## JEWISH NATIONAL FUND OF CANADA

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### THE STEPHEN J. HARPER HULA VALLEY BIRD SANCTUARY VISITOR & EDUCATION CENTRE



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INCLUDING A JEWISH HERITAGE VISIT TO ROME AND FLORENCE

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#### HIGHLIGHTS

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- GREAT SYNAGOGUE/JEWISH MUSEUM
- JEWISH GHETTO
- SPANISH STEPS
- VATICAN WITH SPECIAL FOCUS ON JEWISH ASPECTS
- ROMAN FORUM, TREVI FOUNTAIN, COLISEUM

#### FLORENCE

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- TEMPLE ISRAELITICO/MUSEUM OF JEWISH ART,
- UFFIZI GALLERY AND ACADEMY GALLERY

#### FLIGHTS

TORONTO/ROME VIA AIR CANADA Rome/Israel via el al Israel/Toronto via air canada

#### ISRAEL

- UNIQUE VISIT TO THE ARAVA
- EVENING CONCERT IN THE DESERT
- SPECIAL TASTING TOUR MACHNE YEHUDA
- SHARONA
- TUNISIAN SYNAGOGUE
- LUXURY SPA RELAXATION

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### NATIONAL PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



FRANK A. WILSON NATIONAL PRESIDENT



Welcome to the spring edition of Roots! We are looking forward to all of the exciting events, missions and projects taking place this year.

In the pages ahead you will have an opportunity to see the work JNF does across Canada and Israel. These initiatives are successful because of the support and generosity from our donors and volunteers. Your time, effort and resources continue to help us build Israel through JNF.

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We have had a very exciting 6 months. Our national Gilad Schalit tour, the Negev Dinner in Toronto honouring Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his recent visit to Israel, and our Tu Bi'Shevat telethons have culminated into an outstanding year for JNF.

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We are thrilled to be part of an organization whose 113-year-old mandate is to be the sole agency responsible for the development and infrastructure of land in Israel. As JNF grows, we are able to connect the community and our friends with Israel. Thank you to our thousands of donors across Canada. Your donations today continue to help build Israel for future generations.

As Pesach approaches, we would like to wish you and your family a Chag Pesach Kosher V'Sameach – a Happy and Healthy Passover.

Please share your feedback with us. Email us at roots@jnf.ca

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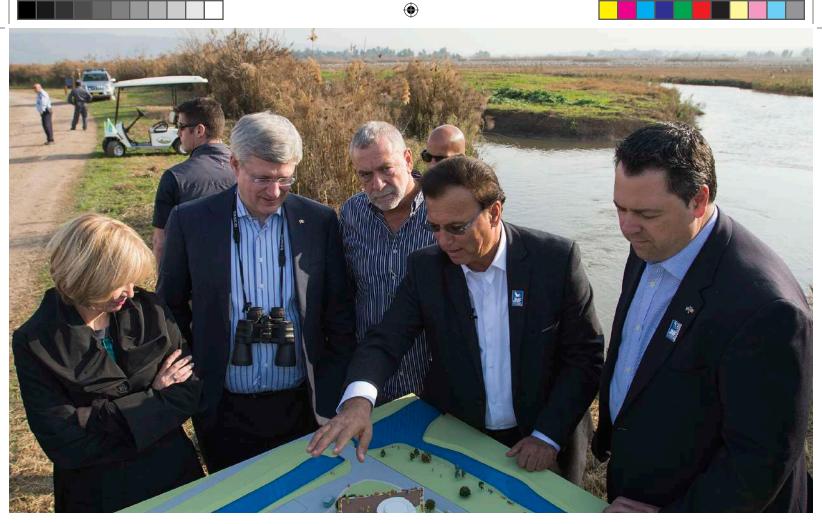
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## PRIME MATIONAL FUND JOINS PRIME MINISTER HARPER'S MISSION TO ISRAEL

Jewish National Fund of Canada and Karen Kaymeth L'Israel (KKL) were honoured to participate in the delegation that accompanied Prime Minister Harper on his mission to Israel. This was a once in a lifetime opportunity and it was evident that the experience had a profound impact on the delegates and the Prime Minister.

For many, the highlight was the Prime Minister's speech at the Knesset which was the first time that a Canadian Prime Minister had addressed Israel's parliament. When Prime Minister Harper said that Canada will stand by Israel "through fire and water", there was an eruption of applause and all of the Canadian delegates were beaming with pride. Before his speech, Prime Minister Harper was presented with a key to the Knesset, which was a first for a visiting world leader.

KKL hosted a dinner for the delegates and supporters with Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Mrs. Laureen Harper, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and Mrs. Sara Netanyahu. Following the dinner, Prime Minister Harper surprised the guests and went on stage to perform a three-song set while everyone cheered and sang along.

A special moment for the JNF delegation was the cornerstone laying ceremony at the Hula Valley. Josh Cooper, CEO of JNF Canada and Efi Stenzler, World Chairman of KKL, both expressed their gratitude to the Prime Minister for accepting to serve as the 2013 Toronto Negev Dinner Honouree which raised the necessary funds to build the Stephen J. Harper Hula Valley Bird Sanctuary Visitor & Education Centre. It was also announced that the auditorium in the facility will be named in honour of Laureen Harper. The mission was a phenomenal experience for everyone and it was deeply gratifying to see the Prime Minister so delighted with the Hula Valley and his project.



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**Arriving in Israel** 

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Prime Minister Harper addressing the Knesset



Visiting the Hula Valley Bird Sanctuary Visitor & Education Centre



**Cornerstone ceremony** 



**Receiving Honorary Doctorate from Tel Aviv University** 

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Visiting Yad Vashem



PHOTO CREDIT: PMO PHOTOS BY JASON RANSOM

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## MEET OUR PRESIDENTS



**ILENE-JO BELLAS, VANCOUVER** This past year has been fulfilling for JNF Vancouver. We held a successful Negev Dinner in June honouring the IDF and its Heroes. Brigadier General Avigdor Kahalani, the hero of the 6 Day and Yom Kippur Wars, was moving and the evening ended with everyone singing and dancing with the IDF Chorus. This event was well attended and was one of the main highlights in my past two years as President. The Simchat Torah weekend with Gilad Schalit where over 850 people attended was also a monumental occasion in our community. I am very proud to be part of JNF Canada and to be able to see our supporters grow. Attending the Harper Dinner in Toronto was proof that there is support for Israel in Canada and the JNF has helped make it happen.



**AARON BICKMAN, CALGARY** Aaron was born and raised in Calgary, Alberta. Aaron's parents founded his love for Israel at an early age and this love was developed and nurtured through his education (he attended the Calgary Hebrew School/Calgary Jewish Academy from pre-school through junior high). He joined the JNF Calgary Board of Directors in August of 2012 and became Board President in September of 2013. Aaron is a partner with McLeod Law LLP in Calgary. He practices in the areas of Wills and Estates and Corporate Law and is extremely active as a volunteer with the Alberta branch of the Canadian Bar Association. Aaron and his wife Lori have two daughters that attend CJA as they instill in them their love of Judaism and Israel.



**FARREL SHADLYN, EDMONTON** Farrel Shadlyn is proud to have been elected President of JNF Edmonton, taking the leadership role officially in September 2013. The Shadlyn family roots go back to the 1920's when Farrel's great grandmother Rivkah Rubin began the long tradition of helping create the State of Israel through financial and moral support. He has been involved in many Jewish organizations since moving to Edmonton in 1984 from Toronto including Vice President of B'nai Brith Canada; President of Edmonton Jewish Family Services; Co-chair of the Edmonton United Jewish Appeal; Treasurer for Camp BB Riback, and Youth Advisor for AZA. Farrel is committed to the culture and fabric of our Jewish people both at home and in Eretz Yisrael.





**KARLA BERBRAYER, MANITOBA/SASKATCHEWAN** Karla accepted the role of President of JNF Manitoba/Saskatchewan in October 2012 after serving on the board since 2009. This past year, Karla and her husband traveled to Israel and enjoyed touring many JNF sites. In November, Karla attended the Negev Dinner in Toronto honouring Stephen Harper, and had the opportunity to meet some of the wonderful people working with JNF. Karla is the Founding Artistic Director of the Rady JCC Music 'N' Mavens series, as well as Music Producer of the Tarbut Festival of Jewish Culture. Karla produces the Israeli entertainment for the community-wide Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration, emcees the Israel pavilion at the annual Folklorama event, and produces numerous other events in the city. Karla manages her own event production company, KAB Productions, specializing in Israeli music.

**BETHE JARCAIG, WINDSOR** Bethe Jarcaig became president of JNF Windsor in 2013. She assumed the role after serving several years on the JNF Board. Her husband Sheldon served as president several years ago. They have three daughters, all attending university. She has served as a Board member for Windsor Jewish Federation and UJA and as her local school Board Parent's Association. Most recently, Bethe joined the Jewish National Fund's delegation on the recent Israel Mission with Stephen Harper. She believes that the future in Windsor is bright. "Our demographics in Windsor are changing. Young families are coming into the community because of job opportunities. Windsor has a lot to offer in terms of economics and lifestyle. JNF is being responsive to their needs by engaging them in every way we can."

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**JACK MALKIN, LONDON** In his third year as president of JNF London, Jack Malkin has been very involved in our activities at all levels. Born in Israel, Jack came to London almost 10 years ago with his wife Becky and their two children. As a volunteer, Jack is Vice President of the London Multicultural Community Association and a Senate member at Western University. While he knew about JNF-KKL's work in Israel, he didn't realize the extent of our organization's involvement. Jack sees awareness as being key to JNF's growth. "We really need to educate the community about the wonderful things that JNF does. It's a great story that I think will result in an increase in support from the broader community. When JNF looks good, so does Israel – it's a win-win!"



**NEIL SILVERT, HAMILTON** In 2012, Neil Silvert became president of JNF Hamilton after serving a short time as a Board member. He is married to Linda and between them, they have 4 adult children and 3 grandchildren. In his earlier life, he served as a Jewish community professional. Since taking over as JNF president, Neil has been focused on engaging new people and involving them in JNF, either as volunteers or contributors. "I want people to think JNF when they think about Israel, whether they are 7, 17, 37 or 77. We are such a great organization with such a great story to tell that we need to take advantage of every opportunity to let people know." To that end, JNF Hamilton has been working to create programs to attract different audiences, young and older, Jewish and non-Jewish.



**FAYE MINUK, TORONTO** This is Faye's inaugural year as President of JNF Toronto. Faye became involved when her late husband, Sam, co-chaired the Annual Golf Classic. Every year Faye presents a trophy, named after him, as she is "honoured to help keep his memory alive". Faye's personal history is connected with Israel. "As a child of Holocaust survivors, who were able to leave Poland because Israel gave us refuge, my work with JNF contributes back to the country that rescued us." Faye has been to Israel many times but "my first trip with JNF, attending the World JNF Leadership Conference opened my eyes to the magnitude of what JNF does for Israel." "This has been a great year for JNF Toronto, hosting an inspirational Negev Launch with Gilad Schalit, culminating in a spectacular and historic Negev Dinner honouring Prime Minister Stephen Harper.



**ALAN BLOSTEIN, OTTAWA** Alan has been an active member of the Jewish community in Ottawa throughout his life. As a teenager, he was a member of AZA and throughout his University years he was involved with Young Leadership of UJA. He was a Board member of his synagogue, eventually taking on the role of Vice President. The environment, agriculture and ecology have always been important to Alan. So, he made a decision to learn more about the great work JNF does in these areas not only in Israel but also with partners around the world and then joined the Board. After serving as a very active Board member for two years Alan was asked to take on the role of Vice President which has lead to his current role as President.



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**BARBARA MALDOFF, MONTREAL** Barbara's community involvement began during the 1967 Six Day War when she canvassed neighbours to collect funds in support of Israeli soldiers. Since then, Barbara's has been involved with community organizations ranging from USY (United Synagogue Youth), to Federation CJA, and now with JNF. To her, community work is about engagement with the cause and the people. When Barbara first joined the JNF Board, she was excited to learn about the multidimensional ways the organization helps Israel. Visits to Israel and further education have impressed upon her the importance of JNF's mission. Barbara's work as a learning consultant blends well with her community involvement in that the motivation to help others extends to many aspects of her life. The concept of helping others and giving back is something shared by her entire family.

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## AVAILABLE PROJECTS CONTACT YOUR LOCAL JNF OFFICE TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO A BETTER ISRAEL









### KADESH BARNE'A SECURITY ROAD

KKL-JNF will construct a 900-meter perimeter road around the community of Kadesh Barne'a on Israel's western border with Egypt. The road will improve access to the area for security forces, local patrols, and residents. Within the area enclosed by the road, KKL-JNF is preparing 32 plots for the construction of homes for second-generation residents of the moshav.

Security roads are vitally important for isolated communities located in the periphery of Israel close to its borders. These roads provide safe access for residents and security for those living under the threat of attack.

### OR YEHUDA GAN HATISH'A SPORTS CENTER

KKL-JNF is planning to develop an activity park together with the Or Yehuda Municipality at the edge of town. The park will focus on sports activity and will be open to the public. Development elements include, an entrance plaza and paths all accessible to strollers. Additional developments include shaded seating areas, picnic tables, landscaping, bicycle paths, lavatories, illuminated playing fields, a shaded playing area for youth and a grassy amphitheatre with a stage for community events.

By contributing to the development of the sports park in Or Yehuda you will be helping rehabilitate a neglected park and transforming it into part of the green urban environment in Or Yehuda, an underdeveloped city near Ben Gurion Airport.

### LAKE KINNERET-BICYCLE PROMENADE

KKL-JNF and the Israel Government Tourist Corporation is developing a bicycle promenade from Kibbutz Ha'On around Lake Kinneret. The asphalt-paved path includes several entrance points along the way. The planned promenade is supported by a number of environmental organizations in order to offer a safe alternative to the busy highway around Lake Kinneret. The promenade will be wheelchair accessible.

By contributing to KKL-JNF's network of bicycle trails, you are helping open up a new world for nature loving cyclists. These trails provide fantastic opportunities to reach parts of the country not well known and give visitors an opportunity to see birds and other wildlife.

### NETIV TEFAHOT HESDER YESHIVA – LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT

KKL-JNF will landscape the campus at Netiv Tefahot, a hesder yeshiva. The student body at the yeshiva, located on Moshav Tefahot in the Galilee, consists of young men from outlying areas throughout Israel, who, in addition to their Torah studies and army service, also volunteer in community service. Several have married and made their home in the Galilee after graduation. After more than a decade of using temporary structures, permanent buildings are being planned for this large learning community. KKL-JNF will do its part to support the important work here by landscaping 0.25 hectares (625) acres at the new campus. Development will include landscaping and irrigation, paving paths, constructing retaining walls, a rockery, a scenic lookout and the installation of fencing and railings.



## SUPPORTED PROJECTS THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS FOR MAKING THESE PROJECTS A REALITY



Canada Gardens, Eilat



Neri Garden, Eilat

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**Mitzpe Ramon Sports Complex** 



The Lebovic Jerusalem to Tel-Aviv Trail

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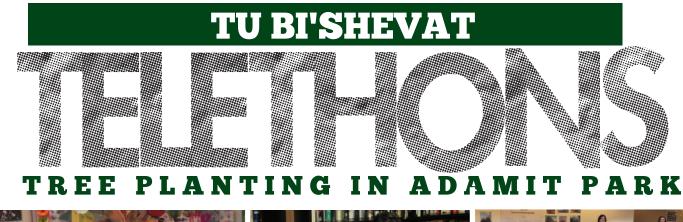
Mickey Rosenthal Music Conservatory, Sapir



The Fred Waks Tel Nof Airforce Base Recreation Area



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Hundreds of volunteers came together across the country in support of JNF Canada's 2014 Tu Bi'Shevat telethon to grow Adamit Park in Israel, located along the Lebanese border. Funds raised will be used to plant mature Kermes Oak, Israeli Pistachio and Judah trees across approximately 100 dunams (25 acres) of land, as well as replant 600 natural coppice trees. Part of the project also includes transporting water to irrigate the newly planted trees from the nearby KKL-JNF Adamit Reservoir.

Planting trees is a way to reconnect with tradition and to link yourself with the State of Israel. A very special thank you to all of our telethon volunteers, contributors & sponsors, and of course to our donors, who helped JNF achieve our goal of making Israel green, one tree at a time.

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After years of being held hostage by Hamas at an unknown location in the Gaza strip, Gilad Schalit was set free on October 18th, 2011. The world witnessed history as they watched Gilad return home to his family. In September 2013, JNF Canada was excited to host Gilad Schalit on a tour to Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Calgary & Vancouver. Over 7,000 guests attended the events to stand in solidarity with Israel and to say "welcome home". This was a momentous and joyous occasion for all Jewish Canadians and JNF was honoured to have made this happen. Although not a religious Jew, Schalit appreciated the prayers for his release and the principle that "all Israel is responsible for one another. It is one of the highest values in Judaism." Schalit also thanked Prime Minister Stephen Harper "for everything Canada did to advocate on my behalf". Josh Cooper, CEO of JNF Canada, said that Gilad was embraced so enthusiastically and warmly by Canada's Jewish communities because he became "everyone's special son and an icon for Jewish people everywhere".

Visit the Jewish National Fund of Canada on Facebook to see more photos of the event.

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## JNF PACIFIC REGION



MISGAV AM SECURITY ROAD - DR. ABRAHAM BOGOCH Z"L & DR. MARGARET MULLINGER BOGOCH Z"L

# 2014 TU BI'SHEVAT



Following a tradition going back 25 years, JNF Vancouver held their Tu Bi'Shevat telethons in January.

For the first day of activities, Vancouver welcomed a visit from JNF National Education Shlicha, Hadar Epstein, who ran a lively Tu Bi' Shevat celebration for Hebrew school students at a local synagogue. As well, at the Jewish Community

JNF VANCOUVER OFFICE

12 Jerusalem Emissary & Executive Director: Ilan Pilo Centre of Vancouver, JNF participated in a very successful Tu Bi'Shevat program for families with young children. The dedicated volunteers made thousands of calls to members of our community encouraging them to plant trees in Israel.

The following day, Hadar made special Tu Bi'Shevat presentations for students at two local Hebrew schools; Vancou-

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ver Talmud Torah and King David High School. By all accounts, the students enjoyed and learned a lot from Hadar's sessions with them.

Thanks to Hadar Epstein and our wonderful volunteers, Tu Bi'Shevat 2014 in Vancouver was highly successful in promoting and supporting the valuable work of the JNF in Israel.

950 West 41st Avenue #301 Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 2N7 604.257.5155 vancouver@jnf.ca jnfvancouver.ca



THE JEWISH NATIONAL FUND OF VANCOUVER AND CANADIAN FRIENDS OF HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THEIR COLLABORATION ON A JOINT PROJECT IN ISRAEL FOR THE 2014 NEGEV DINNER. THE PROJECT WILL BE IN SUPPORT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH ON THE PERIPHERY IN ISRAEL.



### LET'S GIVE HOPE TO ISRAELI YOUTH -HELP OPEN THE DOOR FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Israel is making great efforts to cultivate its human resources and develop its youth in preparation for the challenges of life in the modern world. Gary Segal, our honouree has chosen a most worthwhile project to support the State of Israel by enhancing leadership skills

and exposing its underprivileged youth to the Sciences by a joint educational program lead by the Jewish National Fund and implemented by the Joseph Meyerhoff Youth Centre at Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The centre has been specializing in academic education for youth of all sectors in Israeli society for 30 years. Proceeds from the Dinner will fund ecological and sustainable scientific activities and leadership training programs

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## **JNF CALGARY**



DEDICATION AT TEDDY PARK 2014, HELEN ZENITH & GIEZELLE PASH

TU BISHEVAT



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Our Tu Bi'Shevat season kicked off with education emissary Hadar Epstein. She visited over 400 children and teenagers in Calgary including Chabad, Calgary Jewish Academy and Akiva Academy and a "Shmear and Shpiel" event with the Jewish Teen groups, discussing the topic "Go Green with Epstein." In January, JNF hosted a special visitor from Israel. Aviram Zuck, the KKL-JNF Director of Northern Forestry in Israel

spent his visit to Calgary with various groups both adult and children from CJA and Akiva as well as a large group outside the Jewish community. Aviram's presentation encapsulated what happens from seedling to trees and why trees are so important in Israel. JNF sponsored a special Tu Bi'shevat Shabbat with children between ages 2-5 at the JCC educating them on the various fruits and nuts from trees. To end the Tu Bi'Shevat season, on Sunday January 26th, we held our annual Tu Bi'Shevat telethon at the JCC where volunteers spent the day making calls to the community to plant as many trees as they could in support of the Adamit Park in Northern Israel. Also our "Chai Rollers" opened blue boxes and counted coins! Our volunteers are so special and we appreciate all their help. Tu Bi'Shevat 2014 was a wonderful celebration in Calgary!

### JNF FUTURE

JNF Future launched it's first event in March under the chairmanship of Jordan Balaban, Jordan Walman and Sim Herring. JNF Future was developed to engage individuals between the ages of 25 to 45 through programming and events, missions to Israel and forums with young Jewish leaders. JNF Future's goals are to build

membership, increase the support of JNF's projects in Israel and raise awareness of JNF's environmental innovations and achievements across the globe. This will be accomplished by fundraising events organized by active individuals interested in supporting Israel. Contact the JNF office to register for JNF Future.

#### JNF CALGARY OFFICE 14 Executive Director: Sandra Fayerman

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# NEGEV GALA 2014

JNF Calgary is pleased to honour Marilyn Libin, a long time community member at their 2014 Negev Dinner. For decades, Marilyn Libin's influence has been felt throughout the Calgary Jewish community where she has made valuable contributions as a Jewish professional and volunteer. "Marilyn proudly shows us through her generous support of the community that she loves and her depth of commitment to make a difference in the lives of others in Israel", said Gala Chairperson Carol Ryder who encourages everyone to make their dinner reservations early as this is sure to be a sold out event. Carol added: "I am very honoured to be chairing this tribute for my good friend Marilyn and to raise funds for a very worthy project in Israel, The Marilyn Libin Rehabilitation and Sports Facility located at the Meir Children's Hospital in Kfar Sava. Marilyn's love for children, her close family involvement in the medical field and her and Joseph's love for sports, make this a perfect project in her honour." For tickets, sponsorship or advertising opportunities, please contact Sandra Fayerman, Executive Director - Sandra.fayerman@jnf.ca. or 403-255-0297.

Marilyn and her husband, Dr. Joseph Levy are the chairs for the Calgary delegation for the October 2014 JNF Mission to Israel. Please join them on this exciting fall trip to Italy and Israel.





### OUR CONDOLENCES

It is with deep sadness that we mourn the loss of JNF Calgary's 2013 Negev honouree, Jack Balaban z"l. Jack passed away on Saturday, February 1st after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. We are so pleased that Jack and his family made a trip to Israel in October 2013 for the dedication ceremony and the opening of The Balaban Basketball Park in Kiryat Shemona in Northern Israel. He kvelled watching his three sons play in the opening basketball game with the boys at Hesder Yeshiva on the completed court. The Kiryat Shemona community and Hesder Yeshiva will benefit from the generous donations of the Balaban family and the Calgary donors who supported this project.

May his soul be bound up in the bond of eternal life.

JNF welcomes Aliya Rozenberg as the new administrator of the JNF Calgary office. Aliya is from Vancouver but has now made permanent residence in Calgary with her fiancé. They are to be married in the fall.

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## **JNF EDMONTON**



NEGEV GALA 2014 PROJECT: THE SOLDIER - FAMILY MEETING POINT AT TSE'ELIM

### **I'SHEVAT AT SCHOOL** Tu Bi'Shevat is an incredible vehicle

to partner diaspora Jews with Israel and engage in an ancient eco-friendly tradition. It embodies the values and sustainable concepts which have defined the Jewish people for thousands of years. Planting a tree in Israel engages in an act which connects you to the land of Israel, an obligation unique to the Jewish

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#### people.

Starting in December, with educational programming in the Jewish schools and continuing into late January, Tu Bi'Shevat came alive in Edmonton because of JNF!

Over 250 saplings were provided to Jewish children for them to plant in celebration of Tu Bi'Shevat through programs at Menorah Academy and

Talmud Torah Schools, Beth Israel and Chabad Sunday schools.

Other outreach programs, Or Shalom Hebrew school and Beth Israel's Project CREATE participated in the Tu Bi'Shevat tree planting program which provided a certificate to each child who purchased a tree.



JNF EDMONTON OFFICE 16 Executive Director: Jason Cairns

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THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2014 FANTASYLAND HOTEL BALLROOM RECEPTION: 6PM DINNER: 7PM KASHRUT OBSERVED

IN SUPPORT OF THE SOLDIER - FAMILY MEETING POINT AT TSE'ELIM ARMY BASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, RESERVATIONS, OR ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES: JNFEDMONTON.CA I EDM@JNF.CA I 780.481.7881

**BREAKFAST MIXER** 





Edmonton Mayor Don Iveson, Councillors Andrew Knack and Michael Oshry joined Edmonton business and Jewish community leaders at an intimate breakfast mixer hosted by Jewish National Fund on January 22, 2014.

The event featured guest speaker Aviram Zuck, KKL-JNF's Director of Northern Forestry speaking about Urban Forestry in Israel. Aviram had the opportunity to address a number of audiences over the two day visit, from lectures at the University of Alberta Forestry Department to presentations with Hillel and an evening with Israelis living in Canada. The programs were extremely successful!

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### CHANUKAH Luncheon



Executive Director Jason Cairns spoke at the Jewish Drop In Centre's annual Chanukah Luncheon about how Zionism and JNF have grown and diversified in order to meet the growing needs of an ever expanding society. While the kitchen pumped out hundreds of delicious latkas to a bustling seniors centre, Jason and Drop In Centre Executive Director, Svetlana Pavlenko conducted a fun question and answer period on topics of JNF and Israel. Prizes were awarded to the trivia masters and everyone was introduced to the important work of JNF.

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## JNF WINNIPEG



NEGEV GALA 2012 PROJECT: ENERGY-WISE FARMING IN THE ARAVA VALLEY - BONNIE & JOHN BUHLER

# NEGEV GALA 2014



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TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2014 | CENTENNIAL CONCERT HALL

### JEWISH NATIONAL FUND OF MANITOBA/SASKATCHEWAN NEGEV GALA 2014 HONOURING JOSEPH J. WILDER Q.C. WITH SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY NIKKI YANOFSKY

"I am so pleased that Joe Wilder will be our honouree for the 2014 Negev Gala, remarked regional President Karla Berbrayer, "He has a long list of credentials, with a history of leadership in the Jewish and general community. Joe is very worthy and deserving of this acknowledgement."

Audiences will be delighted by the musical stylings of dynamic jazz and pop vocalist, Nikki Yanofsky. From her auspicious start as the youngest headliner in the history of the Montreal International Jazz Festival at 12, Nikki Yanofsky has covered plenty of territory over the last seven years. She has topped both jazz and pop charts, performed with orchestras and big bands, and sold out festivals and major theatres around the world. In 2010, she sang to 3.2 billion people – half the world's population – at the Vancouver Olympic and Paralympic Games.

She has worked with luminaries such as Herbie Hancock, Phil Ramone, Will.i.am, Wyclef Jean, and Elton John, and now, under the guidance of her greatest fan and mentor, Quincy Jones, Nikki is ready to introduce her own captivating

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new sound. Get ready to be amazed by her inimitable voice as she arrives at the unique crossroad where jazz meets pop, delivering sizzling songs that blend retro charm with a contemporary sound executively produced by 27-time Grammy Award Winner Quincy Jones.

Tickets for 2014 Negev Gala are available now by calling 204.947.0207 or online at jnfwinnipeg.ca. Purchase your tickets before April 22th and be automatically entered to win a pair of Winnipeg Blue Bomber 2014 season tickets.

JNF WINNIPEG OFFICE 18 Executive Director: Rob Berkowits 225-530 Kenaston Blvd Winnipeg, Manitoba R3N 1Z4 204.947.0207 winnipeg@jnf.ca jnfwinnipeg.ca



## **Solution** August 11, 2013, the Jewish Nablintzes, strawberries and sour cream This year, Breakfast for Israel will be

On August 11, 2013, the Jewish National Fund, Manitoba/Saskatchewan Branch held the first annual Breakfast for Israel. Breakfast for Israel was created as a way to keep supporters engaged throughout the summer and to bring the JNF to them, as many supporters head to the lake when the mercury reaches the high 20s and 30s.

"Part of working for the Jewish National Fund allows us to flex our 'think outside the box' muscles in order to come up with new ways to fundraise," says Rob Berkowits, Executive Director of the JNF Manitoba/Saskatchewan Region, "It was doing this that helped us come up with the idea to bring 'Breakfast for Israel' to Lake Winnipeg cottage country."

Over 120 people dressed in shorts, flip-flops and sundresses joined us in Gimli, Manitoba at the Lakeview Resort for a traditional, family-style Israeli breakfast. Bagels, hummus, cheese **WWW.JNF.CA**  blintzes, strawberries and sour cream were enjoyed by children, parents and grandparents. In addition, Eliaz Luf, Minister-Counsellor, Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Israel, gave attendees an "insider's perspective" on what was going on in Israel at the time.

Last year's event supported the restoration of the outdoor space at Ilanot Special Education School, the same project that proceeds from the Negev Gala were directed to. Ilanot Special Education School is a public special needs school located in Jerusalem that serves students between the ages of six and twenty-one. These children all have severe motor and cognitive disabilities. Currently, the outdoor space on the grounds is in such a state of disrepair that it is unsafe and unusable. Pledges from the event will contribute to the restoration of the the outdoor space that will be designed to meet the students' physical, social and emotional needs.

This year, Breakfast for Israel will be held at the same venue, Lakeview Resort Gimli on August 10, 2014. A project for this year's event has not yet been chosen but is sure to support one of the many deserving KKL-JNF projects in Israel.

We would like to extend a special thank you to our table captains from last year: Karla Berbrayer, Jessica & Joel Cogan, Larry & Tova Vickar, Dick & Joanne Rothberg, Peter Leipsic, Sharon Glass, Diane & Richard Boroditsky, John Thiessen, Igor Golinkin, Evan & Audra Roitenberg, Abi & Joe Benjamin, and Rob Berkowits.

A sincere thank you to Lakeview's Keith Levit, Gunn's Bakery's Arthur & Bernie Gunn and Vickar Automotive Dealership's Larry Vickar for their generous support of the inaugural Breakfast For Israel.

## JNF TORONTO



### NEGEV DINNER | PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE STEPHEN HARPER

JNF was proud to honour Prime Minister Stephen Harper at the 2013 Negev Dinner chaired by Hon. Linda Frum and Howard Sokolowski.

Over 4,000 people, including 500 who traveled from across Canada, gathered on December 1, 2013, to say thank you to the Prime Minister for his unwavering and principled support for the State of Israel. His global leadership in recognizing Israel's right to defend and protect itself is courageous and Canada's Jewish community is immeasurably grateful.

Funds raised from the campaign will be used to develop the Stephen J. Harper Hula Valley Bird Sanctuary Visitor & Education Centre. This world class scientific and educational facility will become the centerpiece of Israel's Hula Lake Nature and Bird Park. It is a symbol of the profound friendship between Canada and Israel. The centre will enable JNF to increase the number of visitors to this site from 500,000 to one million over the next ten years. In January 2014, Prime Minister Harper in his first ever trip to Israel participated in a cornerstone dedication ceremony at the Hula Valley.



**JNF TORONTO OFFICE** 20 Executive Director: Lance Davis 700-1000 Finch Ave. W. Toronto, Ontario M3J 2V5



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**ROOTS** 21

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### -- JNF HONOURS --MAX GLASSMAN

On December 2, 2013 JNF Toronto honoured Max Glassman with a lifetime achievement award. Efi Stenzler, the KKL -JNF World Chairman, was in attendance to help present this award. Faye Minuk, the JNF Toronto President, initiated this award to recognize donors who have supported JNF in a significant manner over the course of their lifetime. Max was the first recipient of this award. To celebrate this event, Max and his wife Giana invited family and friends for a lunch and a l'chaim. Max addressed those in attendance and spoke of his commitment and deep love for the State of Israel. He expressed his delight in receiving this new award and thanked JNF for the recognition. Josh Cooper, JNF Canada CEO, praised Max for



the countless projects he has supported and noted that through his philanthropy he has made a very significant contribution to enhancing and enriching the lives of Israel's citizens. Max's most recent project was the development of a new community in the Golan Heights named Avnei Eitan, for families who were evacuated from the Gaza Strip.

## 6TH ANNUAL PITCH FOR ISRAEL

The sixth annual Pitch for Israel took place on Sunday, August 25, 2013 at the Powerade Centre. JNF Toronto was happy to team up with One Family Fund for the third year in a row to host this exceptional community-wide softball tournament for

mens, womens and co-ed softball teams. The net proceeds will be allocated to the Ilanot Special Needs School in Jerusalem through JNF and will also provide summer camp programs for Israeli victims of terror through One Family Fund.





### AMBASSADOR OF CANADIAN PHOTOGRAPHY - AL GILBERT

Al Gilbert has been involved with the Toronto Negev Dinner as the portrait photographer for decades. Al was made a Member of the Order of Canada in 1990 and awarded the Confederation Medal of Canada in 1992. He is called the "Ambassador of Canadian Photography" as he is known internationally for his classic portraits of prominent people.

Al and his team at Gilbert Studio prepared something very special for the 2013 Toronto Negev Dinner. He collected all of the portraits that he photographed over the years, finding a few in various archives. This collection of Negev Dinner Honourees from 1949 -2013 was displayed at the Negev Dinner. Al dedicated many hours to collect these photos and due to his tenacity, JNF Toronto was able to create a beautiful display paying homage to former honourees. Thank you to Al Gilbert and Gilbert Studio for this wonderful addition to our dinner and program book. To contact Al at Gilbert Studio, call 416.923.1995 or visit www.gilbertstudio.ca.

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### WHO ARE YOU TAKING TO PROM? JNF FUTURE PARTY

Our fourth annual Future Party, JPROM, took place Saturday, October 19, 2013 at Zero Gravity Circus. The theme for this year's Future Party was Throwback Prom. Guests were treated to a fabulous night as they relived their great Prom memories. As JNF recreated a high

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school gym where all enjoyed a night of revelry, spiked punch, Prom King and Queen ceremony and more. This year's Future Party proceeds will help renovate the schoolyards of the Ilanot Special Needs School in Jerusalem.

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JNF will build a state-of-the-art thera-

peutic outdoor play facility for the students. The current playground is unsafe and inaccessible so our development of a new play space is addressing a vital need of the Ilanot school.



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**ROOTS** 23

## **CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS RIDE**

INF along with the Hard Chargers, a law enforcement, corrections-based motorcycle club, organized the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Correctional Officers Ride (C.O.R.) on September 8, 2013. Money raised from the ride is directed to an educational scholarship fund for the children of the fallen Israeli prison wardens who perished in the Carmel forest fire in 2010.

Participants and their families enjoyed a lunch donated by PR Creative Caterers, a raffle with great prizes and had the opportunity to see a display of inmate disturbance control equipment, seized weapons and contraband. Thank you to all for a successful ride in support of a wonderful cause.

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY. SEPTEMBER 7.2014





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## **MARKTHE OCCASION** WITH A JNF GREETING CARD

SEND GOOD WISHES TO A LOVED ONE FOR ANY OCCASION WITH A GREETING CARD FROM THE JEWISH NATIONAL FUND. WE'VE GOT A CARD FOR EVERY OCCASION -PASSOVER, HIGH HOLIDAYS, BIRTHDAYS, BAR/BAT MITZVAHS, WEDDINGS, ANNIVERSARIES, GRADUATIONS, AND MORE.



To view our full selection of greeting cards visit us online at www.jnftoronto.ca

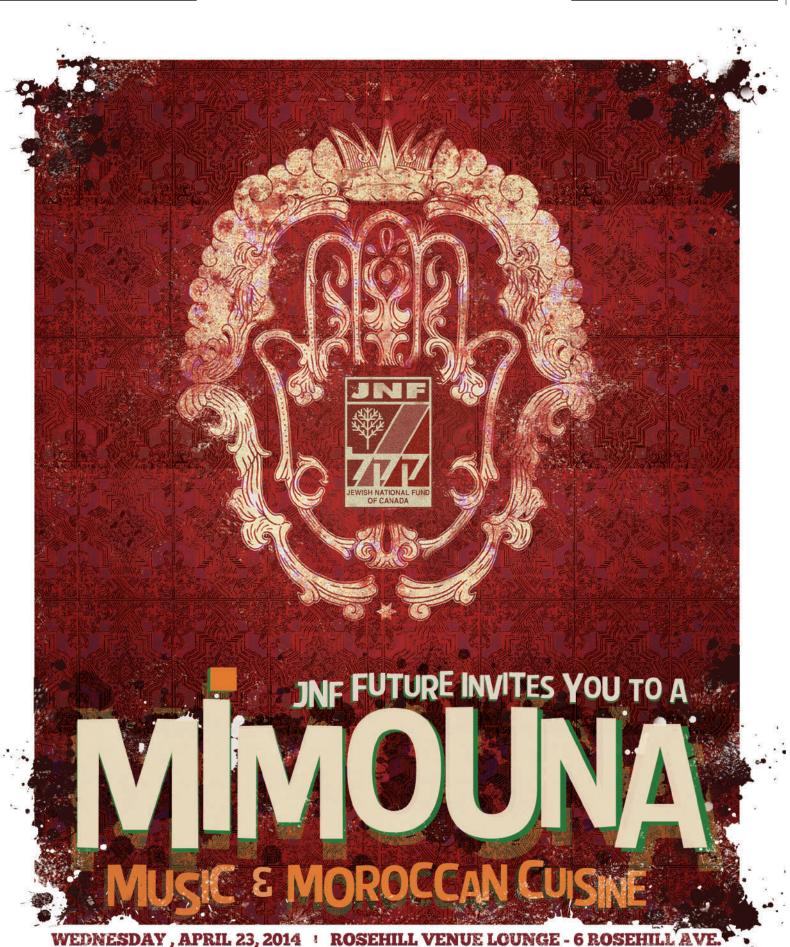
BY DONATING TO JNF YOUR RECIPIENT WILL BE LINKED WITH THE HISTORIC EFFORT TO BUILD AND CARE FOR THE LAND OF ISRAEL AND ITS CITIZENS.

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HAPPY



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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2014 ROSEHILL VENUE LOUNGE - 6 ROSEHILL AVE. Mark the beginning of Spring and the return to eating chametz at the traditional Mimouna celebration. In 1966 Israel declared Mimouna a national holiday and now millions of Israelis celebrate it. TO PURCHASE TICKETS CONTACT ANNA.KOS@JNF.CA + 416.638.7200 JNFTORONTO.CA

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### JNF FUTURE EXECUTIVE HOSTS: DEVELOPING THE FUTURE On Two day Sontember 10, 2013 INFE Future hosted Fred Walks President

On Tuesday, September 10, 2013 JNF Future hosted Fred Waks, President and COO of Riocan and the Honourable Linda Frum as special guest speakers for a JNF Future event. A group of passionate, young, and aspiring JNF supporters were invited to the Uptown Loft by our newly formed JNF Future Executive to hear the speakers address the importance of JNF, how they themselves became involved, and how to be inspired to take action in increasing the breadth and reach of JNF Future.





LUNCH WITH KENNY FIELI



On January 27, 2014, fifty young professionals attended an intimate lunch with Ken (Kenny) Field at Tory's LLP. This event launched the first of a speaker series planned for 2014 by the JNF Future committee. Kenny shared experiences from his professional life as a real estate developer and as the chairman of Canada's largest ethanol producer. Attendees benefited from his knowledge and insights into Canada's economy. We thank the speaker series chairs: Paul Budovitch, Jonathan Rosemberg, and Renée Zatzman; as well as Darren Slavens and Jenna Kellner for helping make this event a success.

If you are interested in getting involved with JNF Future, contact Anna at anna.kos@jnf.ca or at 416.638.7200 x130.

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### COMING SOON

## JEWISH NATIONAL FUND OF TORONTO

### MARATHONING FOR JNF



### <u>ROB MUROFF</u>

Every year over 400,000 participate in marathons across North America, even more worldwide. Rob Muroff ran the prestigious Jerusalem Marathon on March 21st. Like many runners, Rob decided to dedicate this run to JNF.

In less than a month of fundraising Rob raised over \$11,000 for Ayalon Canada Park. JNF Toronto thanks Rob for all that he has done to raise awareness and funds for this important JNF project. Way to go Rob!

### - T H E 1 3 TH A N N U A L - **JNF GOLF GOLF GLASSIC** MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2014 I WESTON GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

The 13th Annual JNF Toronto Golf Classic will take place on Monday, June 9, 2014 at the Weston Golf and Country Club. This prestigious event on the JNF calendar sells out every year. The tournament is already over 80% sold, so if you would like to participate, register quickly. The tournament is organized by a dedicated group of volunteers led by Tournament Co-Chairs Howard Davidson and Lloyd Pollack.

Funds raised by the tournament will benefit a world class animal assisted therapy program at Retorno - the International Jewish Centre for Prevention and Treatment of Addictions. It has a remarkable program that uses a therapeutic relationship with animals as a proven way to treat alcohol and drug abuse, primarily helping teens. Providing animal care teaches young people responsibility, empathy and empowers inner self-confidence and healing. Caring for animals fosters an improved self-image, allows for small victories and requires a need to maintain a disciplined schedule, all of which are essential for the rehabilitation of abusers. The new facility that we are proudly supporting in 2014 will be developed in a rural, green surrounding near Beit Shemesh and will allow Retorno to expand its existing therapy program to include a wider variety of animals to

assist the patients in their rehabilitation. Retorno transforms the lives of its patients and prepares them to re-enter Israeli society as contributing members. Contact Toby, the Golf Tournament Coordinator for more information 416.638.7200 x123 or visit jnftoronto.ca.

### **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

- · Sponsor the golf tournament
- Sponsor a golfer through our peer to peer fundraising campaign
- Donate a product or service to our on-line auction

### **ROOTS** 27

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## **JNF HAMILTON**



### JNF BEAUTY 360 MAKES ITS DEBUT IN HAMILTON

On January 12, JNF Hamilton supported by a number of sponsors presented an all new, all girls event called BEAUTY 360. The event took place at Theatre Aquarius in Hamilton, a very artsy venue for a very artsy fundraiser.

The philosophy behind the event was based on the premise that beauty is universal, timeless and eternal. It is created by love and compassion. It is all around us, but we must look deeper in order to experience it and see beauty in all things. Beauty 360 was a great event for moth-

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ers, daughters and friends alike. The women and girls aged 6 - 76 were able to visit and purchase products from several independent Hamilton area vendors. They also had an opportunity to be pampered by local beauty experts.

There was ample time to socialize and indulge in the delicious hor d'oeuvres, desserts and sparkling juices. With elegant music creating an ambiance everyone enjoyed, guests bonded and mingled in an atmosphere based on universal beauty. The proceeds generated from the event will go toward a JNF project in Israel aimed at helping women at risk. These are women who have children and need to ensure safety for themselves and for their dependents.

Beauty 360, 2014 was a fun event for a great cause made possible by an awesome team of volunteers. Thank you to our co-chairs Yael Arnold and Danna Horwood. The goal is to make Beauty 360, 2015 even better! Kol Hakovod.

### HAMILTON'S TU BI'SHEVAT FAMILY PROGRAM A SUCCESS

The snowy, slippery weather & flu season didn't deter our community members from celebrating Tu Bi'Shevat with JNF in January. Children of all ages enjoyed nature themed activities including planting karpas in recycled JNF blue boxes. Cantor Eyal Bitton added to the joy with an interactive Shira Be'Tzibur (communal singing). Highlights included a puppet show by RBG personnel, an up close & personal encounter with a turtle, a Tu Bi'Shevat Seder display, PJ Library stories & everyone's annual favourite - a bonfire in the snow with roasted marshmallows!

Special thanks to all of the volunteers who made this event a success! This program has become a true Hamilton Tu Bi'Shevat event that the community looks forward to. Our Tu Bi'Shevat



Family program has been referred to by many as their "favourite community event of the year."



JNF HAMILTON OFFICE 28 Executive Director: Franklin Simkevitz

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## JNF LONDON



### JNF CELEBRATES TUBI'SHEVAT AT CIRCLE "R" RANCH

On Sunday January 19th, more than 75 children and adults gathered at Circle "R" Ranch to celebrate Tu Bi'Shevat with the Jewish National Fund. They began learning about the outdoor activities. The younger group started on a hayride, stopping to visit the farm animals while the older group went out to the forest for a nature hike and learned some orienteering along the way. After the hike, everyone headed back to the main lodge where there was food and lots of craft activities to enjoy. Children went home with bird feeders and a blue box planter filled with parsley seeds that will be ready in time for their Seder tables.

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Jack Malkin, London JNF President, commented that, "It was nice to see three generations (grandparents, parents and children) attending."

Circle "R" proved to be a wonderful venue. Their shared vision and interest in the environment and sustainability fit in well with JNF's goals for this event. For the Derbyshire family, it was a great experience. According to them, "It was so family-oriented, and great to spend some time outside. The tractor ride and seeing the animals, along with the hot chocolate and marshmallows were definite highlights. Aside from being fun, the event was educational too."

Steve Flax said his daughter, "Lexi had a great time seeing all the animals and participating in the crafts. My daughter grinned from ear to ear".

Special thanks to Ella Slipak and Darlene Guslits for their planning, direction and help at the event. Thanks also to Adina Goldberg and Stacey Ublansky for organizing the food and supplies. Brian Presner, a JNF Board member, helped move everything from the car to the Lodge and back again.

This event is a true highlight of the Tu Bi'Shevat season and is attracting new people every year.







JNF LONDON OFFICE

Executive Director: Franklin Simkevitz L

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## JNF WINDSOR



## EVERYBODY LOVES TU BI'SHEVAT IN WINDSOR



On January 19th, over 70 people celebrated Tu Bi'Shevat at Ojibway Nature Centre. The morning started with an exciting nature hike. The families identified different footprints in the snow and were able to see a friendly family of deer cross the path up close. After the walk, hot chocolate awaited everyone inside the Ojibway Centre. All of the children sat on a giant floor map of Israel and enjoyed lots of snacks to symbolize the seven species associated with the Land of Israel. We had wheat and barley crackers, grapes, figs, pomegranates, dates, dried carob, and even olives! We talked about JNF, Tu Bi'Shevat, and the map of Israel that everyone was sitting on.

Next, a very special visitor came into the centre; a snake native to the Windsor region. The staff at the centre explained about the natural habitat and life of the endangered snakes of this region and gave the guests an opportunity to touch and hold the snake!

After the presentation, everyone split into groups and engaged in a variety of Tu Bi'Shevat activities. The children made bird feeders out of pine cones and we planted parsley seeds inside recycled blue boxes to be ready in time for their Passover seder. A very unique activity this year was making Tu Bi'Shevat quilts. Every child designed a fabric square with a Tu Bi'Shevat theme to be sewn together into one special quilt. We will hang this amazing creation in the Windsor Jewish Community Center.

Everyone really enjoyed themselves. According to Ilan Einy, "Great program, great walk and attendance with kids and adults. I'll come again next year and definitely recommend it to my friends."

Thanks to Anna Gindin for working so hard to make this an amazing success.



**JNF WINDSOR OFFICE 30** Executive Director: Franklin Simkevitz

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## **JNF REGIONAL ONTARIO**



OPEN GREEN SPACE IN NAVEH, JERRY & FRANCES GOLDBERG, WINDSOR

### JNF CELEBRATES TU BI'SHEVAT AT LITTLE CATARAQUI CREEK, KINGSTON



On Sunday, January 19th, members of the Kingston Jewish community celebrated Tu Bi'Shevat at the Little Cataraqui Creek Outdoor Centre with JNF.

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What a great venue! Their shared vision and interest in the environment and sustainability fits well with JNF's goals.

Everyone braved frigid temperatures to go on a guided nature walk with Anne from the Outdoor Centre to identify trees and animal tracks, feed

the chickadees and enjoy nature after a lovely snowfall. Then everyone moved indoors for other activities

Participants enjoyed a fantastic barley

soup made by Ian Sarfin. There were lots of holiday crafts and activities to keep everyone busy. Children went home with bird feeders made from bagels and a recycled JNF Blue Box with parsley seeds planted inside that will be ready just in time for their Passover Seder tables!

Special thanks to Leanne Lieberman, Melissa Greenberg, the Franklins and Sarfins, and everyone else who helped make this such a successful event. We look forward to doing this program again and making it a Kingston tradition!



JNF REGIONAL ONTARIO Executive Director: Franklin Simkevitz

### JNF CELEBRATES TU BI'SHEVAT At laurel creek in Waterloo

Despite the snowstorm that happened the day before, we could not have asked for a better day to host our first ever Waterloo Tu Bi'Shevat Family program. The Laurel Creek Nature Centre was an ideal venue and those who attended had an awesome time. "I didn't think it would be so much fun. It's too bad that more people didn't get to come out" were the words that Offir Spanglet used to describe the day, who along with his son, Natan enjoyed the activities indoors and outside on the trails. A group of students from Hillel attended the event and expressed their enthusiasm in wanting JNF to do more events like this.

Rubi Simhayov brought his whole family and while their daughter was a bit young to trek through the snow, Rubi and his sons donned snowshoes along with all the other participants and off they went.

The program featured a number of craft activities, a presentation about some of the animals and natural habitat in the area, a nature walk on snowshoes followed by a bonfire, hot chocolate and roasted marshmallows. For Devon, the message was clear, "we have to do this again!" And, we will!!

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ontario.jnf.ca ROOTS 31

## **JNFOTTAWA**



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#### JNF OTTAWA PROJECT: YIR'ON RECYCLED WATER RESERVOIR



# Nearly 500 people attended Ottawa's philanthropy but so many of you have Master of Ceremonies. In getting to

Nearly 500 people attended Ottawa's 2013 Negev Dinner held in late October at the Chateau Laurier. Proceeds from the Dinner supported Honouree Dr. Roberts' project, the Yir'On Recycled Water Reservoir in the Northern Galilee. The president and CEO of the University of Ottawa Heart Institute extended his profound gratitude, saying, "I take this opportunity to thank the Jewish community for all that they have done for the Heart Institute, not just for your

philanthropy, but so many of you have given your time on our boards and committees."

Special thank you to our Dinner Chair Lawrence Weinstein who worked extremely hard to ensure the financial success of the evening by reaching out to many corporate sponsors; to our Honourary Patron Lawrence Soloway for connecting with Dr. Roberts; to Stephen Victor for his ongoing support and to Rabbi Bulka for officiating as our Master of Ceremonies. In getting to know Dr. Roberts, we can all be proud of honouring both a key community leader and a true mensch.

Brett Stephens, Pulitzer-prize winning journalist from the Wall Street Journal was the guest speaker and reminded the audience that in the Middle East, only Israel ensures women's rights, gay rights and a free press.

JNF OTTAWA OFFICE

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**TU BI'SHEVAT AT SCHOOL** Five classes at the Ottawa Jewish Community School decorated and planted seeds for Tu Bi'Shevat in recycled JNF Blue Boxes that became amazing indoor jardiniers. A special thank you to Morah Ruthie and our JNF Education Department for making JNF Ottawa day at the school a reality.



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**ROOTS** 33

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## JNFMONTREAL



JNF TU BI'SHEVAT PROJECT: PLANTING TREES IN ADAMIT PARK

### **26TH ANNUAL TREE-A-THON: A HUGE SUCCESS!**



Thank you, Montreal!

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On January 26th, nearly one hundred high school, CEGEP and university volunteers burned the phone lines throughout the 26th Annual Tree-A-Thon, and convinced charitable Montrealers to plant thousands of trees to mark the Festival of Tu Bi'Shevat—the "New Year of Trees". As a result of the community's generosity, JNF will plant more than 10,000 new trees in Israel's Adamit Park! Each tree will help to beautify the region, purify the air, and support biodiversity for many centuries to come. The success of this dynamic event truly demonstrates a collective desire to develop the State of Israel.

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We are sincerely grateful to our donors, volunteers, and sponsors, who together ensured that the Tree-A-Thon was a major success for Montreal. We especially appreciate all the work accomplished by our dedicated co-chairs, Judy Gardos-Bergman, Aaron Gluck Thaler and Stu Guttman.

**JNF MONTREAL OFFICE 34** Executive Director: Galith Levy 550-5757 Cavendish Blvd. Montreal, Quebec H4W 2W8 514.934.0313 montreal@jnf.ca jnfmontreal.ca



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### 2014 NEGEV DINNER HONOUREE ACCOUNTS FOR ITS COMMUNITY SERVICE

On June 11, hundreds of people will gather at Montreal's prestigious Windsor Station, and join JNF in honouring the prominent financial services firm, Richter, at the 2014 Negev Dinner.

Richter's commitment to Tikkun Olam is deeply ingrained in the firm's consciousness, and extends beyond a mere signature on a cheque. Apart from its relationship with JNF, Richter assists 100 other non-profit organizations, supporting such areas as healthcare, education, the environment and the arts. Beyond monetary contributions, many of Richter's 450 team members often volunteer and help organize numerous charitable endeavours.

To Richter, the art of giving back requires more effort than supporting charities. Our honouree also ensures that it "balances its balance sheet" with respect to sustainable development and protecting the environment. It should then come as no surprise that Richter's corporate culture has been recognized with several prestigious awards. This includes being named one of "Canada's 10 Most Admired Corporate Cultures" in 2010, and one of "Montreal's Top Employers" in 2014–the firm's sixth such recognition since 2008.

We are thrilled that Richter officially agreed to lend its name and its legion of fundraisers to partner with JNF in constructing two vital therapeutic facilities for children, including an innovative collaborative project with the world-renowned organization, Save A Child's Heart (SACH). SACH is an Israeli-based international humanitarian project that provides urgently needed pediatric heart surgery for underprivileged children from developing countries. Proceeds from the Negev Dinner will therefore be allocated towards developing a therapeutic courtyard at SACH's new International Pediatric Cardiac Centre in Holon. The courtyard promises to be a tranquil and relaxing spot for patients to use as they recover from their operations.

In addition, Richter plans to strengthen the Montreal community's connection to its sister city of Be'er Sheva by building an adapted, therapeutic schoolyard for children with special needs at the Ilanot School. The Ilanot School serves the needs of Arab, Jewish and Bedouin Israeli children living with severe learning disabilities, as well as motor and cognitive impairment, and requires major infrastructural improvements. This adapted schoolyard will finally offer these students a proper environment that is suited to their specific physical, social and emotional needs.

We appreciate your support for these wonderful projects and look forward to seeing many new and familiar faces on June 11!

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**ROOTS** 35



### MONTREAL EMBRACES GILAD SCHALIT

The appearance of former captive IDF soldier Gilad Schalit brought out the single largest crowd in the history of JNF in Quebec as over 1,500 excited people listened to the 27-year-old thank the Montreal community for its thoughts and prayers.

"Religious and secular, right-wing and left-wing, old and young, you gathered to call for my release. I'm so thankful that you counted the days of my captivity and never forgot about me," Schalit said in his recognizably soft voice.

In a night rife with emotion, no moment proved more popular with the crowd than when Schalit donned his new gift from JNF, a Montreal Canadiens jersey. Schalit's short but sweet introduction to "La Belle Province" would naturally not have been complete without acquiring something representative of the city's legendary hockey team.

Prior to the event, a special meeting took place between Gilad and student representatives from the Montreal Jewish day schools. Even though the meeting was a short one, the students were still overjoyed to hear him personally thank them for their support.

# A RECAP OF THE EVENING **2013 AGM**



Always a popular event among stakeholders, the 2013 Annual General Meeting felt more like a warm reunion as the extended JNF family exchanged New Year's greetings while reminiscing over days and events gone by. Among the evening's highlights, Joel Lion, Israel's Consul General to Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces, inspired the audience by reminding everyone how JNF's efforts in Canada vitally assist the Israeli people.

Special awards were also handed out to welldeserving volunteers, including the Bernard M. Bloomfield Medal for Meritorious Service, which was given to Past President and JNF National Board Member, Renna Bassal, for her longtime devotion to JNF's mission.

### LESSONS FOR THE YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART



JNF Quebec's strong ties to local schools and educational institutions have always been organizational hallmarks. Over the course of the recent Tu Bi'Shevat season, JNF conducted special programs at elementary and high schools that focused on the continued importance of planting



trees and our commitment to the land and the people of Israel.

On the actual holiday of Tu Bi'Shevat, JNF hosted an inspirational Seder for child survivors of the Holocaust. Led by Hanna Eliashiv, Board Member and Chair of Education, this energetic group of 15 celebrated the day by learning about Tu Bi'Shevat and eating traditional dried nuts and fruits. The group was especially touched to discover all about JNF's unique Tikkun Olam efforts in Rwanda in support of child survivors of the Rwandan genocide.

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## JNFATLANTIC



 JEWISH NATIONAL FUND ATLANTIC

 DEGEV DINNER 2014 HONOURING

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What motivated you to accept the honour as JNF Atlantic's Negev Dinner Honouree and choose the Bike Path at Independence Park in Tel Aviv?

There were a few things that motivated me to accept this honour. First, was the opportunity to help JNF raise funds for the very good work it does in Israel. Second, was the revival of the Negev Dinner in the Atlantic region. There has not been a Negev Dinner in Halifax for 18 years. I think it is a great tradition and I am happy for its return to our area and for being a part of it. The Negev Dinners are a great way to help raise funds for JNF. Lastly, as I began thinking about the fact that I could designate a specific project for which the funds raised would be used for in Israel, I became excited about the idea that I could attach these funds to a bicycling trail. I have a love of cycling and it is a big part of how I stay fit. Therefore, choosing to use the funds

raised for a bicycle trail was a nice and fitting connection for me.

The reason that I chose the Tel Aviv Independence Park Path in the end is simply because I think I will be spending more time in this area and will personally have the opportunity to do that ride more often.

What would you like people to know about your commitment to Israel and to the Atlantic Jewish community?

I have a strong commitment to both Israel and to the Atlantic Jewish community. My commitment to Israel started at a very young age. I have always been a Zionist. I think it is so important for any people to have a homeland and the Jewish people did not have one for close to 2,000 years. I therefore, think it is a wonderful miracle that there is a Jewish homeland and I will always be fiercely committed to it. I grew up in Halifax and Atlantic Canada and I went to Camp Kadimah, where my friends went beyond the city I grew up in. They were the friends that I saw at camp every summer who came from around Atlantic Canada. I also belonged to Young Judea and I went to their conventions from the time I was a teenager. Some of my best friends today, who are lifelong friends, are the friends I made in these early days of involvement in the Atlantic Jewish community. As an adult, I have been actively involved in numerous capacities for the Jewish community. Some of my past and current involvements include: Co-Chair of Camp Kadimah; Regional Chair of the United Israel Appeal campaign; Founding Board Member of the Canadian Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), acting as the representative from Atlantic Canada; Board Member, representing Atlantic

### JNF ATLANTIC OFFICE

Executive Director: Lynda Taller-Wakter

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### **INVITATIONS WITH A MITZVAH**

Finding the perfect invitation for your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah can sometimes prove to be a challenge, so look no further as JNF has created an array of new invitations to suit everyone's budget.

Choose from our 5 exquisite designs and customize them with your own wording to use as invitations, favours, table signs, reply or thank you cards.

The funds from your order will be used to plant trees in Israel, as a donation to water resource development, or towards one of our many JNF projects of your choice. When you purchase invitations through JNF you are ensuring that your child develops a strong connection with the Land of Israel and doing a Mitzvah too!

#### ALSO AVAILABLE:

We have Placecards and Save the Date cards available for your Simcha. Or, if you are planning another celebration from engagements to graduations, anniversaries to birthdays, we would love to help enhance any occasion and be a part of your special day.

For further information and to order

invitations, please contact your local JNF office.

\*An income tax receipt will be issued for all donations.



### JNF WELCOMES YOSSI MILSTEIN, JERUSALEM EMISSARY



My wife Judith and I have had the privilege of living in many different countries over the years but are happy to be back in Canada where I went to high school. (Herzliah, Montreal).

Being new to the JNF family, I have quite an objective view. JNF-KKL is the definition of modern Zionism today; the activities of JNF in the Galilee and especially in the Negev are the pillars of present day pioneering. JNF is the largest green organization in Israel dealing with land, forestry and water. I am proud to be a part of such an organization.

I bring with me many years of public ser-

vice and involvement with a wide variety of projects. As the Jerusalem Emissary to Toronto, my job is to help you achieve your philanthropic goals.

I hope to serve as a bridge between donors and their projects, and to use my experience to help you become a partner with the people and the land of Israel. With your support we will be able to help JNF-KKL in its task, to leave behind a better world for our children.

HADAR EPSTEIN, EDUCATION SHLICHA



Looking back on these past few months, the Education Department of JNF is so proud to have reached thousands of students and educators across the country. We will continue to bring our knowledge and expertise to educate both the young and old. A highlight has been the addition of children from different schools being more involved in the Tu Bi'Shevat campaign, by drawing and colouring pictures about the meaning of Israel and JNF to them.

We are integrating KKL/JNF into the curriculum by playing on a giant map of Israel, and developing meaningful and fun programs for Yom Ha'Atzmaut in schools and communities. Our goal is to enhance what is being done in Israel through the KKL/JNF projects.

BGB Now! The monthly education

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newsletter for all educators and community leaders across the country is back. It provides pictures and facts about sites in Israel, quotes, important dates, and activities for educators to use.

It has been an amazing experience working and collaborating with schools and organizations on how to bring interactive, and hands on learning about Israel to our youth.

We look forward to our new education website coming to life as well as forging ahead with custom made programs for schools and summer camps.

### JEWISH NATIONAL FUND AT KK

### JNF CANADA TAKES GREAT PLEASURE TO PARTNER ONCE AGAIN WITH THE JERUSALEM FOUNDATION IN THE TEDDY PARK PROJECT. THIS IS A MAGNIFICENT UNDERTAKING IN HONOUR OF TEDDY KOLLEK, THE MUCH LOVED MAYOR OF JERUSALEM.

The Park includes a multitude of fascinating elements to attract visitors. JNF Canada will bring new life to a 19th century historic building and adopt two of the most prestigious gates surrounding the Park. This historic building, central to the park, represents a very significant period in "modern" Jerusalem's history as

one of the first neighborhoods outside the old city walls. We invite you to join in this exciting project, to create a new destination point for modern Jerusalem against the backdrop of its old city, providing a green haven for all to enjoy. Donors will be recognized on a significant wall of honour.



INITIATOR - \$1,000,000 TRUSTEE - \$250,000 **ENTRANCE GATES DOUBLE GATE** - \$250,000 SINGLE GATE - \$125,000 (SOLD) SPONSOR - \$10,000

**GUARDIAN** - \$100,000 **PIONEER - \$54,000 BUILDER - \$36,000** CHAI - \$18,000



TO LEARN MORE, PLEASE CONTACT SHARON AT 514.934.0313 OR SHARON.LEHRER@JNF.CA

#### WWW.JNF.CA

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IT IS THE TRADITION TO MAKE A CHARITABLE DONATION IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE. AS YIZKOR IS OBSERVED DURING PASSOVER, IT IS A TIME TO REMEMBER.

### PROCEEDS FROM THIS YEAR'S YIZKOR CAMPAIGN WILL BE DIRECTED TO THE WILDFLOWER TRAIL IN AYALON-CANADA PARK

To help make this year's Yizkor contribution meaningful, JNF will create an 8-km hiking and biking trail that will provide visitors to the Ayalon-Canada Park with an opportunity to enjoy nature.

The trail will be in honour of all IDF soldiers who have been held in captivy. Your donation will help bring visitors closer to nature, scenic views, historical remains and old water systems that nourished communities and farms throughout history – the perfect combination of heritage and nature in one of the major sites in Jewish history.

A minimum donation of \$90.00 will entitle you to receive a Tree of Life Certificate to commemorate your loved ones on the occasion of Yizkor.



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