

LIFELINE

A New Year of Hope
Building a Safer, Stronger Israel

ROSH HASHANA | FALL 2026 | 5787 | National Edition



Shana Tova!

With gratitude and warm wishes for a sweet, healthy, and peaceful New Year to our donors, volunteers, and friends.



Canadian
MAGEN DAVID ADOM
Canadien

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NATIONAL

Arlene Madar Abitan
National President

Arieh Rossdeutsch
National Vice-President

Sidney Benizri

National Executive Director
6900 Decarie Blvd., Suite 3155,
Montreal, QC H3X 2T8
T: 514-731-440 | F: 514-731-2490
E: info@cmdai.org
Toll Free: 1-800-731-2848

EASTERN

Sarah Attias

Eastern Regional Director
T: 514-731-4400 | E: sattias@cmdai.org
OTTAWA
E: info@cmdai.org
Toll Free: 1-800-731-2848

CENTRAL REGION

Hershel Recht

Central Regional Director, Major Gifts
E: hrecht@cmdai.org

Iris Ehrent

Administrative Coordinator
E: toronto@cmdai.org

TORONTO

4580 Dufferin St., Suite 508 Toronto,
ON M3H 5Y2

HAMILTON

Debbie Strub, Chair

E: debbiestrub@gmail.com
Toll Free: 1-888-858-2632

LONDON

Roslyn Caplan, Co-Chair

T: 519-697-1876
E: thecaplanfamily@rogers.com

Thomas Casler, Co-Chair

T: 519-694-6821
E: thomaswcasler@gmail.com

Hazel Friedman, Co-Chair

T: 519-619-6928
E: hazelf@rogers.com

WINDSOR

Ruth Liebman, Chair

T: 519-819-7249
E: rliebman0318@gmail.com

WESTERN REGION

CALGARY

Sharon Fraiman

Western Region Director, Major Gifts
C: 587-435-5808
E: sfraiman@cmdai.org

WINNIPEG

Ami Bakerman

E: amibakerman@gmail.com

Linda Filbert

E: lfildert@cmdai.org
C: 204-941-0222

EDMONTON-VANCOUVER-VICTORIA

Toll Free: 1-800-731-2848
E: info@cmdai.org

ROSH HASHANA MESSAGE FROM

Arlène Madar Abitan

CMDA National President



Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we welcome Rosh Hashanah and the beginning of a new year, we pause to reflect on the blessings of the past year and look ahead with hope, purpose, and renewed commitment.

Rosh Hashanah reminds us that each new year offers an opportunity for reflection, growth, and acts of chessed. These values are at the heart of Canadian Magen David Adom's mission. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters and the dedication of our volunteers, partners, and community, we continue to strengthen and sup-

port Magen David Adom's lifesaving work in Israel—providing emergency medical care, responding to crises, and ensuring that help is always there when it is needed most.

The past year has once again demonstrated the resilience of the people of Israel and the extraordinary courage of Magen David Adom's paramedics, EMTs, first responders, volunteers, and staff. Their unwavering commitment to saving lives, often under the most challenging circumstances, inspires us all. We are deeply grateful to everyone across Canada who has stood with us, helping make this vital work possible. As we enter the New Year, may we all be blessed with health, peace, and strength. May the coming year bring healing to those who are suffering, comfort to those who mourn, and a future of greater security and hope for Israel and for Jewish communities around the world.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Canadian Magen David Adom, thank you for your continued trust, generosity, and partnership. Together, we are helping save lives every day.

As we reunite with our loved ones to celebrate Rosh Hashana, let us all pray for a peaceful and sweet year to come for Israel and Jews around the world.

May you and your loved ones be inscribed and sealed for a happy, healthy, peaceful, and sweet New Year.

Am Israel Chai

Shana Tova Umetuka!

VŒUX DE ROSH HASHANA

Arlène Madar Abitan

Présidente Nationale CMDA

Chères et chers ami(e)s et sympathisant(e)s,

Alors que nous célébrons Rosh Hashanah et le début d'une nouvelle année, nous prenons le temps de réfléchir aux bénédictions de l'année écoulée et de nous tourner vers l'avenir avec espoir, détermination, et un engagement renouvelé.

Rosh Hashanah nous rappelle que chaque nouvelle année offre une occasion de réflexion, d'épanouissement et d'actes de bienveillance. Ces valeurs sont au cœur de la mission de Magen David Adom Canadien. Grâce à la générosité de nos sympathisants et au dévouement de nos bénévoles, de nos partenaires et de notre communauté, nous continuons de renforcer et de soutenir le travail vital du Magen David Adom en Israël : prodiguer des soins médicaux d'urgence, intervenir en cas de crise et veiller à ce que l'aide soit toujours présente lorsque le besoin s'en fait le plus sentir.

L'année écoulée a une nouvelle fois démontré la résilience du peuple d'Israël et le courage extraordinaire des ambulanciers, des secouristes, des premiers intervenants, des bénévoles et du personnel du Magen David Adom. Leur engagement sans faille à sauver des vies, souvent dans les circonstances les plus difficiles, est une source d'inspiration pour nous tous. Nous sommes profondément reconnaissants envers toutes les personnes partout au Canada qui se sont tenues à nos côtés, contribuant ainsi à rendre possible ce travail essentiel.

À l'aube de cette nouvelle année, puissions-nous tous bénéficier de santé, de paix et de force. Que l'année à venir apporte la guérison à ceux qui souffrent, le réconfort à ceux qui sont en deuil, ainsi qu'un avenir empreint d'une plus grande sécurité et de plus d'espoir pour Israël et les communautés juives du monde entier. Au nom du conseil d'administration de Magen David Adom Canadien, je tiens à vous remercier pour votre confiance, votre générosité et votre collaboration sans faille. Ensemble, nous contribuons chaque jour à sauver des vies.

Alors que nous réunissons nos proches pour célébrer Rosh Hashana, prions tous ensemble pour qu'une année paisible et douce s'annonce pour Israël et les Juifs du monde entier.

Puissiez-vous, ainsi que vos proches, être « inscrits et scellés » pour une nouvelle année heureuse, saine, paisible et douce.

Am Israel Chai

Shana Tova Umetuka!



Arlène Madar-Abitan

National President/ Présidente nationale

INITIATIVES

YOUR **LEGACY** LIVES ON FOR MDA & ISRAEL

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THE
HEARTBEAT
OF ISRAEL



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For more information, please contact Iris Ehrent
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Canadian
MAGEN DAVID ADOM
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A Unique and Exciting Opportunity
for Doctors and Medical professionals
from around the World

**December 13-18,
2026**

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Participation
Fee

\$1,750
USD

Magen David Adom invites doctors and medical professionals from around the world to take part in five exciting and meaningful days of professional lectures and emergency medical training from some of the world's most experienced first responder medical teams.

Magen David Adom is Israel's National Emergency Medical Service, the National Blood Service organization and the Israeli Red Cross Society. Magen David Adom's services include providing first aid and emergency medicine, collecting and managing blood donations, offering training activities, and supplying humanitarian aid to communities in need throughout the world.

This unique program will train and connect the participants from around the world with Israel.

The seminar will include:

- ⚙ How to respond to mass casualty events
- ⚙ Disaster preparedness
- ⚙ Meeting with Israeli physicians and medical professionals
- ⚙ Visit sites impacted by the war
- ⚙ A tour of Magen David Adom facilities
- ⚙ Volunteering on ambulances

Registration details

- » Flights to Israel and health insurance at the expense of the participant.
- » The participation fee of the seminar includes accommodation.



For more information please contact: eschneiderman@cmdai.org

"Whoever saves a single soul... is as though he has saved the whole world"

MDA IN ISRAEL

How Drone and Missile Threats are Changing Emergency Medical Services

Written by Raphael Herbst - Deputy Director of Magen David Adom's International Relations Department

Preparedness is crucial

During the recent conflicts with Iran, MDA operated at full readiness from the outset. MDA officials staffed mobile intensive care units, medi-cycles and other rapid response vehicles and positioned them across the country, allowing teams to be dispatched immediately in response to Iranian attacks.

This level of readiness was the result of targeted preparation in the years prior, particularly following earlier rounds of conflict that exposed gaps in large-scale response. We expanded our focus on training for mass-casualty scenarios that reflect real world conditions.

Paramedics and EMTs began working extensively with simulation-tools, including virtual reality scenarios that replicate the sensory and cognitive demands of mass-casualty events. Teams worked through simulations that included noise, confusion, incomplete information and competing priorities.

The goal was to build familiarity with those conditions before facing them in the field, so that when multiple scenes emerged at once, crews could triage, make decisions and coordinate even before the complete picture became available.

The same approach can strengthen emergency systems anywhere — train for complexity. The lessons include: investing in realistic simulations; building a dispatch system with the capacity to handle more than one scene at a time; training teams to operate with incomplete information; and, positioning resources in a way that allows for rapid, distributed

response.

Expanding response capacity

What makes MDA's model particularly effective is that our responders, who are mostly trained volunteers, including doctors, operate within the same communities where they live and work. This can ensure a local response within minutes.

We rely on the volunteers to know the streets, the buildings and the people. They can use that familiarity to navigate quickly and begin providing care immediately. In addition, our organization relies not just on ambulances, but medics also travel by bike, motorcycle or even by foot in dense communities. These alternate modes of transportation make it possible to reach areas where roads may be closed or blocked.

EMS systems looking to expand their response capacity should invest in building and maintaining integrated community-based responder networks, make sure they have agile and flexible modes of transportation to reach scenes and are fully integrated into the system before a crisis happens.

Supporting first responders

Sustained emergency response places a different kind of strain on EMS teams—requiring them to move constantly between high-intensity scenes and routine operations, often over extended shifts and with little time to reset.

To address this, MDA has developed structured systems to support responders before, during and after major incidents. These include immediate access to mental health professionals following difficult calls, as



well as formal debrief processes that allow teams to process events in a structured setting.

The goal is not to eliminate stress—that is not possible in emergency medicine—but to ensure that responders can continue to function effectively over time. Resilience has to be built into the system, not left to individuals.

The conditions Israel has faced are extreme, but the principles that have guided our response are not and are applicable elsewhere. Preparedness determines outcomes. Community-based responders extend our reach. Structured support allows our teams to continue operating under sustained pressure.

As more countries deal with and prepare to meet new threats, EMS organizations need to plan how they will adjust operations in order to respond if conflict reaches their doorstep.

Raphael Herbst is deputy director of Magen David Adom's international relations department and is based at MDA Headquarters in Ramla, Israel.

EASTERN

Sold-Out Evening of Community, Tradition and Giving

On April 23, CMDA Montreal's Young Adults Division welcomed a sold-out crowd to the Shaar Hashomayim Synagogue for a special Challah and Babka Bake in support of Magen David Adom. Open to the entire community—not just young adults or women—the event brought together participants of all ages for an evening that celebrated tradition, learning, and connection. It was heartwarming to see grandparents, parents, and grandchildren gathered around the same tables. The evening was expertly led by admired Montreal chef and DoughNats owner, Nat Shtern, who guided everyone

through the process of making beautiful challahs and delicious babkas.

Guests were also privileged to hear from Magen David Adom Israel Senior Paramedic Aryeh Myers, who shared firsthand stories about the critical, life-saving work MDA performs every day across Israel. His powerful presentation offered participants a deeper understanding of the organization's impact and the importance of supporting its mission.

The evening was a wonderful reflection of the strength and generosity of our community, bringing people together across generations while raising

awareness and support for Magen David Adom.

A heartfelt thank you to our outstanding Young Adult Division Co-Chairs—Daniel Paperman, Francesca Barr, Jenn Orleans, Josh Naimer, and Gila Vanounou—for their leadership and dedication in organizing such a successful and memorable event. Their hard work helped create an evening that celebrated community, tradition, and our shared commitment to saving lives. The Young Adults are very close to their fundraising goal of purchasing an ambulance in Israel!



Programme de leadership de CMDA à l'Académie hébraïque

CMDA Montréal a eu le plaisir de rencontrer les élèves de 10^e et de 11^e année de l'académie hébraïque afin de leur faire découvrir le travail essentiel de Magen David Adom en Israël. La présentation leur a permis de mieux comprendre le rôle crucial qu'elle joue dans les services médicaux d'urgence et l'aide humanitaire, en Israël comme ailleurs dans le monde.

À la suite de cette rencontre, les élèves ont été invités à participer à un programme de leadership parascolaire. Lors de la première séance, les participants ont pu découvrir les rouages de CMDA, les ressources nécessaires pour soutenir ses activités ainsi que les enjeux financiers liés à la gestion d'une organisation qui repose sur l'engagement de ses donateurs.

En équipes de trois, les élèves devaient préparer une

présentation visant à faire connaître la mission de Magen David Adom à un public plus jeune, tout en imaginant des idées de collecte de fonds. Leurs propositions se sont démarquées par leur créativité, leur pertinence et la qualité de leur préparation.

À la fin du programme, plusieurs ont exprimé le souhait de poursuivre l'expérience l'an prochain. CMDA et la Hebrew Academy prévoient créer un partenariat mensuel qui comblera des activités éducatives et des initiatives de collecte de fonds menées par les élèves. Cette collaboration permettra de former une nouvelle génération de leaders communautaires tout en renforçant le soutien à Magen David Adom.

Nous remercions chaleureusement Lorne Lieberman et Véronique Benisti pour leur soutien.

Montreal Gala

Celebrating Courage & Community

Canadian Magen David Adom (CMDA) in Montreal hosted a remarkable Gala evening on Tuesday, May 12, welcoming more than 400 attendees in a powerful tribute to the courageous heroes in Israel who risk their lives every day to save others. Held at The Windsor Ballrooms, the Gala was an inspiring celebration of the dedication, resilience and bravery demonstrated by the men and women of Magen David Adom.

The evening also paid special tribute to Wolf Bronet, honouring his life-long dedication and the contributions he made to Magen David Adom. The evening featured a compelling keynote address by Ambassador and Magen David Adom Global President Gilad Erdan. Guests were also treated to captivating entertainment by renowned Israeli mentalist Nevo Abutbul, while acclaimed Israeli singer Hila Ben David brought warmth and emotion to the evening with her powerful performance.

One of the most moving moments of the night came through firsthand accounts shared by Magen David Adom frontline personnel from Israel. Oz Ocampo delivered an emotional testimony about surviving the war and overcoming life-threatening injuries. Determined not to remain a patient, but to become a lifesaver himself, Oz found purpose and strength through his journey to becoming an MDA paramedic.

His father, Adrian O'Campo, joined him on stage alongside MDA Chief of Staff Uri Shacham, who provided attendees with an update on the ongoing situation on the ground in Israel. Their stories offered deeply personal and powerful insight into the extraordinary efforts undertaken each day by Magen David Adom personnel, who continue to save lives while often placing themselves in harm's way.

In a strong display of solidarity and partnership, several senior representatives from Magen David Adom in Israel also attended the Gala, including MDA Director General Eli Bin, CFO Alon Fridman, Senior Paramedic and Canada Help Desk Representative Raphael Herbst, and MDA Board Member Ronen Yemini.

The Gala evening served as a poignant reminder of Magen David Adom's unwavering commitment to delivering lifesaving emergency medical care and humanitarian support in Israel.



Left to Right: Ronen Yemini, Uri Shacham, Alon Fridman, Arlene Madar Abitan, Eli Bin, Sidney Benizri, Sarah Attias and Raphael Herbst

A Message from Dr. Brian Morris

Throughout my life, I have been a son, a surgeon, a husband, a father, and a grandfather. I have also personally identified myself as a Canadian, a Jew, an Atheist, and a Zionist. However, these identities underwent a profound transformation following the tragic events that unfolded on October 7, 2023. On that fateful day, indelibly etched in my memory, the latter identity assumed paramount importance over all others. You may inquire about the significance of Zionism and why it has become so pivotal for me. The answer is straightforward. I hold the belief that the Jewish people constitute a distinct nation with the inherent right to establish their own sovereign state. This country is Israel, situated in the Middle East and characterized by a width ranging from 15 to 20 kilometers. As a triathlete, which am, I could traverse it within a span of 2.5 hours. For the greater part of my life, I have been an armchair Zionist. However, I came to the realization on October 7th, that my position as such was untenable, given the evolving circumstances. Upon hearing the news of the events that transpired on that day, I made the resolute decision to travel to Israel, a country currently engaged in conflict, and to volunteer in any capacity that was deemed necessary. Before October 7th, I would never have engaged in an open discussion of Zionism and of my inner belief in being a Zionist. On October 7th, I realized that deep down inside me, I was, I am, and I will always be a Zionist. When my friends asked me why I was going to Israel, my answer was simple; I am a Zionist, I



stand with Israel. To be true to my inner feelings, I had no choice but to go. On March 15, 2024, I went to Israel as a volunteer eventually spending 4 weeks on an IDF base and 4 weeks working as a physician on MDF ambulances. I returned in 2025 for another 4 weeks. I documented my adventure in my blog, gobriantravel.com followed by the soon to be published book entitled, *Swords of Iron, Israel at War, a Canadian Surgeon's Perspective*. This book is dedicated to the volunteer physicians who travelled to Israel during the Swords of Iron War and served on Magen David Ambulances. All proceeds from the sale of this book will go directly to MDA for the purchase of an ambulance.



Support This Mission

**Every book purchased helps
fund a Magen David Adom
Ambulance**



Scan with your phone to
purchase your copy of
Swords of Iron



CENTRAL

BAYT Doctors Training

Sunday April 26th was an incredible day of learning as CMDAI partnered with the Jewish Medical Association of Ontario for the Second Emergency Doctors Training Day. Both Doctors and Medical professionals from Toronto, London, Kingston and Ottawa came to the Beth Avraham Yoseph Synagogue in Thornhill. Facilitated by Rabbi Chaim Singer and Senior Paramedic and International Stakeholder Director, Aryeh Myers. With over 40 Doctors and Medical professionals in attendance they participated in an informative and interactive program that prepared these individuals for emergency rescue situations in Israel.



2026 J2J Expo

The 2026 J2J Expo was held on April 21st at the International Centre. Canadian Magen David Adom was proud to be a part of this incredible experience. The festival is a one-day-only, all-access gathering bringing together Jewish professionals, businesses, entrepreneurs, and institutions under one roof to build opportunity and long-term communal strength. CMDA connected with over 1,000 Jewish professionals, entrepreneurs, and organizations and built many new connections.



UJA Walk For Israel

On Sunday June 7th, CMDA was at it again, supporting our community.

CMDA was asked by UJA Federation to provide emergency medical backup to help keep all of the record-breaking 61,000 participants safe.

Some of our incredible team of 15 CMDA Emergency Paramedic Volunteers and Doctors were based at the York Downs stop with the help of our Ambulance to treat anyone not feeling well. The rest were dispersed throughout the route from Temple Sinai up to the JCC to ensure that if anyone was injured, they could help.

Looking forward to seeing everyone next year.



London Chapter's Annual Brunch 2026

On April 26th, at our annual fundraiser, Canadian Magen David Adom's London Chapter welcomed a full house to listen to our guest speaker, Melissa Lantsman, MP for Thornhill. This was truly an inspiring presentation!

Lantsman spoke about her personal trip to Israel, and specifically about the Marcus National Blood Services Center in Ramla. She discussed her tour of the 6 floors and the importance of the 3 underground floors. In times of conflict, the deepest self-contained levels house the missile-proof Blood Storage Vaults and the National Human Milk Bank for newborns. The audience could tell how meaningful this visit was to her. Lantsman also talked about the increase in antisemitic incidents in Canada, reflecting our current Canadian Jewish reality. She concluded with a number of specific suggestions to combat antisemitism.

Our hardworking volunteers prepared and served an array of delicious foods. It was an amazing team effort. Thank you to our sponsors and supporters of Canadian Magen David Adom. Your generosity has enabled us to purchase essential lifesaving medical equipment.



Honourable Mention: Rabbi Raphael Marcus's Z"l Supporters continue to come through



In 2025, friends, family and supporters came together to honour the late Rabbi Marcus by donating an incredible Heavy-Bike in his memory. The funds raised from around the world went above and beyond the price of the Vehicle and during the on-going tensions surrounding Israel on all sides, a variety of emergency equipment including oxygen tanks, medical bags, defibrillators and blood units were funded with the excess funds. We thank everyone who has participated in this incredible endeavour.



CANADIAN MAGEN DAVID ADOM FOR ISRAEL

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2026 Brett Wilson Garden Party



2026 Garden Party with my amazing friend and supporter, Brett Wilson. It was an honour to attend Brett's Garden Party. Brett is not only a dear friend, but also an entrepreneur, philanthropist, investor and Dragon Emeritus who generously supports many important causes, including CMDA and MDA. What I admire most is his unwavering belief in people, friendship and the possibility of building a better world together. This year's event raised funds for eleven adolescent mental health initiatives, making an already special evening even more meaningful. Thank you, Brett, for bringing so many wonderful people together. It was an incredible evening, and I am truly grateful for your friendship.

CJA School Community

The CJA school community came together for its annual Pie Day fundraiser in support of Magen David Adom Canada. Students had the opportunity to purchase pies and then enjoy the excitement of tossing them at student council members and staff. This year's event was the most successful Pie Day fundraiser CJA has ever held, raising an incredible \$1,700 for CMDA. A new highlight this year was the participation of their kindergarten classes, who joined in the fun and helped make the afternoon even more special.

Beyond the laughter and excitement, Pie Day was also an opportunity for students to learn about the mitzvah of giving. The afternoon helped students see how coming together as a school community can make a real difference for others. Through their participation, students were able to connect fun, learning, and tzedakah in a meaningful way.

A special thank you goes to the student council for helping organize and run the event, as well as to all the staff, students, parents, and families who supported Pie Day. Through their enthusiasm and generosity, the CJA community was able to make a meaningful contribution to Canadian Magen David Adom.



CMDA at The Calgary Stampede



Giddy-up for CMDA

Annual Calgary Gala Brings a Country and Western Flair to CMDA

Written By Shael Gelfand



More than 400 guests, wearing their finest western duds, cowboy hats and boots, packed the Carriage House Hotel and Conference Centre for the annual CMDA gala on May 31st. This year's Gala was themed Stampede with a Purpose-From Desert Roots to Prairie Boot, and it more than lived up to its billings.

Sharon Fraiman, CMDA Western Region Director, Major Gifts and her dedicated team of volunteers took the Stampede theme to another level with chuckwagon-style gourmet grub (Kosher of course), live country music from Tyler Two Guns and his band from the Tsuut'ina Nation, fancy-dressed saloon models, a white-hatter ceremony, and even a 17-hands tall full-sized replica horse on display.

"It brings CMDA supporters and friends together," says Sharon Fraiman, adding Stampede with a Purpose provides an opportunity to raise funds, recognize special donors, and get the latest first-hand update on how CMDA efforts are saving lives and directly impacting people in Israel.

The Gala's inspiring keynote speaker, Loay Alshareef, a Saudi citizen who came to live in Israel for several years talked about helping to establish a new narrative about Israel among Arabs. The historian, religious scholar and social media influencer with hundreds of thousands of followers told guests that he is "committed to truth and a better understanding among all people of the middle east," adding, "It's time to correct the many falsehoods and untruths that Arabs have about Israel, about Israelis and about Jews."

A special thanks to Valerie Sobel, superstar CMDA volunteer and popular online social commentator who arranged and coordinated Loay's visit to Calgary and also hosted a donor evening.

CMDA recognized Premier Danielle Smith and two amazing CMDA friends and supporters, philanthropists Lenny Shapiro and Brett Wilson with Kol Hakavod Awards for their

on-going efforts on behalf of CMDA. Lenny continues to be one of CMDA's most generous supporters having recently donated a second Emergency Response Vessel serving in the Sea of Galilea.

"I can't say thank-you enough to Lenny and to Brett and to all our supporters and volunteers," says Fraiman. "Together we are truly making a difference."

Emcee Don Schapira introduced many special guests including CMDA's National President Arlene Madar Abitan, who brought greetings, CMDA's National Executive Director Sidney Beniziri both from Montreal and Mayor David Tordjman who extended greetings on behalf of his city, Cote Saint Luc Quebec.

Special guests from MDA in Israel included Uri Shacham, Deputy Director and Chief of Staff, Raphael Herbst, Deputy Director, International Relations and Haim Dagan, Executive Board Deputy Chairman and Head of Volunteering in Yarkon Region.

"Every piece of equipment donated by CMDA goes into immediate use," Shacham told guests adding that vehicles are always aging out and need replacing, "But our greatest strength remains our people, our volunteers and staff and those who support us through their generosity."

Other special guests included Eghbal Kayadan and leaders from Calgary's Iranian Diaspora community, who received a heartfelt ovation in solidarity as they held up the pre-Islamic revolution Iranian flag.

"We had an amazing team again this year and tremendous support from our volunteers and a big thanks goes out to each and every one," says Sharon.

She also had a message for loyal attendees of the annual CMDA Gala "We're going to shake things up next year. It's time to try something different so let's look forward to what is ahead."

SAVE THE DATE

THE
HEARTBEAT
OF ISRAEL

CMDA ANNUAL WINNIPEG **GALA EVENT**

FEATURING

Hila Ben-David

Israeli singer, songwriter
and composer

**NOV.10
2026**

RECEPTION 6 P.M.
EVENING PROGRAM: 7 P.M.
A KOSHER DINNER
WILL BE SERVED.

**TICKETS:
\$180**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Dr. Shunit
Rinkevich-
Shop**

Director of the Blood-
Components Laboratory



SPECIAL MUSICAL GUEST

Calgary-based
violinist

**Steven
Klevsky**



Location details will be provided upon registration



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PARAMEDIC SPOTLIGHT

From violin to ambulance sirens: A Druze paramedic's unusual journey

She performed her violin internationally but a medical recommendation to significantly reduce strain on her hands forced her to reconsider her career: Druze paramedic Ghadir Saleh, 20, marks Israel's National Paramedic Day with her story of resilience and service

Ever since she could remember, Ghadir Saleh, 20, from the Druze city of Maghar, in Northern Israel, dreamed of becoming a violinist. "I've been playing since I was nine years old. I represented Israel on several international delegations around the world, and I never imagined I would pursue anything other than music," she said.

After high school, she worked with the Ministry of Education, teaching violin to at-risk youth and children on the autism spectrum. But a medical recommendation to significantly reduce strain on her hands forced her to reconsider a future in professional music.

"The news devastated me. I went through a very difficult period and had no idea what I would do next," recalls Ghadir.

The uncertainty she felt led her to reflect on another pivotal moment in her life, a serious accident she experienced at age 16. "When I was injured in the accident, the people around me didn't know how to help. They didn't even know they should call 101, MDA's emergency hotline," she said. "Throughout my recovery, which involved countless hospital visits and medical examinations, I kept thinking about how important it is to know what to do in situations like that."

That experience, combined with the need to find a new path after stepping away from music as a full-time career, inspired Ghadir to pursue emergency medicine. "I felt completely lost after being told I wouldn't be able to pursue performance music as my primary career. Almost immediately, I began thinking about how I could help people and do something meaningful that I loved," she explained.

She enrolled in MDA's paramedic training program as part of her national service, describing it as both demanding and formative.

"The course is intensive and demanding, but it's designed to prepare us for the realities and challenges we'll face as paramedics in the field," she said. "As someone who grew up quite sheltered, it was difficult to live away from my parents and adjust to an independent lifestyle. At the same time, it pushed me out of my comfort zone, helped me grow as a person, and allowed me to build strong connections with my fellow trainees. We became like a family, and I left with friendships that will last a lifetime."

Today, Saleh serves on MDA mobile intensive care units, responding to emergencies across Israel. She says she has received strong support from both her family and her Druze community, even as some initially questioned her choice of



profession.

"I receive so much love and support from my community, especially when people see me in my MDA uniform," she said. "When I first completed the paramedics course and came home, some people asked me, 'Why do you need this? It's dangerous.' But I always say that this is what I want to do. I want to help people and save lives. The Druze community is known for being traditional, but in the end, it doesn't matter what religion I am or what religion my patient is. It's about one person helping another."

While she has stepped back from professional violin performance, Saleh says music remains part of her life and that her new career has given her a different sense of purpose.

"Slowing down my violin playing opened the door to a new world that fascinates me just as much, and I fell in love with it," she said. "I feel an incredible sense of fulfillment in serving my country and helping others. What means the most to me is the support I receive from my family."

She added that her mother, in particular, takes pride in her work on the front lines of emergency care.

"Some of my relatives are very religious, and they are incredibly proud of me. My mother always jokes that her pampered little girl has been entrusted with such great responsibility. Every time she sees me in uniform, her face lights up with pride. Whenever I come home from a shift, she's eager to hear about the people I helped and the lives I touched. Knowing that I was there for those people is what brings me the greatest satisfaction," Saleh said.

VISITS TO ISRAEL

Chetrit Family



Florence Fajman



DEDICATION

Dedication and visit - East Family

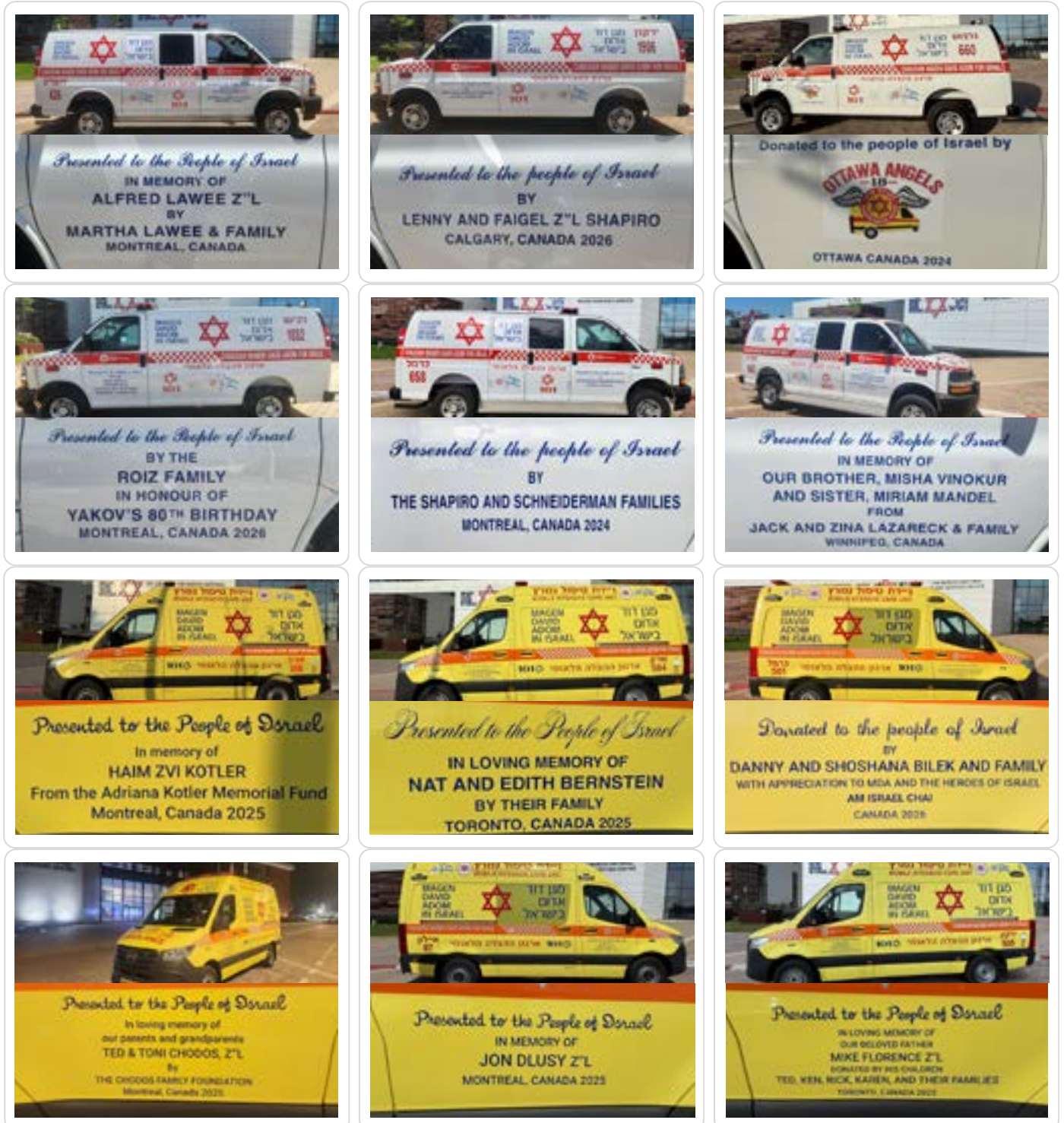


Dedication and visit - Werb Family



TODA RABA

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ISRAEL'S NATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL AND BLOOD SERVICES

NATIONAL OFFICE

Eastern Region

6900 Decarie Blvd., Suite 3155,
Montreal, QC H3X 2T8
T: 514-731-4400 | F: 514-731-2490
Toll Free: 1-800-731-2848
info@cmdai.org

Central Region

4580 Dufferin St., Suite 508
Toronto, ON M3H 5Y2
T: 416-780-0034
Toll Free in Ontario: 1-888-858-2632
toronto@cmdai.org

Western Region

208 Woodbrook Mews SW
Calgary, AB T2W 4P8
T: 587-435-5808
sfraiman@cmdai.org

cmdai.org



@CanadianMDA