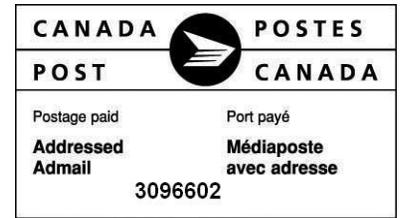




200 — 950 WEST 41ST AVENUE
VANCOUVER, BC V5Z 2N7 CANADA



FEDERATION

FOCUS

VOLUME FOUR | SUMMER 2010

Your Jewish Community Connection

IN THIS ISSUE: Alan Dershowitz / Future Leaders / Camperships



FEDERATION

Welcome to Federation Focus, the quarterly supplement about your Jewish Federation, its partner agencies and their impact on Jewish life.

Federation Focus keeps you informed and connected with important issues in our community, ensuring that everyone knows where to find a helping hand and where to extend one.

Alan Dershowitz will deliver the keynote address at Opening Night on September 20th



Campaign to Delegitimize Israel is New Anti-Semitism

As has been amply demonstrated over the past several weeks, Israel not only is held to a standard unique among the world's nations, it also is subject to virulent attacks that go beyond legitimate criticism, constituting efforts to undermine Israel's very right to exist. According to Martin J. Raffel with the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, "The delegitimizers prey on those who lack basic knowledge about the complex nature of Middle East politics — people who can easily fall victim to their simplistic and often inaccurate narratives."

Noted author and professor, Alan Dershowitz, is among those calling this a new form of anti-Semitism — an argument he will discuss as keynote speaker at the upcoming Federation Annual Campaign Opening on September 20th. Dershowitz has written, among other titles, "The Case for Israel," and makes the point that the Jewish state appears subject to unique standards: "Who has to write the case for Spain? Who has to write the case for Australia? Who even has to write the case for France? Maybe somebody should. But, unfortunately, I had to write The Case for Israel. Why did I have to write it? Because the case against Israel is so filled with pernicious lies and it is so prevalent today... that a defence is needed."

According to Raffel, the principal weapons of the delegitimization campaign have been the boycott of Israeli products, people, and

events; divestment from Israeli companies and institutions as well as from some foreign companies doing business in Israel; and sanctions. As Raffel writes in the New Jersey Jewish Standard: "This explains why the campaign to delegitimize Israel often is referred to, inadequately and misleadingly, simply as the BDS movement (Boycotts, Divestment, and Sanctions).

NGOs decided to open up a second front to paint Israel as a pariah/apartheid state deserving of political and economic isolation."

Much of the media has been complicit in attempts to delegitimize Israel, according to Michael Elterman, chair, Canada Israel Committee, Pacific Region. He says that even "mainstream" news organizations routinely

by PR or policy." Rather, Re'ut suggests a multi-pronged strategy that includes personal relationships with political, financial, cultural, media, and security-related elites, particularly in hubs of anti-Israeli sentiment; direct contact between Israeli and other nations' NGOs; mobilization of diaspora communities to respond to local anti-Israel campaigns;

MARTIN J. RAFFEL, JEWISH COUNCIL FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

"... the logic of delegitimization stems from a rejection of Israel's existence, and therefore cannot be made to disappear by PR or policy."

There is no central address orchestrating all of the delegitimization activity. Rather, we see a loose network of NGOs across the globe, sometimes coalescing around particular spheres, such as the U.S. Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel."

Recent attempted boycotts of Israeli cultural events include an American tour with Israel Ballet and the Toronto Film Festival, which was dedicated to Tel Aviv's 100th anniversary and showcased several works by Israeli filmmakers.

Raffel traces the delegitimization campaign back to the infamous 2001 U.N. conference on racism in Durban, South Africa. "With the second intifada... raging," Raffel says, "... anti-Israel

"look for information that would cast Israel in the worst possible light," citing as the most recent example inaccurate news reports about the Israeli raid on the flotilla of ships attempting to breach the Gaza blockade. "If you want to compare it to situations elsewhere in the world, such as Rwanda or Afghanistan," he adds, "you can conclude there is something more than [media] sensationalism going on."

The Re'ut Institute, an Israeli think tank, has presented several recommendations as to how to fight this latest existential threat to the Jewish state. Among its findings: "... the logic of delegitimization stems from a rejection of Israel's existence, and therefore cannot be made to disappear

and distinction made between legitimate critics and those who demonize and delegitimize Israel.

As part of those efforts, Federation is kicking off this year's Annual Campaign with a strong message from Professor Dershowitz and is very pleased to announce a donor-sponsored initiative to provide nearly 2,000 community members with a copy of the book "Start-Up Nation—the Story of Israel's Economic Miracle." The hope is that with these tools, local community members can join Jewry worldwide in combating anti-Semitism that tries to disguise itself as fair-minded criticism and poses yet another threat to the very existence of a Jewish state.

Israeli Program Trains Disadvantaged Youth to be Future Leaders

Mentoring has been shown to be one of the most effective means of helping young people unleash their potential and fulfill their promise. Now an Israeli-born, US-educated scientist and entrepreneur is making mentorship the centerpiece of a far-reaching program designed to help disadvantaged Israeli youth.

Starting Line or *Kav Hazinuk*, funded by Federation in our partnership region of the Upper Galilee Panhandle, grew out of Dr. Dari Shalon's desire to equalize educational opportunities for Israeli youth and to invest in a future generation of leaders. Shalon vividly recalls the impact a neighbor had on

him when he took Shalon, then 15, under his wing and steered him toward a career in science. Shalon went on to earn degrees from MIT and Stanford before

Now, with Federation's support, Shalon is working to help Israeli teens in the country's peripheral areas reach their potential. Starting Line is an ambitious program

classroom exercises and real world projects. The first class is slated to graduate in 2012 and will, in turn, mentor the class of 2022.

The sheer length of the program sometimes takes people aback—particularly potential donors who may be looking for more immediate results. But, as Shalon explained to donors on a recent Federation-sponsored visit to Vancouver, "it takes about ten years to change the mindset of kids coming from difficult or disadvantaged backgrounds." Shalon says they are not looking for "stars," but rather for kids with "fire in their bellies... those with potential, not high achievers already."

While it could take 30 or 40 years to measure the program's true impact, results have already begun to show in participants' successes in their real world projects. Two of the young women launched a public relations campaign that resulted in the city of Tel Aviv reversing a decision to close the country's only medical clinic at which teens can seek services without notifying parents. Two others, Shalon recounts, "were disturbed by the talented immigrant musicians who have been put in the position of playing on the sidewalks as street musicians. They decided to organize a concert for them, sold tickets, and gave them the privilege of performing in

front of a crowd that included high-level Israeli musicians and producers."

Starting Line will begin its first program this fall in the Upper Galilee Panhandle and the Vancouver Federation, along with those in Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Ottawa and Halifax, has committed to funding for 240 participants—that is, ten classes lasting until 2030. Shalon realizes the number of Starting Line graduates is only a sliver of a fraction of the Israeli population, but he himself is a prime example of the impact that can be made by one person. As he says "they are the stone you throw in the water that causes ripples."

DR. DARI SHALON, FOUNDER, STARTING LINE

"It takes about ten years to change the mindset of kids coming from difficult or disadvantaged backgrounds."

founding Harvard's Center for Genomics Research as well as several biotech-related companies.

that annually selects 24 fifteen-year-olds in each of four regions for a ten year program of mentoring,

Camperships Mean a Jewish Summer for Every Child

For many of us, the mention of our childhood summers conjures up one word: camp. Jewish summer camp is the stuff of which memories are made: tentative first romances, lifelong friendships—and part of the foundation of a Jewish identity into adulthood. It is an experience that no Jewish child should miss because of financial constraints.

Federation is committed to providing funding for camperships to ensure every child is able to attend Jewish overnight and day camps. This year 100 children will receive camperships—and an experience to remember forever. Camperships funded by Jewish Federation are available through Camp Hatikvah, Habonim Dror Camp Miriam and Camp Solomon-Schechter.

Camp Miriam registrar Leah Levi says the effects

of Jewish camp—and the financial support for campers—cannot be overestimated: "One-third of our campers come on partial or nearly full camperships. The gratitude from the parents is absolutely heartwarming. I know that it's such a relief for them. The parents are incredibly appreciative."

Jewish Museum and Archives of BC education coordinator Molly Winston says the local Jewish camp tradition goes back more than 80 years to the National Council of Jewish Women's first summer camp on Marine Drive in Vancouver. The same summer, a boys' camp was run by the Concordia Club of Vancouver.

Today, local Jewish camps continue the tradition of community-building and their ongoing legacy can be seen in each generation of leaders.

"Statistically speaking, graduates of Habonim camps are overwhelmingly involved in Jewish organizations," says Levi.

Donors have recognized the importance of the camp experience by creating endowment funds with the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Vancouver specifically to

have on their own Jewish faith and identities. In some cases, their sense of Jewishness and community coalesced more at camp than at home. "For some campers, camp is the only formal Jewish education that they have in their lives," says Camp Hatikvah director, Liza Rozen-Delman.

Winston sums up the pivotal role of Jewish summer

LIZA ROZEN-DELMAN, CAMP HATIKVAH DIRECTOR

"For some campers, camp is the only formal Jewish education they have in their lives."

fund camperships. Not surprisingly, most of them attended summer camp themselves and know that it informs the perspective they

camp: "For many people, camp provided their best associations with Judaism; for others, their only association with it."



For more than eight decades, these camps have produced community leaders, countless friendships, more than a few marriages and

several lifetimes of Jewish memories - connecting generations and strengthening the ties that bind our community together.



JEWISH FEDERATION
GREATER VANCOUVER

jewishvancouver.com

Federation in our community



Save the Date

Get out your calendar and mark down these upcoming events:

Annual Campaign Opening

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH

Featuring:
Professor Alan Dershowitz

Choices

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH

Get your boa on! It's everything you love about Choices, in a new format featuring live entertainment.

Laugh Generously: Men's Night Out

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH

Featuring Mentalist,
Sidney Friedman

