

Ilene-Jo Bellas has been on the Louis Brier Board for 3 years. She was born and raised in Vancouver and attended Sir Winston Churchill High School and Schara Tzedek Synagogue Religious School. Ilene-Jo received her intense commitment to Israel as a result of attending Young Judaea, Camp Hatikvah, Camp Biluim and being a Camp Counselor for 3 years after her leadership training. Ilene-Jo was involved in the Student Zionist Organization and Hillel at UBC and was sent by Hillel to Starlight, Pennsylvania, to spend a week of intense programming. Ilene-Jo eventually became a charter member of Atid Chapter of Hadassah-Wizo in Vancouver.

Ilene-Jo holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English and Theatre from UBC in 1969, a Bachelor of Education Degree in English and Theatre Arts from the University of Toronto in 1970, and finally a Masters of Arts degree in Theatre from the University of Victoria in 2000. Ilene-Jo taught Theatre and English in High School for 32 years and is currently retired. She has directed over 100 musical and dramatic productions with high school students. She was president of the Association of BC Drama Educators for 5 years. She served on the executive of this provincial organization in various capacities for twenty years and is now an Honorary Life Member.

Ilene-Jo has served on the Board for the BC Festival of the Arts and represented high school teachers and students. She has conducted numerous workshops for teachers and mentored many student teachers. Ilene-Jo was also conference coordinator for the BC Teachers of English Language Arts for 4 years. Ilene-Jo directed the Talmud Torah's Chanukah Concerts for two years and the musical production, "The Bar Mitzvah Boy," put on by the Grade 7's in 2006. Ilene-Jo and her husband, Joel, were the heads of the Volunteer Committee for the Vancouver Maccabee Games. They mobilized over 1500 volunteers. Ilene-Jo has chaired the souvenir programmes for the Talmud Torah – Bond dinner and recently the JNF dinner. Ilene-Jo worked on the programming committee for the Schara Tzedek 100th Anniversary Dinner.

Ilene-Jo has been on the Companion Committee at the Louis Brier for 5 years. Ilene-Jo, in the past 3 years, has served as a Board Liaison to the Companion Committee of the Louis Brier; the House committee, the Art Committee and the Accreditation Committee. Now that she is retired, Ilene-Jo likes to participate in the Community by volunteering in a variety of different events.

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