

# Row over Holocaust play sees Goody resign post

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## TORONTO —

Max Goody has resigned as chairman of the Congress Central Region Holocaust committee after the CJC officers decided to cancel a play he had arranged to be presented at Adath Israel.

"What kind of democratic structure is this if the officers can overrule the executive," Goody exclaimed when interviewed by **The Canadian Jewish News** last week.

The regional executive voted April 11 to support the officers' decision to cancel the controversial play, despite its earlier decision to co-sponsor it along with Adath Israel.

Milton Harris, Central Region chairman, charged that



Max Goody

Goody's idea of democracy "is that a chairman of a committee can do anything he wants to."

Continued Harris: "I take full responsibility for the

officers' decision. I sold the officers on this. Goody had no support from his committee."

Ironically, it was Harris who appointed Goody to the position. "I wanted to make the Holocaust observance a more important event to the Jewish community and to seek a broader appeal for the program," Harris told **The CJN**.

As chairman, Goody said he wanted to establish a Holocaust museum in Toronto, to compile a book from the personal experiences of the survivors and to write a Haggadah of the Holocaust. He also wanted to hold a number of Holocaust services in Toronto and modify the annual community-wide ser-

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age 16  
age 9)

resented to Bert Fine, during whose term of office as president of the 'Y' the project was begun.

Additional excitement was generated by a unique gift sent by the state of Israel. A 700-pound block of Jerusalem stone, selected in Israel by Amnon Gil-Ad, Canadian Director of the Israel Government Tourist Office, and flown here by El Al through the kind offices of Yaacov Margolin, the airline's Toronto manager, will be part of the new building.

After Cantor Sevrin Weingort sang, to new music composed in Israel by Yitzhak Heilman, the words of the 137th Psalm, beginning "If I Forget Thee, O Jerusalem," Shmuel Ovnat, consul general of Israel in Toronto, presented the polished, characteristically colored stone to the community.

He commented that the stone would be symbolic of the kinship between the people of Israel and the people of Canada.

Drawing attention to the fact that Canadians have built many sports facilities in Israel, he voiced his happiness that "now we can appropriate in a small way."

## Goody resigns Holocaust post

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vice to convey some message to the young generation.

"The vast majority of Jews in Toronto get no Holocaust exposure at all," he said, pointing out

only 2,000 of a community of 100,000 turn out at the annual event.

He urged a dramatization of the Holocaust by students be substituted for the speaker format of the annual program. However, his committee reject-

ed the idea. "I didn't lobby for it...because nothing as critical and holy as Holocaust should be decided upon on the basis of pressure tactics."

Goody then contacted Rabbi Erwin Schild about the play, **Night Winds**, by David Roskies, and his congregation, Adath Israel, agreed to put it on with the co-sponsorship of Congress. The regional executive gave its approval.

Harris explained "we were not aware of the nature of the play. After the decision to co-sponsor the event, a number of Holocaust committee members came to me to complain of the presentation."

They were critical of it because they found it uncomplimentary to survivors, said Harris. The thrust of the presentation was the Jews went to the crematoria like sheep and that the reason it happened was because God punished Jews for past transgressions.

"A chairman of the committee is not a dictator. He has to make decisions with his committee," declared Harris. "Max had no support from his committee, he did it on

his own and deeply hurt the feelings of those on the committee. My own opinion is that it's insensitive. (Harris said he had read some of the passages)."

After Harris phoned Goody to notify him of the officers' decision to cancel the play, Goody had the matter placed on the agenda of the April 11 meeting. A motion to support the officers was moved and passed.

However, Goody has asked for a ruling of the constitutional authority of officers to overrule an executive decision. Said Goody: "If the officers have that power to overrule the regional executive, then it is nothing more than a rubber stamp body which in real fact has no power at all. The element of the democratic authority and rights of the executive is reduced to shambles. If this is the case, it might be wise for all supporters of the merger (Congress, Welfare Fund) to ask some questions before it is too late."

## Shear is named

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virtually impossible to match last year. But we had a darn good run at the record and I'm proud of the results."

He paid tribute to the audience — UJA canvassers — "who made all this possible. On behalf of Israel and the local agencies I want to express my congratulations and deep appreciation for your untiring effort for UJA," Creed said.

He added that "those of us who were the leaders of the campaign could only make the plans. It was you, the canvassers, who had to carry out these plans and you did. No chairman could ask for greater co-operation and harder work. You made up the best team a guy could have."

Jack Gwartz, chairman

organizations. Beth Sholom Synagogue was named the "Synagogue of the Year" and received the Izy Stern trophy.

Gwartz said "It is fitting we are holding this event during Yom Ha'atzmaut because despite her many problems Israel is there — and will always be there, a viable homeland for Jews, no matter where they come from. We pay tribute to Israel and I'm sure all of you here will join me in pledging our continued love and support."

Jack M. Rose, president of the United Jewish Welfare Fund, announced the appointments of Posluns, and Mrs. Gordon. Posluns promised to do his best to assure another successful campaign. "I willingly accept the responsibility to raise the maximum amount possible," he said.

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