



| Welcome |

On behalf of Team Limmud Ottawa thank you for joining us for our first virtual program. We never imagined we would face the challenge that confronted us 12 months ago in the wake of COVID-19. Five days before the opening of our March 15, 2020 event, we made the call to cancel it. It was a gut-wrenching decision but, in the end, it was the right thing to do. We thank G-d and thank our amazing team for their dedication, perseverance, and resilience to deliver this program on the anniversary of that cancelled event. Some of you familiar with Limmud know it is not just about the learning. It is about expanding Jewish horizons by fostering stronger, closer community connections by bringing people together to share a sense of belonging. If we learned anything from the impact of COVID in the last 12 months, we know it has changed us and fundamentally transformed communities. It has demonstrated just how important we are to each other and how interconnected we all are. There is no doubt that what we share is so much more than what divides us.

| Gratitude |

If there was ever a time to count one's blessings, then surely the time is now. A good solid support system is vital for any community to survive and stay on course in times of unprecedented upheavals. Limmud Ottawa is extremely thankful to the **Jewish Federation of Ottawa** for helping navigate us through uncharted waters. Working under extraordinary circumstances, the JFO remained unequivocally committed of its support of Jewish leadership, education, and community. We also thank the fabulous **Soloway Jewish Community Centre** who throughout the years made us feel at home from the first time we occupied their SJCC building. Limmud remains appreciative of JFO and SJCC members and staff for their direction and patience but most of all – thank you for all you do to promote and enrich Jewish life in this community.

Limmud Ottawa must also express its deep gratitude to the Board members of **Congregation Beth Shalom Legacy Fund** for their generosity and for supporting our vision by providing Limmud Ottawa with a grant that has not only injected a much needed boost for our programming, but also has sustained Limmud Ottawa in the aftermath of cancelling the 2020 event on account of the pandemic. It enabled Limmud to withstand the fiscal repercussions related to the last-minute cancellation. Thank you for enhancing Jewish education by enabling and prioritizing innovative community learning in Ottawa.

Limmud Ottawa has been fortunate since its inception to receive solid support, guidance and mentorship from our academic partners at the **Vered Jewish Studies Program at The University of Ottawa**, and the **Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies at Carleton University**. Both have been extremely generous sharing their outstanding academic speakers and encourage their students to actively participate at Limmud Ottawa events. We thank them for their unfailing endorsement.

Finally, we want to acknowledge and thank curator, visionary, influencer and the host of this event, **Seymour Mayne**. An avid Limmud supporter and veteran Limmudnik, Seymour has been instrumental in the creation, and orchestration of this program. Limmud Ottawa remains grateful for his mentorship, wisdom, unmatched wit, and his relentless enthusiasm.

| Volunteers |

A core Limmud value believes we are all responsible for each other and accountable for the community we create. Limmud Ottawa volunteers spend countless hours developing programs, logistics and generating hundreds of e-mails to develop inclusive, innovative programming. Without this dedicated core team, Limmud Ottawa simply would not happen. This list includes team members who participated in last year's 2020 event. Chazak Va'amatz!

Langa Mtimkulu

Louise Rachlis

Leona Crabb

Merle Haltrecht-Matte

Robin Chernick

Kivi Shapiro

Scott Goldstein

Adam Moscoe

Susan Greenberg

David Lifshitz

Laurie Goldmann

Hariette Fried

Jenny Roberge

David Glickman

Susan Greenberg

Mary Bechard

Les Grumach

Gustave Goldmann

Margie Moscoe

Amelie Roberge

A special thanks goes to our technical and webinar consultant: Alexandre Matte,

We hope you enjoy the program. You will find the biographies of the poets and links to their respective sites at limmudottawa.ca

It would be remiss if we did not mention the Ottawa Kosher Food Bank. This is an exceptionally difficult year. With Passover weeks away we ask you to consider donating to the OKFB Passover Campaign. [Visit here to donate](#). Thank you.

We hope you take the time to immerse yourselves in the wonderful world of Jewish Canadian poetry. Be inspired by it. Be ready to be moved by it. It just might tickle your soul.

May we collectively come out at the end of this pandemic as a kinder, more caring community filled with gratitude for what we have and for what we can accomplish together. From our families to yours, have a healthy. and meaning ful Passover. Lehitraot shana haBa'a b'Limmud !

Jenny Roberge Chair and Volunteer

March 14, 2021 | Nissan 1, 5781