

Table Talk 2013

Gourmet Dinners & Distinguished Speakers
Sunday, April 21, and Sunday, April 28 at 6:00 pm
Benefitting the Toronto Heschel School



The Toronto Heschel School
בית הספר על שם השל

The Toronto Heschel School

The Toronto Heschel School serves students from Junior Kindergarten through Grade 8, from families spanning the spectrum of Jewish observance. Heschel students thrive academically and spiritually with a multi-sensory curriculum that combines the best of global research in education and the rich tradition of Jewish learning. The students' experience is further enriched by the integration of arts-based learning born out of well-founded educational research that links the arts with increased cognitive capabilities. Low student-teacher ratios and talented, motivated teachers ensure high academic achievement within a positive, nurturing and joyful learning environment. By fostering a culture of individuality, responsibility and social integrity, Heschel inspires students to make a difference.



The Toronto Heschel School
בית הספר על שם השל

Dear **Friends,**

We are thrilled to invite you to the third annual Table Talk event, a salon-style gourmet dining experience benefitting The Toronto Heschel School. On Sunday, April 21 and Sunday, April 28, ten Toronto Heschel families will open their homes, each hosting an intimate dinner party that features an inspiring speaker. Funds raised from this unique, thought-provoking event will go towards enhancing classrooms at our school.

Table Talk invites parents, grandparents and alumni families to gather in a warm and relaxed setting and engage in mindful discussions of worldly topics, from social justice and politics to psychology and the arts. At the same time, guests will connect with other Heschel families and strengthen the sense of community that sets our school apart.

Table Talk has been a tremendous success over the past two years, and funds raised have enabled the school to purchase a state-of-the-art computer lab as well as cutting-edge science equipment. We hope you will be part of this exciting evening in support of The Toronto Heschel School. Your contributions have a profound impact on our students and the entire Heschel community.

We want to thank our host families for their generosity, as this event would not be possible without them. A special thanks also to Bryan Borzykowski and Dana Cohen Ezer for their invaluable help in putting this event together.

B'tayavon,

Lisa Richler, Joanna Shapiro and Michelle Shulman
Co-Chairs, Chevra Committee and Table Talk 2013



The Toronto Heschel School
בית הספר על שם השל

How **Table Talk 2013** Works

You are invited to attend one of ten dinner parties in the intimacy of a Heschel family home. Each dinner will feature a world-class speaker and a four-course gourmet meal. The speakers will make their presentations during hors d'oeuvres and join the party for continued discussion during dinner. This year, eight dinner parties will take place on Sunday, April 21 and two will take place on Sunday, April 28 – each will begin at 6pm. The parties will each accommodate approximately twelve guests. Please review this invitation and consider which dinner party you would like to attend.

This year, guests can RSVP online by visiting www.torontoheschel.org/tabletalk. As the event always sells out early, please fill in your top three dinner preferences on the online RSVP as soon as possible.

Proceeds & Donation Information

Ticket price is \$150 per person. Our hosts have donated all dinner party costs, and all printing and invitation costs have been donated as well, so 100% of funds raised by this event will be allocated directly toward purchasing classroom equipment for students at The Toronto Heschel School. A tax receipt will be issued for the maximum amount allowable under CRA guidelines.

Table Talk 2013 Kashrut Policy

All dinners will be catered by a COR-supervised caterer. A vegetarian option will be available upon request.



What will the **Talk** be at your **Table**?

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Unlocking the Best in Our Children and Ourselves Sara Dimerman – Therapist, Parenting & Relationship Expert, and Author	7
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**Please note that this dinner will take place on Sunday, April 28 2013*

Congratulations on Table Talk 2013.
Dr. David Morrow welcomes Heschel families
for a free initial consultation.



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Law and Order in Cyberspace

ALLISON DELLANDREA

Crown Prosecutor

There's no question that social media sites, such as Facebook and Twitter, have made our society more open and transparent. But as Allison Dellandrea knows, there is a serious cost to our online freedom. Dellandrea, Crown Counsel with Ontario's Ministry of the Attorney General's office, has spent years prosecuting child predators and working to make the web a safer place for our kids.

Ms. Dellandrea is an expert in Internet child exploitation offenses and is the Lead Education Counsel at the Ministry on Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) Crimes. She coordinates a global team of highly specialized investigators who police the web and rescue kids from harm, and she frequently instructs and assists law enforcement members from across Canada with technology-related legal issues. As a Toronto-based assistant Crown Attorney for over 10 years, Ms. Dellandrea has prosecuted a wide variety of criminal trials, including numerous serious sexual offenses, Internet luring and child pornography.

Ms. Dellandrea will discuss her front-line experiences fighting Internet crime and offer practical suggestions and tips on how parents can make the web a safe and productive place for our children. She will provide a demonstration of some techniques for monitoring and safeguarding children's social networking accounts and Internet surfing.

serving: **Fish**

hosted by

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Weinberg**

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Unlocking the Best in Our Children and Ourselves

SARA DIMERMAN

Therapist, Parenting and Relationship Expert, and Author

Sara Dimerman is a syndicated magazine columnist, a respected author, a regular radio show guest and she's often seen on TV. No matter the medium, though, Dimerman is always focused on one thing: offering insightful advice on parenting and relationship issues.

Dimerman, who has degrees in psychology and broadcasting, has been providing counseling to individuals, couples and families for over 20 years. She's the founder and director of the Parent Education and Resource Centre and in 2004 she won an In Celebration of Women Education Lifetime Achievement Award.

She's been able to parlay that hands-on experience into a diverse career that's seen her write three books – *Am I a Normal Parent?* (2008), *Character is the Key* (2009), and her latest, *How Can I Be Your Lover When I'm Too Busy Being Your Mother?* (2012) – land a weekly spot on John Tory's CFRB radio show and appear on regular segments on Canada AM.

Sara Dimerman's focus at Table Talk will be centered on how to get the best out of our children – and ourselves. She'll talk about how to improve the family unit, how to motivate our kids for success and, something we all want to know, how to get our kids to help out around the house. Dimerman, who has two daughters of her own, will take questions on other topics too.

serving: **Beef**

hosted by

Tova Moscoe & Jason Mausberg

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The Zegas Group congratulates
The Toronto Heschel School on Table Talk 2013

What to Do About Iran?

MARK DUBOWITZ

*Middle East Strategist and
Sanctions Expert*

What should Israel and the United States do about Iran? Join Mark Dubowitz, a world-renowned expert on Middle East politics, for an intimate discussion about the future of Iran.

Based in Washington, D.C., Dubowitz is the Executive Director of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, a nonpartisan organization that focuses on U.S. national security and foreign policy issues. An expat Canadian – he was raised in Toronto – Dubowitz heads the FDD's Iran Energy Project, which provides research and analysis on Iranian energy sanctions and he also tracks the role of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in Iran's energy sector.

Mark Dubowitz's storied career has brought him to Congress, where he's testified before committees on Iranian sanction issues. He's also consulted with the U.S. administration and has written about Iran and other Middle East issues for *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, among other venerable publications.

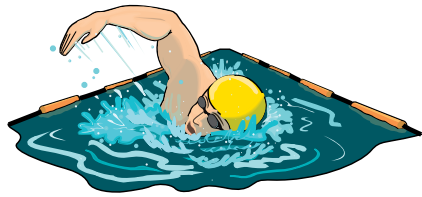
In a previous life, Dubowitz was a venture capitalist and technology company executive. He has a Masters in International Public Policy from Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies and law and MBA degrees from the University of Toronto.

serving: **Fish**

hosted by

**Linda & Greg
Wolfond**

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The Wonder of Human Resilience

LYNDA FISHMAN

Author and Motivational Speaker

In 1970, when she was just 13-years-old, Lynda Fishman's life was altered forever. An Air Canada plane travelling from Montreal to Los Angeles crashed in Brampton, Ontario – everyone died including Fishman's mother and two younger sisters. The loss, of course, was devastating. Her father fell into a deep depression and she was essentially left to fend for herself.

Fishman recounts this terrible time - and the four decades since - in her moving 2010 book *Repairing Rainbows: A True Story of Family, Tragedy and Choices*. "I waffled between normal and psycho," she writes about those early days after the crash. She too could have fallen into despair, but instead, as she writes in the first line of her novel, "I chose life."

The start of this story may be hard to hear, but the rest is truly inspiring. Fishman dedicated her life to learning, growing and making a difference. She was determined to find meaning and purpose in her life and, years later, she found it. The trained clinical social worker is now a motivational speaker and facilitator. Fishman will share her moving story at Table Talk. She'll talk about how she got past those darkest of days and became an inspiration to thousands of others.

serving: **Fish**

hosted by

**Laya & Jeff
Weissberger**

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Best Wishes to the Staff, Students and
Graduates of The Toronto Heschel School.



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Breaking Through Autism

ARTHUR FLEISCHMANN

Father and Author

At the age of two, Arthur Fleischmann's daughter Carly was diagnosed with severe autism and an oral motor condition that prevented her from speaking. Doctors predicted that she would never intellectually develop beyond the abilities of a small child. Although she made some progress after years of intensive behavioral and communication therapy, Carly remained largely unreachable. Then, at age ten, she had a breakthrough.

While working with her devoted therapists, Carly reached over to their laptop and typed "MEAN," referring to her therapists' efforts to get her to do her work for the day. Later that afternoon, she then went on to type "HELP TEETH HURT," much to everyone's astonishment.

Arthur Fleishmann and his wife, Tammy, were skeptical at first, but soon it became obvious that their daughter was intelligent – and had a voice – that had been trapped inside for years. At one point, asked to type five words for a promised reward of a snack – a common motivational strategy for autistic children – Carly produced a small smile and typed "five words." Her therapists laughed and gave her the snack. Carly's typed response: "Just give me the bloody chips okay."

Join Arthur Fleischmann as he chronicles Carly's inspirational journey toward self-realization. In *Carly's Voice: Breaking Through Autism* (2012), Arthur Fleischmann describes Carly's ongoing struggles with the symptoms of autism with uncanny accuracy and detail. Carly now has regular, witty, and profound conversations on the computer with her family, her therapists, and many thousands of people who follow her via her blog, Facebook, and Twitter. A 2009 segment on 20/20 brought her story to international attention, and she has since appeared on television with Larry King, and has befriended Ellen DeGeneres. Arthur Fleischmann lives with his wife and their three children, in Toronto, where he is partner and president of John St. Advertising.

serving: **Chicken**

hosted by

**Jasmine Eliav
& Aaron Kotick**

Please note that this dinner will take
place on Sunday, April 28 2013

RSVP online by visiting
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Innovations are from MaRS Innovators are from Toronto

DR. RAFI HOFSTEIN
President and CEO, MaRS Innovation

It shouldn't come as a surprise that when Toronto's scientific community went looking for someone to help it raise money for potentially life-saving discoveries it turned to an Israeli. Yes, Toronto has long been recognized for producing ground breaking medical research – insulin was discovered here in 1921 – but Israel has an even richer history of scientific innovation.

In 2008, MaRS Innovation was formed to finance, guide and promote intellectual property generated by Toronto's scientific researchers, and it recruited Israeli scientist Dr. Rafi Hofstein to lead the way. It's not hard to see why – Dr. Hofstein spent over three decades in the commercialization of medical innovation, with 10 of those years at Jerusalem's Hadassah Medical Organization. While there he devised a novel way to raise money to fund untested biotech ideas. Dr. Hofstein is a graduate of the Weizmann Institute of Science, and completed his post-doctoral training at Harvard Medical School.

Now in Toronto, Dr. Hofstein is on the cutting edge of Canadian scientific research. He knows, first-hand, of the medicines and research that could one day save lives. At his Table Talk event, he'll discuss the projects he's overseeing, he'll share his views on how to promote entrepreneurship in our children, and he'll explain how Toronto can continue to be a hub of innovation.



**Changing Lives
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One Community
at a Time.**

**FINCA is honoured to support
the Toronto Heschel School Table Talk 2013.
Congratulations on a successful event!**

*FINCA Guatemala client
Ingrid Johana Castillo
and her daughter.
Credit: FINCA staff.*



serving: **Chicken**
hosted by
**Pam Medjuck Stein
& Michael Stein**

Please note that this dinner will take place on Sunday, April 28 2013

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The Seduction and Destruction of Greed

MIKAEL MEIR

*Business Strategist, Coach
and Former Entrepreneur*

Before Mikael Meir signs a new client to his business consultancy, he makes a startling admission: he is actually Michael Mendelson, one of two men at the centre of the high-profile scandal that brought down Portus Asset Management Inc.

Meir is completely candid about his past. In 2004, he seemingly had it all. He was the wealthy and well-respected CEO of a Toronto-based investment firm with more than \$800 million of assets under management, and leading what appeared to be an incredible life. But a year later, regulators froze the firm's operations amid a flurry of allegations about illegal record-keeping and investment suitability. In 2007 Mikael Meir (then Michael Mendelson) pleaded guilty to a single fraud charge and spent six months in jail. His clients recovered between 99% and 104% on their investment.

The experience had a profound effect on Meir, who has spent the last eight years evaluating and transforming his life. Step by step, he's shifted from being ego-driven to practicing living a life of connection and service. His name change reflects this internal transformation.

At Table Talk, Meir will share stories, insights and lessons learned from his journey. His essential message is this: "Until you make peace with who you are, you'll never be content with what you have." Today Mikael is committed to guiding business people on how to align their internal growth with their business growth, so they can create fulfilling, inspiring and prosperous lives. He's a keynote speaker, teaches Ethics in Finance at the Schulich School of Business, and is the author of the forthcoming book - *A New Path To Prosperity*.

serving: **Chicken**

hosted by

**Joanne Goldman
& Roy Wyman**

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Behind Closed Doors

CHARLES PACHTER

Artist and Historian

Charles Pachter is often referred to as Canada's Andy Warhol. His iconic images of the maple leaf flag and the Queen riding a moose, among many others, have been snatched up by prestigious collectors around the world.

But as much as Pachter has been embraced by the art elite, his graphic pop images are equally beloved by the masses, and can also be found in a variety of public spaces. His mural, *Hockey Knights in Canada* greets subway-riders at Toronto's College station, where the Montréal Canadiens face the Toronto Maple Leafs across the tracks. His steel and granite moose sculptures have been installed at landmarks and businesses across Canada (yes, those moose sculptures), two of which can now be found permanently on the U of T campus. Pachter created the painting *Side By Side*, depicting a Canadian and American flag together on one pole, for the Canada Loves New York rally following 9/11. Young Canadians will be familiar with Pachter's art through his two children's books, *M is for Moose* and *Canada Counts*.

For Table Talk, Mr. Pachter has graciously opened up his award-winning Moose Factory studio (designed by Canadian architect Stephen Teeple), where guests will enjoy an exclusive look at the artist's personal collection. Pachter will share stories from his amazing 50-year career, including what it was like in the 1950s to tell his Jewish parents he wanted to be an artist.

Pachter was born in Toronto in 1942 and holds degrees from the University of Toronto, the Sorbonne, and the Cranbrook Academy of Art. He holds honorary doctorates from Brock University, the Ontario College of Art & Design, and the University of Toronto. He is an Officer of the Order of Canada, a Chevalier of France's Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, and a recipient of the Queen's Jubilee Medal.

serving: **Chicken**

hosted by

**Eva & Howard Katz
at Pachter's Moose
Factory Studio**

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Discovering My Family's Hidden Judaism

ALISON PICK

Award-Winning Poet and Novelist

Alison Pick's story is at once familiar and shocking. It dates back to 1941, two years into World War Two, when her paternal grandparents emigrated from Czechoslovakia to Canada. The couple was faced with anti-Semitism when they arrived and were worried that what was happening in Germany – their extended family was wiped out in Auschwitz – might happen here.

Her grandparents made a decision to live as Christians. Pick, a novelist and poet, was raised Christian and had no idea she was Jewish until she was in her early teens. It was only after her grandmother passed away in 2000 that she and her father began looking into her family's history.

Pick's research led her to write *Far To Go*, a novel about a secular Jewish family living in 1938 Prague that's forced to deal with an increasing amount of anti-Semitism. While the novel isn't directly about her family, it was inspired by her grandparents' struggles with identity and hatred.

Far to Go was nominated for the prestigious 2011 Man Booker Prize and it won the 2011 Canadian Jewish Book Award for Fiction. It was also an Ontario finalist for Canada Reads 2013. Pick has won several other awards and her novel, *The Sweet Edge*, was a Globe and Mail Top 100 Book in 2005.

Pick, who converted to Judaism while researching *Far To Go*, will share her incredible story at this year's Table Talk.

serving: **Chicken**

hosted by

**Dana Cohen Ezer
& Daniel Ezer**

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The Benvenuto Group congratulates
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Game Changer

GIDEON SOESMAN

Israeli Entrepreneur

The Economist recently reported that Israel has more high-tech start-ups and a larger venture capital industry per capita than any other country in the world. How is it that a country of 7.1 million people, only sixty years old, facing the constant threat of war, with few natural resources, produces more start-up companies than large, peaceful, and stable nations like Japan, China, India, Korea, Canada, and the United Kingdom?

Join Israeli Entrepreneur Gideon Soesman for a unique perspective into the success of Israel's high tech industry. Gideon Soesman is the Co-Founder and Managing Partner of Greensoil, a privately owned investment fund focused on Israeli companies that develop technology for the agro and food industries. Investment in agricultural innovation was recently cited by Bill Gates as "a necessary global priority" in order to meet the world's growing demand for food and prevent the looming food crisis. Israel has historically been a leader in agro technologies and GreenSoil is the first Israeli fund solely focused on this area.

Prior to co-founding Greensoil, Soesman founded and managed GMS Capital, a boutique investment bank, and held senior positions at Royal Philips Electronics and at leading strategic management consulting firms in Israel. Gideon holds a B.A. in Economics from the Hebrew University and an MBA from the Boston University/Ben Gurion University of the Negev. He immigrated to Israel from the Netherlands in 1990. Soesman appears regularly on Dutch radio to discuss Israeli politics, and often works with Dutch diplomats within Israel.

serving: **Fish**

hosted by

**Michelle Shulman &
Mitchell Abrahams**

RSVP online by visiting
www.torontoheschel.org/tabletalk.

**Wonder rather than doubt is
the root of all knowledge**

Abraham Joshua Heschel



The Toronto Heschel School
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