

JFED launches 2019 UJA Campaign

By Deborah Shatz

(EJNews) - The Edmonton Jewish Community gathered on September 19 at the Citadel Theatre for the launch of the 2019 United Jewish Appeal.

The event, hosted by the Jewish Federation of Edmonton was a terrific mix of speeches about the importance of UJA, the inaugural presentation of the Kol HaKavod Award to Dianne and Irving Kipnes for their outstanding contributions and an impactful keynote address by Vancouver dentist Dr. Sherri Wise about her own experience as a victim of terror and the importance of victim advocacy within the Jewish Community.

The entertainment portion of the evening was a high energy and thoroughly enjoyable performance by Yiddish songbird Eleanor Reissa accompanied by pianist Jerry Korman.

Reissa is one of the world’s foremost interpreters of Yiddish song and she delighted the Edmonton audience with her repertoire of songs, and hilarious stand up humour. Her stature is small but her stage presence was ever so large that she filled the theatre with joy. You certainly didn’t need to understand Yiddish to love her show, but it was extra special for those in the audience that did.

Earlier in the evening, Dr. Sherri Wise gave an impassioned speech describing her experience as a young dentist in 1997 who traveled to Israel to volunteer in a dental clinic for underprivileged children. While in Jerusalem, having lunch with friends on Ben Yehuda Street, she was seriously injured in a triple suicide bombing that killed over 25 people and injured nearly 200.

After the bombing, Sherri was overwhelmed by the outpouring of sympathy, help and support that she received. Among those who provided assistance was the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver, which sent help, both while Sherri was still in hospital in Israel, and later, when she was able to return to Canada.

The horrifying attack Sherri experienced could have made her bitter or reclusive. Instead, she has turned the experience into something positive for her and for the countless others she has helped.

In gratitude to all those who helped her recover, and determined to help other victims of terror, Sherri worked for seven years with the Canadian Coalition Against



Jewish Federation of Edmonton hosted a freylach 2019 United Jewish Appeal kick off event featuring a high energy 'Hip, Hot and Heymesh' performance by Yiddish Songbird Eleanor Reissa and pianist Jerry Korman. You didn't have to speak Yiddish to appreciate her delightful stage presence!

Terror. She was instrumental in the passing of Bill S-225 by Canada’s Parliament in March 2012, the “Justice for Victims of Terrorism Act.” Later that year, Sherri was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for her work.

Sherri believes that she was spared for a reason, and that belief fuels her desire to share her story with others who are struggling with trauma in their lives. She travels around North America frequently, speaking to Jewish Federations and in other venues, inspiring others with her story. She is a firm and vocal advocate for Jewish Federations, having seen firsthand the help they provide to Jewish people in need, wherever they may be.

Sherri’s address to the community was truly inspirational, reminding everyone in attendance how fortunate we are to be part of a thriving and caring Jewish community.

Yasher Koach to Susan Schiffman, UJA Director for the Jewish Federation of Edmonton for consistently pairing meaningful components from several genres at the annual UJA launch. The joy of our culture, the importance of giving generously, the value of the work of Jewish Federations – these elements, when combined, paint a compelling picture about the importance of giving to the United Jewish Appeal.

This year’s UJA co-chair Howie Sniderman stated, “We’re all here tonight to support a very important collective Jewish project. Thanks to the generosity of donors to UJA Campaigns across North America, our fellow Jews in our own community, in Israel, and around the world receive support in many ways: For education and development, for cultural programs and, for those in need, social services and financial assistance.

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JLI course helps people cope with life challenges

(Edmonton) - This fall, Rabbi Mendy Blachman of Edmonton JLI (Jewish Learning Institute) will offer *Worrier to Warrior*, a new six-session course by the acclaimed Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI), to help people deal with life challenges by accepting themselves and finding meaning in adversity.

Beginning Monday, November 4, at 7:30 pm, participants in the course will take on life’s challenges by examining factors that prevent us from achieving a more positive outlook - guilt, shame, and fear of inauthenticity - in light of the notion that a purposeful life provides the key to well-being.

“Everyone faces challenges in life, whether physical, professional, familial, social or otherwise,” Rabbi Mendy Blachman, the local JLI Instructor in Edmonton, told the Jewish News, “How we deal with these issues is

crucial for our ability to achieve lasting satisfaction in life. By finding meaning in personal troubles - seeing them as opportunities - we come to accept ourselves and are emboldened in finding the path forward.”

Worrier to Warrior combines positive psychology with Jewish wisdom to explore questions such as: Is there a meaning to life that makes even our difficulties meaningful? Am I just what happens to me or do I have a deeper core? How can I get off the “Hedonic Treadmill,” the sense that even life’s successes ring hollow?

“All too often people are thrown off their path in life by hardships that sink them into negative emotions or anxiety,” explained Rabbi Naftali Silberberg of JLI’s Brooklyn, New York headquarters. “In this course, we learn to face

our challenges by understanding our lives in a deeper context.”

Professor Steven M. Southwick (MD) of the Department of Psychiatry at the Yale University School of Medicine has endorsed the course: “It is well-known that positive emotions rest at the heart of overall well-being and happiness. But how to effectively enhance positive emotion remains challenging. *Worrier to Warrior* approaches this challenge from an insightful perspective grounded in contemporary psychology and Jewish literature. ...this is an exciting and very impressive course unlike any I have seen.”

Worrier to Warrior is accredited for mental health professionals seeking to fulfill their continuing education requirements (CEU).

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Next Deadline: November 4, 2019

Alberta professor receives a Canadian Jewish Literary Award

(October 2019) - Dr. Goldie Morgentaler, a professor of English at the University of Lethbridge, will receive a 2019 Canadian Jewish Literary Award for *Confessions of a Yiddish Writer and Other Essays*.

For the book, Morgentaler translated thirteen essays written in Yiddish by her mother Chava Rosenfarb z"l, one of the most celebrated Yiddish novelists who survived the Holocaust and settled in Montreal. Rosenfarb passed away in 2011.

The essays offer personal accounts of a childhood imbued with Yiddish. They chronicle Chana's experiences before and during the Holocaust as she strives to preserve the Yiddish literary canon from destruction by the Nazis. Later essays showcase the vibrancy of the post-Holocaust Yiddish literary milieu in Montreal. This collection marks the first time that Rosenfarb's non-fiction essays have been presented together in English.

"I am extremely honoured to receive this award," says Morgentaler. "This book was a labour of love and I know my mother would have been delighted to know that her personal essays will live on."

Confessions is one of eight outstanding books that the Canadian Jewish Literary Awards is honouring for 2019. Now in its fifth year, the CJLA recognizes and rewards the finest Canadian Jewish writing. Winners have been



declared in the following categories: fiction, memoir, biography, history, scholarship, Holocaust, Yiddish, and books for children and youth.

"Choosing just eight award winners was a challenge this year," says Jury chair, Edward Trapunski. "The depth and breadth and quality of the submissions show the vibrancy of the culture and the appeal of Jewish themes for fiction and non-fiction writers."

The awards ceremony will be held on October 27, 2019 in Toronto.

The other seven honorees are:

Fiction - *The Gown: A Novel of the Royal Wedding* by Jennifer Robson (HarperCollins) is an enthralling historical novel about one of the most famous wedding dresses of the twentieth century — Princess Elizabeth's wedding gown — and the embroiderers who made it. Told through the eyes of three women, one of them a Holocaust survivor, *The Gown* is a story of rebuilding friendship and family after the devastation of the Holocaust.

The quality of the submissions in the memoir/biography category was so rich this year that the Jury decided to give two separate awards: one for memoir and one for biography.

Memoir - *The Art of Leaving* by Israeli Canadian writer, Ayelet Tsabari. (HarperCollins). An intimate collection of essays, the book documents her travels around the world as she searches for her identity. As an Israeli of Yemeni descent in a country sometimes seen as devaluing her cultural traditions, Tsabari searches for a sense of belonging as she drifts from Thailand to India to Vancouver and Toronto before she rediscovers her heritage

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University of Lethbridge professor Dr. Goldie Morgentaler will receive a Canadian Jewish Literary Award for her book that translates 13 Yiddish essays by her mother Chava Rosenfarb z'l. (Photo supplied).

and embraces her family history.

Biography - *Vasily Grossman and the Soviet Century* by Alexandra Popoff (Yale University Press) is a well-researched book that introduces, or reintroduces, readers to a significant writer whose stand against totalitarian ideology has taken on new relevance and urgency. Grossman's epic novel, *Life and Fate*, was the first Soviet work to equate Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union, pairing Stalinist anti-Semitism with Hitler's campaign to annihilate the Jews. Popoff grippingly captures the stories behind Grossman's stories, particularly of censors' efforts to alter and limit them.

History - *With Spies of No Country: Behind Enemy Lines at the Birth of the Israeli Secret Service* (Signal/McClelland & Stewart), Canadian Israeli Journalist Matti Friedman introduces us to four unknown, young Mizrahi Jews who became the nucleus of Israel's nascent intelligence service. The tiny, amateur unit known as the "Arab Section" consisted of Jews from Arab countries who could pass as Arabs thus allowing them to go undercover to gather intelligence and carry out sabotage and commit assassinations. More than a spy story, it sheds light on the complex nature of Israel — a country that many see as European, but where more than half of the population has Middle Eastern and North African roots and relates more to its Middle Eastern neighbours.

Children and Youth - *Slavery is a recurring experience in Jewish history. In A Cage Without Bars* (Second Story Press), Anne Dublin tells the story of Joseph and his younger sister Gracia who, along with hundreds of Jewish children, are abducted and sold into slavery in 1493 after the Expulsion from Spain. They are shipped to the island of São Tomé, off the west coast of Africa, where they are forced to work on a sugar plantation under brutal conditions. Dublin recounts the horrors faced by these children in a way that is appropriate for her audience of young readers. This coming-of-age tale, filled with adventure, captures a little-known moment in Jewish history and fills a gap in historical fiction for young adults.

Scholarship - *Culture in Nazi Germany* by Michael Kater (Yale University Press). This book by a Distinguished Research Emeritus of history at York University examines the fate of the arts under Nazi rule.

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Rosh Hashanah is how we prove our humanity. Are you ready?

By Rabbi David Bashevkin

NEW YORK (JTA) — Rosh Hashanah commemorates the creation of mankind. But if Rosh Hashanah is indeed the collective birthday of humanity, why do we “celebrate” with all our focus on G-d, sin and repentance?

The Rosh Hashanah liturgy is filled with references of G-d’s kingship as humanity stands in judgment before him. If the imagery of the prayer book is any indication, Rosh Hashanah commemorates man’s creation with a court case rather than with balloons and streamers. Is there a celebration of man to be found during this time of year?

I believe there is. Because Rosh Hashanah is, at its essence, a celebration of what makes us truly human.

Every year, I approach Rosh Hashanah and the High Holidays as a spiritual Turing test. In a 1950 article titled “Computing Machinery and Intelligence,” the genius German codebreaker Alan Turing invented a test to consider whether computers can think like human beings.

This is how it works: A judge engages in a conversation with two unknown entities - a person and a computer. If the computer can fool a human judge into believing it is a human being, the computer has passed the Turing test — and, according to Turing, has exhibited the ability to “think.”

In many ways, we “play” a variety of Turing tests each day - and computers are getting better at them. As computer science continues to develop, it can sometimes feel like technology is beginning to encroach on our humanness. Lately, my 3-year-old son sustains long conversations with Amazon’s Alexa.

Decades ago, chess was considered a singularly human game. Nowadays, your cellphone could beat a grandmaster. At the World A.I. Conference in Shangai in August, Elon Musk said that “there is a smaller and smaller corner where humans are better than computers in intellectual pursuits and every year it gets smaller and smaller.” Humans, he added, “are hopelessly inadequate.”

As computers move faster, it feels like we are moving slower.

The entire process of the High Holidays, in contrast, emphasizes the very qualities that only a human could ever hope to project. While the imagery of judgment looms large, it is our capacity to stand in judgment that makes

mankind different.

Brian Christian, in his 2011 book “The Most Human Human,” reimagined the goal of the Turing test. He entered an international Turing test competition known as the Loebner Prize. Instead of a computer competing to be most human, Christian attempted to see if he could be ranked most human.

The very notion is fascinating. What would you say to prove your humanity? Of course, typing in “I am not a computer” won’t help all that much, since a computer could just as easily be programmed to do the same.

In a 2011 interview in the *Paris Review*, Christian reflected on his own experience: He answered the question with a recursive cleverness, saying that “humans appear to be the only things anxious about what makes them unique.”

I think a lot about that angst during Rosh Hashanah.

As someone for whom anxiety comes naturally, this answer has always resonated. Most of us spend our professional lives aspiring for the sober analysis of computers, but Christian’s experience is a reminder that our angst over our imperfections may be what distinguishes us. As the poet and songwriter Leonard Cohen hauntingly sings, “There is a crack in everything - that’s how the light gets in.”

Whispering during the silent Amidah, we ask for G-d to “grant his awe upon creation.” We pray for awe because life without it can seem devoid of mystery and urgency. A computer doesn’t whisper a prayer before approaching its programmer. Only we do.

After we pray for awe, we pray for honor. The dignity of honor, the nobility of our distinctiveness, only emerges once we first assert our angst.

As we humbly pass before G-d in judgment during the Days of Awe, we assert our very humanity by exercising our capacity for wonder and reverence. The inimitable

Crown of Creation Honourees



Rebbetzin Rifka honours Fira Kezhis and Riquette Sherman with the Chabad Crown of Creation at a special event on September 22.

nature of the human condition does not emerge from celebrating man’s ingenuity, but rather from our inadequacy: “Praise to those who fear you,” we pray, “good hope to those to seek you, confident speech to those who yearn for you.”

On Rosh Hashanah, we celebrate humanity by focusing on our capacity to submit, our aspirations to transcend and our yearning to connect. Having a Higher Power that we are reaching toward is precisely what endows our life with such purpose. Computers are measured based on their accomplishments; humanity is measured by our aspirations.

Buried within the humble inarticulate cry of the shofar is the reminder of man’s distinction. Shofar is a curious vehicle to proclaim G-d’s kingship. Why not a jazzy sax solo or a somber battalion of trumpets?

The shofar is distinctive for the same reason as humanity - it is a cry of inadequacy. You can only blow one note from a shofar. It is a plaintive cry that words can’t capture. On Rosh Hashanah, our visceral aspirations are not cloaked in the poetic prose or creative solos, but in an existential angst that only humanity can express.

Other species may be capable of communication. Computers excel at chess. And soon an algorithm may have most of our jobs. But only human beings have the instinctive capacity to reach out in prayer.

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Michal Shaposhnikov performed beautifully at the Crown of Creation event. Honouree Riquette Sherman sat with her daughter Natalie Allouche, and granddaughters Moriah and Navit. Honouree Fira Kezhis and her daughter Julia display Fira’s special gift - a painting from Chabad.

Crown of Creation honours exceptional volunteers

By Deborah Shatz

(EJNews) -The Chabad Crown of Creation women’s event was held on September 22, 2019 at Edmonton Chabad House honouring two dedicated volunteers from our community: Riquette Sherman and Fira Kezhis.

Rebbetzin Rifka Drelich emceed the event, welcoming everyone who attended and describing the important work that Riquette and Fira do for the Chabad community. She said that it was her privilege to honour unsung heroes within the community who work tirelessly and unselfishly and are often unrecognized.

Rifka praised Riquette Sherman for her volunteer work at Beit Horim, at Edmonton hospitals and at numerous Chabad Functions. “She generously shares her musical talents on the piano, bringing joy to the listeners” and elevating any event she attends.

She praised Fira Kezhis for regularly volunteering her culinary talents for the Edmonton Chabad Friday night live program. “Her soup and knaidelach amongst other foods are now legendary,” said Rifka.

Before the meal was served, Riquette’s daughter Natalie Alouche thanked Rifka for the honour and described parts of her mother’s amazing background. Born in Paris, France, Riquette Staraselski graduated with honours from the Paris National Conservatory of Music. In 1952 she left for Israel with her parents and siblings and in 1954 she married Norman Sherman who was principal bassoonist with the Israel Philharmonic. In 1958 they moved to

Winnipeg where their son Phillip was born and a few years later they moved to the Hague Netherlands, working for the Hague Philharmonic. Natalie was born there.

Back to Canada, Israel and then Canada permanently in 1974, Riquette was pianist for the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, involved with the Israel Philharmonic, played with the Winnipeg Symphony and in Kingston Ontario, had a long fulfilling teaching career at Queen’s University school of music and privately.

Riquette has performed countless concerts and events in Ontario and in Edmonton. She is well known for her performances of light popular music, Strauss Waltzes and Argentine Tangos. Norman z”l passed away in 2015 at the age of 91 after a full life. He is laid to rest in London Ontario. Riquette lives in Edmonton, close to her daughter and family. She is frequently called upon to play piano at community events. We are blessed to have a woman of her talents and generosity among us.

Fira’s daughter Julia thanked everyone for coming to the event to honour her mother. She noted that it was wonderful that she was being recognized for serving Chabad in her own unique way. She said that although she doesn’t live in Edmonton, she and her mother speak very regularly on the phone. “On the days when she does not pick up the phone, I know she is here at Chabad helping to prepare for a holiday or a kiddush or to cater a special occasion. When Rabbi Ari or anyone asks my mother for assistance, she always says yes.”

“My mother has always been a woman of strength and a very positive influence in my life and the lives of so many around her.”

“One of my earliest recollections of my mother is being at our summer cottage in Lithuania where she was born and raised. Next, I remember running through the streets to catch a train en route to Israel. I was told that we would be joining my aunts and cousins who were already in

Israel. We were escaping civil unrest. I recall everyone running with tears in their eyes, but when I looked at my mother, she appeared so calm, unphased, strong and true and for this reason I was not afraid.

“And that has been my mother for my entire life. Everything she does, appears to be with strength and calm. During our weekly chats on the phone, my mother shares about all the time she spends at the Chabad House whether it is for a kiddush or just baking one of her famous and delicious cakes because someone asked her to. She does all these things with a great deal of passion and with love for all those around her.

“So tonight, on behalf of everyone here in attendance and those that couldn’t make it, I’d like to thank you, my mother, for all you do for us all. Thank you; I love you.”

Rebbetzin Rifka then led the group in Hamotzi and a wonderful meal was served. Rabbi Ari dropped by to blow the shofar, much to the delight of all the women in attendance. Throughout the entire evening, Rebbetzin Rifka offered gentle affirmations to the group about living your best life and that no matter who you are, you should try to be better, kinder, more considerate and closer to G-d.

After the meal, Michal Shaposhnikov performed some lovely songs in Hebrew. Her beautiful voice filled the room with joy and everyone was entertained and even sang along where possible.

Michal is a fourth-year pharmacology student with a large passion for both the sciences and the arts. Born in Be’er Shevah, Israel she has extensive musical theatre experience having performed in shows throughout her school years. Her last show was in 2016 where she played the role of “Dorothy” and was nominated for “Best Actress in a Musical” award by the *Edmonton Sun*. Even though she is currently focused on completing her bachelor’s degree in pharmacology, she is looking forward to singing more and continuing to contribute her skills to the community.

Yasher Koach to Rebbetzin Rifka, and the honourees and their families as well as to Michal and everyone who attended the wonderful evening event.

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JFED launches 2019 UJA Campaign *Cont. from page 1*

“Our collective gift to the United Jewish Appeal contributes to the strength, continuity and unity of Jewish people everywhere. Here at home, the money we raise provides a consistent base of funding and support for programming, for our local Jewish Day schools, Jewish Family Services, Camp BB-Riback, BBYO, and for over a dozen other local partners and beneficiaries.

“On a national level, funds that we all donate are used in the fight against anti-Semitism and BDS, and to advocate for Canadian Jewish interests. In Israel and in the countries of the former Soviet Union, we help the most vulnerable. Each year, our community donates over \$1 million to the UJA Campaign. For our small community, this is a lot of money but our needs are great.

“This year, once again, our goal is to raise over \$1 million in support of the needs of our Jewish community in Edmonton, in Canada, in Israel, and around the world.

“Throughout the coming weeks, our team of volunteer canvassers will be reaching out, asking for your support. When you get the call, I’d ask that you please remember how many Jewish people in Edmonton and around the globe you impact with your gift. Each year the overall needs grow, as does the cost of Jewish life, just the same as everything else in life.

“In addition, as our community ages, and people retire, move, or pass away, the burden falls to the rest of us to make up the difference. So, when your canvasser calls, I’d ask that you please consider increasing your gift this year, to help UJA keep pace with our collective needs.

“My personal vision and mission for our community, and the project that my co-chair Ron Sorokin and I want to focus on in the coming months, is nurturing, mentoring, engaging with and encouraging the next generation of

Professor awarded Jewish Literary Award *Cont. from page 2*

Modernism in music, Expressionism in film, and the Bauhaus in architecture were all manifestations of the arts and culture of Germany’s Weimar Republic before the Nazis came to power. For the Nazis, the arts were only useful as political propaganda. They attacked the artistic movements that they felt were dominated by the Jews and leftist groups. Kater’s book examines how cultural life, including architecture, journalism, film, music, opera, theatre, and the visual arts became the means to control the minds of the people, and the fate of the Jewish artists



On September 19, the Edmonton Jewish Community was treated to a wonderful concert by Yiddish Songbird Eleanor Reissa as part of an engaging 2019 United Jewish Appeal kickoff event at the Citadel Theatre. The evening included speeches about the importance of giving generously and a special keynote address by victim advocate Dr. Sherri Wise from Vancouver.

leaders of our Jewish community here in Edmonton. Each of the beneficiaries of our community campaign need and want the energy and creative mindset of the young leaders. It is nothing less than our future and, more important to all of us, their future that is at stake. Stay tuned for more on this.

“And, the most important message that I really want to deliver to each of you at the start of our campaign, is a great big thank you. Thank you for your past generosity and for standing with so many others to help nurture, sustain, and grow Jewish life. And thank you in advance for your continued support.”

caught up in the social madness.

Holocaust - *Choices Under Duress of the Holocaust: Benjamin Muremelstein and the Fate of Viennese Jewry Volume I: Vienna* (Texas Tech University Press). A culmination of more than three decades of research by Leonard and Edith Ehrlich, and edited by their son, Carl S. Ehrlich, Director of the Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies at York University, it chronicles the harrowing decisions Jewish communal leaders in Austria were forced to make while under Nazi occupation. It examines the decision-making process from both a historical and a philosophical perspective and investigates the actions

of the controversial Rabbi Dr. Benjamin Muremelstein, who was leader of the Jewish community of Vienna between 1938 and 1942 and later Judenältester (Chief Jewish Elder) of Theresienstadt concentration camp-ghetto.

The Canadian Jewish Literary Awards is hosted and sponsored by the Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies at York University. For more information visit cjlaawards.ca.



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New cookbook provides delicious “Variations”

For most home cooks, a simple but still delicious meal with a minimum of fuss and ingredients is an everyday necessity. However, there are also times when a recipe calls for something different, maybe a bit out of the ordinary. Yet few home cooks have the time to source and try new variations to favorite recipes.

In her latest cookbook, *Variations*; (Artsroll/Shaar Press/Hardcover), Daniella Silver, author of the best-selling Silver Platter series of cookbooks, has created recipes that use basic, simple ingredients and provides variations that present a different way to showcase the main recipe. For example, a chicken dish is shown how to become a main or as an appetizer, a salad can be prepared as family-styled or plated individually by serving it in a pretty presentation or dish, and a batch of cookies can also become ice cream sandwiches. To Daniella, the possibilities are endless.

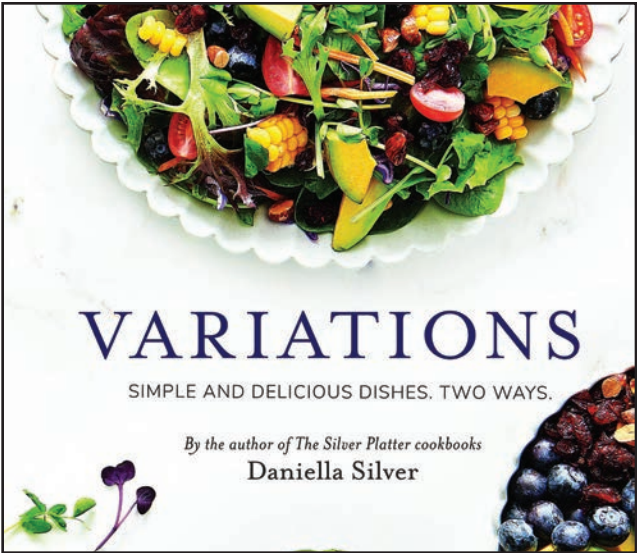
“I wrote *Variations* because I felt it’s time to change things up,” Daniella says. “I want readers to get creative with the foods they prepare by understanding that a recipe can be versatile in preparation or presentation.”

Each recipe in the book includes a “variation” of that recipe. These variations present a different way to showcase the main recipe; they often include additional ingredients, shown in bold type, to make a completely new dish. The photo on each page displays both the main recipe and the variation, so home cooks can see how each of them will look after they have been prepared.

Daniella’s delicious recipes cover everything from Appetizers, Soups and Salads; to Fish, Chicken and Meat; to Dairy, Grain and Vegetable Sides and Desserts. Recipes and their variations include: Pull-Apart Eggplant Parmesan/Baby Eggplant Parmesan, “Everything Bagel” Asparagus/Asparagus and Rice, Corned Beef Biscotti/Beef-Wrapped Biscotti, Broccoli Soup with Caramelized Leeks/Cauliflower Soup with Caramelized Leeks, Pretty Pomegranate Salmon/Fig Salmon and many more.

“I am so excited to share this new cookbook with everyone. I am not a chef. What I like to call myself is a creative cook. I enjoy using simple ingredients, color, and texture, while incorporating versatility. I hope *Variations* redefines how we think about cooking and allows people to be more creative in the kitchen.”

Daniella makes healthy, beautiful food simple. She combines her artistic sense of style and presentation



with wholesome, nutritious ingredients, delivering effortless dishes for every occasion. As a busy mom of 4, Daniella believes in not being bogged down in the kitchen. That is why in all her recipes she advocates fresh, healthy ingredients cooked fast and easy in order to share quality time with friends and family.

The following recipe is reprinted with permission from “*Variations*” by Daniella Silver, Artsroll/ Shaar Press / September 2019.

Sweet Potato Pear Soup

Pareve I Passover I gluten-free I freezes well I yields 8-10 servings

- 2 Tbsp extra light olive oil
- 1 large onion, diced
- 2 ribs celery, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced (about 1 tsp)
- kosher salt
- black pepper
- 4 large sweet potatoes - peeled and chopped
- 3 Asian or Bosc pears - peeled and chopped
- 1 tsp sweet paprika
- pinch dried thyme
- 5-6 cups water or vegetable broth

Heat oil in a large soup pot over medium heat. Add onion, celery, garlic, salt, and pepper; sauté for 8-10 minutes, until golden.

Add sweet potatoes, pears, paprika, thyme, and water. Bring to a boil.

Reduce heat. Simmer, partially covered, for 40-45 minutes, or until vegetables are tender, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat; let cool slightly.

Using an immersion blender, process soup until smooth. If soup is too thick, add a little water. Adjust seasonings to taste.

Variation

Cinnamon sugar pears - Prepare soup as directed. Preheat oven to 400°F. Coat a cooking rack or pizza tray with nonstick cooking spray. Slice 2 additional pears very thinly (do not peel). Sprinkle with sugar and cinnamon on both sides. Bake, uncovered, for 20-25 minutes until golden. Garnish the soup with baked pears or sprinkle soup with thyme leaves.

Pomegranate Glazed Honey Cake

Ingredients:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 3 eggs | 1 cup sugar |
| 1 tbsp vegetable oil | 1 cup water |
| 2 tbsp instant coffee | 1 cup honey |
| 2 2/3 cup flour | 2 tsp baking powder |
| 1 tsp baking soda | 1 tsp cinnamon |

Glaze:

- 1 1/2 cup confectioners’ sugar
- 3 tbsp pomegranate juice

Method:

Preheat oven to 325. Coat a 12 cup Bundt or 10-inch tube pan with nonstick cooking spray.

In the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, beat eggs, sugar and oil on medium high speed for 3-5 minutes, until light. Add water, coffee, honey and mix well.

Reduce mixer speed to low. Add flour, baking powder, baking soda and cinnamon. Mix until just combined.

Pour batter into prepared pan.

Bake about 1 hour or until a wooden toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean.

Let cool 20 min. Carefully invert cake onto large serving platter, cool completely before glazing.

GLAZE: In a medium bowl, whisk together confectioners’ sugar and pomegranate juice.

Drizzle glaze over cooled cake, allowing it to drip down the sides.

“This cake brings Pomegranate and Honey together in what I think, is the perfect marriage,” says Daniella. “If you’re trying one honey cake this High Holiday season, make it this one!”

Edmonton Centre, Alberta and Canada deserve change for the better, after four years of Justin Trudeau’s mismanagement. If I’m given the honour of representing you and your family in Ottawa, I will work tirelessly to reignite the entrepreneurial spirit of our people and businesses, helping them create the futures they want and deserve.

- James Cumming

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Alberta family honoured as ‘Righteous Among the Nations’

(EJNews) - Alberta resident Hannah Steynen was an honoured guest at the World Holocaust Remembrance Centre in Jerusalem last month to receive a prestigious award from the Consul General Galit Baram.

She accepted the award on behalf of her late parents Bart Rijpstra and Wytse Keverkamp.

The couple has been designated as being ‘Righteous Among the Nations.’

The ‘Righteous Among the Nations’ award is one of the most prestigious designations granted by the State of Israel. It is given to non-Jews who assisted Jewish people during WWII, often at great risk to themselves and their families.

On September 23, the Consulate General of Israel in Toronto and Western Canada in partnership with the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem was honoured to present this award to the late Dutch couple Bart Rijpstra and Wytse Keverkamp.

The story of the Rijpstra-Keverkamp family is a remarkable one and emblematic of the bravery of many who put their lives at risk to protect European Jews in a time of chaos. During the war, the family lived in the small town of Zaandijk in the north-west part of the Nazi-occupied Netherlands.

Bart Rijpstra belonged to a group of teachers who decided that they would hide and protect Jews from their Nazi persecutors. Those who were given shelter were often passed off as relatives, their true identities unbeknownst even to the young daughter Hannah (Hanneke).

Hannah’s parents did not speak much about their actions and it was not until many years later that she would discover that her home was part of a heroic life-saving network at this dark time in human history.

Remarkably, all of those who found refuge in the Rijpstra-Keverkamp household survived, and Hannah

even managed to remain in touch with them after the war. She and her husband Leo immigrated to Canada in 1968, and settled in Lethbridge, Alberta, where Mrs. Steynen resides up to this day.

In a very moving ceremony, the award was accepted by Hannah (Hanneke) Steynen, on behalf of her parents Bart Rijpstra and Wytse Keverkamp. The medal and certificate were presented by Galit Baram, Consul General of Israel in Toronto and Western Canada, and by Fran Sonshine, National Chair of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem. Since the ceremony was held in Toronto and not in Lethbridge, Mrs. Steynen’s hometown, members of the Toronto Jewish community, as well as Members of the Ontario Provincial Parliament, came out to show their deep appreciation for this noble act of human kindness.

Mrs. Steynen spoke about her family during that terrible period, bringing many in the audience to tears. During the ceremony, vocalist Aviv Cohen beautifully performed the Canadian and Israeli national anthems and violinist Ori Solomon presented a selection of classical music. Both artists were a fine representation of the young generation of Canadian Jewry.

The Consul General extended gratitude to all of the presenters who helped make the ceremony a success. Those who shared warm words of support and remembrance included: Associate Minister of Mental



L-R: Fran Sonshine, Hannah Steynen, Galit Baram. (Supplied by Israeli Consulate in Toronto)

Health and Addictions, The Hon. Michael Tibollo on behalf of the Ontario Government, Rabbi Meir Dubrawsky from the Yorkville Jewish Centre and Fran Sonshine the National Chair of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem.

MPP Gila Martow and MPP Sam Oosterhoff beautifully recounted the story of the award recipients as well as those whom they saved. MPP Martow is a member of the Jewish community in Toronto and MPP Oosterhoff is the decendent of Dutch immigrants to Canada. They were therefore symbolic of both communities bring honoured. The support of colleagues from the Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Toronto was also appreciated.

Following the second world war, Bart Rijpstra received a certificate signed by then-United States President Dwight D. Eisenhower to thank the couple for their efforts.

Riipstra and Keverkamp passed away in the mid and late 1980s. May their memory be cherished for generations to come.

Rosh Hashanah *Cont. from page 3*

Staring into a siddur, reflecting on what’s gone wrong and humbly reaching out to a more transcendent source to help make it right is a moment of humanity no other entity could imitate or replace. We spend most of the year racing

to outpace and outsmart the endless march of modernity and technological achievement. On Rosh Hashanah, we remind ourselves that the only way we’ll emerge victorious in the race for our individuality is if we embrace our inadequacy.

A successful Rosh Hashanah can produce a more tender and humble sense of self during the year. The Hasidic

Rebbe of Kotzk famously remarked that “there is nothing as whole as a broken heart.”

On Rosh Hashanah, our hopeless inadequacy may be the very source of our hope.

Rabbi David Bashevkin is the author of “Sin-a-gogue: Sin and Failure in Jewish Thought,” recently published by Academic Studies Press.



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Beth Shalom hosts meet and greet for Rabbi Schwarzman



On September 22, the Beth Shalom board and congregation hosted a casual meet and greet for Rabbi Steven and Rebbetzin Bettina Schwarzman.

Edmonton faith communities support climate action

(October 2019) – On the evening of September 22, around three hundred people from dozens of different faith communities came together in Edmonton for a candlelight climate vigil, taking part in the largest ever global week of climate action happening from September 20-27th.

Recognizing the urgency of the climate crisis and the duty of faith communities to take a stand, people of all ages and backgrounds gathered at the Alberta Legislature Grounds to show support and raise awareness for the youth and Indigenous-led climate strike happening in Edmonton on September 27th.

“Faith communities, mosques, synagogues, temples and churches - we all have a responsibility to take a stand on the defining moral issue of our time: the climate crisis,” said Rabbi Gila Caine from Temple Beth Ora Synagogue. “I hope people of all faiths join us this Friday September 27 at noon at Churchill Square as we march in support of climate action.”

Youth and faith leaders from various communities, including Temple Beth Ora Synagogue, Al Rashid Mosque, and the Anglican Church, used music, prayer and reflection to lead attendees through the four themed stations of Mourning, Repentance, Gratitude and Hope.

“We want to be part of an opportunity to encourage members of our faith communities to think more seriously about what’s going on in our world and the crisis that we’re facing,” remarked Anglican Rev. Scott Sharman. “We see faith as being a key part of this equation.”

“This week is a big global week of action, the biggest that the world has ever seen and we wanted as people of faith to show our support for the youth-led and Indigenous-led strike that’s happening here in the city,” said vigil organizer and MC Gabrielle Gelderman.

Early on in the vigil, two known local neo-Nazis and members of The Clann (formerly Soldiers of Odin), Ryan Dean and Mike Kirkland, stood in the back of the crowd, heckling the speakers and mocking the Indigenous Elder and Knowledge Keeper leading the prayer. Event organizers engaged non-violently, holding up a black banner to obscure the men.

“It’s disheartening that these fascist individuals came out but unfortunately not surprising,” noted Gelderman. “White supremacist groups in the city are becoming

increasingly active and dangerous. That they came out to this event like this just goes to show that we can’t address the climate crisis without also tackling white supremacy and colonialism - these issues are deeply inter-twined.”

September 20 marked the largest ever day of global climate mobilization with an estimated 4 million people around the world taking part. On September 27, hundreds of thousands of people across Canada participated in strikes from work and school. In Edmonton, an estimated 4000 people marched to a rally at the Legislature Grounds from three locations – the University of Alberta, MacEwan University and Churchill Square.

The rally at the legislature featured guest speakers, many of them youth, speaking about the need for governments to turn their attention to fixing the climate crisis.

Two American teens – Hannah Fremmer and Rebekah Oppenheimer - were recently featured in a JTA article where they said that they were inspired by Swedish high schooler Greta Thurnberg, who founded #FridaysForFuture and the movement “School Strike for Climate.”

They stated, “We are also inspired by our Jewish heritage. As Jews, we believe that the Torah can be relevant to today. In Genesis, G-d gives humans power over everything on Earth. We believe that humans have indeed ended up controlling the planet and the animals that live on it, but not in a good way.

“Instead of using the power to protect, humans have emitted toxic gasses into the



On September 19, members and spiritual leaders from several Edmonton based faith communities gathered for a candlelight vigil in support of climate action. Members from Temple Beth Ora and other congregations were in attendance and blew a shofar as a "call to action."

air, hurting the animals and the planet we were trusted with. If mankind refuses to fix this problem and act on it, more than one-fourth of Earth’s plants and animals could be extinct in 100 years - the very same animals that we, as Jews and reasonable humans, are supposed to take care of.

“If that isn’t enough, our ongoing emission of greenhouse gases could cause more disasters, death and disease for humans as well as even more displacement of people. And the past few years have shown just how happy rich countries are to welcome in poor refugees.

“But even at a moment when change is crucial, our government chooses to continue to ignore this important matter.

“So we decided that if the government won’t do something, we will. We demand that the government act to save our planet. Not later, when it’s too late, but now, while there’s still time. We urge adults to use their vote wisely and protect today’s children.”

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Small spaces having a big impact

By Laura Severs

Don't worry about that teenie weenie, itsy-bitsy small space. According to those in the know, small is now the new big.

"You can live small but think big," said interior designer Eve Rose, of Eve Rose Interiors Inc., whose clients span California, Toronto, Calgary and Edmonton. "You can treat a small space with creative planning to have almost everything that you would in a bigger space."

Given today's economy, Rose is noticing that people are more into living within their means and opting to use whatever space they have as opposed to the old 'bigger is better' mentality.

"Attitudes are different," said Rose. "People are realizing that they don't need as much as they thought they did."

General contractor Michael Oliver, who worked with Rose on a number of projects, has also noticed that big is not what it used to be.

"People are staying where they are and making their space work or moving into a smaller space," said Oliver, a master electrician who owns and operates Torin Electric Ltd. and subsequently expanded into general contractor operations. "We're also finding that a lot of people in Edmonton love their spaces, they have their roots and don't want to move."

Those aren't the only items factoring into the move to smaller spaces. Infills, particularly where two skinny homes replace one larger home, means small now plays a bigger role as does the growth in the condo market where space is less than in a single-family home. Then there's the development of smaller-scale furniture and appliances emerging out of the tiny home movement.

Small is starting to have a big impact, said Rose, and she only expects that to expand in the years to come.

"Now people want rooms," she said. "They're going back to non-open concept because they want more privacy. It's a trend that is coming back and this will lend itself to more smaller spaces."

Starts At Home

Rose, whose work includes show homes and show suites for local home builders, welcomes the small space challenge. So much so that she recently renovated a kitchen — her own — that is just 390 square feet.

Walk into the space and it is indeed undersized compared to some of today's large kitchens with oversized islands. But it doesn't feel small.

"We didn't change the size," said Rose, about the kitchen in her 1950s Westmount home. "We just changed the layout."

The old kitchen was dark, now it's bright. There was no storage. Now the nook where the kitchen table was still houses the table but has custom wall units behind it and includes a custom upholstered window seat. The main part of the kitchen still has an island, but with waterfall edges on both sides, it looks sleek and unobtrusive. White shaker upper cabinets, paired with flat panel lower drawers not only brighten the space but draw your eyes from top to bottom or bottom to top so that the room height seems taller. A mixture of knobs and pulls on the cabinets and drawers adds style and glamour.

The backsplash, which rises to the ceiling, is an arabesque patterned marble tile with greys, whites and rust tones that brings visual interest to the space.

"It's still very small but it gives me the storage I need and it doesn't feel small anymore," said Rose, who notes that a good thing about a small space is that less material is required.

Thinking Big

The wish list for the soon-to-be-finished basement was large. The space, not so much.

A family in Summerside wanted a guest bedroom and bathroom, an entertainment space, a fully equipped bar and an open-concept home office.

Complicating the matter was that the basement still needed space for mechanical and related items. There was a stairway to work around. Further, in-floor heating was previously installed.



In this Summerside basement reno, Eve Rose Interiors demonstrated that a small space can have a big impact. A bar, with a kegerator and two TVs, was fit into a corner zone of about 80 square feet.

Modern technology solved some of the problems, said Oliver, who teamed up with Rose to deliver what the homeowners wanted. Oliver used a thermal imaging camera attachment for his smartphone to dig up the floor to relocate plumbing without damaging anything — it had to be moved to create the proper space-saving layout.

"Newer technology gives us more flexibility in properly laying out a space," he said, adding that the space in question, some 1,000 square feet, can definitely accommodate every need.

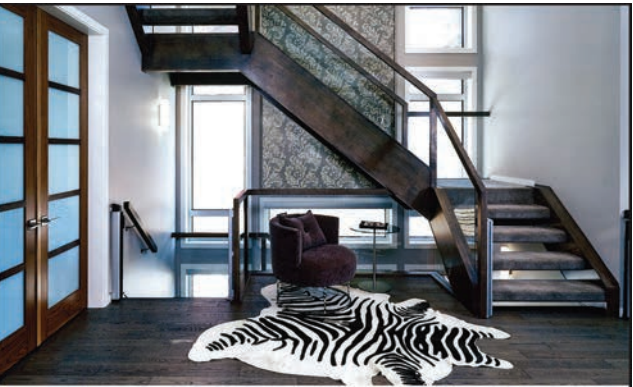
The bar, with a kegerator and two TVs, was fit into a corner zone of about 80 square feet and is nowhere near as small as it would seem.

"Typically, people would look at a space and say it's not an option, but a lot of people just can't see it," said Oliver.

"With creative planning you can treat a small space like a large space," said Rose, adding that lighter tones, pattern and texture all play a role in giving the final product a bigger feel.

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This article was originally published in the Edmonton Journal.



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Edmonton UJA kickoff event



The UJA kickoff event included presentations by UJA co-chair Howie Sniderman and victim advocate Sherri Wise and a presentation to Irving and Dianne Kipnes.



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This month's update from Talmud Torah School



Talmud Torah School staff and students have had a very busy month at school. The Grade 2 students enjoyed a science lesson where they learned about solids, liquids and gases using ice cream floats. TT Society Executive Director Jerry Sorokin participated in Read-In Week. The Kindergarten students enjoyed a Shofar Factory for Rosh Hashanah and they also had a great time apple stamping with their Grade 6 buddies. The Grade 6 students were also busy with their Rosh Hashanah Flower Fundraiser for a Shabbaton trip to Zajac Ranch in Mission, BC. Parents and students delivered 175 flowers to Edmonton area family and friends who ordered in support of this fundraiser.




Support the Talmud Torah Library

The Talmud Torah Parents' Auxiliary supports the Gift of Reading Program.
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/ Edmonton Jewish News

Jewish pride on display at the Emmys

By Jordana Horn

SHORT HILLS, N.J. (JTA) — Whether you watched the Emmys last month or not, chances are you’ve been privy since the broadcast to what was likely the Jewiest moment of the show: Alex Borstein’s acceptance speech for her award as best supporting actress in a comedy.

Borstein, who won for the second straight year for playing Susie the manager in Amazon’s “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel,” started with a series of gags. Turning serious, she told the crowd that she came from a family of immigrants and Holocaust survivors, then elaborated on the circumstances of her grandmother’s survival.

“My grandmother was in line to be shot into a pit,” Borstein said emotionally at the podium. “She said, ‘what happens if I step out of line?’ [The guard] said, ‘I don’t have the heart to shoot you but somebody will,’ and she stepped out of line. For that, I am here and my children are here.”

“So step out of line, ladies,” she concluded to applause. “Step out of line!”

The initial response to the speech was remarkably positive, both in real life and on the internet, and “Step out of line” posts flooded social media. Entertainment Weekly called Borstein’s speech “hilarious-turned-powerful,” and Esquire’s Justin Kirkland opined that the acceptance speech was “an especially powerful message considering her show features so many powerful Jewish women characters,” and that Borstein’s “incredible anecdote of resilience and strength was among the night’s most incredible moments.”

But as with everything in our now pejoratively labeled “cancel culture,” many keyboard warriors took to their iPhones and asserted that maybe Borstein’s speech wasn’t so great after all.

Many deemed it wrong for Borstein to, as they saw it, equate feminism with surviving the Holocaust.

“Did Alex Borstein just compare women in general to Holocaust survivors with her, ‘ladies step out of line’ comment? And if she did suggest some kind of equivalency, then who do you think by implication get nominated for the role of Nazi guards? And you just let it go?” one person tweeted at Ron Kampeas, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency’s Washington bureau chief.

But the main point of contention for many was that they heard Borstein’s praise for her grandmother’s behavior in stepping out of line as implicitly conferring blame on those who didn’t “step out of line” and were, instead, murdered.

One Twitter user wrote that “it’s deeply ahistorical and victim-blaming to suggest a spark of individual courage would save someone from the Nazis.”

“Some [people] I know (including my wife, daughter of a survivor) found it at best eye-roll worthy, if not offensive. Her grandmother was lucky. Most others who did or would have tried the same would have been killed on the spot. Her story reinforces a narrative of ‘if only they had just

Parents meet the TT teachers



Parents, educators and students are all enthusiastic about the new school year at Talmud Torah. Parents had a great opportunity to meet the teachers and hear about their plans at an evening event held at the school.

resisted a little more ...” Josh Feigelson wrote on renowned Holocaust historian Deborah Lipstadt’s Facebook page in a discussion of the speech.

Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg tweeted, “A lot of the people who stepped out of line in the Holocaust were murdered. Sometimes the ones who didn’t were the ones who made it out. They were all brave. Just — it’s important to put a powerful story in context of the larger system of brutality in effect.”

Rabbi Jill Jacobs agreed: “Yeah, I found that line problematic. Virtually no victims had anything they could have done to save themselves. And those who survived generally took chances without knowing that it would work out.”

Surely the idea that if everyone had only “stepped out of line,” the Holocaust wouldn’t have happened, is odious — but it’s also not at all what Borstein intended to convey.

To this Borstein fan, it’s clear that she meant to pay tribute to her grandmother for surviving, and to express gratitude that she herself and her children even existed at all, thanks to that woman’s defiance. In her moment of success, she took time to look back at the woman who brought her there.

The problematic element of the anecdote, of course, lies in all the people who aren’t in it: the thousands of dead and nearly dead souls, writhing naked under piles of corpses in the pits dug by the execution squads.

Did Borstein’s applause for her grandmother’s act convey disapproval, or even condemnation, of those who didn’t step out of line? Her detractors would say yes. I think that’s ridiculous.

Just as the purpose of telling the story lies within its particular significance for Borstein herself, I’d argue that it is equally important to look at the story Borstein tells with her everyday life. In making that argument, I turn to social media not as my jury — the role it usually

plays in our society — but rather as my evidence.

I’ve admired Borstein’s comedic and acting chops for years only from afar (I’m funny, but her agent has yet to return my phone calls). But thanks to Instagram and Twitter, I’ve been able to admire her even more — not as a celebrity, but rather as a proud and outspoken Jewish parent.

In 2019, being a proud and an outspoken Jew is nothing to be taken for granted. We live in a time when white nationalists are emerging from under their rocks and spewing hatred — and sometimes bullets — all too freely. So many people, celebrities and not, either don’t acknowledge their heritage or hide it under a bushel.

Borstein, in contrast, steps out of that line, if you will, to live her Jewishness out loud. She posts her Shabbat candles — complete with Shabbat tray in English and Hebrew — and challah on a Friday afternoon with the caption “Shabbat shalom.”

She posts a pic of her dad’s coffee mug, which reads “The Greatest Grandpa” in Hebrew. She posts a selfie celebrating her Emmy nomination with pastrami, Dr. Brown’s and pickles at Katz’s Deli: “This is how a Jewish gangster celebrates.”

I’ll be honest: I just love Alex Borstein. By telling that story at the Emmys, she was living her own story the same way she lives her Jewish life: loud and proud. And that’s something I wish more of us did, right here and right now.

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of JTA or its parent company, 70 Faces Media.

JLI course helps *Cont. from page 1*

Additionally, each lesson is preceeded by a delicious dinner. Like all JLI programs, this course is designed to appeal to people at all levels of knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple, or other house of worship.

Interested students may call 780-200-5770 or visit ChabadEdmonton.org for registration and for other course-related information.

Edmonton JLI is a project of Chabad of Edmonton.



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HOW CAN I?
HOW CAN I?
I CAN I?

AM I FOR
REAL??

ARE BAD
FEELINGS
DRAINING
YOUR BEST
ENERGY?

I SHOULDN'T
HAVE.



WHEN
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CHAYA SARAH BLACHMAN
is a former preschool teacher and mother of six boys B"H. She has
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to ten years bringing the joy of Judaism to mommies and babies.



CAROLINE BOTTING
graduated with a Bachelor of Physical Education, and an Advanced
Certificate in Athletic Therapy, from the University of Alberta and got
certified to teach group fitness classes and one-on-one fitness
sessions. Her training now includes a more post-natal focus and
it is her goal to help moms feel strong and empowered.

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This program is a sponsored project of the InMotion Network, with funding provided by Alberta Sport Connection