

University of Manitoba President Dr. David Barnard "disinvited" to participate in Shoah ceremony

By **BERNIE BELLAN**

In the April 16 issue of *The Jewish Post & News* we carried a notice from the Shaarey Zedek Synagogue inviting the public to attend an interfaith Shoah commemorative service on April 27.

The notice listed 11 individuals who would be reading from the "Megillat Hashoah". Included among the readers was to be Dr. David Barnard, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Manitoba.



DR. DAVID BARNARD

Barnard, however, had angered some key individuals within the Jewish community recently when he decided to allow a group claiming Israel is an "apartheid" state to appear on the University of Manitoba campus during the so-called "Israel Apartheid Week". Last year student Josh Morry had been successful in getting the University of Manitoba

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Canada's first-ever federal Jewish cabinet minister dies

By **DAVID LAZARUS, Canadian Jewish News**

Canada's first-ever Jewish federal cabinet minister, Herb Gray, was remembered with affection for his martini-dry wit, deft deflection skills during Question Period, powerful oratory and even for his affinity for rock music following his April 21 death at age 82 in Ottawa.

Friends and admirers, however, said Gray's great-



HERB GRAY

est legacy would be his sheer longevity, integrity, devotion to social justice and respect for the rules and customs of the House of Commons, where bitter partisanship now prevails.

His serious, stolid appearance belied his reputation for wit, self-deprecation, and a total lack of cynicism.

Colleagues once teasingly **Continued on page 28. See "Herb Gray".**

Moe Levy to be honoured by Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University

By **BERNIE BELLAN**

Moe Levy is a quiet individual who has contributed a great deal not only to the Province of Manitoba in many ways that are probably not realized, in recent years he has done the same for the State of Israel, especially the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

With a story similar in so many respects to that of a great many other immigrants who have come to Winnipeg over the years and who, as a result of their intelligence, perseverance, and a great deal of foresight, were able to carve very successful careers for

themselves, whether that was in the public or the private spheres, Moe Levy is someone who has long deserved to be recognized for his contributions to our community.

The long-time executive director of the Asper Foundation is being honoured by the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University with its most prestigious award, the Scopus Award, at a gala to be held at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights on Tuesday, May 13.

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Camp Massad well on way to raising \$1 million in capital campaign

Executive Director of Camp Massad Danial Sprintz announced this week that the camp has raised \$750,000 in a capital campaign that began last year.



Following is what "Abba Sprintz" posted to the camp's Facebook page:

"Haksheevoo! Haksheevoo! Camp Massad is proud to announce that we have just reached \$750,000 on our way to our goal of 1 million dollars!!! Thank you so much to all of the foundations, donors, and Massadniks that have brought us to this momentous day! \$250,000 to go! Please call me at the office 204.477.7487 for more information! Please like, share, and comment to spread the word!"



2014 Scopus Award Gala

Honouring Moses (Moe) Levy

Tuesday, May 13 2014

Canadian Museum for Human Rights

Join us as we honour Moses Levy as our man from Mumbai ascends to Scopus. Be one of the first to visit the Canadian Museum for Human Rights with its astonishing 100 metre Israel Asper Tower of Hope.

An incredible evening of fun, entertainment and friendship.

Proceeds to the Institute for Medical Research Israel-Canada (IMRIC) at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

FOR TICKETS, CONTACT:

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Community news

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Moe Levy

Continued from page 1.

Recently I sat down with Levy to discuss his life story – how he came to Winnipeg by himself from his former home in Bombay, India (now Mumbai); how he fashioned very successful careers, both in government and in business; how he ended up in his current role as Executive Director of the Asper Foundation; and the close ties he has forged with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in recent years.

Levy's story is a fascinating one. Born in Bombay, Levy recounts that his family originally came from Iraq. There were two main Jewish families in Bombay that had migrated there from Iraq over the years, he explains: The Sasoons and the Kadouris.

Moe Levy's family belonged to the Sasoon clan, he says. The first members of the family to move to India had moved there in the 1800s to escape persecution, he notes. Iraqi Jewish migrants to India did quite well there, Levy adds.

"Of course there was a huge textile business. They also made a lot of money in opium," he admits. Levy's own "grandparents were born in Iraq," he notes, and they moved to Bombay in the early part of the 20th century.

Levy says that he ended up in Winnipeg this way: "My sister Malka Cohen had married Jack Cohen" (who later went on to great success as the owner of Kromar Printing). "He's also from Bombay. His parents were also from Iraq."

"Jack's uncle – also a Jack Cohen, came here some time after the Second World War," Levy continues. This Jack Cohen had met Winnipegger Fred Kravetsky during the war in Bombay – apparently in the synagogue in Bombay. Kravetsky invited Cohen to come to Winnipeg, offering him a job in the family's storage business. One thing led to another and, by 1948, Levy says, the rest of his family had also left India, either for Israel or London and he ended up coming to Winnipeg in 1968.

He explains though that he did not move here directly from India: "I went to Israel, I went to Europe, I did all that kind of stuff."

Although he received his early education in Bombay, Levy explains that he obtained his Bachelor of Commerce and Masters of Business Administration degrees here in Manitoba. "Like all newcomers I worked to put myself through university. I did it all on my own," he notes.

Moe and his wife Barbara, who is a teacher by training (who used to "teach Shakespeare in Grade 12"), but who also worked with him for a time in a business known as the Northern Fur Exchange (which is where I first met Moe and Barbara back in the 1980s), have three grown children: Adam, 31, "who also has a business background," Levy says. "He has his own company, 'Criterion Studios'. They do a lot of web based marketing."

Sam, 27, has his "masters degree in logistics and supply chain and a commerce degree as well. He, right now, is a program manager at Red River College. He's running the entire Continuing Education program," Levy notes.

Finally, daughter Sarah, 20, is at Trinity College at the University of Toronto. "You may have seen her name before," Levy suggests. "She was a world debating champion."

(I respond saying, "Oh yah – we did a story about her" - in February, 2011 – "Winnipeg Jewish students available for World Public Speaking Championships in Australia" – available for download on our website in the archives.)

Referring to his own career history, Levy says that he began to work for the Manitoba government as soon as he graduated from university here. "I started off as a consultant," he explains. In two years "I created the first business incubator program in Canada," he says with pride. "It was called 'Enterprise Manitoba'."

One of the programs that grew out of that particular initiative was something called "Business Start", which saw young entrepreneurs receive \$5,000 grants from the government. The program still exists to this day, although in much different form, Levy says. (Interestingly, as you read on, you will see how Levy's experience in fostering entrepreneurs was eventually translated into the Israeli scene through the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.)

In time though Levy grew tired of working in government, with its revolving door of ministers and deputy ministers, who would always come in with new agendas each time there was a shuffle, which was quite often, he suggests. Each time there was a new political master he would have to make anew the case for continuing the programs that he had started, he explains.

By the early 1980s, as a result, Levy decided to move into the private sphere part time, while still working in government.. Along with a brother who had also moved here, he opened a restaurants, "Moskowitz and Moskowitz" (at the corner of Mayfair and Main), to



GAIL ASPER

"We're absolutely delighted that the Hebrew U has chosen Moe Levy to receive the Scopus Award, which is their major award given to community leaders."

be followed later by "Schmeckers Eventually, he sold the restaurants. "I couldn't stand the restaurant business," Levy admits.

His next move as an entrepreneur came in 1993 when, along with a group of other investors and with the assistance of the Vision Capital Fund, he purchased a company owned by Bill Worb called the "Winnipeg Fur Exchange".

"What really attracted me was the catalogue company he (Worb) had," Levy goes on to explain. "I saw this as a company that was really growing." It wasn't the fur business, nor the retail business that drew Levy's interest, he says, "but the ability to create catalogues. In those days on-line was non-existent."

But, by 1999, Levy says, he "wanted to take the company in a different direction" than his partners, so he sold his interest to them and began to take stock of where he wanted to go from there. "I was 51 years old. I saw an ad in the *Globe and Mail*. It was an ad for a Jewish foundation (in Winnipeg). It didn't say exactly which foundation. The ad was for an executive director for that foundation."

"I threw my name into the hat," he says, without knowing that he was applying to be executive director of the Asper Foundation. Levy had met Izzy Asper only once before - in 1997, when Asper was in the process of endowing the Asper Centre for Entrepreneurship at the University of Manitoba. While the two men eventually forged a close relationship, it was as a result of Izzy's sudden death in 2003 that Moe Levy found himself working hand-in-hand with Izzy's daughter, Gail.

At this point in the interview Gail joined in the conversation as we began to discuss Moe Levy's relationship to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem – a subject that is also dear to Gail's heart, as it was to her father.

"We (both) go to Israel quite often," Levy notes. Izzy Asper had a long-held "affection" for not only the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, which he held in particular high esteem, according to Levy, but the entire State of Israel – something, he says, that goes back to 1983, when the Asper Foundation was first created.

It was during the 1980s that Izzy Asper, along with his then-law partners Yude Henteleff and the late Harold Buchwald, became especially active in support of the Hebrew University, Gail explains. "The first thing he (Izzy) did was to create a scholarship fund to help kids take overseas studies at the Rotheberg School" she adds.

"Then he wanted to do something more meaningful," she continues. "He was put on to the Board of Governors of the Hebrew University, which is the overseeing group and went there at least once a year for their big conference."

Shortly after Moe Levy had assumed the role of executive director of the Asper Foundation, it was Izzy's idea to create a school for entrepreneurship at the Hebrew University along the lines of the Asper School of Entrepreneurship at the U of M (now the Stu Clark School of Entrepreneurship). "We made a major donation to start that up and Moe was involved with all the logistics," Gail explains.

"Then he (Izzy) kind of threw that over to me," she says. According to Gail, Izzy said to her: "I want to get off the Board of Governors to do other things and I want you to step in – which is not how it works", she notes. But the Board of Governors said: "Yes, we'll take Gail. So I inherited his position...it's not supposed to be inherited, but I inherited his position on the Board of Governors" (in the early 2000's).

Gail has been heavily involved ever since, going to Israel several times a year to attend meetings, she notes. "We're absolutely delighted that the Hebrew U has chosen Moe Levy to receive the Scopus Award, which is their major award given to community leaders," she adds.

While the Hebrew University was the major focus of the Asper family's involvement in Israel for years, Gail pays tribute to the Asper Foundation's work in Israel having "greatly expanded" since Moe Levy became executive director of the Foundation.

At this point Levy chimes in, saying: "Just so you know, she's also getting her (honourary) doctorate at the Hebrew U this June."

Moe Levy is also on the Board of Governors of the Hebrew University. According to Gail he has played a particularly important role in areas related to entrepreneurship at the university. It was when Rami Kleinmann was the Hebrew University's executive director here in Winnipeg that Levy developed a particularly keen interest in foster-

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Community news

David Matas to speak on Jewish refugees from Arab countries at Shaarey Zedek

By MARTIN ZEILIG

After the establishment of the State of Israel, over 800,000 Jews were driven from their ancestral homes in 11 Arab countries.

No redress was ever given.

More than half of today's Israelis are descendants of these refugees.

In public hearings conducted in March 2013, the Canadian Parliament and Government considered whether redress for this population should form part of the peace process.

Well known international human rights lawyer David Matas, who also is senior honorary counsel to B'nai B'rith Canada, will be speaking on the topic "Jewish Refugees from Arab Countries" at the 52nd Interfaith Luncheon on Tuesday, May 6th, at noon, at the synagogue.

The event, which is sponsored annually by the Sisterhood of the Shaarey Zedek Synagogue, is in celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel Independence Day).

During his presentation to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development Matas, who also is the Legal Counsel of Justice for Jews from Arab Countries, told the committee that bilateral agreements between Israel and Egypt in 1978 and 1979, and Jordan in 1994, as well as between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in 1993 and 1995 (as part of the Oslo Accords), did use "generic" language in reference to refugees.

Perhaps most importantly from a multilateral perspective, United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, which was adopted after the 1967 war and is typically considered as the basic framework for any settlement to the Middle East conflict, affirmed the necessity of "achieving a just settlement of the refugee problem," Matas pointed



DAVID MATAS: "One has to distinguish recognition of a right and its violation on the one hand, and awarding redress on the other."

out.

"Witnesses argued that the resolution did not, therefore, distinguish between refugee groups," said the Standing Committee's report - RECOGNIZING JEWISH REFUGEES FROM THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA (November 2013).

Thus, Jewish refugees are "entitled to redress" for violations of their rights, emphasized Matas, who further argued that "Canada should support the principle that in Middle East peace negotiations, all refugees should be treated with equity and justice."

"One has to distinguish recognition of a right and its violation on the one hand, and awarding redress on the other," he added.

"When it comes to redress, there is a wide array of possibilities. These can include, for example, truth and reconciliation commissions, the establishment of chairs at prominent universities to promote and preserve the rich Sephardic heritage and legacy, the establishment of foundations to protect and preserve holy sites in Arab countries, and compensation. Redress, ultimately, will be decided by the parties directly involved in the negotiations."

Another witness, Dr. Stanley Urman, Executive Vice-President of Justice for Jews from Arab Countries, told the committee that there has been a lack of recognition of Jewish refugees at the United Nations.

He said: "...with respect to UN resolutions from 1949 to 2009, there has been a total of 1,088 resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly on every conceivable Middle East issue. One hundred and seventy-two resolutions have dealt specifically with Palestinian refugees." Dr. Urman informed the committee that "Some two-thirds, or nearly 650,000 Jews, immigrated to Israel, while roughly one-third, or over 200,000 Jews, found a safe haven in countries other than Israel, including Canada.

In its summation, the committee had two recommendations: "The Government of Canada officially recognize the experience of Jewish refugees who were displaced from states in the Middle East and North Africa after 1948.

"The Government encourage the direct negotiating parties to take into account all refugee populations as part of any just and comprehensive resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian and Arab-Israeli conflicts."

The Government of Canada agreed with the first recommendation. "Fair and equal acknowledgement of all refugee populations arising out of the Arab-Israeli conflict requires the recognition of Jewish refugees," said the official government response.

"The Government shares the Committee's belief that such recognition does not diminish or compete with the situation of Palestinian refugees."

The Government praised the positive intent underlying the second recommendation.

"(B)ut at this time, Canada has offered its support to the peace process as presently structured," said the response.

"The current Israeli-Palestinian negotiations take place in the context of the Arab Peace Initiative, which offers Israel peace with the broader Arab world if it reaches an agreement with the Palestinians. There currently are no direct negotiations on the subject of Jewish refugees between Israel and the refugees' countries of origin in the Middle East and North Africa."

But, the overall peace process is not simply a matter for the negotiators about which we can do nothing other than stand by and watch and hope for the best, according to Matas.

"Since what drives the never-ending wars against Israel is anti-Zionist war propaganda and incitement to hatred, we can have a direct role in contributing to peace by combating that anti-Zionism, that propaganda, that incitement," he said.

"The wars against Israel are being fought at our universities with anti-apartheid weeks, at our stores with boycott campaigns, at our funds with divestment efforts. Every one of us can help make peace happen by joining in the effort to amputate the tentacles of anti-Zionism spreading throughout our society."

Ed. note: David Matas [BA/1964] is a recipient of a Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Manitoba Alumni Association. The award is to be presented at a gala event at the Winnipeg Art Gallery on May 1. Matas is being honoured for being, in the words of the Alumni Association: "A shield, a sword, and a warrior in the battle for international human rights (Nominated for the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize)"

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ing entrepreneurial programs at the Hebrew University, Gail explains.

The entrepreneur division is a part of the Hebrew University's business

school the same way that the Stu Clark Centre for Entrepreneurship is a division of the Asper School of Business here, she notes.

"Essentially that model is to encourage students to look at entrepreneurship as a model and not simply to think of working for a big bank or Microsoft," Levy explains.

"I created that model in the 1980's before Izzy got involved," he adds.

As illustration of some of what he has helped to foster at the Hebrew University Levy points to the success of "biz camps" that have been set up in Jerusalem for Arab women "to come into classrooms..." and teach women skills that would allow them to become self-sustaining entrepreneurs.

But it wasn't sufficient simply to provide these women with a certain skill set that would help them establish their own "cottage industries" - they also needed financing - in this case, what is known as "micro financing."

Yet "Israeli banks wouldn't give them financing, Arab banks wouldn't give them financing," Levy goes on to explain. "So through this very convoluted way we got them financing from the Hebrew University and the Jerusalem Development Corporation...it's been a hugely successful program and some of these women are making two to three times what their husbands are making."

In addition, Levy says, he's looking to emulate the "Harvard review" model at the Harvard Business School for the Hebrew University.

"The problem for the Hebrew U" though, Levy cautions, is that "it's a very science-oriented, a very medicine-oriented university. We're trying to elevate the business school to the same level of excellence" as the rest of the Hebrew University," he stresses.

As someone who has played a role in fashioning programs of entrepreneurship within government, then became an entrepreneur himself, finally settling into a fruitful relationship with one of Canada's most successful entrepreneurs, Izzy Asper, Moe Levy has much to offer by way of experience and understanding to the Hebrew University. It is fitting that someone like Moe Levy, who has usually worked in the shadow of others, be they government ministers or the likes of such exuberant individuals as Izzy and Gail Asper, is finally recognized for his stellar behind-the-scenes work.

(The entire interview with Moe Levy and Gail Asper can be heard on The Jewish Radio Hour, Sunday, May 11th at 1:30 p.m. on CKJS 810 on the radio dial.)