



Dr. Ora Horn Prouser

Limping Toward the Promised Land: **How the Bible Pioneers Inclusion**

SPONSORED BY



SolowayJCC

Powered by Jewish Federation of Ottawa
MicroGRANTS



Kehillat Beth Israel



“Raise your hand if you are 100% certain you will never be disabled.”

This was a provocative question asked by David Lepofsky, renowned Canadian lawyer and disability advocate, at the “Pushing the Boundaries: Disability Inclusion in the Jewish Community” conference held last April in Ottawa. In that room in April, not a single hand went up. What makes the bit is that David is blind.

Of course no one is certain they will never become disabled. In fact, 1 in 5 Canadians has a disability; that’s 20% of us. This is why JDAIM (Jewish Disabilities Awareness Acceptance and Inclusion Month) is such an important reminder on our calendar. We all are or will be disabled at some point in our lives – we need to direct our attention (this month and every month) to removing the barriers to access and involvement for ourselves and others to participate fully and meaningfully in our Jewish community.

Visit KBI on any Shabbat and you’ll see right away that the diversity of our community is one of our strengths. We have a profound commitment to inclusion throughout the year, and always recognize that there is more to learn and farther we can go to ensure that anyone who is looking for the learning, community support, and spiritual sustenance we provide is able to share in it. This is why we are proud to be the only synagogue in Ottawa partnering with Tamir and other agencies to bring Bible scholar Dr. Ora Horn Prouser to Ottawa for JDAIM on February 20-22.

I first heard Dr. Horn Prouser speak last summer at a rabbinic learning institute in New York City. I found the Torah she teaches absolutely transformative. She studies the biblical characters we know and love and finds what we know must be true: they are like us, which means they have disabilities. Moses has a speech impediment, Esau had ADHD, Isaac had an intellectual delay. Her insights remind us that every one of us is created in God’s image, and has his or her or their own holy mission in the world. And what’s more, these great ancestors of ours lived in a world and among a community that saw and valued them as they were, and that supported and included them within its important structures (families, tribes) organically and without question.

These are the lessons and values we affirm with JDAIM: every one of us belongs, every one of us entitled to the same access and treatment in our communities, and until we all feel this way, our work is not done.

We will have multiple opportunities to learn with Dr. Horn Prouser while she is in Ottawa; the community-wide lecture is taking place Thursday evening, February 20th; there will be a KBI & Tamir Shabbat dinner on Friday, February 21st; and Dr. Prouser will speak during Shabbat morning services on Saturday, February 22nd. I encourage you to learn with Dr. Horn Prouser during her visit.

Purchase your tickets by [clicking here](#)

L’Shalom,

Rabbi Deborah Zuker

The Jewish Experience In Canada Today



A free public presentation
and discussion panel
on the 2018 Survey of
Jews in Canada

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

7:30 – 9:30 pm

Soloway JCC, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private, Social Hall A

In 2018, a landmark survey produced the first comprehensive picture of Canada's Jewish population on such issues as identity, practices, values, and experiences. This research is based on the 2013 Pew survey of American Jews, providing the basis for understanding how this country's Jewish community is similar and different.

This event, hosted by Or Haneshamah and the Soloway JCC, will feature a presentation of the research, followed by a panel discussion to consider the significance and implications of the research generally and for the Ottawa community.

Event Host

Rabbi Elizabeth Bolton, Or Haneshamah

Survey Presentation

Keith Neuman, Environics Institute for Survey Research

Discussion Panel

Rabbi Deborah Zuker, Kehillat Beth Israel Synagogue

Mira Sucharov, Carleton University

Sarah Caspi, Executive Director, Jewish Family Services Ottawa

Moderator

Joel Westheimer, University of Ottawa



Contact: Maxine Miska (613) 798-9818 ext. 263, mmiska@jccottawa.com

You can be the change that transforms the lives of those in need in Israel. Help shape the lives of youth on the periphery, provide desperately needed therapeutic gardens, and rehabilitate the Ben Shemen Forest. Please give generously and let's build Israel together. For more information and to donate online visit www.jnf.ca/tu-bishevat-campaign or contact the Ottawa office 613-798-2411, otta-

