

BBYO teens stay up all night for Israel

Compiled by CJNI Staff

BBYO's Lake Ontario Region members held an Up All Night for Israel event in support of Canadian Magen David Adom (CMDA) at Beth Radom Synagogue recently.

At the April 25 event, national executive director of CDMA, Arnold Rosner, spoke to the teens about Magen David's operations and recognized their efforts in raising more than \$1,200 through the Up All Night initiative.

Rosner told the teens that the funds would

be used toward the purchase an emergency airway passage pack by Magen David, Israel's sole national emergency, medical, ambulance, and blood services society.

The teens also participated in a training session of Krav Maga, the official self-defence system of the Israel Defence Forces, led by Rob Ferreira of Krav Maga Toronto.

"The IDF training was definitely one of the highlights for me," said Grade 9 student Jesse Freedman, who recently joined BBYO. "But the midnight falafel buffet and the Israeli folk dancing were also incredible."

The event was one of BBYO's first under

the movement's new Stand Up campaign.

"Stand Up is BBYO's service, social justice, advocacy and philanthropy campaign that promotes teens getting involved in causes important to them," said Kevin

Goodman, program director for BBYO's Lake Ontario Region.

For more information about BBYO in the GTA, contact Kevin Goodman at 416-398-2004, ext. 222, or kgoodman@bbyo.org.



Canada-Israel Cultural Foundation
La Fondation Culturelle Canada-Israel

Canada-Israel Cultural Foundation is thrilled to present Israel Makes Music on Tuesday, May 19th at 8 pm at the Glenn Gould Studio, 250 Front St. West.

This quartet of highly talented young Israeli musicians are all America-Israel Cultural Foundation scholarship winners and have been named Distinguished Musicians during their IDF service. There is little doubt that the young people you will hear at Israel Makes Music will be the superstars of tomorrow.

The chamber music concert programme will be in the format of a "guided concert", where the performers will provide an historical context for each composition, as well as an introduction to some of the musical themes.

This promises to be a wonderful evening of music, followed by a dessert reception, with an opportunity to meet these remarkable young musicians.

Tickets are \$20, and are available for ordering through Ticketweb www.ticketweb.ca or 1.888.222.6608 or through the Canada-Israel Cultural Foundation office at 416.932.2260.

On May 19, 2009 (8pm), The Canada-Israel Cultural Foundation  Presents

Israel Makes MUSIC
Live In Concert

Glenn Gould Studio
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Emma Alimi, left, and Bailey Bernknopf, right, of BBYO's Beth Radom chapter, are shown defence techniques by Rob Ferreira of Krav Maga Toronto.

'An economic reality that we have to reckon with'

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she has worked with for their commitment and enthusiasm and said she looked forward to the future they were building for the movement.

Rabbi Offner expressed regret over the layoffs initiated by URJ. Addressing the situation in Canada specifically, she said that Rabbi Sobel "has been a great leader of Reform Judaism and we feel dreadful about losing her, but we have an economic reality that we have to reckon with... that is larger than we are. We can't control it. We can only respond to it."

Instead of the current regional URJ offices, congregations will be served by four "congregational support centres."

In Canada, congregations from Victoria to Regina will fall under the aegis of a centre in Los Angeles, while other Canadian Reform congregations will be served by its counterpart in Chicago. The other two centres will be based in New York and Atlanta.

"I think it's something that was necessary and important in terms of moving us into the future," Rabbi Offner said.

"We hope the congregations are affected in a positive way."

Carole Sterling, president of the CCRJ and – until June 7, – of Temple Sinai Congre-

gation, said there is "some uncertainty" over the change, but also "a lot of excitement."

"We do believe it will be a much better model for delivery of service."

She added that, because of the timing of the economic downturn, its effect on Canadian congregations' membership renewals won't be fully apparent until next year.

In related news, the Reform movement's rabbinical school may close two of its three U.S. campuses. The board of governors of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion will meet this month to discuss ways of dealing with the school's financial problems, including whether to keep open just one of its three campuses in Los Angeles, New York and Cincinnati. Other alternatives include merging academic programs while keeping more than one campus open.

In a letter to members of the college community, president Rabbi David Ellenson said HUC faces a \$3-million deficit this year because of declines in its endowment and dues paid by Reform congregations, among other funding problems. He said his salary and those of other top administrators have already been cut by 10 per cent and tuition will also be raised.

With files from JTA