



Dr. Ora Horn Prouser

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

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**JOIN** Join Ottawa Jewish Disabilities Awareness, Acceptance & Inclusion Month

**JFS** OTTAWA JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

**JDAIM** FEBRUARY 2020  
Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance & Inclusion Month

"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 20<sup>th</sup>; there will be a KBI & Tamir Shabbat dinner on Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup>; and Dr. Prouser will speak during Shabbat morning services on Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. 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 Haneshemah 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 Haneshemah

## **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



**Or Haneshemah**  
Ottawa's Reconstructionist Community



**Soloway JCC**

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