

Jews for Judaism® Lifeline

"Uniting the Jewish Community in a Common Cause"

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STANDING UP FOR JUDAISM

Response to the "Jews for Jesus" Missionary Threat in Montreal

When Karl DeSouza worked as a missionary with Jews for Jesus in Toronto, he was known for his "in your face" style. Whether it was the annual "Walk with Israel" parade or large community rallies in Earl Bales Park, Karl was there with his large, provocative placards. This past September, Jews for Jesus sent Karl to Montreal to head up their three-week "Behold Your G-d" missionary crusade, and he brought his aggressive approach to evangelism right along with him.

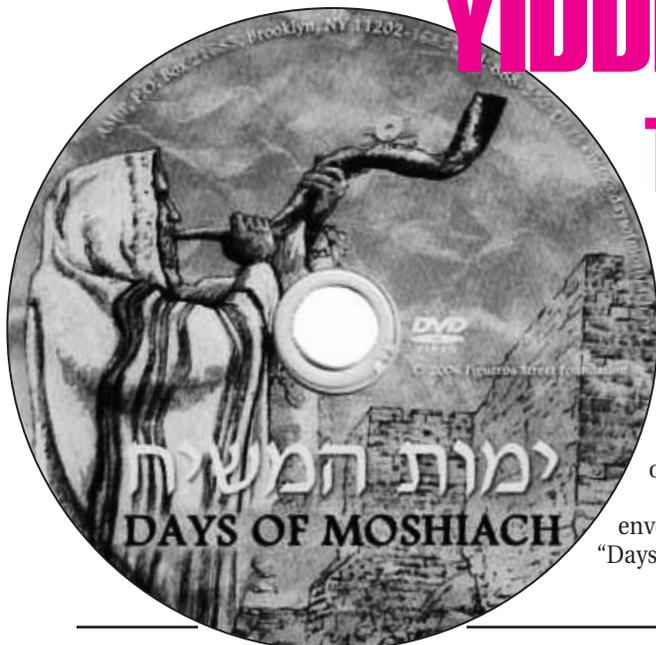
"Behold Your G-d" (BYG) is Jews for Jesus' ambitious five-year missionary campaign that is currently targeting every city in the world outside of Israel with more than 25,000 Jews – a total of 65 cities! Jews for Judaism was ready for the challenge and has worked with Jewish communities worldwide to counter this dangerous crusade.



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A Jews for Judaism volunteer (L) counter-leaflets a Jews for Jesus missionary (R) in a Metro subway stop.

YIDDISH DVD Latest Barrage In Missionary Crusade



The package that arrived in the mailboxes of 80,000 New York-area Orthodox Jewish homes recently was comparable to a booby-trapped explosive device. The envelope was cleverly designed to entice unsuspecting Jews to immediately open it and enjoy the enclosed DVD. On the envelope, written in Yiddish, were the words, "mamish, m'ayn olam haba", meaning "a really true taste of the world to come."

People who opened their tri-fold envelopes discovered a DVD entitled "Days of Moshiah" that contained an

illustration of a man draped in a prayer shawl blowing a large shofar. Those curious enough to play the DVD saw professionally produced renditions of familiar Biblical scenes and heard narrations in clear, articulate Yiddish. The production begins innocently enough with a recounting of the Biblical stories of creation and of Abraham. And then, BOOM! – the explosion.

Just as a camouflaged bomb is designed to get its innocent victims to the next world, this DVD hopes to get its viewers to heaven by converting them to Christianity. This digital attack seems to be the opening salvo of Jews for Jesus' massive summertime "Behold Your G-d" campaign targeting New

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STANDING UP FOR JUDAISM

Response to the “Jews for Jesus” Missionary Threat in Montreal

(Continued from page 1)

Our response to the BYG Toronto invasion in September 2003 was extremely effective, and that experience helped us to successfully counter the Montreal missionary assault.

Six months prior to BYG's touchdown in Montreal, we began meeting with Canadian Jewish Congress and representatives of the local rabbinate to plan and coordinate our response which we dubbed “Operation Stand Up for Judaism.” Congress generously provided us with office space and allowed us to hire Sabrina Bercovitch, one of their part-time staff, as our local coordinator. After much effort, we finally secured an apartment in the Outremont neighbourhood so that our professional staff, Julius Ciss and Rabbi Michael Skobac, could be right on-the-scene for the month of September.

Part of our preparation for this Montreal operation involved the production of bilingual versions of all our literature and educational materials. Because we had assisted the Jewish community of Paris the previous year with their counter-missionary response to BYG, we had already created many French translations of our materials. Before our arrival in Montreal, we sent information packages to synagogues and placed ads in local newspapers. We had to alert the Jewish community to the impending missionary crusade far in advance, and begin to recruit volunteers for our intensive on-the-spot street campaign.

We arrived in Montreal one week prior to the start of BYG and immediately began to train volunteers and deliver educational presentations at synagogues and Jewish organizations. The Board of Jewish



Jews for Judaism's Rabbi Michael Skobac (L), Education Director, and volunteer Murray Sklar (R) dialogue with Jews for Jesus missionaries in Cavendish Mall in Côte Saint-Luc.



A passerby gives encouragement to volunteer Rabbi Tuvia Hoffman as he counter-leaflets a Jews for Jesus missionary at a Metro subway stop.



Rabbi Michael Skobac (L) is interviewed by Dave Bronstetter (R) live on “Daybreak”, the CBC radio show.



Jews for Judaism's Executive Director Julius Ciss alerts students at Hebrew Academy to the dangers of cults and missionaries.



Rabbi Michael Skobac (M) teaches a session on the Real Messiah at the Counter-Missionary Survival Seminar.



Rabbi Michael Skobac (L) explains authentic Jewish concepts to a Jews for Jesus missionary in predominantly Chassidic Outremont.

Education was very helpful in arranging programs at Jewish schools throughout the city. To make the Jews of Montreal aware of the upcoming BYG and prepare them for the relentless missionary onslaught, we placed full-page community alerts in English, French and Russian-language newspapers.

As we predicted, Jews for Jesus kicked off their aggressive three-week Montreal blitz in an intentionally provocative manner. Several of their 15-member team arrived at a busy intersection in the predominantly Chassidic Outremont neighborhood carrying large placards and stationed themselves right there. A noisy confrontation ensued and the missionaries called the police, a tactic they have used many times in the past. The officers soon arrived on the scene but didn't take the demand to file charges

against the Chassidim very seriously. The police felt that the missionaries themselves provoked this strong response by their choice of Jewish target and location, as well as the brazen manner in which they conducted themselves.

The major thrust of the BYG crusade was the distribution of thousands of missionary tracts at busy intersections and Metro stops during morning and afternoon rush hours and lunchtime. The missionaries placed a major focus on reaching students at the downtown campuses of McGill and Concordia universities. They also mobilized their campaigners to call Jewish-sounding names they culled from the phonebook and went door-to-door in neighbourhoods with heavy concentrations of Jewish families.



Executive Director Julius Ciss (R) attempts to reason with a young Jews for Jesus missionary outside McGill University campus.



Volunteer Alex Katz presents "The Battle for the Jewish Soul" in Russian to immigrants from the Former Soviet Union.

Jews for Jesus also ran several large-scale programs during their Montreal push. One event was entitled, "Can There Be Peace in the Middle East?" and featured a discussion between an Israeli and a Palestinian who had been involved with the PLO. The program took place in a public library, and the advertisements promoting the event made no mention whatsoever that it was sponsored by Jews for Jesus. The speakers claimed that there was only one way to bring real peace to the war-torn Middle East – everyone there must convert to Christianity!

The headline event for BYG was a public debate held at a downtown hotel between Rabbi Shmuley Boteach and a leading missionary scholar. In several Jewish neighbourhoods, the advertising didn't identify the sponsors and deliberately implied that

STANDING UP FOR JUDAISM

(Continued from page 3)

the program was going to be a lecture by Rabbi Boteach on, "Why Jews Don't Believe in Jesus?" In fact, some people in the community actually assumed that Jews for Judaism was running this program!

The basis of our "Operation Stand Up for Judaism" campaign was an extensive array of educational programs designed to alert and inoculate the Jewish community. We presented 71 counter-missionary lectures to over 4,000 individuals at Jewish schools, synagogues and Jewish organizations. We distributed over 55,000 pieces of bilingual educational booklets and pamphlets at public lectures, as inserts in the *Canadian Jewish News* and through various synagogues. In addition, Rabbi Michael Skobac appeared on the CBC Radio "Morning Show", the Chai Radio program and on CHTV "In Montreal" to discuss the Jewish community's unified response to BYG.

To counter BYG's aggressive street campaign, we trained 50 volunteers from the Montreal community to counter-leaflet at busy intersections, Metro stops and shopping malls. Our volunteers headed out in cars during three shifts each day in search of the very mobile missionaries who changed their targeted locations every day. In order to track their movements, we placed numerous ads in the Jewish press asking community members to immediately call our "Hot Line" whenever they spotted the Jews for Jesus missionaries on the street. Our coordinator, Sabrina Bercovitch, was therefore able to instantly direct our volunteers to their locations. Our strategy left the missionaries totally mystified. They just couldn't figure out how we always seemed to know where and when they were doing their nefarious business. The missionaries were clearly frustrated by the constant presence of our volunteers who were severely cramping their style.

Our staff was on hand at each of the public BYG events to monitor the programs. Fortunately, we were able to rent a room at the hotel where the public debate, "Why Jews Don't Believe in Jesus?" was taking place. The hotel also allowed us to place a table in the hallway just outside this event. However, when the missionaries complained to the hotel management, we were forced to remove all our signs. Some Jewish

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Rabbi Michael Skobac (M) challenges claims made by a prominent Jew for Jesus missionary (R) at a public debate featuring Rabbi Shmuley Boteach (L).



Executive Director Julius Ciss (M) trains some of the 50 Montreal volunteers.



Reb Naftali Gandl (L) approaches a Jew for Jesus missionary and attempts to reason with him. Even after BYG left Montreal, Reb Gandl has maintained contact with this missionary.

NEWS NUGGETS

CAUTION ON INTERNET DATING

Jews for Judaism has received many disturbing reports from men and women who logged on to Jewish singles websites and began relationships with supposedly suitable matches. They would meet, and in some cases even become involved, only to discover that these so-called compatible individuals were "Messianic Jews" or non-Jews. Others have reported meeting people in "Jewish" chat rooms who turned out to be missionaries on the prowl for potential converts. It is vital to cautiously screen all prospective dates. Ask for reliable references and carefully verify the information.

CANADIAN MISSIONARY LAUNCHES NEW OUTREACH IN ISRAEL

Peter Youngren's World Impact Ministries, based in St. Catharines, Ontario, has recently formed "Way of Peace" (WOP), an organization dedicated to evangelizing throughout Israel. WOP raises funds to support local missionaries and proselytizing initiatives that target Jews and Arabs. Youngren will also be leading a special Christian tour of Israel this spring.

YOM HA'ATZMAUT DISHONOURED BY CHURCH

Jews for Judaism monitored the recent "In Honour of Yom Ha'atzmaut: Israel Independence Day" event held by the Melrose Community Church. It had distributed invitations depicting a Menorah to the local Jewish community. The program included the screening of the movie, "Dry Bones", which the host claimed is "a film centred on the prophetic significance of the re-birth of Israel." It was, in fact, a movie that

ultimately tried to make a case for belief in Jesus. One Jewish couple who fell for the ruse came because of the deceptive invitation and thought that the movie was part of the Toronto Jewish Film Festival.

UPDATE ON EVANGELICALS AND ISRAEL

Although the Jewish community has been developing closer ties with the Evangelical community in recent years due to its support for Israel, the relationship has not been totally smooth sailing. The American Anti-Defamation League has repeatedly denounced what they see as a campaign by Evangelicals to Christianize America. In response, Don Wildman, President of the Evangelical American Family Association, recently remarked, "The more they say that you people are destroying this country, the more some people are going to begin to get fed up with this and say, 'Well, all right then, if that's the way you feel, then we just won't support Israel anymore.'"

In another flap, the Government of Israel took great offense to Reverend Pat Robertson's suggestion that Prime Minister Sharon's stroke was a punishment from G-d for giving up parts of the land of Israel. This statement prompted the Israeli Ministry of Tourism to cancel Robertson's participation in a planned \$50 million centre in the Galilee.

MISLEADING MOSHAV EXPOSED IN ISRAEL

Yad Hashmona, a moshav founded by missionaries in the Judean Hills, has unfortunately attracted many unsuspecting Israeli families to their annual Storytelling Festival, guesthouse and children's summer camp. The true nature of this moshav was recently revealed after several soldiers who attended special educational workshops were baptized in the Sea of Galilee.

MISSIONARIES PERFORM AT CUMMER LODGE

The special performance by a Jewish music and dance troupe at the Cummer Lodge in Toronto attracted over 100 residents and their visiting relatives. It appeared to be a very enjoyable way to spend a cold January afternoon. Although many of the male performers wore skull-caps and prayer shawls, and some of the women performers wore long skirts, something just didn't seem right. Some of the people watching the show were bothered



In sub-zero weather, Rabbi Craig Miller warns Jews about the Chosen People's "Handel's Messiah" program.

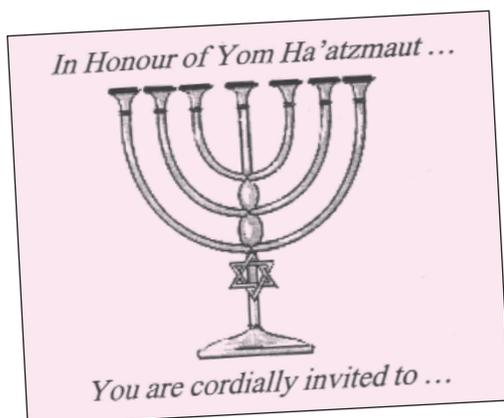
about something. They asked the performers who they were, and the performers revealed that they were members of Melech Yisrael Congregation, a Messianic missionary congregation in North York. Fortunately, numerous complaints convinced the lodge's administration to cancel a possible repeat performance in April.

HANDEL'S MESSIAH EVENT USED TO LURE JEWS

In December 2005, Chosen People Ministries (CPM) held a special performance of Handel's Messiah as an outreach scheme to lure Jews. Local Christians affiliated with CPM were asked to bring Jewish friends to their program held at the Toronto Botanical Gardens. Jews for Judaism volunteers attended the concert and stationed themselves outside the venue to monitor this event (see accompanying photograph).

NEW RADIO SPOT FOR JEWS FOR JUDAISM'S RABBI SKOBAC

In February, Jews for Judaism's Director of Education, Rabbi Michael Skobac, became a regular featured guest on the Barry Shainbaum Radio Show broadcast on FM 94.3 from Kitchener, Ontario on Sunday mornings at 11 am. Rabbi Skobac's weekly spots discuss Jewish spiritual insights about personal growth, and can also be heard online at www.barryshainbaum.com. As well, Rabbi Skobac's "Spiritual Dimensions" segment can be heard every other Friday on the Zelda Young Radio Show at 9:50 am, CHIN FM 100.7 weekdays and AM 1540 on Sundays, and on www.zeldayoung.com. ■



Deceptive invitation created to lure unsuspecting Jews to a missionary program.



MY RETURN TO JUDAISM

By Rachel Mirsky*

A street in the old Jewish Quarter of Safed, Israel.

I grew up in Montreal, and my Jewish background was fairly typical for people growing up in my 80's generation. My family belonged to a synagogue where I went to Hebrew school until my Bat Mitzvah. In Hebrew school, we learned about the Jewish holidays and memorized Hebrew prayers that I did not understand. At home, my family celebrated the holidays, but I never experienced them as spiritual occasions. Going to synagogue felt more like a fashion show than anything else. I thought of the Jewish religion as being based on culture and strange rituals and did not see how it could apply to my life in a meaningful way. After my Bat Mitzvah, I decided that I'd had enough of Jewish learning.

My high school had very few Jewish students, and I slowly began drifting away from Judaism. Attending university was something I really looked forward to. It was an opportunity to be away from home and experience real independence and freedom. However, the novelty of partying soon wore off and everything began to feel empty. I sensed that there had to be something more in life, something more meaningful to devote myself to.

One day, Anthony, a friend from university, invited me to his birthday party. I did not know at the time that Anthony was a practicing Christian. At Anthony's birthday party, I met several friends from his church. I was quite impressed by their sincerity and genuineness. They seemed very committed

to applying their religious beliefs to their daily lives and I felt magnetically drawn to them.

I began hanging out with the young adults from this church group and made some wonderful new friendships. Their idealism to become better people and to make the world a better place was especially inspiring because I had never met Jewish people who took their faith as seriously.

After a few months, I began attending church every week. I saw positive changes in my life and loved the depth of the relationships I was developing and the sense of meaning they gave to my life. Everything seemed so different from the meaninglessness and superficiality I experienced among the students on campus.

Six months later, I decided to convert to Christianity. I attended regular classes and instructional sessions at the church, but was sometimes put off by the dogmatic nature of their beliefs. The idea that non-Christians were seen as lost and doomed to burn in hell didn't sit well with me. A friend recommended another church that she felt would be more to my liking. After going to

classes there for ten weeks, I was accepted as a convert.

Telling my parents was not easy. They were obviously not thrilled and suggested that I speak with my grandparents who were both Holocaust survivors. My grandmother and grandfather urged me to first try and find meaning in my own religion before abandoning it. They didn't survive the Shoah to see their granddaughter become a Christian.

For the next few months I really floundered, not knowing which religion to follow. Although I continued to go to church, I also tried to learn more about Judaism. I decided to go to the Hillel House at my university to get information about Judaism so that I could eventually make an educated decision about how to live my life.

At Hillel, I noticed a newsletter called, *Lifeline*, published by Jews for Judaism, an organization I'd never heard of. When I inquired about them, someone told me that they try to help Jews understand Judaism's response to the claims of Christianity. This sounded intriguing, so that evening I went onto the Jews for Judaism website and stayed up the whole

Rabbi Skobac answered my questions about Christianity and encouraged me to slowly explore Judaism and not feel that I had to jump into it all at once.

night reading their information. I was especially interested in the stories of Jewish people who had embraced Christianity and then returned to Judaism, because I never knew that there were other Jewish people who had been in my situation.

I also began comparing the teachings of Jews for Judaism with material that I found on Christian websites. I finally got up the courage to email the Jews for Judaism office in Toronto. I explained that I had been going to church for a year and wanted to speak with someone about my experiences. Rabbi Michael Skobac contacted me immediately, and we began corresponding. Because I felt totally accepted, just as I was, it was very comfortable to communicate with him. His long emails in response to my questions about Judaism were always very clear and convincing.

Around the same time, I signed up for a program called, Partners in Torah, that matches people together to study Judaism. Because no one else from Montreal had registered for the program, I was paired with a young Jewish woman living in Toronto. We studied together over the telephone and after a few months, she invited me to come to Toronto and spend the Passover holiday with her family. One afternoon, my friend's mom and I went for a long walk and we ended up at the home of Julius Ciss, the Executive Director of Jews for Judaism. This visit must have been providential because I had not yet told my friend or her family about my involvement with Christianity. Julius and I spent an inspiring hour together as he shared the amazing story of his five-year journey from a Jew for Jesus activist back to Judaism.

A few months later, Rabbi Skobac told me about an upcoming all-day Jews for Judaism Counter-Missionary Survival Seminar in Toronto. I decided to come to Toronto for the weekend and made an appointment to meet with Rabbi Skobac at his home during Shabbat. He spent over four hours with me, and was so helpful and encouraging. In his warm and caring way, he reassured me that I didn't have to feel ashamed about my situation. Rabbi Skobac answered my questions about Christianity and encouraged me to slowly explore Judaism and not feel that I had to jump into it all at once. The Counter-Missionary Seminar that I attended the next day was a real eye-opener and provided me with a deeper appreciation of the Jewish perspective on Christianity.

I returned home to Montreal knowing that I had taken a wrong turn in accepting Christianity and that I could never go back to church. However, I still wasn't sure if I wanted to commit myself to fully practicing Judaism and was unclear about how to proceed. I felt that there was no place in the observant Jewish community for someone like myself who did not come from a religious home.

That summer, I took a job at a summer camp in New England, but as before, I became disillusioned with the crudeness and superficiality of my co-workers. I left the camp early to attend a summer learning program for women with limited Jewish backgrounds. One phone call and three Greyhound buses later, I arrived at Machon Chana Seminary located in Tannersville, New York. For the first time in my life, I found myself with like-minded Jews who were serious about personal growth. It was so thrilling to finally learn about Judaism as a spiritual path. I realized that the same Jewish practices that I had once viewed as meaningless rituals were actually infused with depth, power and G-dliness. This experience helped me to decide to incorporate Torah observance into my life in a serious way.

After finishing my last year of university in Montreal, I decided to spend a year at Machon Alte, a religious seminary in Safed, Israel. The experience was exhilarating. I made immense strides in my knowledge and commitment to Judaism. I also really solidified my foundation and direction in life, as a Torah observant Jew. Today, I still keep in touch with many of my wonderful friends

from Machon Alte.

I returned to Montreal, very inspired by my experiences in Israel, and ready to begin my career in social work which I continued the following year in New York. G-d was certainly looking out for me, because one of my roommates from Israel introduced me to my soul mate. Last summer, we got married and I feel so blessed in my life now.

I'm so grateful to Jews for Judaism and to the families and teachers who provided me with unwavering acceptance, guidance and inspiration. Without them, I would not be the person I am today. I hope that by publishing my story, I, as well, will be able to touch the life of another Jew. ■

*Name has been changed to protect anonymity.

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JEWES FOR JUDAISM LIFELINE is a free publication of JEWES FOR JUDAISM (Canada). JEWES FOR JUDAISM is the only international educational, outreach and counselling organization exclusively dedicated to counteracting the efforts of evangelical Christian missionary and cult groups that specifically target Jews for conversion.

JEWES FOR JUDAISM's two primary goals are to strengthen Jewish pride and identity and to win back those Jews who have been influenced by Christian missionaries.

JEWES FOR JUDAISM works to achieve these goals and promote Jewish continuity through the following highly acclaimed programs and activities:

- 24-HOUR HOTLINE
- CAMPUS PROGRAMS
- AD CAMPAIGNS
- RUSSIAN OUTREACH
- BOOKS & LITERATURE
- OUTREACH
- LIBRARY & ARCHIVES
- COMMUNITY LIAISON
- INTERNET WEBSITE
- REFERRALS
- MONITORING
- LECTURES & CLASSES
- AUDIO & VIDEOTAPES
- EXIT COUNSELLING
- SPEAKERS' BUREAU
- TV & RADIO PROGRAMS
- CRISIS COUNSELLING
- ACTIVISM
- VOLUNTEERISM
- SHABBAT HOSPITALITY
- COUNTER LEAFLETTING
- INFORMATION REQUESTS

To date, over 275,000 Jews worldwide have participated in JEWES FOR JUDAISM'S successful educational programs and counselling services.

One of JEWES FOR JUDAISM'S most outstanding accomplishments has been the uniting of the entire Jewish community in a common cause. JEWES FOR JUDAISM has earned endorsements from a wide spectrum of Jewish agencies, rabbis and educators.

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VOLUNTEERS

OUR “REAL” ACTION HEROES

By Julius Ciss

Who are Jews for Judaism’s “real” heroes? Our fantastic volunteers! Those precious people who consistently do the difficult, behind-the-scenes work. Where would we be without them? These praiseworthy individuals contribute so much of their time and energy for the ultimate benefit of the Jewish people. We want to thank and acknowledge them.

Every May, UJA Federation hosts, “Walk With Israel”, with 20,000 participants walking through the streets of Toronto to raise funds for Israel. Unfortunately, the Jews for Jesus missionaries also walk with these participants and distribute their literature to the thousands of Jewish passers-by. Jews for Judaism is thankful to **Charles Glina** and the many other volunteers who help us, every year, to counter-leaflet these aggressive missionaries and thwart their efforts.

At our annual December phone-a-thon, so many volunteers – too many to mention – help Jews for Judaism raise much needed funds by calling our numerous supporters. Special thanks goes to the **young women of Bais Yaakov High School** who assist us every year.



Sarah Carlen

In September 2005, the Jews for Jesus organization launched an intensive three-week missionary crusade in Montreal. Although Jews for Judaism prepared months in advance to counter this evangelical offensive, we still faced an enormous problem.

How can we translate our essential counter-missionary materials into French and meet our deadlines? **Sarah Carlen** came to our rescue! She ensured that all our vital materials were translated into impeccable French and ready for distribution, on time, alongside our English literature. Sarah, you made a huge difference. Thank you and merci!

When we were countering Jews for Jesus in Montreal, 50 volunteers signed up to counter-leaflet these missionaries on the street. (See related story on page 1). **Reb Naftali Gandl** was not only responsible



Jews for Judaism’s volunteers Jerry (R) and Sandy Genesove at the recent “Cavalcade of Stars” event.

for recruiting many volunteers, but he was also superb at monitoring the activities of these missionaries and giving Jews for Judaism a heads-up on their whereabouts. Because he was so knowledgeable and gifted at debating, **Reb Gandl** frustrated them countless times. Our overwhelming success in Montreal was due, in great measure, to the dedication and passion expressed by **Reb Gandl** and the many volunteers. We truly appreciate your efforts.



Reb Naftali Gandl

to help Jews for Judaism sail through some difficult legal issues.

At Jews for Judaism, we don’t speak Russian. But not to worry! Why not? For a decade, **Masha Shoshan** (recently married to **Stephen Shoshan**) has always been available to help translate our vital materials into Russian. As well, **Alex Katz** communicates with great awareness and sensitivity to people from the Former Soviet Union targeted by missionaries. He has lectured to Russian and English-speaking audiences, helped counter the missionaries on the streets,

edited Russian translations and videotaped many of our events. Along with his wife **Natasha** and daughter **Shlomit**, they have hosted many Jewish seekers for Shabbat and holidays. Thank you Masha, Alex and Natasha for your great dedication to the Jewish people.



Alex Katz

Since the first time I met **Daniel Ventresca** many years ago at one of my lectures in Hamilton, he’s become a driving force, totally committed to help bring Jews back to Judaism. Over the years, he’s helped Jews for Judaism by giving lectures, monitoring missionary activity, as

well as warmly greeting the public at our outreach tables at many venues including the Ashkenaz Festival in Toronto. His enthusiasm in helping Jews understand the problems facing our community and his excellent skill in responding to their questions make him a strategic asset. In a *Canadian Jewish News* article about outstanding volunteers, Daniel recently stated, “Jews for Judaism provides me with some of the most rewarding experiences of my life. Helping Jewish souls back to Judaism allows me to live the words of our sages: ‘Whoever saves a

single Jewish soul is as if he saved an entire world.” Dan, your impact and dedication are most appreciated.

And there's **Jerry and Sandy Genesove**. Through the Shaarei Shomayim Brotherhood and the Entertainment and Cultural Connection,



Daniel Ventresca

Jerry and Sandy have been instrumental in raising crucial funds for Jews for Judaism. Since 1995, they have produced, “Cavalcade of Stars Annual Musical Evening of Jewish Song”, featuring a variety of entertainers who have performed to enthusiastic audiences. Big thanks go to “**The Shpeelers**”, featuring **Les Aaron, Leslie Train, Shayne Train and Marty Zatzman**, as well as **Catherine Sulem-Bierstone, Daniel and Noam Bierstone, Bill Berle and Gord Lindsay** whose musical performances made this year’s “Cavalcade” the most successful ever. Recently, Jerry and Sandy Genesove’s tireless efforts were widely acknowledged. They received the UJA Federation’s “Shem Tov” award honouring those who represent the highest level of excellence in volunteer service in Toronto’s Jewish community. Jerry and Sandy state, “Our greatest satisfaction has come from mobilizing hundreds of others to support Jews for Judaism’s important counter-missionary work in Canada.” We are immensely grateful to Jerry and Sandy.

And last but not never least, there’s my Dad, **Nison Ciss**. Years ago when I was a “Hebrew Christian”, I caused my parents tremendous grief. I shudder at the embarrassment they



Nison Ciss

endured when people associated their son with Jews for Jesus missionaries. Today, I’m proud to state that my Dad is one of Jews for Judaism’s most committed, tireless volunteers. At all times, he’s available to help in any way possible, from folding and stapling pamphlets, stuffing envelopes or general office work.

In fact, many of you have probably received mail that was stuffed by Mr. Nison Ciss, himself! At 81 years of age, he is more appreciated and valuable than a corporate CEO half his age. “I want to help Jews for Judaism rescue Jewish souls for many more years,” he happily explains. And so you will! Thank you, Dad.

To all our countless volunteers who continue to offer their time, skill and passion to help keep Jews Jewish... Thank you! Yasher Koach! ■

LETTERS



Dear Rabbi,

I want you to know how positive the response has been to your program here. A member of our Commission called and said that her son returned home and praised the program and spent 1/2 hour talking with them about what he learned regarding responses to conversion attempts.

Another AZA member came into the office on Monday and told me how much he liked the program and that he felt that you were a terrific speaker. I rarely hear these responses in such an unsolicited manner.

Thanks again for making time in your busy schedule to come in. It was our plea-

sure to meet you and I look forward to the opportunity of seeing you again.

*A.W.
Detroit, Michigan*

Hi Rabbi Skobac:

I attended your recent Counter Missionary Survival Seminar with a friend and we really loved it. Please let me know when the Seminar will be offered again, we’d like to have our wives attend the next session. I think every Jew should go and take this course; it was absolutely wonderful. Thanks again for everything you did for the group – you were A1!

P.W., Toronto

JEWIS FOR JUDAISM AT THE GA



Executive Directors Scott Hillman (L), Baltimore, Julius Ciss (M), Toronto, and Program Director Rabbi Zalman Kravitz (R), Los Angeles, at the Jews for Judaism booth during the recent GA in Toronto.

Networking with all facets of the Jewish community has been a key element of Jews for Judaism’s success. What better venue for this than the United Jewish Communities (UJC) General Assembly. It is the premier event of the UJC, an organization representing 155 Jewish federations and 400 independent communities across North America. Attracting Jewish leaders and professionals from North America, Israel and beyond, the GA hosts delegates and speakers from the realms of government, religion, business, the arts, academia, philanthropy and community service.

The GA offers major plenary sessions, forums, workshops and programs, which concentrate on providing the tools and knowledge needed to foster leadership and enhance awareness.

Jews for Judaism staff were able to dialogue and network with hundreds of participants who visited our booth and provide them with the resources they need to address the missionary threat in their own communities. We are already making plans and look forward to participating in the 2006 GA, which will be held in Los Angeles. ■

“EMPOWERING OUR STUDENTS”

Educator’s Conference



Adrienne Gold



Michael Kropveld



Rabbi Craig Miller



Rabbi Michael Skobac

Photos: Mezas Yehudicoff

Today, our youth face spiritual challenges that are far more formidable than those we confronted in the past. As parents and educators, we are called upon not only to transmit knowledge, but also to provide the critical tools children require to navigate the stormy waters that confront them now and will certainly do so in the years ahead.

To address this critical situation, Jews for Judaism received a grant from the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto to organize a special conference designed for parents, educators and youth workers – those people who play a most vital role in ensuring Jewish continuity. The “Empowering Our Students” Conference was held in Toronto during December 2005 at Shaarei Tefillah Congregation, with Jews for Judaism arranging the many, interesting in-depth sessions that explored a range of vital issues confronting our youth, day in and day out.

BODY IMAGE AND SELF-ESTEEM

The first session – Body Image and Self-Esteem – was presented by Adrienne Gold, a popular Jewish motivational speaker and teacher in Toronto who was formerly a major Canadian television personality with her own successful, daily style program. Ms. Gold discussed the constant barrage of unrealistic media images of physical perfection that are impossible to attain. This onslaught deliberately perpetrated by the fashion and beauty industries often drives people, especially our impressionable youth, to excessive dieting, exercising and eating disorders. “The more we obsess about how we look, the more we lose touch with who we really are,” she observed. “People who spend an hour a day grooming their bodies instead of spending that time feeding their souls are just rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic! Ultimately, we must direct our children to focus on issues that

really matter, such as our intellect, spirituality and connection to others.”

CULTS

Cult Awareness, the focus of the second session, was delivered by Michael Kropveld, founding Executive Director of the Montreal-based Info-Cult, the largest resource centre of its kind in Canada. A seasoned veteran with over 25 years experience, Kropveld examined the nature of manipulative groups, described their damaging continuum of thought reform and mind control, and outlined how severely damaging they are. “The most important factor in helping students to become less vulnerable to manipulative influence,” Kropveld observed, “is to help them recognize it, understand what it is and how it works psychologically.” He explained that a student’s vulnerability to persuasive techniques is often heightened during periods of stress or life transition, such as moving to a new city, the death of a relative or a health crisis. “Helping students understand the dynamics of influence and persuasion,” he continued, “is not only relevant to ‘cult-proofing’ them. Salespeople, advertisers and con-artists regularly employ these very same techniques!”

WINNING THE BATTLE FOR THE JEWISH SOUL

It is commonly believed that Christian missionaries only threaten our adult Jewish population. However, in a recent survey conducted in Los Angeles of Jewish students in grades 7-12, over 65% admitted that they had experienced some attempt to convert them to another religion. In the Toronto area alone, Jews for Judaism discovered that Chosen People Ministries and Light of Messiah Ministries have organized special

outreach efforts directed at Jewish teens. And the Internet, despite its spectacular usefulness, has become an especially dangerous breeding ground for missionary and cult recruiters who lure unsuspecting students to their crafty websites and deceptive chat rooms.

A case in point, while a student at university, Rabbi Craig Miller converted to Christianity! He riveted the audience with his unique insider’s perspective on pervasive missionary efforts and other sensitive issues.

Today, Rabbi Miller is the Director of Jewish Communal Spiritual Care for the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York and Vice President of the New York Board of Rabbis. “The battle for the Jewish soul is really the battle for core Jewish spiritual identity,” he explained. “In truth, whatever attracts Jews to other faiths can also be found within their own faith. For example, both Judaism and Christianity speak about personal transformation. However in Judaism, the mode is not vertical and instantaneous, but rather horizontal and time intensive. It’s an individual project that we work on throughout the course of our lives.”

Further challenging the audience, he continued, “Each and every Jewish person can become the vital catalyst for who will win the battle for the Jewish soul. Many people who have left Judaism speak about a negative experience that greatly impacted them. Therefore, when parents, teachers and Jewish community leaders positively and constantly model our treasured values of caring, generosity and self-sacrifice, the tide of the battle can be turned in our favour.”

CONVEYING THE SPIRITUALITY OF JUDAISM

Rabbi Michael Skobac, Jews for Judaism’s Director of Education, presented the

final conference session, Conveying the Spirituality of Judaism, and cited studies from the recently published book, "Off the Derech", that sadly revealed an all too frequent phenomenon. Most people who abandoned Judaism reported dissatisfaction with their spiritual experiences. "The first principle we must impart," Rabbi Skobac emphasized, "is the importance of teaching by example. Judaism has to be caught, rather than taught. Flight attendants always tell us that in an emergency situation, we must first place the oxygen mask on ourselves before attempting to place it on our children."

Stressing that parents and educators can and must exude the significance of Jewish spirituality, Rabbi Skobac continued, "When involved with students, we must radiate our enthusiasm, openly display the care with which we practise Judaism, and most importantly, we have to model Jewish passion." He explained that we must communicate the grand sweep of Judaism – the big picture – so that our students can see an integrated lifestyle around which they can wrap their lives. "Our students must view their lives, within a Jewish perspective, as a project in self-actualization that can be accomplished through perfecting their character traits, developing a personal relationship with G-d, and having a personal mission that includes 'Tikkun Olam', the fixing of the world." ■

FROM JEW FOR JESUS TO ORTHODOX RABBI



Rabbi Craig Miller (L) recounts his dramatic story.

Photo: Mezes Yehudicoff

Rabbi Craig Miller shared the fascinating story of his personal spiritual odyssey to a spellbound audience at the annual Jews for Judaism "Back to the Source" lecture. While a student at university, his conversion to Christianity was the beginning of a process that led, with the help of Jews for

Judaism, to a decision to embrace his own faith and ultimately study for the rabbinate. Today, Rabbi Miller strives to counter the efforts of deceptive missionaries as part of his work with the New York Jewish Community Relations Council's Department of Jewish Communal Spiritual Care. ■

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QUESTION

Dear Jews for Judaism:

A Christian co-worker of mine tries to engage me in discussions of a religious nature. She recently told me that the Torah alludes to the coming of the Messiah, and that Jesus fulfilled these prophecies. One of the passages she cited was from the book of Deuteronomy 18:18 where G-d says to Moses: "I will establish a prophet for them among their brethren, like you, and I will place My words in his mouth; He shall speak to them everything that I will command him." Is this passage really referring to the Messiah? How are we to understand it?

ANSWER

This passage is frequently cited by Christian missionaries, and it is very interesting to note that Islam also uses this passage to establish the credentials of Mohammed. Before discussing the actual meaning of this verse, we must make two initial observations. First, we must note that this passage speaks about a prophet – it says nothing about the Messiah. Second, even if we accepted the Christian assertion that this verse is referring to the Messiah, it would only be telling us that at some future time, G-d would send the Messiah. There would be no reason to identify that person as Jesus of Nazareth. The missionary insistence that the passage refers to Jesus is simply a case of circular reasoning.

To gain an accurate understanding of this passage, it is important to recall the general context of the book of Deuteronomy. After their exodus from Egypt, the Jewish people wandered in the desert for 40 years. The book of Deuteronomy is Moses' farewell speech to the Jews on the eve of his death prior to their entry into the Promised Land. G-d had told Moses that he would not be allowed to enter the land with them



ASK THE RABBI

by Rabbi Michael Skobac

(Numbers 20:12). In light of this, two issues will impact our understanding of the 18th chapter of Deuteronomy.

First, the prospect of entering the land of Israel without Moses' leadership was a delicate one for the Jewish people. Previously, they had been plunged into a disastrous crisis when Moses did not descend from Mt. Sinai when they had expected. Assuming he was dead, they panicked and pressed Aaron to build a Golden Calf to serve as their intermediary to G-d (Exodus 32:1-8).

Second, we must remember that the book of Deuteronomy frequently raises the challenges that the nascent Jewish nation will face as it leaves its sheltered life in the desert and confronts the heathen practices of the Canaanite people. Immediately

prior to the passage we are investigating, G-d specifically warns the Israelites not to imitate these people by seeking guidance from mediums, astrologers and sorcerers (18:9-14). Recalling the sin of the Golden Calf, these heathen practices would certainly present a danger if the Jewish nation felt bereft of leadership in the post-Moses era.

We can now understand the flow of our passage in Deuteronomy: "For these nations that you are possessing – they hearkened to astrologers and diviners; but the Lord your G-d has not given these for you. A prophet from your midst, from your brethren, like me, shall the Lord your G-d raise up for you – and to him you shall hearken" (18:14-15).

Obviously, this promise is not referring to the Messiah who would come hundreds or thousands of years in the future. Deuteronomy 18 is clearly speaking about a prophet who will speak for G-d after the departure of Moses, and by extension, to all later prophets in future generations.

Furthermore, the continuation of this chapter also confirms that our passage is really pointing to the entire institution of prophecy and to all prophets who would succeed Moses. Verses 20-22 raise the possibility of false prophets who would presume to speak in the name of G-d. This serious concern would only be relevant in a passage dealing with the general issue of prophecy in the history of Israel.

If, as Christian missionaries claim, Deuteronomy 18:18 is forecasting the coming of the Messiah, then the issue of false prophets is out of place in verses 20-22. The mention of false prophets in verses 20-22 makes it very clear that verses 15-18 are speaking about the legitimate prophets that G-d would send to lead the Jewish people after Moses' death and refutes the missionary contention that they refer to the Messiah. ■

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3rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON JUDAISM AND CHRISTIANITY



(From R to L) Rabbi Michael Skobac introduces John Muglia, Kim Gardner and Effy Papadopolous.

Every year, throughout the month of December, Jews living in North America become acutely aware of how Christian the surrounding culture really is. For the past three years, Jews for Judaism, in conjunction with Torah In Motion, has organized a conference to explore the differences between Judaism and Christianity. We believe that knowledge is power! We have, therefore, put together this annual program to empower Jews who live with the constant challenges of being a small minority in a culture that presents many perils to our faith. This year's conference was held at Shaarei Tefilah Congregation in Toronto, and attracted about 100 participants.

CHRISTIANITY AND ITS FOUNDER IN THE EYES OF THE TRADITION



Rabbi Ysocher Katz

Rabbi Ysocher Katz, an instructor at Yeshivat Chovevei Torah in New York, was the first speaker, and presented an historical survey of how Jesus was understood by rabbinic authorities in the Talmudic, medieval and modern periods.

This perspective developed, according to Rabbi Katz, in a trajectory that began with harsh critiques of Jesus in the Talmud to the middle ages where the theology of the emerging Christian faith was attacked, but Jesus himself ignored. Finally, in the modern period, Jewish scholars return their focus to Jesus where he and his relationship to Judaism are reassessed.

JEWISH CHRISTIAN POLEMICS AND THE CHALLENGE OF MODERN CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES

Rabbi J. Emmanuel Schochet, spiritual leader of the Beth Joseph Congregation in Toronto, analyzed the way missionaries

erroneously use Rabbinic texts in their efforts to convert Jews. Rabbi Schochet explained the absurdity of people outside of our tradition claiming that we Jews don't understand the true meaning of our own texts and insisting that they are the only ones who can truly grasp their meaning. In addition, Rav Schochet pointed out that the very Rabbinic texts cited by missionaries are authored by Jewish sages who totally rejected everything about Christianity. Therefore, selectively quoting isolated passages is, for the missionaries, an exercise in futility! Rabbi Schochet proceeded to explain several topics in Rabbinic literature that are used by missionaries, clarifying how each one is misused and manipulated.



Rabbi J. Emmanuel Schochet

CAN JUDAISM BE OBSERVED BY NON-JEWS?



Rabbi Reuven Mann

Rabbi Reuven Mann, Dean of the Masoret Institute of Advanced Jewish Studies for Women in New York, discussed the Torah's directives regarding the way non-Jews are to live. Rabbi Mann asserted that there are three levels at which the Torah can involve non-Jews. Minimally, the Torah requires that all Gentiles adhere to the seven basic principles of living, commonly referred to as the Seven Laws for the Children of Noah. These are basic teachings that prohibit idolatry, murder, sexual immorality, blasphemy, robbery, cruelty to animals and the requirement to set up courts of law. Rabbi Mann claimed that beyond this minimal standard, it is proper for non-Jews to strive for character perfection by following the guidelines taught in Biblical law and narra-

tive. These guidelines include such precepts as prayer, charity and speech ethics. Finally, Rabbi Mann taught that if non-Jews are interested, they may adopt many of the ceremonial and ritual practices of Judaism.

CONVERTS AND A NOACHIDE DISCUSS THEIR PERSONAL JOURNEYS

The final session of the day was a panel discussion featuring Effy Papadopolous and Kim Gardner, converts to Judaism, and Noachide John Muglia, with each one sharing his/her personal story. Effy grew up in a religious Greek Orthodox family, and her interest in Judaism was sparked when she attended lectures on Jewish topics while a student at York University. She spent a Passover with an observant Jewish family and began attending a synagogue. After eight months, she decided to convert because she realized that Judaism provided exactly what she wanted in a religious lifestyle.

Kim Gardner grew up in Toronto and was deeply involved with Christianity from a young age. He learned the importance of being led by "the spirit of G-d" and ultimately became a Seventh Day Adventist pastor. While serving a congregation in British Columbia, he came into contact with a traditional Jewish rabbi who struck him as someone definitely possessed with G-d's spirit. Kim and his wife began a serious study of Judaism which led them to leave the church and embrace the Jewish faith. Although their families were profoundly disturbed with this change, the Gardners have found a very

warm and welcoming spiritual home in the Hamilton Jewish community.

John Muglia grew up in a traditional Roman Catholic home in Toronto and was introduced to Judaism by a fellow student at York University. John spent several years preparing to convert to Judaism, but wasn't 100% sure that it was the right thing for him. He discussed his situation with Jews for Judaism's Rabbi Michael Skobac who suggested that he look into the Bnai Noach movement. After carefully studying a book that Rabbi Skobac provided, John decided to pursue this path. Currently, he is working with rabbis in Toronto and Israel on developing spiritual resources for Noachides, and for the past 10 years, has published the *Bnai Noach Quarterly*.

The Judaism and Christianity conference was an eye-opener for many people because it explored topics at an in-depth level rarely presented in the Jewish community. The sessions evoked a great deal of passionate reaction, and each session was followed by a very intense question period from the audience. ■

“LETTERS TO A BUDDHIST JEW”

Program Draws Standing-Room-Only Crowd



Photo: Mozes Yehudiainoff

In front of the Holy Ark at Anshei Minsk Synagogue, Toronto, Rabbi Dr. Akiva Tatz (R) and David Gottleib (L) answer questions from a capacity audience.

On a clear winter evening in January, Rabbi Shmuel Spero, spiritual leader of the Anshei Minsk shul, peered at the 400 people packed into his downtown Toronto shul and wondered aloud if he wasn't at a Kol Nidre service. The energy and excitement in the sanctuary was palpable as the diverse crowd gathered to hear Rabbi Dr. Akiva Tatz from London, England and David Gottleib from Chicago discuss their recently published book, "Letters to a Buddhist Jew."

Obviously, there's tremendous interest in this issue which prompted Jews for Judaism to organize this special event. In fact, the great attraction that Buddhism holds for North American Jews has now become a critical litmus test for the spiritual health of the Jewish community. Because about 30% of North Americans involved with Buddhist practice come from Jewish backgrounds, this program drew two distinct types of Jews – those already involved in Eastern religions and curious to discover what Judaism offers spiritually, and those concerned with the growing number of fellow Jews who are not at all connecting with their religion.

David Gottleib began the evening by sharing the personal story of his spiritual journey. He described growing up in a home that celebrated both Chanukah and Christmas and never having a Bar Mitzvah – clearly not a recipe for a successful Jewish

life. Among his five siblings, he is the only one who married a Jew.

Because his wife was committed to Jewish practice, he began accompanying her to synagogue, but the services never spoke to him. David then decided that he wanted to learn how to meditate, but wasn't able to find anyone teaching Jewish meditation. Finding his way to a Zen Center in a nearby town, he studied and practised intensely for two years and received lay ordination. One day, while deeply immersed in meditation, he became aware of the essence of his Jewishness. This experience repeated itself many times, and eventually David realized that as a Jew, he needed to pursue a Jewish spiritual path.

With his wife's encouragement, David sought out avenues of adult Jewish learning, including the Torah Learning Center (TLC) in Northbrook, Illinois. Rabbis Zev Kahn and Yehoshua Karsh at TLC contacted Jews for Judaism and organized a program on Jewish meditation at the Gottleib's home with Rabbi Michael and Chashi Skobac.

As David continued to pursue Jewish wisdom, his teachers put him in touch with Rabbi Akiva Tatz, an internationally renowned teacher of Jewish spirituality who was interested in the phenomenon of Jews exploring Buddhism. They began an amazing project, a two-year email correspon-

dence in which they explored the many complex questions that Jewish Buddhists have about their own faith. Eventually these questions and answers became the basis of a book, "Letters to a Buddhist Jew", published by Targum Press.

"Letters to a Buddhist Jew" reveals the profound spiritual wisdom of Judaism, and often uses examples and explanations that parallel Buddhist teachings. The subtext throughout this important work states that, tragically, far too many Jews have never been exposed to the depth and meaning of their own tradition. With his incisive and inspiring presentation of Jewish mystical concepts, Rabbi Tatz has attracted a loyal, worldwide following. Throughout the evening program, he explored many of these compelling teachings with his enthusiastic audience in his formal remarks as well as during an informal question and answer session that continued well past midnight.

Jews for Judaism organized several follow-up programs designed for those who attended the Tatz-Gottleib lecture. Chashi Skobac offered a special four-week Jewish Meditation Seminar at Beth Habonim Synagogue, and Rabbi Michael Skobac presented two seminars entitled, "The Mystical Meaning of Purim" and "Is Religion Killing Judaism?" at the Anshei Minsk shul. To continue addressing this pertinent issue, Jews for Judaism plans to host an important panel discussion dealing with Jewish involvement in Eastern religions. ■

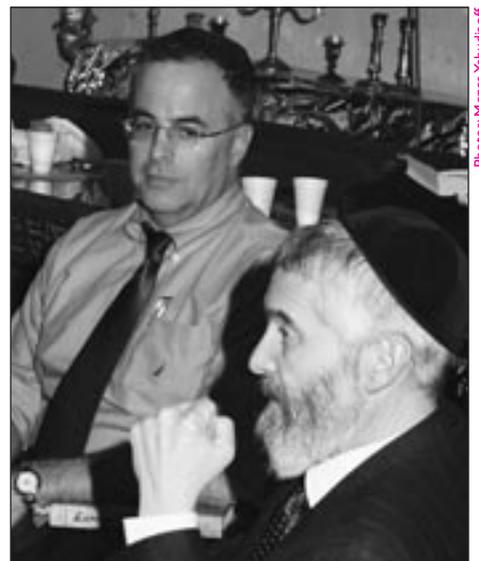


Photo: Mozes Yehudiainoff

Rabbi Dr. Akiva Tatz (R) and David Gottleib (L) shmooze with fascinated participants late into the night.

WINNERS!

SECOND ANNUAL JEWISH STUDENTS' CREATIVE WRITING AND ART CONTEST

TWO CANDLES

Two Candles
Glow brightly
Quietly growing in power
Silently whispering of something
Too great for us to comprehend.

I see my friends
My mother, father, sister
And I wonder
What keeps us here
In front of two glowing candles?

Though I may know
A great number of stories,
Famous King David and Goliath
Solomon and his temple
Moses, Miriam, and Abraham
Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah,

Who am I to know
That it will all lead to this?
This Sabbath on a
Quiet Friday night
Burning in silent glowing pride
Two candles of hope.

*Second Prize winner, Lara Fainsinger,
Edmonton, AB, Grade 5 – 8: Writing.*

Jews for Judaism is proud to announce the winners of its Second Annual Jewish Students' Creative Writing and Art contest that was created to promote Jewish pride and unity. The contest attracted students from across the Jewish spectrum representing public, Hebrew and Jewish Day Schools from across the country. The theme of the contest, "My Favorite Jewish Holiday", inspired a wide range of imaginative written and artistic entries.

By organizing a creative writing and art contest with "My Favorite Jewish Holiday" as a theme, we encouraged Jewish students to explore their positive connections to Judaism. The following is a list of First, Second and Third Prize winners chosen from four categories:



First Prize winner, Jody Kamen, Thornhill, ON, Grade 9 – 12: Art.

GRADES 1 – 2

- 1st Prize:* **Asher Frydman**, Writing
London, ON
London Community Hebrew
Day School, Grade 2
- 2nd Prize:* **Adin Field**, Art
Winnipeg, MB
Gray Academy of Jewish
Education, Grade 2
- 3rd Prize:* **David Jesin**, Writing
Thornhill, ON
Netivot Hatorah Day School
Grade 2

GRADES 3 – 4

- 1st Prize:* **Tamar Assouline**, Art
Thornhill, ON
Or Haemet, Grade 4
- 2nd Prize:* **Yael Saban**, Writing
Toronto, ON
Or Haemet, Grade 3
- 3rd Prize:* **Josh Rosenblatt**, Art
Toronto, ON
Beth Torah, Grade 4

GRADES 5 – 8

- 1st Prize:* **Caroline Alpert**, Art
Toronto, ON
USDS Bayview, Grade 6
- 2nd Prize:* **Lara Fainsinger**, Writing
Edmonton, AB
Crestwood School, Grade 8
- 3rd Prize:* **Adam Moscoe**, Writing
Ottawa, ON
Hillel Academy, Grade 8

GRADES 9 – 12

- 1st Prize:* **Jody Kamen**, Art
Thornhill, ON
CHAT, Richmond Hill, Grade 10
- 2nd Prize:* **Sheera Kendal**, Art
Thornhill, ON
Westmount School, Grade 11
- 3rd Prize:* **Tehila Kalfa**, Writing
Toronto, ON
Tiferes Bais Yaakov, Grade 11

To view all the prize winning works in all categories, please see our website: www.jewsforjudaism.org.

STANDING UP FOR JUDAISM YIDDISH DVD

(Continued from page 4)

(Continued from page 1)

people attended the event out of curiosity, and when it was over, they were very pleased to see us there. We also had the opportunity to speak with dozens of people who had many questions following the program.

“Operation Stand Up for Judaism” was a resounding success thanks to the support of the Canadian Jewish Congress, as well as many dedicated synagogues and individuals from the Montreal Jewish community.



These photos of Jews for Judaism staff and volunteers were used by Jews for Jesus in their December newsletter to illustrate the intense opposition that they received when they reported about BYG.

York. Throughout the winter, Jews for Jesus promised their many supporters an extraordinary strategy for reaching out to Chassidic and Yiddish-speaking Jews. This free DVD with an accompanying Yiddish website is certainly a creative and ambitious, albeit devious approach to reaching this segment of the Jewish community.

These mailings, containing no identification that links them to a Christian missionary organization, were sent to homes in Crown Heights, Monsey, Boro Park, Williamsburg, New Square, Flatbush, Far Rockaway, Kiryas Yoel and Lakewood. The Toronto office of Jews for Judaism received one phone call about an Ottawa family who had also received this obnoxious package.

All Jews must be aware that this mailing can appear at their homes! It may appear in English and Russian versions as well. Please take the appropriate steps to ensure that this deceptive DVD does not fall in the hands of those who may be impressionable and vulnerable. ■

Unfortunately for the Jews of Montreal, the BYG campaign was merely the tip of a rapidly growing missionary iceberg. Jews for Jesus has recently opened a full-time office and now joins with 18 other missionary programs currently targeting the Montreal Jewish community for conversion to Christianity. ■



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