies Research Centre into the newly formed Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies.

In 2013, under her guidance, the status of the Zelikovitz Centre again changed to become a Carleton University Research Centre.

Her support through these years has been immeasurable and the ZC is pleased that Dr. Freedman has retained her connection with the ZC as a member of its Academic Advisory Board.



Join Professor Deidre Butler on a trip to Israel for course credit in May 2020!

Students will learn through a geographical exploration of famous sites all over Israel: Biblical Israel at the Temple Mount; origins of Christianity out of Judaism in the Galilee and in Jerusalem; Second Temple Judaism at Qumran and Masada; Rabbinic Judaism in ancient

synagogues and in a special exhibit at the Israel Museum: Crusades at the ruins of a Crusader fortress; Jewish mysticism in 17th century Safed; the Holocaust at Yad Vashem. We will also learn about religious diversity in Israel by hearing from Women of the Wall, learning with local Arab,

Jewish and Christian university students, spending time with Druze and Black Jews, share a traditional Shabbat in Jerusalem, explore a modern kibbutz, visit the Baha'i Temple in Haifa, and observing the meeting of secular and religious life on the beaches of Tel Aviv.



SAVE THE DATE

The ZC Annual Graduate Student Colloquium is taking place April 12, 2019.

The Theme of this year's conference is "Religion Out of Bounds". Co-chairs are Erin Roberts and Alexandra Valeriote. The call for papers will be out in the New Year.

Words from the Director



Mina Cohn

Established in Ottawa almost three years ago, CHES has been incredibly busy offering creative and inspired educational programs and meeting a critical need for Holocaust Education. By enriching the conversation around Holocaust history, anti-Semitism, and intolerance, CHES is having a profound impact on our community.

Each and every program produced by CHES has been exceptional. I want to thank our esteemed committee for their dedication, ideas, and hard work. A big “thank you” to all our donors. Your support enables us to create our incredible programs. It is time to look ahead in hopes that CHES continues to thrive. We believe the community appreciates our work and supports CHES becoming a lasting organization in the capital. For this to happen, CHES needs support for a serious fundraising drive. More on this in the future.

Given mounting anti-Semitism and racism, Holocaust Education Month (HEM)

in November focused on commemorating Kristallnacht with the theme: *The 80th Anniversary of Kristallnacht: What Shards Remain?* Also known as the Night of Broken Glass, Kristallnacht remains notorious for violent attacks on Jewish businesses, homes, and synagogues across Nazi Germany on November 9th and 10th, 1938, setting off an explosion of human destruction that became the Holocaust. HEM programs were open to the whole community and were free. See below for details.

The demand for speakers in educational intuitions has increased considerably with recent requests coming from as far away as Brockville and Kingston. Kingston is an interesting example of how CHES fulfills its mission. I was approached by Melissa Greenberg, a concerned parent, and by Talya McKenna, the principal of Kingston Collegiate and Vocational Institute (KCVI). Both were at a loss trying to deal with an increase in anti-Semitism in their city.

Dr. Robert Ehrenreich of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum who was visiting us in Ottawa that week, agreed on the spur of the moment, to travel to Kingston on our behalf where he addressed over 100 students at the KCVI and over 135 students at Queens’ University. We thank Robert for taking up this important call.

To further address the growing signs of anti-Semitism within the community, a week later, on Nov 13 David Moskovic visited KCVI, a large public high school in Kingston. David is an Auschwitz Holocaust survivor and a member of our Speakers’ Bureau (David’s testimony was recorded by CHES in 2016). David gave two presentation and addressed over 1000 students divided into juniors Grades 9 and 10, and seniors Grades 11 and 12 - at Kingston Collegiate & Vocational Institute. From the responses we received from the

school and from David, it is clear that David’s presentations made a profound difference in the life of KCVI students. The students were grateful for the opportunity to meet him and learn about his survival story and the life lessons which he shared with them.

In mid-August, **Blair Crawford**, a journalist at the *Ottawa Citizen*, shared information about a fashion shoot at the National Holocaust Monument. Following our conversation, I informed Heritage Canada and the National Capital Commission, the organization responsible for the monument. I am thankful to the people who cared and brought the incident to the attention of the *Citizen*. Architect **Daniel Libeskind**’s powerful design is meant to make the visitor feel the weight of the past. It is difficult to comprehend the thinking behind such disrespectful activity on the grounds of a memorial site. The *Citizen* article on August 16th attracted much attention and was followed by interviews on *CTV Evening News* and on Toronto’s *Global News* on radio.

To read the *Citizen* article visit <https://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/national-holocaust-monument-fashion-shoot-a-desecration-of-a-sacred-site-jewish-leaders>

.... Much gratitude and appreciation to Mina Cohn at CHES, KCVI’s Principal Talya McKenna and her staff VP Margaret Connelly, and of course our guest speaker David Moskovic with wonderful support from his partner Ruth Caloff. After his talk, I was crying in his arms, when he and I turned to face a flood of students. They were all lined up to meet and hug him. Brushing off my tears, I whispered to David, “Look, you created leaders ... you just changed the world”.

Melissa Greenberg
Kingston.

...I wanted to let you know what an impact David Moskovic’s talk had on our student body, staff and our leadership team. He was incredible. He had a lineup of about 50+ students that wanted to give him a hug and to say thank you for telling his story. It was an emotional day for all, but his legacy and story will carry on for many years to come.

Thank you for your support. We appreciate it more than you will ever know.

Kind Regards,
Talya McKenna
Principal: Kingston Collegiate
& Vocational Institute



David Moskovic with students at KCVI, visit to Kingston.

CHES' Busy Spring

By Mina Cohn
and Judy Young Drache

CHES was invited to create two educational programs to complement the MS St Louis exhibition at the Canadian War Museum. They included **Dr. Diane Afoumado's** lecture on the MS. St. Louis and **David Moskovic's** eyewitness account of the Holocaust. It was a pleasure working with **Avra Gibbs Lamey, Rachel Locatelli, Ashlee Beattie, Jeff Noakes**, and the Museum staff who were involved in coordinating these events, both of which were unique and interesting. The museum's auditorium was filled to capacity and the feedback CHES received was excellent, leading us to believe the presentations resonated with all museum visitors.

Dr. Afoumado's presentation on The MS St. Louis

"We are equally grateful to CHES for partnering with the Museum in the development and presentation of such meaningful programming around the MS St. Louis exhibition; the attendance and visitor engagement certainly attested to the importance and added value of each event. It was a true privilege to work with you and your team, and to meet such inspiring people. We look forward to the next opportunity of working with you again soon," wrote **Caroline Dromaguet**, Acting Director General, Canadian War Museum.

Dr. Diane Afoumado of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) was thought-provoking as she detailed the St. Louis story, from the historical background, through the voyage from Germany and the terrible return to Europe, with praise for **Captain Gustav Schroeder**, who took seriously his responsibilities to deliver the passengers safely to their destination. He did everything he could to let them disembark on the North American continent once Cuba refused admittance, even though they had visas. He tried especially hard with the American government, but it too refused to admit the refugees.

Of the many questions from the audience, one raised the issue of Canada's role in the affair. It is known that, although the St. Louis

did not seek Canadian help, while the ship was off the Florida coast, various prominent Canadians, led by historian and professor **George Wrong**, telegraphed a petition to **Prime Minister Mackenzie King** to allow the refugees to land in Canada. Because of bureaucratic responses and delays, that effort came to nothing.

Frederick Blair, director of the Government of Canada's Immigration Branch from 1936 to 1943, pointed out that "no request was made by the ship and so far as we know, by the passengers, for their landing in Canada."

Blair developed and rigorously enforced strict immigration policies based on race and is most remembered for his successful effort to keep Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany out of Canada during the 1930s and the war years that followed ... His rigorous enforcement of anti-Semitic immigration policies sealed the fate of thousands of European Jews who would have escaped death had Canada not turned them away."

A quote from Blair written during the St. Louis crisis remains the best-known summary of Canada's response: "It is manifestly impossible for any country to open its doors wide enough to take in the hundreds of thousands of Jewish people who want to leave Europe: the line must be drawn somewhere."

This rigid attitude towards the enforcement of the exceedingly restrictive immigration policies of Depression-era Canada formed the crux of the brief and exclusionary advice sent by **Undersecretary for External Affairs O.D Skelton** back to King on 9 June.

For more information on the Canadian response see pier21.ca/research/immigration-history/canada-and-ms-st-louis

An Evening with David Moskovic

The second program, held in a packed Barney Danson Theatre, was dedicated to the eyewitness account of Holocaust survivor **David Moskovic**.

When the Nazis came to power in 1933, the fates of David and his family were sealed as the world turned a blind eye to the gathering storm. The family was ultimately sent from their home in Czechoslovakia to Auschwitz,

where most perished. With unflinching clarity, David described 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.

To listen to David's interview with **Robyn Bresnahan** of *CBO Morning* visit www.cbc.ca/listen/shows/ottawa-morning/segment/15540220 or read ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/surviving-auschwitz-ottawa-man-who-endured-horrors-now-has-beautiful-life

David's sense of humour and astonishing memory stimulated and intensified the audience's interest in his story.

The screening of his testimonial video, one of ten produced by CHES in 2016, was followed by a conversation between David and **Dr. Jennifer Evans**, Professor, Department of History, Carleton University and a member of the College of New Scholars, Royal Society of Canada. Dr. Evans spoke about "The Enduring Importance of Eyewitness Accounts", using testimonies and other firsthand documents such as diaries and letters in teaching the Holocaust. She gave an overview of the history of collecting Holocaust eyewitness accounts.

Tristan Seely, a 14-year-old student at Glebe Collegiate High School and grandson of CHES executive committee member **Judy Young Drache**, was in the audience. He said he learnt a lot from seeing the video and then hearing the story from the survivor. It was "an emotional experience that carried into the next day, the next, and the next," he said.

Panel Discussion on Parliament Hill - April 16

By **Annette Wildgoose**

CHES was invited by the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs to participate in the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Prevention of Genocide and Other Crimes Against Humanity. The panel discussion was held on April 16th. This Parliamentary Group was established in 2006 by **Lieutenant-General Roméo Dallaire**, author and retired senator. Its mandate is to address warning signs of genocide and to ensure that Canadian parliamentarians have the resources and information required

Continued on next page

to address global genocide conflicts. It also facilitates ongoing educational presentations of national and international associations and is academically supported by the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies at Concordia University.

The discussion was moderated by

John Young, CEO and President of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, and included representatives from the following associations:

- CHES: **Annette Wildgoose**, executive committee member
- The Armenian National Counsel of Canada: **Alan Whitehorn, PhD**
- The Ukrainian Canadian Congress and the Holodomor Research and Education Consortium: **Marta Baziuk**, Executive Director
- The Humura Association: **Oscar Gasana**, President

The panelists provided introductory comments on the importance of “Never Again” and presented their key projects and research associated with genocide education. They then engaged in an interactive question-and-answer session with parliamentarians. This forum provided an excellent platform to share our collective knowledge and experience to further support the need for ongoing genocide education and outreach.

One Farewell, One Welcome

We wish **Toby Herscovitch** and her husband, David, all the best on their recent move to Toronto. Born in Montreal, Toby, the child of two survivors, joined CHES in 2017. Always ready to get involved, she became a member of the CHES 2nd G subcommittee, wrote articles, edited CHES materials, created guidelines for various activities, and lent a hand in organizing events. “Toby has great ideas which she develops into a plan of action and is very flexible and easy to work with,” said Mina. “We miss Toby and hope to continue working with her long distance.”

Added **Sharon Rosenberg**: “I coordinated a number of CHES events and Toby was always my right-hand person, ready, willing, and able to take on any task. Working with her was a distinct pleasure. At committee meetings, she was always engaged and often came up with interesting ideas. The many articles she wrote about CHES programs enhanced our profile in the community.”

A warm welcome to **Abigail Bimman** who recently moved back to Ottawa to join the Global National team as a parliamentary

correspondent. Abigail has long been interested in Holocaust education. She has volunteered with the Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre in Toronto and worked at the Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies while she was studying journalism at Carleton University.

Ottawa-Carleton District School Board Board-Wide Professional Development Day - April 27

By **Minda Chakin** and **Mina Cohn**

For the second time, CHES was invited to present a workshop for OCDSB teachers. Our world is dependent on teachers to empower young people to make a difference and create a more compassionate and humane society.

We chose to address the Testimonial Project and the future of Holocaust education. The workshop included a discussion about the importance of firsthand accounts and primary sources 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 or her personal story. Most importantly, testimonials establish a human connection and help turn the Holocaust from an abstract concept to an experience realized through the lives of real people. By showing that the victims are not so different from us, we encourage students to foster empathy and understanding to an extent that would otherwise not be possible.

Eighteen history teachers attending the workshop and listened attentively to Mina's presentation. She quoted

Dr. Michael Berenbaum, a scholar, professor, rabbi, writer, filmmaker, and a founder of the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. “I wish I was dealing with a subject that is irrelevant. We teach not because we believe the world learned something but because we cannot live in a world that forgets events like the Holocaust.”

Mina went on to say that using primary sources allows students opportunities to see those who were persecuted by the Nazis not as a mass of victims but as individuals. Using case studies, survivor testimonies, letters, and diaries from that time illustrates the human experience.

Today's generation is the last one to hear firsthand testimony from Holocaust survivors. There is no substitute for the survivors' personal accounts of the horrors and trauma

of the Holocaust.

After presenting a viewing of the short excerpts of the survivors' testimonials, Mina emphasized CHES' hope that these short films will become oral historical resources that will allow future generations of students, researchers, teachers, and others to hear, see, and learn directly from those who were there.

Minda spoke about the CHES Speakers Bureau and our previous educational workshops and invited the teachers to the November HEM workshop. They were also encouraged to make use of our Speakers Bureau. The teachers were highly interested in both endeavours and were very engaged in the material. Many have already requested a survivor's visit to their classroom.

DFL Senior Intern Belle Riley Thompson comments on Dr Helmut Walser Smith's talk Nov 29

On Thursday November 29th, Dr. Helmut Walser Smith, Martha Rivers Professor of History at Vanderbilt University spoke at Carleton University in a talk about the November Pogrom of 1938.

The November Pogrom of 1938, the Night of Broken Glass, was one of the decisive moments of the history of the Third Reich.

Dr. Walser Smith spoke on how The November Pogrom of 1938, the Night of Broken Glass, became part of the collective memory of Germans in the Federal Republic in the postwar years.

“Past is prologue” Dr. Walser Smith began. In history, there is a past and a present that we must pay attention to.

Touching on the notion of memory, Dr. Walser Smith noted that this is no longer the right vocabulary to use. As the 18-year olds of the war, now well into their 90s undoubtedly have gaps in their memories and how they remember. Historians are also grappling with the challenge of how to properly remember the Pogrom when clearly it was not the worst disaster of the time, the genocide was.

The talk, which lasted about an hour, concluded with a lively question and answer period with some of the members of the audience.

The event, which was open to the public, was hosted by the History Department, EURUS, the Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies, and the Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Apology

The Honorable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister Canada, delivered an apology on behalf of the Canadian government, regarding the denial of entrance to Canada, to Jewish refugees on board the MS St. Louis. His apology on November 7th, came at a most appropriate time as we marked the 80th anniversary of

Kristallnacht. Annette Wildgoose is a dedicated member of CHES. Her mother, Alice Meister, was one of the passengers on the St. Louis. The apology is truly special for Annette and for all other Canadian descendants of the St. Louis.

We thank the Prime Minister for making this apology a priority for Canada. As

proud Canadians, we feel an apology such as this brings remembrance to the forefront of our minds; it reminds us to stay vigilant and to never forget.

See below programs about the MS St. Louis. To read the Prime Minister's apology visit: www.youtube.com/watch?v=WTQGr4OBEGE.

In Conversation with Jeanne Beker—June 11th

A diverse and engaged audience gathered to hear Jeanne Beker, a Toronto-based daughter of survivors and a celebrated Canadian media personality, fashion editor, author, and newspaper columnist. Entertaining and educational, the evening paid tribute to Beker's parents, leaving the audience impressed, moved, and inspired by Jeanne.

Following an emotional reading by Jeanne from her parent's memoir, *Joy Runs Deeper*, Jody Spiegel, Director of Holocaust Survivor Memoir Programs at the Azrieli Foundation, interviewed her



With Jeanne Beker (fourth from right) at the end of the evening.

on stage. Serious and sincere, educational and entertaining, dynamic and personable, Jeanne had the audience laughing

and crying. CBC reporter Jody Trinh was the MC for the evening which concluded with a reception and a book signing. Each member of the audience received a copy of the memoir, which included a personal dedication by Jeanne, who took the time to listen and respond to each and every person in the lengthy lineup. So many people came up to us to say what a wonderful evening it had been.

The event was made possible thanks to the generous support of the Azrieli Foundation which partnered with CHES to bring Jeanne to Ottawa.

To read the article in the *Exchange* visit: cija.ca/jeanne-beker/ and the *Ottawa Citizen* visit: ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/fashionista-jeanne-beker-calls-her-parents-holocaust-stories-a-family-legacy

To view her interview on CTV visit: carleton.ca/ches/news/

The event was filmed and can be viewed on the CHES website: carleton.ca/ches/videos/



Jeanne Beker and Jody Spiegel in conversation

Luncheon Honoring our Survivors Kehillat Beth Israel Synagogue

By Kathy Clark

In the spirit of hospitality, CHES hosted a Sukkot luncheon for Shoah survivors and 2nd and 3rd generation descendants on September 27th at Kehillat Beth Israel Synagogue.

The event, attended by close to 100 people, was informative and a wonderful opportunity for Ottawa-area survivors and descendants to meet, connect, and share experiences.

The luncheon was opened by CHES director **Mina Cohn** who warmly welcomed everyone, introduced the survivors, and highlighted some of CHES's achievements over the past year focusing on keeping the memory of the Holocaust alive. She was followed by **Rabbi Eytan Kenter** of Kehillat Beth Israel Synagogue who spoke about the meaning of Sukkot. **Minda Chaikin** read a message by **Edit Kuper**, co-president of The Canadian Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Descendants who was not able to attend the luncheon. *Edit Kuper lives in Montreal and is working to form a 2nd G. group in her city. Edit is the Immediate Past Co-President of the Dora Wasserman Yiddish Theatre of Montreal.* The audience then watched a thought-provoking TEDx talk by **Dr. Deborah E. Lipstadt** on Holocaust denial. Ottawa teacher **Patrick Mascoe** gave a brief talk highlighting his work with young people and stressing the importance of Holocaust/character education. He pointed out that character education is emphasized throughout Ottawa

schools and that children today are more open and have the tools to stand up for human rights.

Afterwards everyone had a chance to mingle and to enjoy a delicious lunch catered by Creative Kosher Catering.

Dr. Peggy Kleinplatz, herself 2nd Generation, spoke about her research project investigating the history of coerced medical interventions during the Shoah. She is trying to reach as many survivors as possible and invited the audience to contact her with any pertinent information. In closing, Mina thanked everyone for attending and highlighted upcoming events organized by CHES. Everyone

present expressed sincere appreciation of such gatherings and for the valuable work being done by CHES and voiced the need for more such events. Several 2nd and 3rd Generation descendants expressed an interest in working with CHES.

To read more about the survivor's luncheon please visit: www.facebook.com/CHESATCARLETON/photos/a.463801710489134/929917410544226/?type=3&heater

To read Edit Kuper message to CHES: <https://carleton.ca/ches/2018/a-message-from-edit-kuper-co-president-of-canadian-jewish-holocaust-survivors-and-descendants-cjhds/>



Patrick Mascoe addressing survivors and descendants

Stimulating Events Characterized HEM 2018

November 4th: Temple Israel was the scene of a “Pop-Up Museum” with a display of Holocaust artefacts provided by community members. Rabbi Morais of Temple Israel was behind the idea for the Pop-Up Museum. The event was open to the public. 47 Artifacts were shown including artifacts, documents, letters, books, movies, short videos, a Tora Scroll, and a Tallit rescued from a synagogue in Berlin.

November 5th: The “Pop-Up Museum” viewing continued, followed by a public well attended lecture by **Dr. Ehrenreich** on material culture and the Holocaust a with a Q/A. Artifacts from the Pop-Up Museum will be available online.

To read about the “Pop-Up Museum” please visit www.ottawajewishbulletin.com/2018/09/ehrenreich-helps-artifacts-speak-for-holocaust-victims-ottawa-community-asked-to-submit-artifacts-for-pop-up-museum/

Listen to Mina Cohn’s interview with Alan Neil of All in A Day: carleton.ca/ches/2018/radio-interview-pop-up-museum/

November 7th: To honour the special anniversary of Kristallnacht, the launch event of HEM, held at Kehillat Beth Israel Synagogue, featured a keynote address by **Dr. Michael Berenbaum** on the topic of *Kristallnacht: The End of the Beginning and the Beginning of the End*. Dr. Berenbaum is a writer, lecturer, teacher, and consultant in the conceptual development of museums and the development of historical films and is the director of the Sigi Ziering Institute, an institution dedicated to Jewish life and the Jewish future and situated within the American Jewish University.

A highlight of the evening was a unique performance by classical violinist, soloist, and chamber musician **Niv Ashkenzi** on one of the “Violins of Hope” that survived the Holocaust and were lovingly restored by Israeli luthier **Amnon Weinstein**.



Setting up the Pop Up Museum



The Pop Up Museum

The violins reflect the Jewish culture before the Holocaust and the suffering of those who played them during the Holocaust. Special thanks to Amnon for his guidance in bringing one of the violins to Ottawa. Niv holds both a B.M. and an M.M. from The Juilliard School, where he was a student of **Itzhak Perlman** and **Glenn Dicterow**.

You can read more about the 80th an-

niversary of Kristallnacht keynote address and the Violin of Hope at: www.glebereport.ca/2018/10/violins-of-hope-reclaiming-a-lost-heritage/ or at ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/you-get-to-keep-that-voice-alive-violin-reclaimed-from-holocaust-will-be-played-at-ottawa-event-to-mark-kristallnacht-anniversary

Continued on next page

From Participant at the 2018 Nov 7th Launch Event:

"I found the whole event, particularly the lecture by Prof. Berenbaum, to be incredibly stimulating and thought-provoking. Attending such profound lectures is such a pleasure."

Andrew Kavchak

"What an evening! Excellent. So moving. Great speakers and wonderful violinist playing on the 'Violin of Hope'. Congrats to the committee."

Marsha

"The speeches were amazing and the violin recital by Niv Ashkenazi was magnificent. The music was haunting - all the more so considering this was a 'Violin of Hope.' We are so grateful for the warm reception we received and for the great seating arrangements."

Irene Kibel (Saint Patrick Basilica)

Also read Descendant Blog #3 by **Danny Globerman** a former CBC News journalist. carleton.ca/ches/2018/descendants-of-holocaust-survivors-blog-3/

November 10th: Under the sponsorship of the German Embassy, and in cooperation with the Embassy of Israel, the German National Youth Orchestra, and the Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship (CHES), the German National Youth Orchestra (Bundesjugendorchester) performed Holocaust related music by a variety of composers, including some who were killed in the Holocaust. Participants in the Youth Orchestra chose the musicians and music pieces for the concert. Before playing each piece, they shared information about the fate of each of the composers with the audience.

Ambassador Sabina Sparwasser's opening remarks focused on Kristallnacht and the crimes committed by the Nazis as well as the responsibility Germany has with regards to the future. Justices Rosalie Silberman Abella who is a daughter of survivors, was the keynote speaker. In her concluding words, as she spoke about our responsibility to make sure we leave a better world to our children and grand-

children than the world her parents had to face, she moved the audience to tears. CHES thanks Ambassador Sparwasser for bringing young talented and sensitive musicians to Ottawa.

November 18th: March of the Living (MOL) Ottawa is collaborating with The Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship (CHES) on a joint project to present a lesson in Holocaust Education at the students' schools. Thirteen Ottawa participants of the 2018 March of the Living (MOL) Program met with five local Holocaust survivors, among them Kati Morrison, Judy Young Drache, Elly Bollegraaf, David Moskovic and Raoul Korngold. All five were among the survivors whose testimonials were recorded by CHES in 2016 (carleton.ca/ches/ottawa-holocaust-survivors-testimonials). Raoul Joined the students from Vancouver via Skype.

The thirteen students who are from several public schools in Ottawa included Neilah Shapiro, Emily Shinder, Stephanie Ages, Ben Dodek, Oren Baray, Dalia Feldberg, Dalia Miller, Daniella Springer, Rachel Goldfield, Adam Freedman, Anne Khazzam, Allison Sedlezky, and Sydney Leith. Nathan Cantor and Dani Taylor are leading this project.

The first meeting was very rewarding for the students and survivors alike. All participants are looking forward to working together on this meaningful project.

November 29th: The 2018 Teachers' Workshop was presented by CHES in cooperation with *Facing History and Ourselves* (FHAO). School outreach and teachers' workshops provide educational and enrichments opportunities for teachers. Pedagogical materials are produced using Ottawa Boards' of Education high school guidelines with excellent outcomes. In line with our theme, *The 80th Anniversary of Kristallnacht: What Shards Remain?* the workshop helps teachers to explore the complexities of Kristallnacht in their classrooms. FHAO's mission is to guide students of diverse backgrounds through an examination of racism, prejudice, and anti-Semitism in order to promote the development of a more humane and informed citizenry. By studying the historical development of the Holocaust and other examples of genocide, students are expected to make the essential connection between history and the moral choices they confront in their own lives. The workshop is designed to interest middle high school English, literature, history, and social science teachers.



MOL and survivors

A Blog for Descendants

CHES has launched a blog for descendants of Holocaust survivors. A timely and appropriate project, the blog is intended to help engage descendants with the work of CHES and to provide the children of Holocaust survivors (2nd and 3rd G) with informative and helpful material. The blog is an easy tool for facilitating feedback about topics of interest and importance to descendants.

Our first blog writer was **Dr. Art Leader**, a trained fertility specialist who recently retired. As a child of two Holocaust survivors, he has a strong interest in increasing CHES' profile in the community as well as engaging with other local descendants. He is a member of the founding committee of CHES.

"How are we, the survivors' children, to make sense of what it means to be living as Jews in the comfort of the twenty-first century, without any possible feel or limited knowledge of what it took to exist under the circumstances of total hatred and Nazi occupation?" To read Dr. Leader's blog please visit: carleton.ca/ches/descendants-blog/

The second blog was written by **Kathy Clark**, an Ottawa author who has written two novels for young adults based on the experiences of her parents in Hungary during the Holocaust. To read her blog, please visit: carleton.ca/ches/2018/descendants-of-holocaust-survivors-blog-2/

The third blog was written by **Danny Globerman** a former CBC News journalist. To read his blog, please visit: carleton.ca/ches/2018/descendants-of-holocaust-survivors-blog-3/

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