



# Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Canada

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**Happy Hannukah! Joyeux Hanoussah! Freylekhn Khanike!**  
**Feliz Januca! שמח חנוכה חג ס Праздником Ханука!**

It is Hannukah, a time when we celebrate many miracles, including the religious freedom we gained centuries ago. And again, this year, as we light the candles on our menorahs with our loved ones, we should take a moment to



Victor Linetsky  
President

reflect on all Jews, worldwide, and especially those who may be in difficulty at this time.

Our Board, Staff and Service Provider partners have worked hard to continue our proud tradition of establishing Jewish newcomers to Canada and successfully integrate them into our communities- together building our future.

Here at Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Canada we are privileged to celebrate this joyous holiday with

people from a variety of rich cultures, and in so many languages. We are proud of our accomplishments and are committed to our newcomer community. Like the Maccabees, we see them triumphing over adversity and becoming contributing members of the Canadian Jewish community and Canadian society at large.

As we enter into 2011, with new challenges ahead of us, we need your continued support to fulfill our mandate and strengthen an inclusive and welcoming Jewish community. Your commitment will help make it a reality.

On behalf of the JIAS Canada Board and Staff, we wish you and your families Chag Sameach. May the light of the Hannukah candles brighten the dark winter nights and bring peace to all Israel.

## [JOLT: JIAS Opportunity for Leadership Training](#)

### **RSJCalgary proud to present**

By Irena Karshenbaum, JOLT Coordinator

On Saturday evening, November 13, 2010, members of the Russian Speaking Jews of Calgary – graduates of JOLT 1.0 – stood proudly at the entrance into the sanctuary of the Beth Tzedec Congregation welcoming guests to Russian movie night. The evening, which the RSJC were proud to have co-sponsored, was part of the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Beth Tzedec Jewish Film Festival.

The RSJC participated in the selection of the two movies (A Touch Away and The Gift to Stalin), promoted the event in the Russian speaking Jewish community and fundraised to co-sponsor the evening.

Speaking in front of an audience of over 400, RSJC

member Michael Linetsky, expressed his gratitude to the organizers of the film festival for all they do to unite the Calgary Jewish community. "We are grateful to Harvey Cyngiser and the organizing committee of the Beth Tzedec Jewish Film Festival for the opportunity to give back to the Jewish community through our co-sponsorship of this evening's movies. We would also like to congratulate you on the amazing achievement of organizing the 10th annual Beth Tzedec Jewish Film Festival. Mazel tov to you! Our community is enriched by all your hard work and efforts." RSJC member, Evgenya Knopov, expressed similar sentiments in her speech in Russian.

Participants in JOLT 2.0 completed their 10<sup>th</sup>, and last, session at the end of October, 2010. A few participants have begun their involvement with a number of Jewish community organizations, including the Taskforce on Inclusion of Jewish People with Disabilities, the UJA campaign and House of Jacob Mikveh Israel Orthodox Congregation board.

JOLT 2.0 participants have expressed a desire to join the RSJC. Amalgamation talks will begin soon.



Back row left to right: Lev Khitrine, Elena Braverman, Leonid Braverman, Alexander Oykhman, Tatyana Oykhman, Irena Karshenbaum (JOLT Coordinator).

Front row left to right: Eugene Gaber, Ida Gelt, Leo Novosselsky, Ivan Zendel (JOLT Educator).

I would like to start my report by quoting the words of a young woman who came to Canada from Ukraine two weeks ago: "I don't know how I can thank JIAS enough. I realize that without you I might have not been able to reunite with my brother, who is my only family. I was actually told that at the Canadian Embassy in Kiev."

There are other examples that I want to bring to your attention such as a father, who in a matter of weeks was able to reunite with his daughter, diagnosed with the same type of cancer that had killed her mother only two months earlier; or an elderly couple with medical inadmissibility who was allowed to join their only son in Canada.

These are only a few cases where JIAS Canada played a pivotal role in the lives of Jewish families.

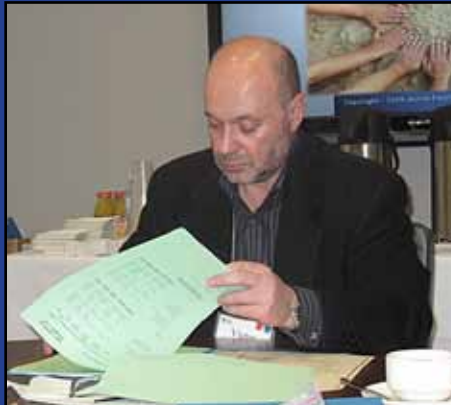
Last year our work was focused on three major themes:

JOLT and its development; preparation for the proposal "Bridging People Together: Understanding Our Common Links" (BPT); and private sponsorships of Iraqi Christian refugees.

JOLT: The pilot project in Ottawa, Calgary and Vancouver was completed in June 2010 with Calgary beginning JOLT 2.0 prior to the completion of JOLT 1.0. To our big disappointment Genesis Philanthropy Group, which funded the pilot originally, did not approve our proposal for additional funding which impacted on our ability to do a formal evaluation of the program and curriculum revision. As you know, we are in the process of developing a JOLT Business plan for the purpose of franchising it in North America and possibly beyond. The first draft of the business plan is enclosed in your packages, and I would like to thank Anna

Gelt, Les Friedman, Leslie Wilder and Ivan Zindel for their contribution to its development. I also want to thank Brenda Gewurz for initiating discussions regarding JOLT with the Montreal Jewish community.

BPT is a proposal that we submitted to Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) as a lead agency together with a consortium with Jewish and non-Jewish major immigrant serving organizations from coast to coast. This proposal is a culmination of the work that we've been doing with CIC for the last two years, meeting with senior bureaucrats in Ottawa, traveling to recruit members



On October 23, 2010 Mr. Kenney announced that Canada will extend its measures for Iraqi refugees for at least two additional years to 2013. As a result of this announcement, Canada will resettle an additional 8,600 refugees.

In 2009, in response to ongoing conditions in Iraq and requests from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Canada more than doubled the number of resettled refugees it would welcome through its mission in Damascus, where most Iraqi refugees apply. Canada committed to resettling approximately 2,500 refugees a year under its private sponsorship pro-

promoting this initiative in Ottawa together with Ottawa JFS.

We have a lot of hard work ahead of us. With the challenges of diminished resources we must be more creative and innovative in order to diversify our funding sources. As a Board, we need to be more involved in the financial health of our organization and contribute more to its financial stability. It is a responsibility of each Board member of JIAS Canada.

I want to thank our funder and supporter UIAFC and CEO Linda Kislowicz in particular for her belief in JIAS Canada and the work we do.

I want to thank each of you, as well as the members of our Audit Committee under the Chairmanship of Fred Florence; Scholarship Committee under the Chairmanship of Bobby Kleiman and Stephen and Sophie Lewar Allocations Committee under the Chairmanship of Howard Karby.

## President's report at 2010 Annual Meeting

of the consortium and working closely with JFS Ottawa on the actual submission of the proposal. We are very optimistic that it will be approved as it is directly responding to the current CIC priorities.

Sponsorships of Iraqi Christians: You must all be aware of the atrocities happening to the Iraqi Christian Community, as recently as on October 31, 2010, 58 worshipers were slaughtered in Baghdad. In response, Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenney made an appeal to the public and specifically to the Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs) to increase the number of submissions for the Iraqi Christian refugees and encouraged private groups to support his initiative.

gram between 2009 and 2011. In 2010, Canada also increased the number of refugees from Damascus it plans to resettle through the UN program as government-assisted refugees, from 1,400 to 1,800 per year.

We approached the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto that had a mission to the Middle East and interviewed about 500 families waiting to be processed. 200 families were identified as potential prospects for Canada. JIAS Canada and our SPOs are exploring partnerships with local Iraqi communities and others to create constituency groups that would undertake financial support of the refugee families upon their arrival while JFSs will take care of their settlement. I would like to thank Linda Steingarten for her interest in

Our sincere thanks to all our Service Providers for their hard work and devotion to Jewish immigrants.

And last but not least, I want to thank Mila and Fay for the hard work they carry out on a daily basis and for their commitment and their contribution to the very important work we perform on behalf of all the Jewish people in Canada.

I also want to express our appreciation to Terri Boidman, Director of Marketing and Communications, for the best looking Annual Report we have ever had.

I wish all of us a productive and successful year. May we all go from strength to strength.

*Victor Linetsky, President*

# MEMORIES OF ABE BOGEN

Abe Bogen passed away on September 27, 2010. He liked to help others and did not like other people to help him. He was very modest and did things because he thought it was the right thing to do. He would be embarrassed that eulogies were made to honour him.

Abe Bogen (Katzenelbogen) was a kind, funny and a modest man with a colossal intellect. It was always a pleasure to have a conversation with him when he was with JIAS, when he retired or even when he became ill. He left with his mind fully intact; it was his body that betrayed him.

## *Rivka Augenfeld remembers:*

The third name on my speed-dial is Bogen. I can't bring myself to delete it, as if I still expect to come home to that wonderful one-word message "Abra-sha" or else, to a question about a Yiddish poem, an old client at JIAS or, in more upset tone, asking for an explanation about some development in the news. We had a ritual - I called him back, asked him how he was, got a disgusted response "better not to ask", and then I would say, "I withdraw the question...". Sometimes we spoke Yiddish, sometimes English - he was always grateful to have the contact, but he wouldn't believe that it was an important call for me as well.

I first really got to know Abe Bogen during the 17 years (1974-1991) that we worked together at JIAS. I never knew what a new day would bring - jokes, stories, reminiscences about his Lithuanian childhood, his teenage years in Toronto, and the juicy gossip about the Yiddish writers of Montreal (not such a saintly bunch!) Especially unpredictable were the WW II army stories - some very sad and then unexpectedly, some really imaginative salty language you didn't expect to hear from a respectable older gentleman.

I learned to care passionately about all our clients and their futures, I learned background about the law and the regulations, and also all the old terminology



*Abe Bogen and family in front of the Russian Restaurant in Montreal*



which came in very handy in dealing with complex cases. All our clients responded to Abe - Jews from Morocco, the USSR, Hungary, Poland, Israel, Iran, Argentina, Ethiopia - and the occasional non-Jew as well. Everyone felt his warmth, his caring, his desire to do the best job possible. He was unhappy when he had no solution for people - when he had to tell them bad news. The only thing I could do better than Abe was talk to government officials - they made him nervous even though he knew a lot more than they did most of the time.

I quickly came to realize that Abe had this amazing

ability to connect with and endear himself to all the staff worked at JIAS, whether for longer or shorter periods. Each person, regardless of age or background, had his/her special relationship with him which endured long after they left the agency and long after Abe retired. He called regularly, we visited, occasionally there were excursions. He cared about us deeply, and we all loved him as a very special friend.

At Abe's funeral there were at least 12 former JIAS workers present - we looked at each other and realized how much he had touched others, not just oneself. And there are so many other friends I don't know, so many people who will never forget him and who will miss him.

Bogen will stay on my speed-dial - a constant reminder that I had a friend I loved and who loved me - may his memory be for a blessing always.

# Atlantic Jewish Council 17th Biennial Convention

On November 20-21, 2010 the Atlantic Jewish Council held its 17th Biennial Convention in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

In a number of various workshops the participants discussed issues pertinent to the Atlantic Jewish communities such as "Standing Up for Israel in Small Communities" , " Jewish Camping in Atlantic Canada" and others....

The workshop on immigration, called "Immigration to our Region - Bringing Newcomers and the Challenges of Settlement" and facilitated by the AJC incoming President Shulamith Medjuck , was very well attended. The panelists were Rabbi Yosef Goldman, member of the Immigration Committee of Fredericton, Nana Shteinberg , a newcomer to Halifax, and Mila Voihanski, Executive Director of JIAS Canada.

Rabbi Goldman expressed his excitement of having new immigrants in Fredericton and the positive impact on the Jewish community there such as having young children in the synagogue or newcomers joining the synagogue board.

Nana Shteinberg talked about her personal experience as a newcomer to Halifax. She emphasized the importance of community involvement right from the beginning of the resettlement process: meeting new arrivals at the airport, taking them to a supermarket, bank or doctor's office; showing that the community cares and welcomes the newcomers.

Mila Voihanski addressed cultural differences and focused on the meaning of Jewish identity for the newcomers.



Jon Goldberg (Executive Director, AJC) and Edna LeVine.



Mila Voihanski (Executive Director, JIAS Canada) and Marcella Roseberg of PEI, formally of Argentina – Glass designer



Nana Shteinberg, Rabbi Yosef Goldman, Mila Voihanski and Shulamith Medjuck



Edna LeVine (Director of Community Engagement, AJC) Mila Voihanski (Executive Director, JIAS Canada ), Nana Shteinberg (Newcomer)

# Many Faces of Mentorship in Ottawa

By Erica Bergman

JFS Ottawa

While we recognize that barriers to finding meaningful employment may exist for immigrant communities, we



also know that with the right education, mentorship programs, and job-support programs, immigrant communities may be able to overcome these barriers. As a result the Jewish-Somali Mentorship Program (JSMP) was launched in July 2010 with three partners – Canadian International Peace Project, Jewish Family Service and Somali Family Services.

During the initial meeting several mentoring relationships were formed. A student in geology was put in touch with a geologist. A 4<sup>th</sup> year student in life sciences had several opportunities to speak with a retired doctor about the process of applying to medical school.

It is clear to us that our mentees are talented, committed, smart, and ambitious. They are willing to work, eager to learn, and determined to succeed.

Our mentors are enthusiastic about supporting first-generation Somali-Canadian students' transition from post-



secondary education to the workforce. Ask any of our mentors how they got to where they are today and chances are that they'll tell you about a mentor they had somewhere along the way.

On October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2010 a general networking event was offered to Somali-Canadian students. The feedback from this October event was very positive. Many of the mentees said how they appreciated the opportunity to meet mentors in the fields of law, politics, human rights, medicine, teaching, community work and business. After some re-evaluation of the program, it was decided to offer more-focused networking events in the future.

On Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, JSMP will offer an opportunity for Somali-Canadian university-aged students to meet and network with experienced professionals in medicine and engineering. Professionals participating in the panel discussion are drawn from the Jewish and broader community and include mentors in management, research and teaching positions.



Suggested program topics include: Developing professional networks and job search strategies, understanding the Canadian work context, sharing information on trends in the Canadian labor market, maximizing your post-secondary education, applying sector-specific language in conversation and in writing. Mentors may also elect to share professional success stories.

Following the panel presentation, mentees will have the opportunity to network with mentors on a one-to-one basis.

# JIAS Canada Annual General Meeting 2010/2011

The 2010/2011 JIAS Canada AGM weekend took place on November 13/14, 2010 in Toronto.

As it is the only opportunity for the Board members to meet face to face, the weekend began with a meeting of the old Board on Saturday night and proceeded with the AGM and a meeting of the new Board on Sunday.

Victor Linetsky, JIAS Canada President, stated that the Board is now truly representative of a national organization with members from Vancouver to Hali-



Anna Gelt, Co-Vice President

fax. Linda Kislowicz, CEO of UIA Federations Canada, commented: "Great group around the table. A pleasure to see the new people and the keen interest from across the country". The Board discussions focused on two major initiatives that JIAS Canada is working on: JOLT ( JIAS Canada Opportunity for Leadership Training: Leadership Bridging Cultures) and a project with the consortium of seven other settlement organizations called Bridging People Together (BPT), as well as fund development and marketing.

At the AGM the President and Treasurer delivered their reports followed by a review and acceptance of the audited financial statement, with Chaplin and Co. appointed Auditors for the fiscal year 2010/2011.

Andrea Freedman, National Director, Planning & Development, UIA Federations Canada was a guest speaker at the AGM. She delivered a report

of UIA Federations Canada's Demographic Task Force entitled "Jewish Canada in 2021". The report highlighted Projected Population Shifts between 2001-2021; Impact of Pro-active Immigration Strategies; Canadian Jewry within Canadian mosaic etc. The summary included: Slow and Uneven Population Growth, growing concentration in Toronto; Positive Impact of Proactive Immigration Strategies;



JIAS Canada board meeting

Increased Gap between potential needs and potential ability to needs; Dramatic Raise in non-traditional families, and others.



Gabriel Grosman, Treasurer

It was a very informative presentation that prompted an interesting discussion of the role of immigration in the future of the Canadian Jewish community and the importance of creating welcoming and inclusive communities.

All Board members were charged with renewed energy and expressed their enthusiasm about the work of JIAS Canada, which has a potential to be transformational.

**YES, I want to help Jewish immigrants live a better life in Canada**

**I understand that my contribution will help JIAS expand its important local and national programs.**

**Here is my contribution of:**  \$1000  \$500  
 \$360  \$180  \$100  \$72  Other \_\_\_\_\_

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I would like more information about activities at JIAS   
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**An official receipt for income tax purposes will be issued for all contributions of \$18 or more**

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