

EYE ON MONTREAL

NAMES IN THE NEWS IN OUR CITY

By MIKE COHEN

JPPS-BIALIK ON THE RISE: Passover is a time when friends and families come together to celebrate the Jewish people's escape from slavery to freedom in Egypt under the leadership of Moses. A key celebratory event of the holiday is the Seder meal. Seder means "order" and the prayers, traditions and foods all have special significance in the celebration of the holiday. At JPPS Elementary School and Bialik High School, students experience the history, rituals and values of the holiday through their participation in class Seders and other meaningful activities. Students become familiar with the customs associated with the holiday so that they are able to be active participants in their Seders at home. The JPPS Bialik community would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a joyous Passover, Chag Sameach and a freylechn Pesach! They have gone the extra mile in this edition of *The Jewish Standard* via a beautiful page one photo taken by Ryan Blau and an equally attractive advertisement on page 15. Under the outstanding leadership of Head of School Maureen Baron, the two schools have new principals: Marcy Stein at JPPS and Avi Satov at Bialik. Log on to www.jpps-bialik.ca to learn more.

GARBER HOLDS COURT IN VEGAS: When Mitch Garber was named CEO of Caesars Interactive Entertainment in 2008, soon after adding

the title of CEO of Las Vegas based Caesars Acquisition Company, he could have easily packed up his family and moved to the city that never sleeps. However, the main condition for accepting the post was that he be able to run this gigantic operation from an office in downtown Montreal.

"My kids like Montreal and my wife is a true Quebecois from Laval," Garber explains. "I wanted my kids to finish their studies in Montreal. Caesars accepted my terms. I spend 10 days a month in Vegas. Otherwise I am here at my Montreal office."

The corporate entity Garber oversees has 8,000 employees, principally in the United States, Israel and Canada. While Garber's professional career has taken him in many different directions and to new heights of success, he has always known the importance of philanthropy. Once upon a time, when he attended Jewish People's and Peretz School (JPPS) and Bialik High School, he had to seek tuition assistance. Grateful for that kind of generosity, he gave back a few years ago and inaugurated the Mitch Garber Hall of Honour. On Sunday, March 29 he was the guest of honour at the 2015 Cummings Jewish Centre for Seniors Foundation Sports Celebrity Breakfast.

LAUREN VAL REUNION: While enjoying the sun this winter in sunny
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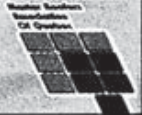
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South Florida, Chomedey's Gloria and Steve Kadonoff decided to kick start a reunion of former staffers from the old Laurenval School Board, which in 1998 morphed into the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

"The idea for this reunion was born one year ago when at lunch with a small group of friends in Deerfield Beach, we spoke of meeting here with many retired colleagues and employees from the old Laurenval Board," Gloria explains. "The idea of a reunion began to take shape as we started to list names on a table napkin."

Earlier in the winter a committee was established consisting of the Kadonoffs, Rhoda Kazdan, Anita Gurman, Blanca Gaon and Toby Shulman. They proceeded to begin the job of networking to generate more names. It was a successful venture. On February 12, 35 Snowbirds residing in the Southern Florida area gathered at a restaurant in Deerfield

Beach to renew acquaintances and share memories with those not seen, in some cases, for 20 years or more.

"We all agreed the evening was a huge success and there is already a suggestion to invite everyone again next year, perhaps to a picnic," Gloria shares.

SHELDON KAGAN STEPS DOWN: A legend on the local entertainment scene has called it a career. After an extraordinary 50 years of working on every angle related to entertainment, concert production, trade shows, party planning and special events Sheldon Kagan has decided the time has come to step back. The head of Sheldon Kagan International has been the driving force behind a broad spectrum of successful projects - from concerts, singles parties and weddings, exhibitions for the bridal, family, and boomer and business-to-business markets. He actually got into the business when he was just 14 years old as a deejay, calling himself Shelly



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the K and his Mobile Discotheque. His first gig was at a high school dance and he was paid \$25 for his services. One of Kagan's most branded events is the Salon de la Mariée, an annual exhibition that now attracts an endless array of brides, grooms and family members to the Palais des Congrès. There will soon be a "for sale" sign for this event. "It should continue," he said, "but I will be very careful whom I entrust this with. It is my baby!"

MAURICE RETIRES: While Maurice Cohen is still going strong as a member of the St. Laurent Borough Council, he has hung up his scissors and razor blade at Inter Coupe Monsieur on Decarie. Owner Victor Soussana, his

main man Georges Ouaknine, the rest of the staff and customers already miss Maurice. Although he was already semi-retired from the business, coming in once or twice a week, he had his regulars who relied on him for the perfect look for decades. "I cut hair for 60 years," says Maurice, who will turn 80 on his next birthday. "I started off when I was living in Morocco. In 1964 I came to Montreal and two years later I established my own salon on Côte des Neiges Road. I also proudly became a member of council in St. Laurent, a position I am still proud to hold 33 years later".

Mike Cohen can be reached at info@mikecohen.ca. Follow him on Twitter @mikecohencsl.

OBAMA AND TERROR

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bombers. She reported (in The New Yorker): "None of [the bombers] were uneducated, desperately poor, simple-minded, or depressed. Many were middle class and, unless they were fugitives, held paying jobs...Two were the sons of millionaires."

The attacks on September 11, 2001, focused new attention on the causes of terrorism. The *New York Times* reported that the personal details concerning the hijackers had "confounded the experts."

"They were adults with education and skill, not hopeless young zealots," the *Times* said of the attackers. "At least one left behind a wife and young children...They were not reckless young men facing dire economic conditions and dim prospects, but men as old as 41 enjoying middle class lives."

In 2002, Prof. Alan Krueger of Princeton and Prof. Jitka Maleckova of Prague's Charles University studied the lives of 129

Lebanese Hezbollah terrorists who were killed in attacks on Israel. They found that as compared to other Lebanese, the Hezbollah members "were less likely to come from poor families and were significantly more likely to have completed secondary education."

That same year, the *(Please turn to following page)*

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