

‘Small Miracles’, Big Event

Celebrated author and speaker Yitta Halberstam is coming to Ottawa as part of the Jewish Unity Live celebration. The best-selling author and co-author of eight books, including the popular Small Miracles series, will be the keynote speaker at this year’s Jewish Unity Live celebration April 8 at the National Library and Archives Canada.



Yitta Halberstam is the daughter of Laizer Mandelbaum, a Bobover Chassid, Rabbi, Holocaust survivor, and scion of a famous Chassidic dynasty that traces its roots back to King David. She was encouraged to write by her father and later pursued graduate studies in American Literature at New York University and taught Literature of the Holocaust at Baruch College. She has also worked as a newspaper reporter, writer for Seventeen Magazine, public relations director, press aide and high school teacher.

Yitta has come a long way from growing up in Boro Park. Her work has appeared in more than 50 Anglo/Jewish publications and secular magazines such as Parade, Money, Working Woman, and New York. In 1995 she wrote another non-fiction book "Holy Brother: Enchanted Tales and Inspiring Tales about Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach." There are currently more than 2 million copies of the Small Miracles series in print and it has been translated into 14 languages. The first volume in the series: "Small Miracles: Extraordinary Coincidences from Everyday Life" was a national bestseller, appearing on The New York Times bestseller list. The Small Miracles series highlight the everyday miracles that are often overlooked in life today.

Mrs. Halberstam has extensively toured North America to share her unique insights on how to live a spiritual life in a modern world. Now Ottawans have a chance to hear her speak first hand at Jewish Unity Live.

The Jewish Unity Live annual event celebration culminates a year of Torah study, involving Jews of all backgrounds and affiliations. Thousands of Jews around North America unite in studying the one thing that speaks to us all and has the power to bring us together – Torah! Through specially tailored programs and classes, groups and individuals discover common bonds and revel in the joy and stimulation of classic and contemporary Torah thought, logic and counsel. And, once a year the community comes together to commemorate the learning accomplishments, unity as a people, and commitment to our future.

Ten other cities from across North America are united by the common themes of community and Torah study, and will be celebrating the completion of the learning cycle. Locally, Jewish Education through Torah (JET) has organized many learning groups all over the city to learn this year’s topic of The Ten Commandments. Each group has its own style and people are encouraged to check out a class that might suit individuals best.

JET has been active in the Ottawa Jewish community for more than fifteen years. During that time Jewish adult education has been enhanced in Ottawa with JET classes and programs. JET has provided meaningful Jewish experiences and education to a cross-section of both affiliated and unaffiliated Jews. Programs first introduced by JET are now part of the fabric of Ottawa's growing and learning community, including Jewish Unity Live.

Everyone in the community is welcome to be a part of the Jewish Unity Live celebration without having participated in the learning groups. The event is a celebration of learning Torah and the wonderful Jewish community of Ottawa. Come to this big event and share some of your own small miracles. More information on Jewish Unity Live main event and classes can be obtained on the JET website, www.jetottawa.com.