

ROOTS

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND OF CANADA



NEGEV DINNER 2013 PROJECT:
THE STEPHEN J. HARPER HULA VALLEY
BIRD SANCTUARY VISITOR AND EDUCATION CENTRE



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JEWISH NATIONAL FUND OF TORONTO
NEGEV DINNER 2013

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HARPER**

CHAIRS: SENATOR LINDA FRUM & HOWARD SOKOLOWSKI O. ONT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2013
METRO TORONTO CONVENTION CENTRE

TO BENEFIT
THE STEPHEN J. HARPER HULA VALLEY
BIRD SANCTUARY VISITOR AND EDUCATION CENTRE

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NATIONAL PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



FRANK A. WILSON, CHRP, CPC
NATIONAL PRESIDENT



JOSH COOPER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

It is our pleasure to bring greetings to all JNF friends, supporters and volunteers across Canada. The hard work and generosity of our communities continue to build, strengthen and revitalize the Land of Israel.

It is natural during this time of the year to reflect on the past and to admire our accomplishments and those of others. We are proud of the work that JNF does as we continue to be responsible for the development and infrastructure of the Land in Israel.

In this edition of Roots, you will have

an opportunity to read about the successful Negev Dinners that took place across Canada, meet some outstanding volunteers who have made a difference in our organization, see projects that your donations have built and hear about the exciting Gilad Schalit tour taking place in September. We are excited about what the future holds for JNF.

Our success would not be possible without the support and generosity of our donors and volunteers whose commitment, effort and dedication are what help us build Israel through JNF.

When we launched our first National edition of Roots in April, we received tremendous feedback from our readers who felt more connected to our communities and were able to see the efforts all across Canada.

JNF will continue to flourish and grow and connect our communities and friends with Israel. From our families to yours, we would like to wish all of you a Chag Sameach and a happy, healthy and sweet year to come. Shana Tova!

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The paper in this magazine is FSC certified, which promotes environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable management of the world's forests.

THE STEPHEN J. HARPER

HULA VALLEY

BIRD SANCTUARY VISITOR & EDUCATION CENTRE



Jewish National Fund's Hula Lake Nature and Bird Park is located along a major global migration route. Every year during spring and fall migration, 500 million birds fly to the Hula Valley. Developed by KKL-JNF as part of the Hula Valley Rehabilitation Plan, the park has become a world renowned attraction for hundreds of thousands of visitors each year from Israel and abroad and serves as a model for cooperation between conservationists, birders, tourists and farmers.

Through your support, KKL-JNF

is establishing a 4,000 square meter state-of-the-art visitor center at this unique site. The Centre is at the heart of the Hula Valley's vital wetland rehabilitation project. The centre will be a world-class scientific and educational facility, designed to blend with its environment according to principles of sustainable development. It will link Israel with scientific communities and travelers from around the world. The site is expected to attract one million local and international tourists annually, more than doubling the current number,

within 10 years.

JNF Toronto will help transform a vision into a reality. The Stephen J. Harper Hula Valley Bird Sanctuary Visitor & Education Centre will benefit the environment and become a major source of income for the residents of the area. With your help, the visitor and education centre will become the pinnacle of KKL-JNF's major project, restoring the Hula wetlands to their former glory.

JNF PROJECTS IN ISRAEL



**WINNIPEG SHECHAFIM SCHOOLYARD
WINNIPEG 2008**



**THE BALABAN BASKETBALL PARK SITE AT HESDER YESHIVA
CALGARY, 2013**



**THE DOMED ASSEMBLY HALL AT YAD LAYELED
VANCOUVER**



**AFTER SCHOOL CARE FOR CHILDREN AT RISK IN BET SHEMESH
EDMONTON**



**BIBLICAL TRAIL IN MT. GILBOA
MONTREAL AND LONDON**



**WEISZ FOREST SCENIC ROUTE
SOUTHWEST ONTARIO**



**ADAMIT PARK SCENIC ROAD
JNF CANADA**



**YIR'ON RECYCLED WATER RESEVOIR
OTTAWA**



**MEETING POINT PARK, IR HABAHADIM
JNF CANADA**

MEET OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS



ILAN PILO, VANCOUVER, Ilan Pilo has a vast experience in the fields of Management, Marketing, PR and Fundraising. His previous position was Head of the Communications & Marketing Division for the Ra'anana Municipality in Israel. Before he was the CEO of the Wolf Foundation that promotes science and arts worldwide. Previous to this position, Ilan was Director of Marketing and Communications and Spokesperson for the Herzliya Municipality. He worked with Herzliya Mayor, Ms. Yael German, currently, the Israeli Minister of Health. Ilan graduated in Political Science and Theater from Hebrew University in Jerusalem and has an Executive MBA from the IDC, Herzliya.



SANDRA FAYERMAN, CALGARY, Sandra Fayerman returned to her roots of Alberta from Vancouver bringing 30 years of experience in both the corporate and non-profit sectors. Sandra has led several successful events in Calgary since joining the organization in December 2012 and created symbiotic partnerships with other Calgary communal agencies. Throughout her career, she has brought management expertise and creative vision to lead several organizations, including Executive Director of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and National Council of Jewish Women. As the Executive Director of Development, Sandra contributed to the institutional advancement of the Vancouver Talmud Torah School, creating a development department and establishing the first school endowment fund program.



JASON CAIRNS, EDMONTON, Jason Cairns returned to non-profit Jewish Community work bringing a plethora of experience from both corporate and non-profit sectors. Jason had great success in his 7 years at Jewish Federation of Edmonton, building a strong Hillel and Israel Advocacy committee to inspire Jewish life on campus and greater Edmonton. The Jewish National Fund holds a very special place in Jason's heart. His grandfather was among the first honored by JNF in Edmonton in 1954 and his mother served JNF for 25 years. He grew up in a traditional Jewish home with strong Zionist roots, stories of the Polish underground and the goals our ancestors had to reclaim the land of Israel. Having recently joined JNF in April 2013, Jason looks forward to increasing the profile and strengthening the JNF of Edmonton.



ROB BERKOWITS, WINNIPEG, Rob Berkowits joined the local branch of the Jewish National Fund in 2011 after serving nearly 12 years as Executive Director of Football Manitoba. The Jewish National Fund continues to maintain its position as a forerunner in research and development, water conservation, education, community improvements, security and tourism in Israel. With over twenty years of experience in management, administration, sales, membership service, public relations and marketing, Rob's main focus at the JNF is to oversee the day-to-day operations of all activities at the branch, organize, expand & develop special events & programs, prepare and apply new approaches and marketing strategies to donors in order to augment donation levels and increase recognition of the JNF brand as a whole. A graduate of Rosh Pina Hebrew School, Rob remains active in the local Jewish community. He has served on several Maccabee Games Sub-Committees, volunteered at the Israel Pavilion for Folklorama and still plays recreational slo-pitch baseball in the B'nai Brith League.



FRANKLIN SIMKEVITZ, REGIONAL ONTARIO, Franklin Simkevitz spent more than 25 years in corporate communications and marketing, working with both multi-national corporations and small businesses. For the past 10 years, Franklin has been the Executive Director of the Jewish National Fund for Regional Ontario – covering all communities in Ontario outside of Toronto and Ottawa. The region continues to be one of the most productive on a per capita basis, despite a declining Jewish population base. Franklin has been involved as a volunteer in a number of different community organizations in Toronto and in Hamilton. Currently, he is Chair of the Beth Tikvah Foundation of Hamilton (an organization serving a population of adults with special needs).



LANCE DAVIS, TORONTO, Lance Davis is the Executive Director of the Jewish National Fund – Toronto and has worked in Jewish communal service since 1995. Prior to joining JNF, Lance was the Hillel director at the University of Toronto, directed the leadership development department at UIA Federations Canada and then served as the Director of the Committee for National Jewish Campus Life to unify Hillels across Canada. In 2006, he became the Executive Director of the Calgary Jewish Federation. Lance has an M.A. from Brandeis University and is currently working on his doctoral thesis at U of T focusing on Judaism and pluralism.



KIM GARZON, MONTREAL, With over a decade of experience as a professional for the Campaign Department of Federation CJA, it is our pleasure to welcome Kim Garzon as the new Quebec Region Executive Director. During her tenure at CJA, Kim held a number of positions including Director of the Jewish Chamber of Commerce, Director of YAD Montreal and most recently holding the position of Director of Women's Philanthropy. Kim brings with her a vast experience in outreach and engagement, leadership programming, donor relations and fundraising. Kim comes with a deep sense of commitment, passion and dedication to Jewish community here and in Israel. These qualifications married with a deep connection to Israel will make Kim a tremendous asset to our organization.



LYNDA TALLER-WAKTER, OTTAWA & ATLANTIC, Lynda Taller-Wakter, MBA, is formerly a private-sector marketing and management professional with a focus on branding, marketing and strategic planning. She has held senior C-Suite management positions, spearheaded organizational change initiatives for national companies and consulted for diverse clients in Canadian industry. As a volunteer, Lynda has served as a Board member for JNF Ottawa, the Soloway JCC and Camp Ramah in Canada as well as many committees with Jewish Federation of Ottawa. Lynda is looking forward to growing the JNF Ottawa and Atlantic Canada presence with Board members, professionals and volunteers.

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NEGEV DINNERS/GALAS ACROSS CANADA

JNF sponsors Negev Dinners from coast to coast and proceeds are devoted to major projects throughout Israel. These events represent community wide support from all across the country for Jewish National Fund of Canada. Negev Dinners provide a prestigious forum for honouring community leaders and those who have given outstanding personal effort on behalf of the Jewish State. In many instances this has become the most prestigious organizational/social event in the local community.

CALGARY HONOURING JACK BALABAN



EDMONTON HONOURING HY & BEBE LIEBERMAN



HAMILTON HONOURING ARDYTH & BORIS BROTT



LONDON HONOURING ART & ELEANOR ENDER



MONTREAL



WINDSOR HONOURING DENISE & PETER HRASTOVEC



WINNIPEG ARAB JEWISH DIALOGUE



VANCOUVER HONOURING THE IDF AND ITS HEROES



JNF VANCOUVER



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

VANCOUVER 2013 NEGEV DINNER HONOURING THE IDF AND ITS HEROES



It happened an hour and a half into the 2013 Negev Dinner when members of the IDF Chorus gathered on stage. The troupe began its performance with a lively medley of well-known Israeli songs, beginning with 'Halleluyah'. Dinner guests, caught up in the emotion and energy of the music, spontaneously arose from their seats and started to dance in the aisles. Who would have thought it could happen! This was only part of the magic of an unforgettable Negev Dinner in Vancouver, which took place on June 9th.

Honoured guest at the dinner was

Brigadier General (Ret.) Avigdor Kahalani. A decorated hero of the Six Day War and the Yom Kippur War, Brigadier General Kahalani's distinguished record of service to the State of Israel is an outstanding example of strength, bravery and self-sacrifice, qualities that all members of the IDF endeavour to uphold.

The spirit of the Negev Dinner lived on during the week of the Negev Dinner through engagements at which Brigadier General Kahalani spoke and the IDF Chorus performed. These events included a VIP Pre-Dinner Reception, an event with the staff and students at King

David High School, a heartfelt visit to the residents and staff of Louis Brier Home and Hospital and a relaxed meet and greet event at a local pub with Brigadier General Kahalani and members of the JNF Young Professionals Network.

The Vancouver JNF staff sincerely thanks the members of the Pacific Region board and many devoted volunteers for their commitment and work that contributed to a most memorable Negev Dinner.



Following one of Vancouver's most successful Negev Dinners, we would like to say, THANK YOU.

Thank you to all of our JNF friends who attended and so generously supported the 2013 Jewish National Fund's Negev Dinner, as well as our valued corporate sponsors and advertisers.

It was an honour for the JNF Pacific Region to honour the IDF on the auspicious occasion of the 65th Anniversary of the State of Israel. The IDF is an army unlike any other as its role in Israeli society exceeds that of most armies worldwide. Since its founding, the IDF's history has paralleled Israel's. Apart from the relentless performance of

its duty to protect the citizens of Israel, the IDF has had a nearly immeasurable impact on Israeli culture, behavior and speech. The IDF has made a contribution to the engineering of the Israeli DNA that is second to none. For over half a century, the IDF has sustained and strengthened the social fabric by bringing Israelis together from all walks of life. While army service is mandatory in Israel, those who enlist consider it a privilege.

Both Israel and the IDF rely on the unyielding support shown by Jewish communities in North America. Greater even than their constant moral support and generous donations, is the fact that

young men and women from these communities are currently serving in the IDF. Our Negev Dinner was an expression of our appreciation for this selfless and inspiring commitment, representing an unbreakable bond between these dedicated communities and Israel.

We also thank JNF board members, executive, staff and dinner committee for working so hard on this evening. A special thank you to our dinner co-chairs, Bonnie Belzberg and Francine Binder.

Today Rabbah!

JNF CALGARY



NEGEV GALA 2012 PROJECT: SDEROT RECYCLED WATER RESERVOIR

SUMMER CAMP JNF PROGRAMMING



Alberta welcomed Hadar Epstein, JNF Education Emissary to Canada and a specially trained team of young adults from Israel recently. They presented a summer camp program to Chabad Camp Gan. They then travelled to Camp BB Riback for a Shabbat Weekend of special Israel programming.

This was the first time, JNF Calgary had the opportunity to have a presence at summer camps and we were happy to have this education team visit us. The program was very well received and the children had a lot of fun and learned more about Israel and KKL-JNF.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

BLUE BOX DECORATING FOR YOM HA'ATZMAUT

The JNF booth was filled to capacity all evening at the community 65th Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration, where artistry flowed with children decorating their own blue boxes to take home. From wee ones to teens, they all enjoyed personalizing their own box. Of course, we were there to give the explanation of the meaning behind the Blue Box and what to do with them! The sounds of crying could be heard, but that was only because some little ones didn't want the good times to end when their parents wanted them to leave!



PAULO PERFORMS FOR A JNF/JCC SHABBAT

Children were bused to the JCC from Akivah Academy and Richmond Jewish Day School to join the JCC Daycare for an hour of wonderful musical entertainment by "Paulo" otherwise known as Paul Finkelman. They clapped, sang and stamped their feet as they enjoyed a joint program presented by Calgary JNF and the JCC. Jordan Balaban said the Kiddush and Motzi as over 100 children lined up to get their juice and challah before leaving.





EMOTIONAL CALGARY NEGEV GALA

It was an evening you put on the highlight reels. A large and boisterous crowd. A colourful venue with top notch decor. Celebrity NBA legend Darryl Dawkins aka Chocolate Thunder, as master of ceremonies. The world's best sportscaster, Dan Shulman as the guest speaker. Let's not forget other surprise guests such as the Calgary Stampede Cheerleaders, which all made for another special and memorable JNF Negev Gala in Calgary.

And in the middle of the action, Jack "Coach" Balaban, bravely struggling against cancer, but full of smiles and pride on this evening as many friends and well wishers came up for a hug and back slap.

Calgary JNF Negev Gala held on June 11th, at Beth Tzedec Synagogue was charged with emotion as the community came together to honour Jack Balaban for the quality of individual he is and for what he and his family have brought to the community over many years.

Dan Shulman's address embodied the topic, Life as a Three Point Shot: Family,

Philanthropy & Sports. He touched on his life growing up and how that evoked his choices for involvement with JNF and other philanthropic endeavours. He spoke about his life changing experiences in Israel and advocated for everyone to visit Israel at least once in their life. In fact, Dan was going back to Israel as part of the Maccabiah 2013 games this summer and is now instilling his experiences and values with his three sons. His talk was light and humorous, but held significant meaning. It was very obvious what a true mensch Dan Shulman is and the Calgary community was very fortunate to have had the opportunity to have him be part of their Negev Gala.

As is customary with Negev Galas, the honouree gets to choose a project, and, in this case, the Balaban family chose to raise funds for The Balaban Basketball Park in Kiryat Shemona near the dangerous Lebanon border. What is unique about this community facility is that it will be located at the Hesder Yeshiva, which combines Talmudic study with military service.

The project will not only boost the social fabric of this rather rugged town, but it very aptly symbolizes the essential priorities in Jack Balaban's life – commitment to Judaism, to stand by the pledge "Never Again" and to understand physicality and athleticism as pathways to wisdom.

Those who know Jack Balaban understand that in any conversation, it doesn't take him long to put on his "coach's" hat and he certainly did it at the JNF Negev Gala.

Many of the people he coached were in the audience. During Jack's thank you speech, you could hear a pin drop as everyone gave him the respect and honour to reflect on his life growing up. With his wife of 41 years, Malka, Jack, and his three sons and three grandchildren make the most of each day together.

*Portions of this article were excerpted with permission from the Jewish Free Press newspaper.

JNF EDMONTON



NEGEV GALA 2013 PROJECT: GEFEN AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM FOR AT RISK YOUTH

EDMONTON NEGEV GALA 2013



The JNF Edmonton Negev Gala, honouring Hy & Bebe Lieberman on June 16, 2013 was a very special evening. It was incredible to see three generations of dedicated Zionists sharing a stage - all so passionate about one thing, Israel.

The evening began with a gourmet reception where business community leaders joined the Jewish community in a warm social setting to nosh and shmooze.

As our Negev Gala fell on Father's Day this year, it was nice to see some families incorporate it into their celebration.

Hy & Bebe represent the true mean-

ing of Tzedakah. We heard stories of their various contributions to Jewish organizations over the years, how they would time after time see that something needed to be done and took it on to complete, always behind the scenes, never asking for anything in return. Selfless Tzedakah.

In a world of iPhones, iPads, i this- i that; it was nice to hear about a couple who dedicated their lives to their family and community.

It was appropriate that we had invited Nadav Ben Yehuda, the youngest Israeli to attempt climbing Mount Everest, to

tell his story of self-sacrifice while trying to achieve his personal goals.

The evening filled Beth Israel with an air of warmth, compassion and inspiration. It embodied a relationship - the honouree's partnership with JNF that will establish the After School Care program for Children at Risk in Bet Shemesh.

Mazel Tov to Hy & Bebe Lieberman, you are an inspiration. The deep roots you have planted will continue to flourish for generations to come.

JNF SPENDS THE DAY WITH CAMP GAN ISRAEL!



Hadar Epstein, National Education Emissary to Canada and a team of young Israelis set up shop at the Talmud Torah and engaged the campers in a number of activities. They created an atmosphere of teaching moments and conversations about the history of JNF, the significance of the colors of JNF and the blue box.

We learned a lot from the campers, having rotated through over 100 kids teaching them about Israel and the Jewish National Fund. Our goal is to make JNF a regular part of the Jewish conversations in Edmonton Jewish homes and schools.

This visit was the first in a series of

visits which JNF will make to Edmonton over the next year: Hadar will return in December to run a number of programs at both Talmud Torah and Menorah Academy followed by a visit from Kalil Adar in January 2014, all part of Edmonton's strategy to increase JNF's profile in Edmonton schools.



THANK YOU DR. SAM MARCUSHAMER

On behalf of the Board and Executive of the Jewish National Fund of Edmonton, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Sam Marcushamer for your leadership, commitment and contributions to the Jewish National Fund and to Israel. Your guidance and input as President has greatly benefitted our

organization. It is through the efforts of our lay leaders that we are able to provide for the needs of our community.

Jason Cairns
Executive Director

JNF WINNIPEG



NEGEV GALA 2013 PROJECT: OFAKIM COMMUNITY CENTRE - REV. JOHN HOWSON

SEINFELD'S JASON ALEXANDER DELIGHTS AUDIENCE AT NEGEV GALA 2013



Winnipeg's Negev Gala was held this year at the Centennial Concert Hall on Tuesday, June 4. The evening started out with a reception for our sponsors and VIPs catered by Desserts Plus.

Once everyone took their seats, the Regional Board President and Vice President, Karla Berbrayer and Jessica Cogan took the stage to begin the formal program. The audience of over a thousand was delighted by the singing of the Canadian and Israeli national anthems by Justin Odwak and Sarah Sommer. This was followed by the introduction

of Frank Wilson, Ze'ev Kedem, Mayor Sam Katz, Premier Greg Selinger and the branch's Executive Director, Rob Berkowits, who all brought greetings on behalf of their respective organizations.

The audience enjoyed a video tribute to the Arab Jewish Dialogue and the members were brought on stage to receive their citation. Co-chairs, Howard Morry and Ab Freig delighted the audience with their warm and heartfelt thank you speech.

Just before the headlining performance, the audience was introduced to the

project the Gala was in support of: the restoration of the outdoor space at Ilanot Special Education School in Jerusalem.

Lastly, the spectacular Gala performance. Jason Alexander took to the stage and entertained the audience with his variety show that included a song about Winnipeg, stand-up comedy, a Seinfeld tribute and lots of audience interaction!

Desserts were enjoyed by all at the after-show reception. The event was a huge success, with audience members thoroughly enjoying the entertainment, food and wonderful atmosphere.

ISRAEL'S "BIRD MAN" VISITS WINNIPEG



On the beautiful, sunny Canada Day long weekend, the Jewish National Fund – Manitoba/Saskatchewan Region had the pleasure of hosting Dr. Yossi Leshem, a renowned ornithologist from Israel and his wife Rivka as they completed the last stop on their Canadian tour. Dr. Leshem was invited to visit Winnipeg by the JNF and The Honourable Christine Melnick, Minister of Immigration and Multiculturalism. Together with Minister Melnick, Past Regional Board President, Mel Lazareck, a representative from Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre, Pamela Wankling and Rob Berkowitz organized the Leshems' visit.

Israel is located at the junction of three continents – Europe, Asia, and Africa. This section of the Middle East forms the northern start of the Great Rift Valley, which provides a corridor through which over 500 million birds migrate every year. This area has provided the opportunity for a unique partnership between Dr. Leshem, an Israeli Jew, and Palestinian and Jordanian Arabs. This partnership, which is 20 years strong, has been named “Birding as a Path to Peace” and has grown to include a large educational component through which Arab and Jewish children come

together on the subject of bird watching and identification in over 250 schools throughout the State of Israel.

“So often when we hear stories about the Middle East, the prospect of hope is left out,” says Karla Berbrayer, Regional Board President of the Jewish National Fund “Dr. Leshem shows us that environmental conservation and the study of birds can bring Arabs and Jews together. If partnership can be developed around birds, then peace in the Middle East may be possible.”

Bringing Dr. Leshem to Winnipeg is a joint effort between the Jewish National Fund and Oak Hammock Marsh, which is a sister marsh to the Hula Valley wetland in Israel.

When the Leshems first arrived in Winnipeg, their first stop was at the CTV studios downtown to tape a segment for CTV Morning Live. That evening, they enjoyed a lovely Shabbat dinner at Shaarey Zedek Synagogue, and impressed guests with their stories of travelling, presenting and of course, birding!

The weekend was filled with various media appearances and interviews, well-attended presentations at both Fort Whyte Alive and Oak Hammock Marsh

Interpretive Centre (a sister marsh to the Hula Valley wetland) and trips to local attractions such as the Winnipeg Art Gallery and Lower Fort Garry.

Back home in Israel, Dr. Leshem has been involved in many aspects of nature conservation, with an emphasis on bird research for 38 years. Since 1984, research for his doctorate has resulted in a decrease of 76% of collisions with aircraft caused by birds, and has saved \$790 million, not to mention many lives, both human and avian. Today he serves as Lt. Col. (Ret) in the Israeli Air Force and continues this research.

At the moment, Dr. Leshem is conducting a number of scientific projects, among them a project which tracks migrating birds that have been fitted with satellite transmitters, and a project that tracks migration with the aid of radar, in cooperation with a team of scientists. Dr. Leshem has also initiated a program to use Barn Owls and Kestrels as pest controllers to reduce the use of pesticides in agricultural fields, which became a national program and a regional project with Jordan and the Palestinian Authority.

JNF HAMILTON

NEGEV DINNER: A POSTSCRIPT



It is so difficult to find an appropriate way to show our appreciation to our volunteers who do so much for JNF without any expectation other than the satisfaction of helping the country we all love - Israel. We call on volunteers throughout the year for all kinds of activities and would be lost without them.

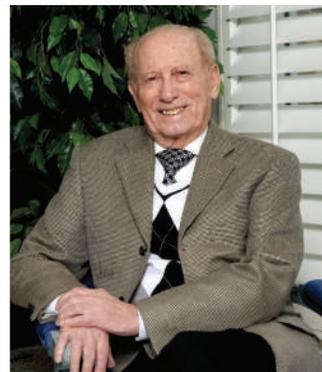
One of the ways we thank our volunteers is through our traditional Negev Dinner wrap-up. This year we were at the home of David and Bonnie Loewith, who themselves have volunteered so much of their time and energy to JNF over the years. The food was great and there was lots of good conversation. This year's Negev Dinner honourees, Ardyth and Boris Brott also joined in the festivities. The Loewiths live on a dairy farm and so a number of the volunteers grabbed the unique opportunity to see a real live dairy farm in operation.

The wrap-up is our way of thanking our volunteers for their time, dedication and contributions throughout the year. Their involvement is so vital to JNF's success. Since they work so hard for us during the year, it was our pleasure to work for them on this evening.

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS: CLARA HALPERN, PHIL ROSENSHEIN & ISRAEL VUKMIR

It isn't always easy to find volunteers. In fact, sometimes it's extremely difficult. We are very fortunate in Hamilton to have a number of people who are very committed to ISRAEL and the JNF. Everyone involved regularly with our annual Negev Dinner and our telethons will agree that Clara Halpern does it better than anyone. Her reputation is well deserved. People have a difficult time saying "no" to Clara, perhaps because she is so passionate about JNF and the work we do in Israel.

Perhaps our longest serving volunteer is Phil Rosenshein. Phil volunteers as part of our Advertising and Sponsorship team for our Negev Dinners. As he is quick to point out, the lunches and rounds of golf cost him a lot of money but he is always happy to raise money "for Israel". There are very few nonogenarians who can work at the pace that Phil sets. But, he



wouldn't have it any other way. His love and passion for Israel is unquestioned.

Not every volunteer raises money. Our Hamilton office is fortunate indeed to have someone like Israel Vukmir. An orphaned native of Croatia, he never complains and is one of the most 'giving' people you will ever meet. Whether it's counting coins from Blue Boxes, shlepping boxes from location

to location helping with our various mailings, Israel is always there. His undying support for the JNF and Israel is the motivating factor in his volunteer involvement.

The Jewish National Fund is honoured that these volunteers have chosen our organization.

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JNF LONDON

NEGEV DINNER WITH A TWIST



While the Negev Dinner in London has not been around as long as in some other Canadian cities, nevertheless this year was London's Silver Anniversary and the committee agreed that a change was in order. The evening has seen many interesting keynote addresses from a wide range of well-known personalities.

This year, with the blessing of the honourees – Art and Eleanor Ender, we were treated to a 'show' featuring a group called AFTER FOUR, a troupe of 4 well-harmonized singers accompanied by some great musicians. They were joined by Denise Pelley, an internationally known jazz singer. Performing jazz,

pop and Israeli songs, they completely 'wowed' the audience.

Comments from our guests afterward were all positive with many indicating that they would love to see more Negev Dinners like this one.

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER: SUSAN MERSKEY



People who volunteer with the Jewish National Fund do so for a whole variety of reasons. Susan Merskey has been a volunteer with the JNF for over 2 decades but she's no ordinary volunteer. Susan 'writes' ... in addition to writing for the London Jewish News, Susan has done more than her fair share of writing material for JNF ... articles and ads for the LJM and stories for our Negev Dinner Tribute books. She has worked (either editing or writing) on a majority of the 'biographies' of honourees, except of course when she and her husband Harold, were Negev Dinner honourees themselves. Open any of our recent tribute books from Regional Ontario and you'll see her by-line on the JNF

story about our organization. "I think they are an important means of promoting awareness of JNF's work both in Israel and elsewhere" according to Susan.

But, Susan is so much more than a writer! She knows everyone in the community and has done volunteer work, not just in the Jewish community but in the 'arts' community and much more throughout London. Her work over the years for JNF was not confined to just writing but encompassed a whole variety of activities, including Board membership and helping out at our events. We are very fortunate to have Susan as part of our JNF organization in London, Ontario. Kol Hakavod.

JNF WINDSOR

A TRANSITION IN THE MAKING



Left - Outgoing President, Sharon Kaplan
Right - Incoming President, Bethe Jarcaig

At the recent board meeting of the Jewish National Fund of Windsor, Sharon Kaplan completed her term as President and turned over the reins to

Bethe Jarcaig. For more than 20 years, Sharon Kaplan ran the Windsor office doing a truly awesome job. When she retired about six years ago, she became a JNF Board member. According to Sharon, "What can I say, JNF has been in my blood." Two years ago the Board elected her President! Now, at the end of her term, she becomes the Chair of the Board and Bethe Jarcaig is poised to chart a new direction for the Windsor office.

Bethe is no stranger to the JNF. Her husband Sheldon is a past president of the Windsor office, and both she and Sheldon have been active supporters of JNF for many years. Clearly, Bethe is

committed to ensuring that the strong JNF brand in Windsor continues well into the future. She feels that, "There is a lot we can do to counter the fact that we don't have a lot of young Jewish people in Windsor. There are still many opportunities to engage Windsor's younger generation and others in the Windsor community. We just have to think a bit differently. We have been one of the most productive JNF communities across Canada, and our long time volunteers still continue to be involved and we deeply appreciate their ongoing support".

We look forward to the future of JNF Windsor.

HOW WE THANK OUR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers ... what a striking name for people who do so much for so little! It can easily be said that volunteers are the heart of any charitable organization. Volunteerism is a fundamental act of good citizenship - so valuable in a society that seems so pre-occupied with self-centeredness.

JNF Windsor calls on volunteers throughout the year for events such as the Blue Box, Tu Bi'Shevat and, of course, the Negev Dinner. Singling out individuals is extremely difficult, so one of the ways in which we thank our volunteers is to have them participate at a 'wrap-up' event after our annual Negev Dinner.

This year's wrap-up was held at the home of Bethe and Sheldon Jarcaig, two outstanding volunteers in their own right - he is a former president and very involved in our Negev dinner fundraising, and she is the newly elected president of JNF Windsor. It was a great evening filled with wonderful ruach, good food and great conversations.



Many of our volunteers continue to be active participants long after their formal board commitments are over. We are indebted to them. They are bright

shining lights, and their efforts in our community have not gone unnoticed. May they continue their 'mitzvah' work for many years to come.

JNF REGIONAL ONTARIO



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

JNF HELPS KINGSTON CELEBRATE YOM HA'ATZMAUT



Melissa Greenberg Springer is JNF's key volunteer on the ground in Kingston. Melissa is one of JNF's invaluable volunteers who tirelessly create programming on behalf of JNF.

She and her committee did an awesome job in organizing a Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration for Israel's 65th birthday at the Beth Israel synagogue.

Almost 175 people attended the party

and enjoyed Israeli food, music, dancing and a "shuk" (market).

Year after year, Melissa invests her personal time to ensure that the Jewish community of Kingston has the opportunity to learn about the Jewish National Fund and celebrate holidays such as Tu B'Shevat and Yom Ha'atzmaut.

A committee of talented and hard-working people helped bring the sights,

sounds, and tastes of Israel. They transformed Beth Israel's foyer into the Shuk, designed and built the magnificently ancient "Kotel", prepared the venue and activities and everything else that helped to make the event a wonderful, successful community celebration.

Kol hakavod to Melissa and her fantastic committee and Todah Rabah!

THE CANADIAN CHRISTIAN FOREST



When our Christian friends contact us to purchase trees, the Jewish National Fund will be planting trees in the Holy Land in a picturesque forest in the central Galilee between Mount Tabor and Nazareth adjacent to Beit Keshet and offering splendid panoramas over the Jezreel Valley to the lower Galilee. This forest has been designated as the Canadian Christian Forest in tribute to our Canadian Christian friends who share a love for the Land of Israel.

The number 18 is highly symbolic. In Hebrew, the related word "chaya"

means living thing, such as a tree or an animal and is derived from the Hebrew word chai, meaning life. Jews often give gifts and donations in multiples of 18, which is called "giving chai." When you give \$18 you are actually giving life to the Holy Land – Israel. There is no better way to show your support for the land of Israel than by planting trees. People who receive cards acknowledging that trees have been planted in their honour in Israel, are very touched by the gesture.

JNF TORONTO



NEGEV DINNER 2013 PROJECT: PROJECT: THE STEPHEN J. HARPER HULA VALLEY BIRD SANCTUARY VISITOR AND EDUCATION CENTRE

12TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC JNF GOLF TOURNAMENT



The 12th Annual Golf Classic of JNF Toronto was held on June 3, 2013 at the Islington Golf Club. A committee of dedicated volunteers under the chairmanship of Howard Davidson and Lloyd Pollack did a superb job of organizing the event. We would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to our Presenting Sponsor, Tom's Place, and to all of our many generous sponsors and donors. Your participation helped to make our Tournament an unforgettable

experience. A great day of golf was followed by a sumptuous dinner, distribution of trophies, prizes and an exciting live auction.

Proceeds from the tournament were directed toward the development of a therapeutic playground at the Ilanot School for special needs students in Jerusalem.

We thank our very special guests from the NHL Alumni Association, Bill Derlago, Gary Leeman, Mark Osborne and

Jack Valiquette, who once again donated their time to help us out.

Plans for the 13th Annual JNF Golf Classic, which will be held at the Weston Golf and Country Club on Monday June 9, 2014 are underway. We expect the Tournament to sell out quickly so to avoid disappointment, call the JNF office 416.638.7200 to reserve your spot.

JNF TORONTO AGM



The JNF Toronto AGM was held on June 10, 2013 at the Toronto Botanical Gardens. Faye Minuk was elected President and the following awards were presented:

- **Bernard M. Bloomfield Medal:** Howard Davidson
- **Patricia Joy Alpert Memorial Leadership Award:** Lloyd Pollack Q.C.
- **Gary & Judy Neinstein Student Achievement Award:** Jordan Pike & Josh Arbess

- **Degel Yerushalayim:** Leo Baeck Day School, South Campus
- **Award of Appreciation:** Marvyn Budd, Patricia Friedland, Peggi Milgram, Dave MacKinnon, and Dave Brooks

I HEART BEAUTY



On Thursday, May 23, women of all ages gathered for JNF Toronto's I Heart Beauty, an evening in celebration of art and beauty. Toronto artist Jessica Gorlicky threw open the doors of her studio to guests and treated all to a live art performance. Well-known makeup artist Maureen Greenstein and her

artists from The Beauty Agency gave makeovers to all ladies in attendance, fake eyelashes included. Guests also had the opportunity to shop for sparkling jewelry from Get Shackled, beautiful purses from Jeanne Lottie and had access to Elin Bianco, professional hair products that are exclusive to high end

salons. Photographer Elliot Syman captured many great photos of the women in attendance. It was a night to indulge and be indulged, guaranteed to make women feel good about themselves and their contribution to Ilanot Special Education School.

BAR MITZVAH FUNDRAISER



ZACHARY COLE

Zachary Cole selected the Jewish National Fund as one of his charities to recognize on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah as he was highly influenced by his experience winning the JNF video contest a few years ago. By putting together the video, he learned a lot about JNF and what the organization does for Israel. The programs that JNF spearhead really resonated with him as he is very interested in science and technology. Congratulations on your Bar Mitzvah Zachary!



CORRECTIONAL • OFFICERS • RIDE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2013

START LOCATION: 1111 DAVIS DRIVE, NEWMARKET START TIME: 9:00 AM
TO REGISTER: WWW.JNF.TORONTO.CA OR 416.638.7200 x130
RIDER: \$25 PASSENGER: \$15

JNF'S GUYS & DOLLS NIGHT OUT



“A-wop-bop-a-loo-bop-a-wop-bam-boom!” Toronto had the chance to relive the memories and wonderful music of the 50’s and 60’s at the JNF’s Guys and Dolls Nite Out, featuring original Doo Wop greats.

On Tuesday, May 28th at Adath Israel Synagogue, a huge roster of Doo Wop giants played hits such as “He’s so Fine”, “The Lion Sleeps Tonight” and

“Little Darlin’” to an enthusiastic audience. Musical acts included Jay Siegel’s Tokens, The Chiffons, Diamond David Somerville, The Marcells, Kenny Vance and the Planotones, Kathy Young and Pure Gold, with special guest emcee AM740 radio personality Robbie Lane. In 2013, it was the only Doo Wop concert on the busy Toronto event calendar, making it a rare chance to see and hear

the original performers whose music helped launch and transform the rock ‘n’ roll era.

Funds raised from the concert will help upgrade the yards of the Ilanot Special Education School to meet safety and accessibility standards, ensuring that the space is maximized to benefit students with physical and cognitive needs.



COME WITH YOUR
BOYFRIEND, GIRLFRIEND,
GROUP OF FRIENDS,
ON YOUR OWN,
WHATEVER! JUST
COME FOR THE PARTY!

jnf future party

WHO ARE YOU TAKING TO PROM?

YES, THE PUNCH IS SPIKED

SATURDAY OCTOBER 19

9:30 PM - TICKETS \$90

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT REBECCA
416.638.7200 x130 JNFTORONTO.CA



NEGEV CAMPAIGN PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE STEPHEN HARPER



For the first time in its history, the Jewish National Fund is honouring a sitting Prime Minister, The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, who has publicly stated, “When Israel, the only country in the world whose very existence is under attack is consistently and conspicuously singled out for condemnation, I believe we are morally obligated to take a stand.” On Sunday, December 1, 2013, JNF will pay tribute to Prime Minister Harper. He is a stalwart friend of Israel and JNF is truly delighted to honour his leadership.

Steered by the capable leadership of Campaign Chairs Senator Linda Frum and Howard Sokolowski, the Negev Campaign is already well underway. The chairs have assembled an executive team that is second to none who have been working many months to secure support for this historic Campaign in honour of the Prime Minister. A number of donors who made early major gifts to the campaign and several members of the executive team attended the Leadership Launch of the Negev Campaign at the home of the Chairs.

The Campaign is gearing up for an exciting fall. Funds from the 2013 Negev Campaign will support the building of the Stephen J. Harper Hula Valley Bird Sanctuary Visitor and Education Centre. The community launch will be held on September 16th and will feature JNF’s special guest, Gilad Schalit. Tables, tickets, donation and advertising opportunities for the event are available. Visit the Negev Campaign website at jnftoronto.ca/negev2013 for more information.

JNF'S COR GIVES BACK

A HELPING HAND TO CHILDREN OF FALLEN PRISON SERVICE OFFICERS



"I want to thank the people who donated these scholarships, which mean much more to us than just money. This is a gift of a warm and loving embrace." Olga Ohana spoke on Tuesday July 30, at the KKL-JNF scholarship distribution ceremony in Ashkelon, Israel for the children of fallen members of the Israel Prison Service (IPS). Olga's husband Kfir was one of 44 people, most of them IPS cadets, who were killed in the December 2010 Carmel Forest fire. The scholarships for the new school year were the gift of the Correctional Officers Ride Fund (COR), through JNF To-

ronto and the Maurice OBM and Laura Simons Fund of England.

KKL-JNF Director General Meir Shpigler said that besides its commitment to a greener, more sustainable environment, "KKL-JNF puts education at the top of its priority list. We have five educational centres throughout the country where students come and learn about KKL-JNF activities and values. Together with Laura Simons and the Correctional Officers Ride Fund of Toronto, KKL-JNF is honoured to support the IPS orphans."

The members of the Hard Chargers

Motorcycle Club from Toronto couldn't be at the ceremony, but they prepared a video clip for the IPS families. Being correctional officers themselves, they were very affected by the Carmel fire and wanted to help the families of those affected by the tragedy.

Lieutenant General Aharon Franco, commander of the Israel Prison Service, said, "KKL-JNF and its friends everywhere in the world are a synonym for accomplishing things and finding creative ways to support and to help. The solidarity expressed by the Canadian correctional officers is very moving."

JNF OTTAWA



JNF OTTAWA PROJECT: YIR'ON RECYCLED WATER RESERVOIR

OUR HONOUREE'S GOT HEART JNF OTTAWA NEGEV DINNER OCTOBER 29, 2013



At this year's Negev Dinner, JNF Ottawa will be honouring Dr. Robert Roberts, President and CEO of the University of Ottawa Heart Institute (UOHI) and the founding Director of The Ruddy Canadian Cardiovascular Genetics Centre. As one of the founders of molecular

cardiology, Dr. Roberts is recognized as a leader in the research and practice of cardiology worldwide. He is 100% committed to the dinner. Says Dr. Roberts, "When I was approached to be the Negev Dinner 2013 Honouree, I immediately saw this as a great opportunity on my part and on behalf of the Heart Institute to say thank you, and in a very small way give back to the community."

Dr. Roberts has chosen a water project to support for this year's Ottawa Negev Dinner Campaign, because according to him "it is very likely that the 21st century will be more about water than oil. There is an increasing concern around the world as to whether or not we will have adequate water for all and also if we will be able to adequately protect water against all contaminants. Clean

water remains fundamental, it is fundamental to life, and for me it was an obvious project to select."

Dinner proceeds will be directed to the Yir'on Recycled Water Reservoir, a 40,000cm reservoir used to irrigate fruit orchards in the Upper East Galilee. The reservoir provides a readily available source of irrigation water for Galilee farmers, improves the water situation in Israel and provides a solution for an ecologically hazardous situation by recycling effluents instead of letting them flow untreated. Recycled wastewater from JNF reservoirs now supplies 50% of the demand for agricultural water in Israel, and every new reservoir built raises this number higher!



WHERE TO NEXT IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

Our Negev Dinner guest speaker, Bret Stephens, won the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for Commentary and is the foreign affairs columnist of The Wall Street Journal, as well as the deputy editor responsible for the editorial pages of the Wall Street Journal Asia and Europe. He is a member of the paper's editorial board and a regular panelist on The Journal Editorial Report, a weekly political talk show carried nationally by the Fox News Channel.

Mr. Stephens is the former editor-in-chief of The Jerusalem Post, a position he assumed at the age of 28. At the Post, he was responsible for its news, editorial, digital and international editions. He will provide an in-depth perspective on the Middle East and Israel's position having had the exposure to world leaders, including Benazir Bhutto, Tony Blair, George W. Bush, Vaclav Havel and every Israeli Prime Minister since Shimon Peres.

JNF OTTAWA OFFICE

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JNF ISRAELI BLUE SKY BREAKFAST



JNF Ottawa hosted its first JNF Israeli Blue Sky Breakfast on July 17 in a concerted effort to reach out to more people, broaden its donor base and offer new events. Held at the prestigious Rideau Club, which offers sweeping views of the Ottawa River, Parliament Buildings and the Supreme Court of Canada, the Breakfast was very successful, attracting approximately

100 people to hear Gluskin Sheff's well-known Chief Economist and Strategist David Rosenberg, who is also a native Ottawan. Craig Oliver, formerly with CTV, lead the Q&A session. Both gentlemen graciously donated their time and expertise to help JNF Ottawa's fundraising efforts. The event provided an excellent platform to introduce JNF's water management projects to members

of Ottawa's business community, who would have had little prior knowledge of the scope of JNF and our work in Israel. Proceeds from the morning's event were directed to the Sderot Recycled Water Reservoir as a way to highlight JNF's investment in Israel's water economy and to celebrate the UN's International Year of Water Cooperation.

JNF MONTREAL



MONTREAL OASIS PARK - BARBARA & STANLEY PLOTNICK

2ND ANNUAL JNF BALL HOCKEY TOURNAMENT



Talk about the ultimate win: over \$33,000 was raised to benefit children with special needs at the Second Annual JNF Ball Hockey Tournament in Montreal this past March.

Hosted at Le Rinque, Montreal's premier venue for ball hockey, the event featured eight highly competitive teams, which battled it out with the kind of grit usually reserved for playoff season.

"What a fantastic day of hockey," exclaimed Paul Graif, tournament co-chair and emcee, and popular CTV Montreal Sports and K103 Radio personality.

Building upon last year's successful inaugural tournament, JNF Montreal was fortunate to cement a multi-year financial commitment from lead sponsor, the Sheiner Levine Goodman Family Wealth Counsel at the National Bank of Canada.

"Philanthropy has always been a cornerstone of our counsel, and we are very excited to see our partnership with JNF contribute to this passion," explained Michael Goodman, a partner with the company.

"National Bank's commitment provides JNF with the motivation and confidence to continue to grow the tournament in the years ahead," added Ian Weinstein, event co-chair and accountant at Richter, also a major tournament sponsor.

The tournament's final game concluded in dramatic fashion as Ducks captain, Joseph Hopmeyer, drew a penalty shot in overtime and proceeded to score the game-winning goal to defeat RecMontreal 2-1. Rick Modi from the RecMontreal team was crowned the tournament's leading scorer.

JNF Montreal President Barbara Maldoff emphasized that, "An event like

this is a perfect way to engage the public about JNF's vital work, in addition to having plenty of fun in the process."

All players participated in a team-fundraising challenge to win tickets to attend a Montreal Canadiens game from a private Bell Centre loge, courtesy of Dorel. Led by their captain, Ian Weinstein, the BKK boys were crowned the top fundraisers and will be cheering for the Habs in the lap of luxury.

Tournament proceeds were combined with funds raised from the Scotiabank Charity Challenge and allocated towards the construction of an adapted playground at the Dvora Agmon & Roizman Early Intervention Center Preschool Development Center in Jerusalem.

ISRAELI HIGH-TECH INDUSTRY FÊTED AT JNF NEGEV EVENING



“There’s definitely a wave coming,” beamed emcee Stephan Ouaknine in reference to the future availability of affordable renewable energy. “The State of Israel and the JNF are both at the vanguard of this revolution.”

With that wonderful spirit in tow, guests gathered at the Montreal Science Centre in the Old Port, the scenic venue chosen for the 2013 Negev Evening. Entitled “A Nation @ 65: From Start-Up to Now.” The event celebrated 65 years of extraordinary Israeli technological achievements, as well as an opportunity to raise money for future research and development in Israel’s Arava region.

As a follow-up to the delicious dinatoire, the Maccabeats kicked off the elegant event by belting out their a capella rendition of

Hatikvah. Among other highlights, guests were treated to an informative salon-style panel discussion moderated by widely admired entrepreneur, Stephan Ouaknine, founder and managing partner of the investment firm, Inerjys.

Ouaknine led a fascinating discussion touching upon the future of renewable energy. The other panelists included Élie Saheb, Executive Vice President of Technology at Hydro-Québec, which is regarded as a world leader in green expertise and in the improvement of electric vehicle technology, and Dan Cohen, formerly the CEO of Better Place, a company that developed a new generation of “switchable” batteries and charging stations for electric cars.

All funds raised at the Negev Evening

will benefit JNF’s Southern Arava Research and Development Station, which is part of JNF’s continual effort to help cultivate pioneering agricultural and water harvesting techniques. The Arava is simply inhospitable to traditional farming because an annual rainfall of barely 50 mm renders the soil unusable. However, thanks to Israeli resourcefulness spearheaded by the JNF, the arid region astonishingly still produces nearly 60% of the total Israeli export of fresh vegetables and roughly 15% of its high-end aquarium fish and decorative flower exports.

In her closing remarks, JNF Montreal President Barbara Maldoff proudly announced that the prominent accounting firm RSM Richter has agreed to be Montreal’s 2014 Negev Evening Honouree.

JNF MONTREAL: GOING BEYOND THE FINISH LINE



For the second consecutive year, JNF Montreal's Blue Box Bob Team pounded the picturesque pavement around Parc Jean-Drapeau in order to raise money for an extraordinary project in Israel at

the Scotiabank 21k and 5k Charity Challenge.

Adorned in their iconic powder blue JNF T-shirts, more than 20 Blue Box Bob team members joined many of Canada's top professional runners, as well as thousands of other athletic Montrealers, in raising funds and awareness for a plethora of essential causes and charities.

"I really enjoyed being the Blue Box Bob team captain this year," explained Dalia Bosis. "Thanks to so many people, we were able to raise \$10,000 for Israeli children with special needs. I'm already looking forward to beating my 5K time next year!"

Funds raised from the Scotiabank 21k

and 5k Charity Challenge were pooled together with the proceeds from the Second Annual Ball Hockey Tournament and then allocated towards building an outdoor playground for Israeli children with special needs in Jerusalem.

Serving children from all religions and ethnic backgrounds, the Dvora Agmon & Roizman Early Intervention Center Preschool Development Center functions as a superb model of coexistence and cooperation. The playground will include a variety of adapted activities and wheelchair-accessible play structures. A beautifully shaded area with picnic tables will also be featured.

25TH ANNUAL JNF MONTREAL TREE-A-THON

JNF Montreal celebrated the 25th anniversary of its annual Tu B'Shevat Tree-A-Thon last February by raising nearly \$150,000 worth of trees. The event was planned in collaboration with JNF Montreal's Student Council, which helped ensure a remarkable turnout of over 100 student volunteers from high schools, CEGEPs and universities.

"The event was a fun experience for our volunteers," explained Tree-A-Thon co-chair and past student volunteer, Stu Guttman. "Big-hearted supporters in the community always donate great food

and prizes to thank our volunteers."

Trees purchased from this event were planted in the Kissufim Forest, an area located a short distance from the Gaza border, which was severely damaged in the 2012 conflict with Hamas.

The project's main goal? Encouraging local residents — who have been traumatized by rockets—to appreciate the outdoors once again. In addition to providing pleasant scenery and shade, trees were planted in special security formations designed to block a terrorist's field of vision.

"There's a reason why most volunteers return every year," added co-chair Aaron Gluck-Thaler. Outstanding Montreal community volunteer, Laurie Rosenthal, rounded out the trio of exceptional 2013 co-chairs.

Over the past 112 years, JNF has planted more than 250 million trees in Israel. Thanks to the historical generosity of supporters worldwide, these trees have prevented soil erosion, preserved vital ecosystems, protected watersheds and have helped to manage water flow.



JNF ATLANTIC



JNF NEGEV DINNER IS BACK



For the first time since 1996, JNF Atlantic Canada will host a Negev Dinner in Halifax. Dr. Jim Spatz is our gracious Honouree. Jim is well-known in Atlantic Canada as the Chairman and CEO of Southwest Properties, a leading developer of residential and commercial property in Atlantic Canada. The company has developed, constructed, owned and operated properties in Halifax for almost 60 years and also owns several commercial properties in Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Southeastern United States. Since joining Southwest Properties in 1988, Jim has spearheaded its transformation from a successful Halifax-based apartment business to a

regional company operating in the retail, office, warehouse and hospitality sectors of the property industry.

Along with his responsibilities in the office, Jim is actively involved in a number of community activities. He serves on the Atlantic Jewish Council Board of Directors and is Co-Chair for the Camp Kadimah Board. Jim is a member of the Parker Street Food and Furniture Bank Advisory Board, serves as a Life Director of Neptune Theatre and is an active participant of the World Presidents' Organization. Jim has been on the Board of Governors for Dalhousie University for several years and has served as Board Chair since 2008. Dr. Spatz is a medical graduate of Dalhousie

University and completed residency training at McGill University. He is an accredited specialist in emergency medicine and practiced for 13 years. When he retired from the practice of medicine in 1988, he joined Southwest Properties.

We are also thrilled to announce that Rex Murphy will be the Guest Speaker. Murphy, a Rhodes Scholar, was born and raised in St. John's, Newfoundland where he graduated from Memorial University and, in 1968 went to Oxford University, along with former U.S. President Bill Clinton.

He is one of the faces of Canada, radiating intelligence and trustworthiness. He is one of its voices, heard in a Newfoundland brogue coast to coast as moderator of Cross Country Checkup, our only national, open-line program. His mind is as sharp as the Rockies.

Dr. Howard Conter has graciously accepted the position of Dinner Chair. Dr. Conter is a well-respected physician with a genuine community spirit and experienced fundraiser who has for numerous years Chaired the biannual Tema Conter Foundation Dinner raising money for First Responders in memory of his late sister Tema.

JNF Atlantic Dinner will take place at the Cunard Centre in Halifax on May 22, 2014. We look forward to seeing you.

WORLD LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



Participants at the KKL-JNF World Leadership Conference experienced 4 very intensive days of lectures, workshops, outings and meetings. In statements shared with the audience at the WLC 2013



conference summary, as well as a series of personal interviews, participants and conference committee members shared their impressions. A common thread that runs through them all is a meaningful shared



experienced that focused on the Jewish people, the State of Israel, and humanity in general.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013



The AGM was held in conjunction with the KKL World Leadership Conference and the 90th Birthday of President Shimon Peres.



The members of the National board participated in a day long event including a special visit to the Restorers of Jerusalem where many dedicated their projects. A



visit to the new JNF project being undertaken in partnership with the Jerusalem Foundation - "Teddy Park" was enjoyed by all.

SUMMER CAMP FUN AND MORE



This summer, Hadar Epstein, Educational Emissary for JNF Canada, brought three young program coordinators from Israel and traveled across Canada running JNF educational activities for Jewish children in summer camps.

The Education Department was able to reach a much wider audience of children, including those not in Jewish schools. Through fun activities, they felt connected to the Jewish people, Israel and JNF. New perspectives on Israel and JNF projects were discussed, educating students that JNF belongs to all Jews - we all have a part in it. They understand that the "Blue Box" makes them partners in the building of the State of Israel.

In advance of the 2013/2014 academic year a mailing went to all Jewish schools

offering a selection of JNF programs. The Education Department's calendar is filling up with requests from schools across Canada for Hadar to visit and conduct JNF exercises.

In an effort to serve teachers and educators better, the Department is currently revamping the website www.edu.jnf.ca to become more user-friendly which will be updated each month keeping it's content fresh and inspiring. We invite educators to let us know what their needs are and what they want to see included in their Education Portal.

Wishing everyone a Shana Tova and an excellent new year of enthusiastic, meaningful learning!

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.



Winnipeg's Executive Director, Rob Berkowits with Superbowl MVP, Drew Brees

ROB BERKOWITS IS INDUCTED INTO THE MANITOBA JEWISH SPORTS WALL OF HONOUR

Rob's passion & dedication to the growth and development of amateur football is clear. He has played a significant role in the increased participation and popularity of the sport. Greatly respected on the local and national landscape, Rob provided Football Manitoba with poised leadership, outstanding work ethic and remarkable integrity throughout his tenure. Mazal Tov!

- JEWISH NATIONAL FUND -

**BRING BACK YOUR
JNF BLUE BOXES
IN TIME FOR 2013 TAX RECEIPTS**

The Final date to submit Blue Boxes for your 2013 receipt is MONDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

**CONTACT YOUR LOCAL JNF OFFICE
FOR MORE INFORMATION**



Adam Aptowitz



Aaron Bickman

PLAN A GIFT TO JNF AND DO YOUR ESTATE A FAVOUR

The Jewish National Fund is well known for its ability to think long term about programs that make lasting contributions to the development of the State of Israel and its natural environment. JNF supporters would do well to adopt this type of long term thinking in planning their participation in such projects. This is especially true as gifts made through one's will can often be much higher than one could give in one's lifetime. And in doing so, one not only acts as an example to future generations but also generates tax credits which can be of some use to one's estate in distributing assets to heirs.

In Canada, we tax most assets on the value they gain during the time they were owned. (The biggest exception to this rule is the individual's principal residence). Generally speaking on the death of the second spouse, there is a large tax liability owing because of the general appreciation in value of most assets. This rule applies equally to items like a family cottage or investment properties. Often, heirs are forced to sell the asset they most desire to keep just to pay the taxes owing on the property.

Tax credits, on the other hand, reduce

tax owing. Gifts to a registered charity can create these credits and when gifts are made in a will the tax credits can be used against the tax owing on assets which might otherwise have to be sold to pay the tax. For this reason alone, Canadians should think carefully about donating assets to a registered charity just to create the tax credits to keep more valued assets in the family. (For example, one may donate an investment property to charity in order to reduce the taxes owing on the family cottage). And, if the gift creates more tax credits than needed, unused tax credits can be carried back to offset taxes owed from the previous year.

Another way to create a fund of money which can be donated to charity is through the use of life insurance. Generous donors who wish to donate a large sum of money may not have the total amount of funds to cover the bequest they have in mind. One way to supplement these funds is to take out a life insurance policy for the benefit of the JNF. Once the policy is donated to the JNF the premiums can also be donated to the charity so that a tax receipt can be issued both upon the donation of the policy and

the yearly donation of the premium. When the policy matures the amount of the payment will be paid directly to the JNF and then used for whichever purposes have been previously discussed.

Almost any capital asset can be donated. This can be a home, other real estate, RRSPs, collectibles, or premium points. However, the tax benefits of making such donations after death are only realized if the gift is included in the donor's will. It is therefore prudent to plan ahead by retaining a lawyer when drafting the will. And of course the JNF staff should be consulted to ensure that the gift in mind is enough to fund the objects one has in mind. Leaving a sizeable gift by will to the JNF can be a wonderful way to be memorialized for future generations and remind ones children about the important things in life.

Adam Aptowitz lives in Ottawa and practices tax and charity law with Drache Aptowitz LLP.

Aaron Bickman is president of the JNF board of directors in Calgary and is a partner at McLeod Law LLP practising in Estate Planning, Administration and Litigation.

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND



SECURE ISRAEL'S FUTURE



LEAVE YOUR LEGACY IN ISRAEL WITH JNF

The Jewish National Fund offers a unique opportunity to leave a legacy in Israel; one that will continue for years to come. A gift from your estate can help fulfill a need in Israel. By planning, you can determine what kind of project YOU would like to support, whether it be in Community Development, Water, Forestry and the Environment, Research and Development or other kinds of activities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL JNF OFFICE



FOR YEARS WE SUPPORTED HIM.
NOW HE IS COMING TO SAY THANK YOU.

JNF CANADA PRESENTS:

GILAD SCHALIT

TORONTO

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2013
BETH TZEDEC | 8PM

MONTREAL

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2013
SHAAR-HASHOMAYIM | 7:30PM

CALGARY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2013
BETH TZEDEC | 7PM

VANCOUVER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2013
TEMPLE SHOLOM | 8PM

**\$18 TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE ONLINE AT WWW.JNF.CA
FOR EACH TICKET PURCHASED, YOU WILL BE ENTITLED TO SEND ONE E-TREE CARD.**