Collaborating for the greater good

Winnipeg, Calgary universities establish research ties with IMRIC

Canadian Friends is celebrating two new research collaborations between the Institute for Medical Research Israel-Canada (IMRIC) and Canadian universities.

On April 27, “Man in Motion” Rick Hansen will provide the keynote address at an evening reception hosted by CFHU’s Calgary chapter. Community leader and Canadian philanthropist Harley Hotchkiss will receive the first IMRIC award for his major contribution to medical research.

The evening will raise awareness and funds for a collaboration between IMRIC neurobiologist Dr. Aharon Lev-Tov and Dr. Patrick Whalen, co-leader of the Spinal Cord Nerve Regeneration Program at the University of Calgary’s Hotchkiss Brain Institute, named for Harley Hotchkiss. The two scientists have been conducting innovative research into, among other projects, relieving the debilitating neuropathic pain faced by spinal cord injury patients.

On May 16, the Winnipeg chapter will honour business leader and local philanthropist Joe Bova with the 2011 Scopus Award in tribute of his lifelong dedication to cultural philanthropy and his concern and respect for the Jewish people.

IMRIC scientist Dr. Abraham Fainsod will be working with University of Manitoba counterpart Dr. Geoff Hicks, director of the Regenerative Medicine Program, to study the effects of vitamin A, a critical element in cell development and revitalization, in fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD). Funds raised at the dinner will go toward the newly established Canada-Israel FASD Research Consortium between IMRIC and the University of Manitoba. Over the next five years, the Manitoba Research and Innovation Fund will match up to $750,000 raised by CFHU for the consortium, which Manitoba Minister of Innovation, Energy and Mines Dave Chomiak said would “create long-term social, economic and health benefits for Manitobans.”

“We are thrilled to see research, which began 12 years ago in Dr. Abraham Fainsod’s lab at Hebrew University, now be the focus of this collaboration with University of Manitoba researchers,” says CFHU Manitoba chapter president Faith Kaplan.

Montreal, Toronto give Scopus awards

One evening, two fantastic honours and events, and more than $3 million raised for the Hebrew University.

On November 15, 2010, CFHU’s Montreal and Toronto chapters each took delight in presenting the Scopus Award — CFHU’s highest honour — to two individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary support to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

In Montreal, McGill University president Dr. Heather Munroe-Blum was presented with the award by Hebrew University president Dr. Menahem Ben-Sasson for her instrumental efforts at forging ties between the two universities. Funds raised at the dinner will support four collaborative projects in the areas of medicine and epigenetics at IMRIC; human-rights law; international business; and food safety and water management.

In Toronto, lawyer and former senator The Hon. Jerry Grafstein was honoured for his contributions to democracy and combating anti-Semitism. Funds raised at the dinner will go toward the establishment of the Jerry and Carole Grafstein Network for Cancer Research at IMRIC. As well, the Grafsteins have established a visiting Jewish studies professor exchange program at Hebrew University and the University of Toronto.

“Supporting cancer research at one of the most innovative research institutions in the world will have an impact worldwide,” says honorary dinner co-chair Tracy Bierstock-Wilder.

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Bridging the distance

With each passing month, it seems as though the distances between Canada and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem grow shorter. Social media like Facebook, Twitter, and blogs provide up-to-the-minute news on the Hebrew University’s latest achievements: scientific breakthroughs, prestigious awards earned by University researchers, student life in Israel.

These technologies virtually eliminate geography, allowing Canadians to feel a part of the University simply by logging on. We invite you to become a fan of our Facebook pages, and to add us to your Twitter and blog feeds (information below), as well as to take advantage of more “traditional” communications like our website and e-mail updates — not to mention this newsletter.

The distance between Canada and Hebrew U is also minimized with each research collaboration established between IMRIC scientists and their Canadian partners. The most recent of these will be celebrated at upcoming galas in Calgary and Winnipeg: scientists at the universities of Calgary and Manitoba will work with their IMRIC counterparts to find innovative approaches to spinal cord injuries and fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD). Breakthroughs in these and other critical medical issues will be the result of international collaborations, and CFHU is pleased and proud to be at the forefront of creating these partnerships.

At the same time, sometimes there’s nothing like being there. While we will always continue to impart the Hebrew University’s top researchers for fascinating lectures and Best of Hebrew U events in Canada, we welcome you to join us on one of our many missions to the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel, and further afield. If you’re planning a trip to Jerusalem, please let us help arrange a private visit to the University. There, you can learn about the impact of the Hebrew University’s discoveries on the lives of millions, worldwide.

The pledge of, “Next year in Jerusalem!” is still fresh in our minds from the Seder table: why not make it a reality in the upcoming year?

Rami Kleinmann
National Director (l)
Nathan Lindenberg
National President (r)

PS: In our next issue, please watch for an exciting update on the expansions of the University’s Peter Brody Center for Innovative Engineering and Computer Science.

Lifelong, personal connections

At campuses across Canada, CFHU has enlisted 10 enthusiastic student ambassadors to promote studying at the Hebrew University’s Rothberg International School (RIS). “Student ambassadors can effectively convey the merits of studying at RIS simply because we can more easily relate to our peers,” says Eitan Levitt, an ambassador at McGill University. Levitt, with friend and fellow ambassador Jesse Tepperman, has helped to recruit the 15 McGill students studying at Rothberg during the 2011 winter term — a significant increase from two in 2009–10.

Ambassador, says University of Winnipeg student Kari Zalik, provide information about everything from big-picture questions on Israel’s history, culture, and politics to course selection to the intimate but important details of student life: “Where do we buy groceries? Do they have Crest toothpaste? Are all the students Orthodox?” These conversations, she says, “help ease their nerves about life in Israel.”

The ambassador program is part of ongoing CFHU efforts to establish early, lifelong connections with Canadians to educate them about the organization’s profound effect on the Hebrew University. As part of this initiative, CFHU’s National President Nathan Lindenberg and national director Rami Kleinmann have hosted a series of events with Canadian students currently in Jerusalem to connect them to each other and Canadian Friends. Being an ambassador, says Tepperman, helps him fulfill his “self-promise to continue to learn, value, and promote Israel in the Diaspora. I hope to be able to establish a long and strong friendship with Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University.”

Student ambassadors: Hebrew U alumni Eitan Levitt (l) and Jesse Tepperman are ambassadors for the Hebrew University at McGill University.

CFHU@21C

It’s 2011: Where is your target audience? More and more, the answer to that question is “online.” And that’s why, as CFHU embraces fundraising in the 21st century, we’re also embracing online social media to raise awareness and funds for Israel’s premier university and IMRIC.

So, between issues of Lumenet, get regular updates through our new CFHU and IMRIC social media platforms, accessible on your desktop or mobile device:

Friend us on Facebook: facebook.com/CFHU FriendsandAlumni and facebook.com/IMRIC.HU

Follow us on Twitter twitter.com/CFHU Friends and twitter.com/IMRIC sid

Keep up with our blogs HebrewYou.com and imric.org/blog

Watch us on YouTube: youtube.com/CFHU FriendsandAlumni and youtube.com/IMRIC MedicalResearch
Inseparable: Sylvia and Henry Waks

Sylvia and Henry Waks loved to be together. Through 57 years of marriage, they not only lived and raised children together, but loved to travel together, particularly to their beloved Italy, where Sylvia in particular couldn’t get enough of Renaissance art.

“They were inseparable. Even in Europe, where they could easily find different things to do, there was my father trying to keep up with my mother, schlepping her purse,” recalls their son, Jay. “They shared their passions: for the family, for the arts, and sometimes even for shopping. They were madly in love.”

Sylvia and Henry Waks passed away within a year of each other: she in December 2009 and Henry the following December. “My mother died of cancer,” says Jay, “and my father died of a broken heart. And now they’re together again, forever.”

The Wakses also shared a passion for philanthropy, which they passed on to their sons. To honour the memory of his wife, Henry Waks established the Henry & Sylvia Waks Family Foundation, which made a $1 million donation to the Hebrew University’s Institute for Medical Research Israel-Canada (IMRIC), among other institutions.

Henry Waks’s affinity to Hebrew U spanned three generations: his father-in-law, Lazer Dzialosynski, was an early supporter, and Jay spent several years as a member of CFHU’s board. Jay’s brother, Freddie, is also involved in Jewish charitable causes: he is a recent co-chair of the UJA campaign and is next year’s Negev dinner honouree.

An enduring legacy: Hebrew University president Menahem Ben-Sasson (l) visits with Torontoan Henry Waks (“Benny”), who made a substantial donation to IMRIC in memory of his beloved late wife, Sylvia.

CFHU launches national planned giving strategy

Canadians rank third in the world in generosity, according to the U.K.-based Charities Aid Foundation.

“Two-thirds of high-net-worth Canadians plan to give away between 1% and 3% of their wealth this year, and three-quarters of wealthy Canadians believe giving back to the community is important,” says Montreal chapter president Monette Malewski, citing a recent survey by BMO Harris Private Banking.

In this giving environment — and with governments retreating from funding — it’s fitting that CFHU is launching a national planned giving strategy, chaired by Malewski.

“Planned giving is the process of combining your personal, tax, and estate goals to include long-term charitable giving — often much, much more than donors thought they could ever give,” says Malewski. “For CFHU, this means supporting Israel’s leading scholars and researchers. It means making a real difference in the fight against diseases like cancer, Alzheimer’s, or Parkinson’s by supporting IMRIC scientists.”

As president and CEO of M Bascal Group, Malewski provides individuals and companies with innovative solutions to reach their philanthropic goals, while minimizing risks to assets and protecting the interests of their families.

“The best planned giving strategy for you will depend on your circumstances,” she says. “But to reap the maximum tax benefits, you must plan your gift now, during your lifetime. It’s an integral part of your overall financial and estate planning.”

CFHU reaches out to Sderot

“University” is a foreign concept for many Israeli youth at the country’s periphery. In the city of Sderot, for example, socioeconomic hardship, coupled with geographic isolation and the constant barrage of Qassam rocket fire from neighbouring Gaza, present formidable barriers to post-secondary education. Many elementary and high-school students simply don’t imagine earning a degree.

For these reasons, the Hebrew University — and CFHU — are developing innovative ways to reach out to peripheral communities. The University’s Joseph Meyerhoff Center for Advanced Studies, with support from Canadian Friends, is collaborating with the nonprofit Southern Area New Horizon to establish a youth science centre in the city. The project builds on the success of last summer’s science-themed “Knowledge Camp” for youth.

The centre, known as “Méver La Olék” (“Beyond the Horizon”), was launched on March 2. CFHU national director Rami Kleinmann, associate national director Merle Goldman, and Toronto lay leader Millie Lev were proud to witness the event firsthand.

The Hebrew University will send MA and PhD students to Sderot for weekly science-themed classes for the more than 150 youths who have registered. A computer lab and homework program will also be established. Students will be able to participate in extracurricular activities that showcase a range of University disciplines, from the arts and sciences to astrophysics, business, architecture, and veterinary studies.

Sderot students will also visit the Edmund J. Safra campus to meet with lecturers, tour laboratories, take part in experiments, and get to know the world of science and academia.

“By bringing the University directly into a community that needs it,” says Kleinmann, “the city’s youth can more easily imagine themselves as Hebrew University students. Our goal is to make sure that youth in communities like Sderot can fulfill their potential.”

Lighting up young minds: A science instructor from the Joseph Meyerhoff Center for Advanced Studies treats Sderot children to a fascinating series of experiments with light at the launch of a new science program for the region’s youth.
Canadian icon visits IMRIC

PARTNERSHIP TO ADVANCE SCI RESEARCH

As part of the 25th anniversary of his “Man in Motion” world tour, Rick Hansen visited the Hebrew University’s Institute for Medical Research Israel-Canada (IMRIC) to announce a partnership that will further advance spinal cord injury (SCI) research.

At Hebrew U, Hansen signed a memorandum of understanding between IMRIC and the Vancouver-based Rick Hansen Institute to broaden the Rick Hansen Spinal Cord Injury Registry, an international registry to collect and analyze valuable data on SCI and clinical treatments.

Hansen’s visit to Jerusalem in December was the first of four international trips to mark the anniversary of his 34-country, 40,000-kilometre wheelchair tour. It was also a venue to recognize international achievements in finding a cure for SCIs and creating accessible communities. In Israel, Hansen presented two “Rick Hansen Difference Maker Awards”: the first to IMRIC’s chair of medical neurobiology, Dr. Aharon Lev-Tov, and the second to Yurval Wagner, Chair and Founder of Access Israel.

In April, CFHU will continue in its efforts to advance SCI research, when the Calgary chapter honours Dr. Lev-Tov at a gala dinner in support of IMRIC (see page 1 for more details).

“This agreement will lead to innovative approaches that improve outcomes for people with spinal cord injuries,” says CFHU national director Rami Kleinmann. “IMRIC is bringing together the best minds in science, across disciplines and across countries, to create new approaches to meet the great medical challenges of the day. Working with the Rick Hansen Institute is a prime example of how IMRIC is building bridges to enhance knowledge.”

IMRIC profs win Gairdner

PRIZE CONSIDERED PREDICTOR FOR NOBEL

Two IMRIC researchers have been awarded Canada’s foremost prize in the field of medical research. On March 23, 2011, Profs. Chaim Cedar and Aharon Razin were named as two of the five winners of the Canada Gairdner International Awards.

The Gairdners, first presented in 1959, are awarded annually to researchers from around the world for outstanding contributions to medical science. They were created by the Gairdner Foundation to recognize and reward the achievements of medical researchers whose work contributes significantly to improving the quality of human life. The awards are recognized internationally as among the most prestigious in biomedical science; 76 Gairdner awardees have gone on to win Nobel Prizes.

Profs. Cedar and Razin are the first Hebrew University faculty members to win the Gairdner. Their work has important implications for new treatments in cancer and other diseases. If the human genome project has mapped out the text of the human body, Prof. Cedar explains, then he and Prof. Razin have discovered that this text is “annotated through a chemical process called DNA methylation. These methyl groups provide a sophisticated system for marking which genes should be turned on or turned off in every tissue of the body. This represents a completely new form of biological information that is responsible for regulating the process of human development.”

Prof. Razin, a native of Tel Aviv, is a full professor in biochemistry. Prof. Cedar, a native of New York, immigrated to Israel in 1973 and became a full professor in the Hebrew University’s faculty of medicine in 1981. Both researchers are members of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities; both have received numerous prizes for their research, including the Wolf Prize and the Israel Prize.

“We are proud and thrilled that the work of Profs. Cedar and Razin is receiving the international attention it truly deserves,” says CFHU national president Nathan Lindenberg. “The fact that the Gairdner is a Canadian foundation makes this recognition that much more meaningful.”
The brain as “task machine”

IMRIC RESEARCH SHEDS NEW LIGHT ON BRAIN ACTIVITY

At first, it seems puzzling: the area of the brain responsible for reading print doesn’t actually require vision.

So says a new study led by IMRIC’s Dr. Amir Amedi. The finding makes more sense, says Dr. Amedi, when we realize that reading — unlike other tasks the brain performs — is a relatively recent invention (about 5,400 years old), while Braille has been in use for fewer than 200 years. “That’s not enough time for evolution to have shaped a brain module dedicated to reading,” he says.

Using functional MRI brain scans, members of Dr. Amedi’s research team measured neural activity in eight blind people while they read Braille words and nonsense Braille. They found that the brains of the participants, who had been blind since birth, lit up in precisely the same part of the brain (the visual word form area, or VWFA) that is activated when sighted people read. The research appeared in the online journal Current Biology. The findings challenge the conventional theory that the brain is divided into regions that are specialized for processing information that arrives via one sense or another, say the study authors. In fact, says Dr. Amedi, “The brain is not a sensory machine, although it often looks like one. It is a task machine. A brain area can fulfill a unique function — in this case reading — regardless of what form the sensory input takes.”

The researchers suggest that the VWFA is a multi-sensory integration area that binds simple features into more elaborate shape descriptions, making it ideal for the relatively new task of reading, whether using Braille or the printed word. “It is the most suitable region to be taken over during reading acquisition, even when reading is acquired via touch without prior visual experience.”

The team plans to examine brain activity as people learn to read Braille for the first time, says Dr. Amedi, to find out how rapidly this takeover happens. “How does the brain change to process information in words?” he asks. “Is it instantaneous?”

A new look at brain function:
IMRIC researcher Dr. Amir Amedi compares brain function in sighted and blind readers.

“Yetzeit Mitzrayim”

HU WELCOMES EGYPT’S INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

It’s a modern-day twist on an ancient tale: as protests and political unrest took over Egypt, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem opened its doors to international students in that country. On February 13, 12 students who had been forced to halt their education at Egyptian universities began a semester at the Hebrew University’s Rothberg International School (RIS) study-abroad program. The initiative has been nicknamed “Yetzeit Mitzrayim,” a reference to the biblical exodus from Egypt. “I definitely thought of this as history unravelling before my eyes,” says Jeremy Hodge, a student at UC Santa Barbara.

“With the ongoing turmoil in Egypt, the students decided to take the offer of the friendly, safe, stable, and first-rate academic environment in Israel,” says CFHU national director Rami Kleinmann.

Since the Egyptian people took to the streets in a bid for democracy, the RIS has worked closely with the directors of study-abroad programs in that country. The Hebrew University has provided special orientation to ease the students’ transition to the Jerusalem campus, says RIS provost Prof. Mimi Ajzenstadt. “[The students] will continue to do what they aimed to do in Cairo; now they are doing it here in Jerusalem. We’re lucky that our university has world experts in … political science, Middle East studies, and, of course, the Arabic language,” which may help them to gain a better understanding of the unfolding events in Egypt.

For example, Hebrew U political scientists Prof. Tamir Alexander and Dr. Shaul Shenhav have developed a “negative democratic gap” scale that measures existing levels of freedom in a country as compared to citizens’ desire for more freedom. Using this scale, the two researchers were able to explain the protests in Egypt and Iran, while showing why similar events did not occur in other non-democratic nations. Where citizens are granted less democracy than they expect, say the researchers, chances of undermining existing rule increases. Their research will be published in the Journal of Conflict Resolution.

From Egypt to Jerusalem:
International students at Egyptian universities chose to continue their studies at the Hebrew University during Egyptian political unrest.
Hold the date!

CFHU’s chapters have an exciting array of events planned for the coming months. Visit www.cfhu.org or call your chapter office for more information.

**National**

**June 13–23:** Mission of Friendship, Board of Governors Meeting & Presidential Conference, Israel

**Oct. 30–Nov. 1:** Live, Learn & Explore Israel & Southern France with HU Prof. Yom Tov Assis

**Ottawa**

May 19: Mika Fagelman, HonestReporting Canada

Nov. 1: CFHU Prostate Cancer Canada Day: Wake Up Call Breakfast and Evening Concert, Proceeds to Prostate Cancer Research & IMIRC

**Montreal**

Sept. & Nov. 2011; Mar. 2012: Best of Hebrew U Fall Lecture Series, featuring Hebrew U speakers

Apr. 2012: A Feminine Perspective on Doing Business with Israel: Albert Einstein Business Forum, featuring three female CEOs

May 3: Unjust Enrichment: Lunch & Learn with HU Prof. Benny Porat

May 10: Yom Ha’atzmaut Celebration, presented with Consul General of Israel. Pre-event dinner honouring Morris Justman

**Winnipeg**

May 10: Yom Ha’atzmaut Community-Wide Celebration

May 16: Gala Scopus Award dinner honouring business leader and local philanthropist Joe Bova

**Calgary**

Apr. 27: Evening reception honouring Harley Hotchkiss, inaugural IMIRC award recipient

**Vancouver**

May 3: HU Alumni Lecture Series — Dr. Michael Friedmann: Driving Cars on Trees: Iskela of the Future?

May 19: Robert Floward Memorial Lecture Series — Dr. Reuven Hazan: Israeli Politics: Hawks versus Doves

May 29: Open house on Study-in-Israel programs

Sept. 16–18: Best of Hebrew U

**Entrepreneurial culture**

**Ottawa** — “How is it that Israel — a country of 7.1 million people, only 60 years old, surrounded by enemies, in a constant state of war since its founding, with no natural resources — produces more start-up companies than … Japan, China, India, Korea, Canada, and the U.K.?”


Senor discussed that “trillion-dollar question” at a talk in November, presented by CFHU’s Ottawa chapter, the Jewish Federation of Ottawa (JFO), and the Vered Israel Cultural & Educational Program.

With the highest density of start-ups in the world — one for every 1,844 Israelis — Senor says, Israel’s success comes from heavy immigration, which builds and strengthens worldwide networks, and from its military, which “teaches young Jews how to lead and take ownership of responsibility at age 18.”

**Alex Uszer Soyka**

**Montreal** — Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem has lost a devoted friend and benefactor. A prominent businessman and respected leader of Montreal’s Jewish community, Alex Uszer Soyka* passed away in December at the age of 90 at his home in Montreal.

Born in Czestochowa, Poland, in 1920, Alex spent a year in then-Palestine at age 18. From there, he went to Warsaw to study physical education and earned a degree in physical education at age 24.

He worked as a teacher of health and physical education and served in the military in World War II. In 1946, Alex immigrated to Canada with his wife Marie, and their son Bernard. He was a leader of Montreal’s Jewish community, serving as president of CFHU’s Montreal chapter, and as a member of the board of the Jewish Federation of Montreal.

Alex founded and ran his business, Uszer Soyka & Son Ltd., which ran real estate in Canada, the United States, and Israel. When he sold the business to his son, Bernard, in 1995, Alex and Marie had a grandchild, grandson Marc-Adam Soyka-Steinman, and second wife Maria Boni Soyka.

Bernard Persiko loved to wager on the U.S. college basketball outcomes each year during the CFHU Toronto chapter’s annual March Madness event. “He never won, though,” says Bernie’s son, Lorne Persiko, a member of CFHU’s Toronto board. “Whatever teams he picked, you’d pick the opposite ones if you wanted a chance at winning.”

Lorne Persiko spent a year at the Hebrew University and later founded the March Madness basketball tournament with fellow board member.
Playing with trains

Vancouver — Can high-speed rail travel reach North America? How should governments make decisions about transport that affect our daily lives? When and how are airline hubs financially viable in the EU versus Japan? How can transportation play a role in peace in the Middle East?

On March 8, the Hebrew University’s Dr. Nicole Adler applied game theory to passenger transport markets for a fascinated audience of non-mathematicians in Vancouver. A senior lecturer and researcher at the Hebrew U school of business administration, Dr. Adler is part of Israel’s “powerhouse” stable of game theorists, which includes Nobel laureate Dr. Robert Aumann. She is a visiting professor this year at the University of British Columbia’s renowned Sauder School of Business.

Using studies of proposed high-speed rail systems in Europe, Japan, and the Middle East, Dr. Adler nearly established the economic — and political — reasons for airline hubs. Rail travel, she notes, is popular in Europe because it is seen as a greener alternative to flying. Four major lines, says Dr. Adler, are needed to link Europe’s existing rail system; the project, according to her team’s calculations, is financially viable.

Dr. Adler also envisions the role of efficient air travel as part of a peaceful Middle East. Hubs in Cairo and Tehran, she says, should anchor a system of efficient air travel, with Istanbul added later as a link to Europe. The only wrinkle in her plan? Dubai is currently building the largest airport in the world, likely making itself the de facto hub.

Dr. Adler’s talk was part of the Hebrew U Alumni Lecture series, presented by CFHU and the Vancouver Hillel Foundation.

New Winnipeg chapter president

Winnipeg — As the new president of CFHU’s Manitoba region, Faith Kaplan is determined to showcase the amazing achievements of Hebrew University — and by extension, Israel — to the broader Manitoba community.

“I want to see as many people as possible — and not just members of the Jewish community — visit Israel and the Hebrew University, including business and government representatives,” says Kaplan, an independent marketing and fundraising consultant and former president of the Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education.

She’s looking forward to a significant business and government delegation attending the University’s upcoming Board of Governors meeting, and is thrilled with the recent partnership between IMRIC and the University of Manitoba, with up to $750,000 contributed by the provincial government (see story page 1).

Kaplan is an alumnus of Hebrew U: she spent the academic year 1979–1980 in Jerusalem, and was so enamoured with the country that she very nearly made aliyah. It makes sense, then, that another of her priorities is to ensure that more Manitoba students can study at the Hebrew University. Two new board members, Susan Mirchik and Becky Kaufman Dveris, she says, are working on increasing student recruitment.

“We want to make sure that more Manitoba students know about the University, and to build relationships at the chapter level with prospective students so that they’re aware of scholarships and other local forms of assistance — and also so that we can maintain contact with them when they return. They are our future board members.”

Kaplan was officially installed as president in October, at a brunch hosted by former chapter president Dr. Brent Schacter.

A family affair: (l to r) Lorne Persiko with his mother, Elinore; sister, Nancy Shapowitzi; father, Bernard Persiko”; and brother, Rob Persiko, in 1998. The family has created the Bernard J. Persiko Graduate Scholarship Fund at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
Dutch dreams, Israeli innovations

LIVE, LEARN & EXPLORE GOES DUTCH

Canadian Friends’ Live, Learn & Explore tours offer the expertise of Hebrew University scholars, who animate European and Israeli landscapes and history with their specialized knowledge. In 2010, Live & Learn explored Holland from a Jewish perspective, accompanied by the Hebrew University’s Prof. Joseph Kaplan, an expert in Dutch Jewry. In Israel, participants met with researchers from CFHU’s Institute for Medical Research Israel-Canada and toured their facilities, as well as the Spielberg film archives. Hebrew University archaeologist Dr. Doron Ben Ami provided a personalized tour of the City of David. Visits to museums and historic sites were punctuated with cultural events, including a performance by legendary Israeli folk singer Chava Alberstein and a spectacular sound and light show, the Nights of Beit Shean.

Body language: Participants enjoyed a performance at the Nalaga’at Theatre in Yaffo, Tel Aviv, where most actors are deaf and/or blind. The play followed dinner at the adjoining restaurant, where patrons must use body language and other means to tell the servers, who are deaf, their choices.

The view from the top: Hiking at Sataf in the Judean Hills.

Amsterdam night: “Happy, sad, thought-provoking, and philosophical,” writes Torontonian Susan Fuss about her travels. “The trip more than fulfilled its mandate of live, learn, and explore.”

Ancient texts preserved: A curator at the University of Amsterdam Library’s Bibliotheca Rosenthaliana displays the oldest known haggadah.

All photographs by Martin Katz

live·learn·explore

2011

Israel highlights
Sunday Oct 30 to Sun Nov 6

- Meet researchers from the Institute for Medical Research Israel-Canada
- Visit to the newly renovated Israel Museum
- Explore art galleries in Tel Aviv and Jaffa
- Political and geopolitical updates

France highlights
Mon Nov 7 to Thurs Nov 10

- Tours led by Hebrew University Scholar in Residence Prof. Yonin Ben-Asher
- Based in Avignon in Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur
- Visit historic sites relating to Jewish history

- land portion with one way air fare from Israel to France
- price per person double occupancy $4800 • single supplement $1385

For further information please contact Merle Goldman at 416-485-8000 or mgoldman@cfhu.org or contact your local director.

Visit www.cfhu.org/explore2011 for more details!