

Help Save Jewish Lives



Support Jews for Judaism

Jews for Judaism is a global leader in Jewish outreach. We are at the forefront of addressing the most difficult and sensitive issues threatening Jewish survival.

Our goals are to strengthen Jewish pride and identity and to win back those Jews who have been negatively influenced or coerced by missionaries, cults, eastern religions, the growing rate of Jewish apathy and ignorance, assimilation, intermarriage, anti-Israel BDS propaganda, antisemitism and other challenges to Jewish continuity that are devastating the Jewish community worldwide.

We achieve our goals through local programming and worldwide Internet outreach. Last year, over two million people accessed our social media platforms. Thousands of Jews are helped by our YouTube video lectures, specialized intervention, one-on-one counselling, education programs, downloadable literature and audio materials, and Shabbat and Jewish Holiday home hospitality.

Jews for Judaism unites the Jewish community in a common cause. We have earned endorsements from a wide spectrum of Jewish agencies, rabbis and educators. We connect countless Jewish people to the spiritual depth, beauty and wisdom of Judaism. Please support Jews for Judaism. With your generous donation, you can help keep Jews Jewish and save Jewish lives. You can help keep Jews Jewish and save Jewish lives by giving now at www.jewsforjudaism.ca/donate/. Thank you. ■

JewsforJudaism.ca
KEEPING JEWS JEWISH

3110 Bathurst Street, P.O. Box 54042
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To Donate: jewsforjudaism.ca/donate/



שערי שומאים
SHAAREI SHOMAYIM
Entertainment and
Cultural Committee
presents:



STARRING:

MC: **Hyim Bessin** • WELCOME: **Rabbi Sam Taylor**

The Shul of Rock: David Kleiman, Dov Apter,
Michael Glogauer, David Emerson & Henry Anzarouth

Gord Lindsay: Impresario • **Gypsy Flame:** Paul Matthew & Serge Grosu
Rabbi Gedalia Zweig: Enjoying Jewish • **Mordechai Bashari:** Yemenite Songs

HONOUREE: **Howard Levitt** • *"ANTI-ISRAEL JEW-HATRED: The Way Forward"*

PRESENTER: **Elliot Dale**

CO-CHAIRS: **Alan J. Burger** • **Jerry & Sandra Genesove**

INSPIRATION: **Rabbi Michael Skobac**

CLOSING REMARKS: **Alan J. Burger**

Sunday, March 31, 2024 / 21 Adar II 5784 • 6:30 PM
Shaarei Shomayim Congregation • 470 Glencairn Ave

Admission: \$25 per person or \$39 per couple • Youth & Students: Free

If you can't attend live, then please join us online via live stream; go to:
www.jewsforjudaism.ca/cavalcade30/ and click on the "Live" stream link.

To donate, please go to www.jewsforjudaism.ca/donate/

CAMPAIGN IN SUPPORT OF

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KEEPING JEWS JEWISH

The Entertainment and Cultural Committee is proud to present:

The 30th Annual **Cavalcade Of Stars** Evening of Jewish Music in support of Jews for Judaism. We thank those below who have generously contributed over the last year to help keep Jews Jewish and save Jewish lives. To participate in this event and make a donation, please call Jerry or Sandy Genesove at 416-783-0582 or donate online at jewsforjudaism.ca/donate/ — Thank you.

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Bringing Jews Back Home to Judaism

An interview with
Jews for Judaism's
Rabbi Michael Skobac

By Jodie Shupac – Canadian Jewish News



How did Jews for Judaism come about?

Jews for Judaism's mandate is two-fold: educational programming to help our community become aware of the efforts of hundreds of Christian groups to convert Jews and to arm Jews with effective answers to missionary claims. And secondly, counselling for individuals and families affected by the problem. We use a medical model, investing in both preventative education and critical care.

But over the years, we realized that Jews for Jesus aren't really the problem — they're a symptom of the problem. The real concern is the growing number of Jews who feel no meaningful connection to Judaism. Some who feel disconnected are vulnerable to Christian evangelism, while other Jews might become involved in Buddhism, Hinduism, New Age religions and cults. While the ambient religion in North America is Christianity, we've seen many Jews drawn to eastern religions.

So, what is Jews for Jesus all about?

They are the largest Christian organization seeking to convert Jews, with offices worldwide. Many people use the term "Jews for Jesus" generically to describe any Jews who believe in Jesus. Today they're also called "Messianic Jews." Historically, some elements of the Church were bothered by the question of "Why

don't Jews accept Christianity?" Jesus was supposed to be the Jewish messiah, and it irks many Christians that Jews didn't tune into that. They came to realize that Jews are resistant to converting to another religion and giving up their Jewish identity. Groups like Jews for Jesus attempt to overcome this impediment by blending Jewish practices with Christian beliefs and creating the impression that one can be a good Jew and still believe in Jesus.

Our real concern is the growing number of Jews who feel no connection to Judaism.

Jews for Judaism is tracking over 1,000 Christian groups that work to convert Jews. In Israel there are 300 such groups, in Canada 150 and in the U.S.A., over 750.

How do missionaries make Jews comfortable about accepting Jesus and becoming a Christian?

This "Messianic Jewish" movement started in the 1970s. Protestant evangelicals, wondering why they were so unsuccessful at converting Jews, realized that Jews associated Christianity with those behind the Crusades, the Inquisition and the Holocaust. So, missionaries now try to convey the impression that "real Christians love Jews; we support Israel." They also saw that Jews didn't want to convert because they didn't want to give up Judaism. So they started working the angle: "If you accept Jesus as your Messiah, you'll become a fulfilled Jew, a completed Jew

... a Messianic Jew. You can still have Shabbat, Jewish holidays, wear a *tallit* and a yarmulke — and believe in the Jewish Messiah." These groups aren't converting highly educated and committed Jews. They're converting assimilated Jews who aren't involved in Judaism. Some of these converts would then report, "I'm more Jewish now than ever. Now I keep kosher, I observe Shabbat and celebrate the Biblical holidays."

These missionaries are saying, "It's Jewish to believe in Jesus." Well, that's just wrong. Much of Christianity is antithetical to Judaism. Jews know they are not walking into a traditional synagogue when they enter a "Messianic Synagogue" (Hebrew-Christian church). But the Messianic missionary groups make Christianity more palatable to Jews and ease the discomfort Jews would normally feel in converting. They use euphemistic language meant to be less abrasive to Jewish ears, like calling the New Testament *Brit Hachadashah*, referring to Jesus as Yeshua HaMashiach, and calling baptism *mikvah*. Their "shul" may have a Torah scroll; they'll recite Kiddush on the wine and *hamotzi* on challah. They claim to teach the "real meaning" behind Jewish traditions. For example, they'll claim that the three *matzot* at the Passover Seder really represent the Christian trinity.

We want to help Jews appreciate the profound wisdom and spirituality of Judaism.

What are some of the educational programs Jews for Judaism uses to deter Jews from converting?

We conducted our own survey that showed 75 per cent of Jewish university students had someone attempt to convert them in recent years. We want Jews to be able to respond confidently to any missionary who challenges their Jewish identity.

We give lectures and run programs in schools, synagogues and for Jewish institutions throughout Canada. We also have a very robust presence on social media platforms such as Facebook. Our website is packed with vital information. Today, much of our educational programming is online. We have 475 videos on our YouTube channel that have more than 12 million views. Half of the videos deal with the Jewish response to the claims of Christian missionaries. It is critical for Jewish people to understand why we don't accept Jesus as our Messiah and why the New Testament is not part of our Bible. The rest of our videos seek to present

a compelling view of Judaism. We want to help Jewish people appreciate the profound wisdom and spirituality of Judaism.

Why the focus on spirituality?

Because so many Jews for Jesus converts will tell you, "I went to Hebrew school, had a bar or bat mitzvah, celebrated the Jewish holidays, but I never experienced any of it as spiritual." Judaism was, for so many of them, a culture, a tradition, a heritage, an identity — but not a rich spiritual path that could lead to personal transformation. Jews for Jesus will tell you they now have a personal relationship with G-d. So, Jews for Judaism aims to fill that gap. The very first video we put out was about Jewish meditation. I looked at what attracts many Jews to other religions and found that, ironically, much of what they seek already exists in Judaism. We want Jews to appreciate that their own faith is a very rich, spiritual path. That's why we named our organization Jews for Judaism and not something like "Jews against Jesus." Our message to at-risk Jewish people is, "You don't need to look elsewhere — what you are seeking is already in your own backyard!" ■
This article was edited for style, clarity and brevity.

Howard Levitt



Honouree
for the 30th
Annual
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of Stars

tims of anti-Semitism because of the anti-Israel mindset in workplaces. For his accomplishments, including charitable giving of his time and resources, Howard received the Governor General's Award for Community Service and Citizenship in 2012.

Through his countless articles in the Financial Post, Howard is currently fighting the growing anti-Semitic, anti-Israel propaganda that has flooded Canada because of the Israel-Hamas War. He underscores that "Israel's war on Gaza is the most moral in human history."

In his column of 20 January 2024, Howard states, "I have long warned that you should believe what Iran, Hamas, Hezbollah and other Islamic extremists say. They actually mean it." He continues, "The Hamas charter ... calls for Jews to be killed no matter where they are hiding, 'no matter how long it will take.'"

Like many others, those who read the Financial Post are susceptible to anti-Israel, pro-Hamas propaganda. Howard's clear, sobering articles counter that influence. Through his concern about injustice to Jews and Israel, he is helping to save Jewish lives and the State of Israel.

May Howard's words inspire you to a stronger commitment to being a Jew and a Zionist. ■

Called to the Ontario Bar in 1979, Canadian lawyer Howard Levitt specializes in employment law through his firm, Levitt Shaikh LLP. He has written six books, has a popular twice-weekly column in The Financial Post, and has appeared on various radio, TV and news shows. Howard also offers his services to employees who have been vic-

LOSING MY RELIGION

Navigating Today's Obstacles to Faith
with Rabbi Michael Skobac

We live in a time of serious challenges to Emuna (faith). This 5-part recorded video lectures series explores problem areas surrounding religion, faith and possible ways forward. During a live Q&A session after Rabbi Skobac answers all questions.

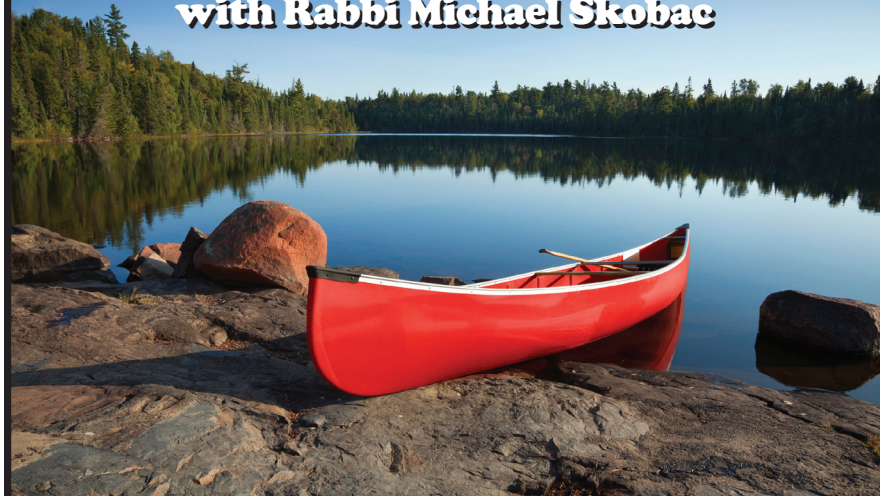
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