

# YEG monument glorifies Nazi collaborator

By Daniel Moser

(EJNews) - In the mid-1970s the Ukrainian Youth Unity Complex was built in North Edmonton and along with it, a monument was erected to a Nazi collaborator. It sounds weird to say out loud, but that is the case. There is a statue of someone who commanded troops to participate in genocide during the Holocaust, in Edmonton.

Roman Shukhevych was a Ukrainian military leader during the Second World War. In parts of Ukraine, and the diaspora, he is viewed as a hero for fighting against the Soviets in the name of an independent Ukraine. This telling of history omits Shukhevych's bloody atrocities, evil associations, and violent antisemitism. In the early 1940s Shukhevych was a leader in a radical militant group, the Bandera wing of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists, and Nazi trained Ukrainian battalions, where he led his troops into battle committing atrocities and war crimes including massacres in Belarus and an attempt to ethnically cleanse Ukraine.

After his formal association with the Nazi Germany had ended, Shukhevych's antisemitic murders continued. In 1943 declaring independence, but maintaining allegiance to Nazi Germany, Shukhevych was supreme commander of the newly formed Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), where creating an ethnically Ukrainian country was priority one. The UPA was responsible for the mass killing of 60,000-100,000 ethnic Poles, thousands of Jews, and many more. Many Jews fleeing the Holocaust made their way through the woods of western Ukraine, only to be lured out of hiding and murdered by the UPA.

This is a very brief history of Shukhevych; a more in-depth description can be found in Per Anders Rudling's 2016 academic article featured in *Fascism: Journal of Comparative Fascist Studies* titled *The Cult of Roman Shukhevych in Ukraine*.

There is a statue of Roman Shukhevych in Edmonton.

## JNF Bike Mission in Israel a success!



The 2019 JNF Bike Mission across Israel was held from October 26 to November 6. This group of inspired cyclists and wine aficionados covered an incredible amount of ground in their 9 days, experiencing Israel like never before. Yasher Koach to the participants and organizers of this amazing trip.

“As a Jewish Edmontonian, it is very disconcerting,” said journalist and activist Paula Kirman, who recently appeared on the *Progress Report* podcast discussing the topic. The podcast is eye-opening, the hope is further attention will be drawn to the situation, and a reasonable outcome will be achieved. Kirman put it simply, “ideally, I think it should be removed.”

The choice should be a simple one, a country in North America, in the year 2019 should have zero tolerance for having an antisemitic murderer placed on a figurative and literal pedestal. If outright removal of the Shukhevych statue is out of the question, then at the very least an

accurate historical addition should be made, explaining what exactly Shukhevych's contributions to Ukrainian life were, and the mass murder and attempted ethnic cleansing he took part in along the way. Refusing to do so would be a whitewashing of history, and one that is often sighted as being a form of Holocaust denial.

When approached for comment in a 2018 *Coda* article on Russian disinformation locals associated with the Complex either denied the accusations outright, denied knowledge of Shukhevych's atrocities, or reasoned them away claiming it was merely an alliance of convenience with Nazi Germany.

Continued on page 6

Publication Mail Agreement Number: 40050628

## Yola Reitman brings secret rescue story to life in Edmonton: Nov. 26

(Israel21) - In the early 1980s, Israel's Mossad spy agency opened a fake diving resort in Sudan for the sole purpose of spirited Ethiopian Jews to safety. Yola Reitman played the role of her life impersonating an employee of the diving resort while she was actually playing an important role in rescuing Ethiopian Jews to Israel.

Reitman will be in Edmonton on November 26 to describe this incredible mission at a special Edmonton Jewish National Fund event taking place at 7:30 pm at the Fantasyland Hotel.

Two decades ago, Israeli secret agents opened a diving resort on the Sudanese shores of the Red Sea, with the sole purpose of clandestinely rescuing Ethiopian Jews from Sudan and bringing them to safety in Israel.

Over several years the resort was in operation, about 6,000 Jewish refugees who had fled persecution, war and famine in Ethiopia were spirited by boat and plane to a new life in Israel.

If you think this sounds like a feature film, you're right.

A Netflix feature film titled “The Red Sea Diving Resort,” released this summer, brings this fabulous act of courageous heroism to the silver screen. The dramatized story was written and directed by Emmy Award-winning Israeli director Gideon Raff, the man behind TV hits such as “Homeland” and “Tyrant.”

“The Red Sea Diving Resort” stars Chris Evans, Haley Bennett, Michael K. William, Michiel Huisman, Alessandro Nivola, Greg Kinnear and Ben Kingsley.

The real-life mission began around 1978 and was codenamed “Operation Brothers.” Undercover Mossad agents posing as a European tourist company rented an abandoned resort village in Sudan, an enemy country to Israel.

Even though it was a front for the rescue it did accept actual tourists through a shell company in Switzerland so that the Sudanese authorities wouldn't get suspicious. Among those guests were Saudi Arabian hawk-hunters, diplomats stationed in Khartoum, and British commandos.

To lend an air of authenticity, the agents brought in Israeli diving experts including Yola Reitman, an El Al flight attendant and deep-sea diver who spoke fluent German.

“It's one of those stories that are hard to believe,” Gad Shimron, one of the Mossad agents who operated the resort, told *TheWrap*. “It was the only time when Europeans had extracted Africans from the continent, not to be enslaved but to be freed.”

Shimron wrote about his experience in a 2007 book, *Mossad Exodus*.

Whether you've seen the movie or read the book, don't miss this rare opportunity to hear about “Operation Brothers” firsthand from Yola Reitman.

Tickets are just \$18 per person and light refreshments will be served. To reserve, contact [edm@jnf.ca](mailto:edm@jnf.ca), call 780-481-7881 or visit [jnf.ca](http://jnf.ca).

This article includes files from Israel21.



# Talmud Torah alumna empowers women through nutrition

Jenna Soroka graduated from the Grade 9 Class of 2009 at Talmud Torah School in Edmonton, having attended since she was two years of age in the pre-school program.

Following her graduation from Ross Sheppard High School, Jenna studied at NAIT (Northern Alberta Institute of Technology) to become an Architectural Technologist and worked for the engineering firm, Stantec. During her time at Stantec, Jenna enrolled in an online-accredited program to become a Certified Holistic Nutrition and Health Coach and a Member of the Health Coach Alliance. A year and a half later, she left Stantec to open her business, *ADAPT Nutrition + Performance*.

"It's easy to look at people five, ten, twenty years older than you and think they have their lives figured out," notes Jenna. "I am finally starting to learn that isn't the case. In reality, everyone is going through their own struggles and feels confused, frustrated, and stuck."

Jenna understands how overwhelming this stuck feeling can be and its impact on our ability to move forward in life.

"When it comes to health and nutrition," she explains, "people get caught up in where they want to be but can become overwhelmed by the process."

She provides free educational content on her Instagram page: @adaptnutritionperformance

She also runs a Facebook support group, ADAPT Community, where she posts motivational quotes daily, recipe ideas, podcast recommendations, and nutrition tips & tricks. Her weekly newsletter has similar content but provides another platform to reach more women.

Jenna is also passionate about educating teens. Therefore, she is excited to get into schools to talk about basic nutrition and mindset roadblocks so they can grow up nourishing their bodies.

Through one-on-one coaching she helps women, who are tired of yo-yo dieting, find freedom with food and implement healthy habits that last.

For more information, contact Jenna at [jennablairsoroka@adaptnp.com](mailto:jennablairsoroka@adaptnp.com)



Jenna Soroka with healthy choices.

# As a kid, Seth Rogen watched ‘Rechov Sumsum’

By Lior Zaltzman

(Kveller via JTA) - Like so many grumpy, middle-aged people living in New York City, turns out *Sesame Street*'s Oscar the Grouch has a cousin in Israel with an eerily similar disposition.

His name is Moishe Oofnik — that's "oof" as in "ugh," and "nik" like beatnik or nudnik. And it turns out, Seth Rogen is a fan of the Hebrew-speaking peevish puppet!

In a video celebrating the 50th anniversary of *Sesame Street* — mazel! — the Jewish actor reminisces with the O.G. Oscar the Grouch about his favorite moments from the show. Rogen recalls how, as a kid, he'd watch *Sesame Street* in the mornings while eating rice cake sandwiches (apparently, Rogen's dad is still a fan of those), and how he'd feel validated by Oscar's disposition, since he was often grumpy, too. (Honestly, Seth? Same!)

Then, in a moment that nearly made this Israeli writer leap with joy, he talks about watching Oscar's sababa cousin, Moishe Oofnik of *Rechov Sumsum*, the Israeli version of *Sesame Street*. (FYI, *sumsum* means "sesame," and *rechov* means "street," so the name is a literal translation.) Then, the video cuts to a clip in which we see Israeli version of the dumpster grumpster talking to Elmo out of the kind of plastic, green trash can that is instantly familiar to anyone who has ever visited Israel.

Trust me when I say that everything about this video is delightful. Rogen's Hebrew pronunciation of the show's name is just so good! Then again, maybe that's not a surprise: back in 2011, he taught Elmo to say to say *today*, the Hebrew word for "thanks" in *Shalom Sesame* — the American Jewish spinoff of *Sesame Street*.

But what particularly thrills me about this video is thinking of Rogen watching *Rechov Sumsum* as a kid — just like I did! I imagine him being captivated by the adorable opening song, which featured footage of children

of all ethnicities, running around, jumping, and enjoying themselves all across the Holy Land.

Just like *Sesame Street*, *Rechov Sumsum* was a magical place. It had its own unique — albeit slightly less high-production value — puppets, like Kippy Ben Kippod, a giant hedgehog, and, of course, Moishe. In the trademark *Sesame* fashion, the show's puppets and characters were diverse. There were Arab characters (the show had a Palestinian version, too, called Shara'a Simsim), a disabled character, and they also showcased a range of Jewish traditions, like this episode about Ashkenazi and Sephardic foods called "Gefilte Fish with Zhug."

The regular *Sesame Street* cast also appeared in *Rechov Sumsum*, in dubbed moments, many of them with Hebraicized names. In fact, the first time I watched *Sesame Street* in English, I was surprised to find out that the Muppets I knew as Arik and Benz were actually called Bert and Ernie!

Oofnik, voiced by Gilles Ben David, was a particularly great feature on *Rechov Sumsum*. In one episode, he

## Edmonton NCSY celebrates Sukkot



Edmonton NCSY took a Chol Hamoed Sukkah Hop in style on a party bus.

hitches a ride on a dumpster truck to visit yet another mutual cousin — this one lived in Jerusalem. In another, he gets accidentally drunk on wine during a holiday dinner and becomes suddenly... very affectionate. You don't have to speak Hebrew to enjoy this one:

Unfortunately, *Rechov Sumsum*, which started airing in 1983, aired its last episode in 2011. But it still has a fond place in my memory. And, apparently, in Seth Rogen's, too!

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# I’m a Jewish Dad. Here’s how I’m raising my son to be a Feminist

By David Slucki

(Kveller via JTA) - Last year, my 6-year-old son split his chin open after falling from a ladder. A 6:30 a.m. rush to the emergency room and five stitches later, we were able to settle him and our nerves.

When he had his stitches removed a few days later, a young doctor, a woman, attended to him. Out of the blue, he asked her: “Are you a junior doctor?”

“No,” the doctor replied, cool as a cucumber.

He pressed: “Have you mastered removing stitches?”

The doctor, unperturbed, answered affirmatively. My son then lay back calmly and let her remove the stitches in his chin, leaving a small, jagged scar, a kind of rite of passage.

The encounter left me with mixed feelings. On one hand, I’m proud of him: Here he was taking charge of his own healthcare, asking his doctors direct questions. I do want him to know the value of advocating for his best interests, and his precociousness did make me chuckle.

And yet, I felt concerned that he may have been exhibiting some inadvertently sexist behavior and attitudes. I suspect that my son’s underlying assumptions about his doctor’s credentials stemmed from prevailing attitudes about gender, something that he has absorbed from home and from the world around him. The episode made me pause to think about where he learns his day-to-day social cues. What kind of role model am I? In what way do we, as a family, model the kinds of relationships we want him to have?

I’m a Jewish parent, and the grandson of Holocaust survivors, so I can be an anxious parent. When my son and I go to a playground, I usually see all the places from which he can fall; I hold his hand tightly when we are in busy places; I keep him within arm’s reach whenever we’re away from home. This tendency, I believe, at least partially stems from my family’s experience: My grandfather lost his first wife and two sons at the Chelmino extermination camp. So, my father was raised by a loving, yet deeply broken, father. In many ways, he lost his ability to model how to be a father. We’ve been winging it in the two generations since, feeling our way as we go, while coming to terms with the implications of all that was lost.

I wasn’t raised to be an alpha male. I wasn’t taught how to throw a punch, use a hammer, or change a tire. My late father was a drama teacher, and he provided me with a masculinity that went against the grain. He was gentle, thoughtful. He kissed family members and close friends on the cheek. He told you how he was feeling and wouldn’t bottle up his emotions; you always knew where you stood. As a teacher, he was nurturing. His students came from all different backgrounds and identified across the sexual and gender spectrum.

It wasn’t until I became a parent that I realized I had learned something vital from him as I raise my own son: I have to show him how to be a mensch every day. I show him that parenting is a responsibility that his mother and father share equally; that, in our home, we support each other, celebrate each other’s successes, and that, at least within our bubble, gender ought not dictate what one can and cannot do. My wife and I share the cooking and cleaning responsibilities; we rotate school drop-off and pick-up. If our son is sick, whoever is available takes him to work or to the doctor.

I want my son to proudly identify as a feminist. Even more urgent, perhaps, than the equality we model at home is how I show him that, as men, we must be respectful towards women. As he grows, he needs to learn to respect their boundaries, both physical and emotional. He is lucky – he is surrounded by brilliant, tough women, from his mother and his teacher to his pediatrician and so many of our friends. He’ll grow up in a world where he sees women thrive professionally. Yet there is still work to do to ensure that he treats girls and women he interacts with every day as his equals.

The most important factor in teaching him these things is my behavior: I talk to him honestly, no room for bullshit. Through my actions, he learns that being a man doesn’t have to be mean being tough or strict — rather, I try to show him a masculinity that is caring and kind. I don’t hide how I feel. If I’m sad, I cry; if I’m angry, I tell him. I encourage him to tell me how he feels, and I give him space if doesn’t want to. Without passing on this basic emotional intelligence, this sense that he is allowed to feel how he feels, he won’t develop the maturity to consider how his own actions affect others.

## Digital Citizenship



Dr. Eli Shapiro will be at the Fantasyland Hotel on November 11 at 7 pm to discuss the Digital Citizenship Project, helping parents establish healthy guidelines for technology use in their homes.

In doing all this, I hope that one day my son will be part of making the world where gender, sexuality, ethnicity, race, religion, or physical ability won’t dictate whether or not a person is afforded basic human dignity. I hope he’ll help work towards a society where men see themselves as fundamental to solving gender inequity and where they instinctively see the dignity in people of all gender identities.

Only a few months after the incident with the stitches, my son woke up with a pain in his hip that prevented him from walking. His pediatrician quickly diagnosed it as viral synovitis, a condition common enough in boys his age and which simply required rest and monitoring. To be safe, we took him to get it X-rayed. The doctor was, again, a younger woman. My son was very nervous; it was his first X-ray and he didn’t know what to expect. Once again, he was assertive, but respectful, and he definitely thought seeing his bones up close was very cool.

Perhaps I made more of the stitches episode than was warranted; perhaps he truly was simply advocating for himself. Perhaps he was not, as I feared, absorbing attitudes about gender that still prevail in the South, where we live (and frankly, well beyond that). Still, it taught me that as his parent, I have to be vigilant about what messages I send him every single day, to model the kind of behavior that I hope he’ll ultimately see as normal, and then trust that he’ll take those lessons and run with them. As parents, that’s the best we can hope for.



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shares her leading role in the heroic rescue of Ethiopian Jews: as seen in the recent Netflix movie “Red Sea Diving Resort”



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Publication Mail Agreement No. 40050628

Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to: Circulation Department:  
102, 10155 114 Street NW, Edmonton AB T5K 1R8

E-mail: edmjnews@shaw.ca

Tel: (780) 421-7966

Volume 30, Number 09, November 2019

PUBLISHER / EDITOR: Deborah Shatz

ADVERTISING: Daniel Moser

FOUNDING PUBLISHER: Barry Slawsky

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Next Deadline: December 2, 2019

# Beth Israel’s Smichat Chaver students celebrate their success

The Smichat Chaver Program, SCP Siyium, is an exciting and innovative learning program that has recently been implemented at Beth Israel – the family shul, under the guidance of Rabbi Zolly Claman.

The learning program was started by a friend of the Rabbi’s and he was very enthusiastic to start the program in Edmonton. Two hundred and fifty people, including 11 from Edmonton, completed the first topic before Sukkot this year and took a written exam. The Edmonton group averaged a 92% on the exam.

A celebration sushi dinner was held at Beth Israel on October 27 with friends and families of the successful students celebrating the tremendous accomplishment of

those students who studied and completed the testing. Following dinner, a new topic of study was started.

Howard Goldford participated in the study and spoke very highly of the Rabbi. He said, “Rabbi Claman is bringing a lot of energy and innovation to BI. He’s a wonderful new face (a Canadian with western roots to boot) in our community.”

Classes are running once a week and begin with the ethical and philosophical meaning behind the halachos of the topic. This is followed by a discussion of a number of cutting-edge contemporary questions. The questions are then answered by learning through the relevant Rishonim,



Back, right to left: Gabe Mandel, Rabbi Blachman, Rabbi Kelemen, Rabbi Claman, Amir Lehrer, Yannay Grenatia. Front, r to l; Shimon Leveille, Dr. Eitan Aziza, Andrew Gergley, Rabbi Kaplan, Rabbi Glatt. Missing: Greg Pesin, Nathan Light, Howard Goldford, Mitchell Goldford.

Shulchan Aruch and modern-day poskim (halachic authorities).

Upon completion of each topic and successfully passing a written exam, members receive a certificate of accomplishment signed by three Rabbis who are amongst the greatest Halachic authorities of our generation; Harav Hershel Schachter, Chief Rabbi Shlomo Amar and Harav Zalman Nechemiah Goldberg.

Yasher Koach to the Edmontonians who are completing the program with Rabbi Claman.

# Like babka? You’ll love this recipe for chocolate kokosh cake

By Chaya Rappoport

(Noshers via JTA) - If babka is the hip Jewish treat du jour, then kokosh cake is its slightly homelier cousin of yesteryear. But don’t let that description turn you off because what kokosh cake lacks in razzle-dazzle, it makes up for in the most important of ways: rich, gooey, seemingly endless layers of chocolate.

Named after the Hungarian word for cocoa, kakaó, a kokosh cake is flatter and longer than a babka and made with a yeast dough that’s barely left to rise. The dough is rolled thin, spread with a chocolate filling and then rolled up.

According to Jewish food historian Gil Marks, kokosh cake, like Polish babka, wasn’t originally made with chocolate; both chocolate and cocoa were expensive ingredients in shtetl times. Instead, kokosh cake evolved from a simpler version made with poppy seeds, known as makosh (the Hungarian word for poppy seeds is mak), before becoming the primarily chocolate pastry we know it as today.

Modern versions of kokosh are often topped with streusel, an addition I’ll personally never say no to. My kokosh cake also contains two secret ingredients: egg whites in the filling, which ensure its gooey interior, and a touch of espresso powder, which heightens the flavor of the chocolate.

Babka, there’s a hot new cake in town — and it’s coming for your crown.

- Ingredients:
- For the dough:
- 1 3/4 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon fine sea salt
- 1 1/4 teaspoons instant dry yeast
- 1/4 cup warm water
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 2 eggs
- 1 egg, whisked, for egg wash
- For the filling:
- 2 1/4 cups granulated sugar
- 1 cup cocoa powder
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1/2 teaspoon fine sea salt
- 1/4 teaspoon espresso powder
- 2 egg whites
- For the streusel:
- 1/2 cup white flour
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon fine sea salt
- 1/2 stick room-temperature butter
- Directions:
1. Combine the sugar, yeast and warm water in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment. Set the mix aside for 10 minutes to proof, or until it turns bubbly.



2. Add the eggs and oil to the bowl. Mix until fully combined. Add the flour and salt and mix to combine. Switch to the dough hook and knead for 8 minutes, until a smooth, cohesive dough forms and begins to pull away from the sides of the mixer.
3. Shape the dough into a ball and set it to rise in an oiled bowl, covered, for no more than 30 minutes.
4. Preheat the oven to 350 F.
5. Flour a large piece of parchment paper, then roll the dough out on it, forming a large rectangle. The dough should be thin enough that it’s almost see-through in places; just don’t let it tear.
6. Combine all ingredients for the filling until smooth. Using an offset spatula, spread filling over half the dough. Fold the unfilled half over the filled half. You will now have a long, folded-over rectangle. Using your spatula, spread more filling over the bottom half of this rectangle.
7. Fold the unfilled half of the rectangle over the filled half. You will now have a package resembling a square. Use a rolling pin to roll and flatten it out slightly.
8. Spread the remaining filling over the top of the square. Roll it up to create a short, flattish log. Using the baking paper, transfer to a baking paper-lined loaf pan or cookie sheet.
9. Brush with egg wash. Combine the ingredients for the streusel with your hands until the mixture resembles large, sandy crumbs. Sprinkle it over the egg-washed cake.
10. Bake for 30-35 minutes until the dough is golden brown and the crumbs are lightly colored. Allow to cool before slicing. Serves 10-12.

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# Yonah Bob updated the community on Israeli issues

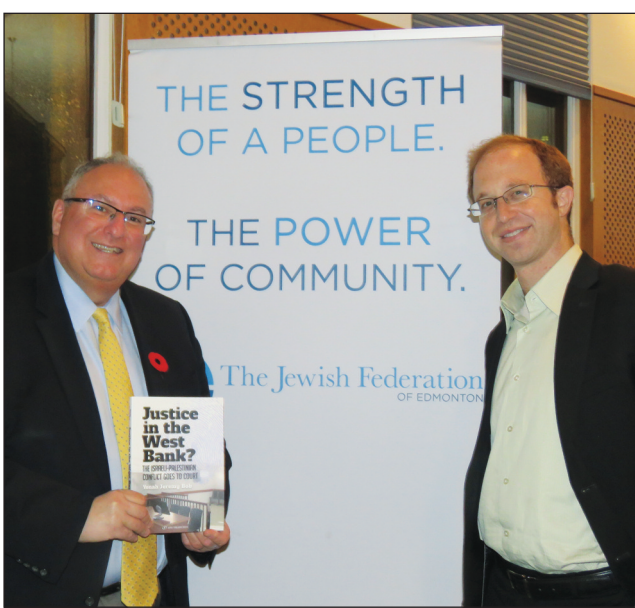
By Susan Schiffman

Members of The Edmonton Jewish Community were fortunate to have the opportunity to attend a free lecture and question and answer session with *Jerusalem Post* Correspondent Yonah Jeremy Bob, presented by the Jewish Federation of Edmonton/UJA on October 29.

In a lively, 40-minute presentation, *Israel: The Hottest and the Latest*, the extremely knowledgeable speaker shared enough important information about Israeli electoral politics, the Iranian threat, secret Mossad operations, cyber security and peace prospects under Trump to fill an introductory university course.

Mr. Bob spoke with clarity and tremendous insight, keeping the audience glued to their seats as they absorbed a rapid-fire flow of fascinating facts and observations. A highlight of the evening was Mr. Bob's little-known story of how Mossad smuggled a huge collection of nuclear secrets out of Iran, assisted by Iranian black-market traffickers who did not even realize what they were carrying.

Mr. Bob, an American who has lived in Israel for over a decade, presents complex Israeli issues with a dual Israeli/North American perspective that proved particularly compelling to our community.



Jerusalem Post Correspondent Yonah Jeremy Bob was in Edmonton on October 29 delivering a very engaging address about current issues facing Israel and Israelis. It was a very sobering presentation as he outlined threats from all sides, as well as the importance of technological and medical advancements. Following the presentation Mr. Bob mingled with the crowd and signed books.

During the “Q and A”, audience members asked lots of good, penetrating questions, which Mr. Bob handled very capably. These deep questions from the audience were a strong indication to Mr. Bob that our Edmonton Jewish Community is very knowledgeable about Israel, and cares profoundly about its future.

Those interested in a deeper look at justice in Israel, were able to purchase Mr. Bob's new book: *Justice in the*

*West Bank?: The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Goes to Court.*

For those who weren't able to get a copy, it is available on Amazon.

Thank you to our special UJA donors for making this wonderful, free Israel learning opportunity available to our community. Your Support of UJA brought Israeli politics, security and foreign affairs to center stage in Edmonton.



Holocaust survivor Eva Olsson was an honoured guest speaker at the No Stone Left Alone ceremony held in Edmonton on November 1. (Facebook photo)

## No Stone Left Alone

In its 9th year No Stone Left Alone was held in the place where it all began, Beechmount Cemetary in Edmonton.

When she was younger, Mrs. Maureen Bianchini-Purvis could not understand why no one else was putting a poppy on the graves of those who served like her Mother. She pledged that she would do something about it. No Stone Left Alone was launched in 2011 in recognition of the sacrifice of the Canadian men and women who have lost their lives in the service of peace, at home and abroad. It became her mission to see that one day all of the soldiers' headstones would have a poppy placed in their honour and the cemetery would resemble the idea of Flanders Fields where the poppies grow "row on row."

The service provides the opportunity for school age children to be able to learn about those that gave their lives and to provide a single poppy of remembrance on the grave site of every person who served. In 2018, 9236 students attended 105 cemeteries and recognized 58945 Canadian Armed Forces personnel who had served. This year also included a service in Poland.


This year was very special as Dr. Eva Olsson, a survivor of Auschwitz concentration camp in Germany, was present to provide some insight on what our members of the Armed forces mean to the rest of the world. In 1945, just hours from being killed by German Gestapo who knew they were about to lose the war, British and Canadian Soldiers liberated those that still remained at Auschwitz.

Dr. Olsson, a famed writer and recipient of the Order of Ontario, spoke to students and attendees of the days in Auschwitz, and how 6 days before they were liberated, the Germans took away everything including the dirty water, and over the next 6 days 500 people a day would perish within the camp. She survived and has now lived in Canada for 68 years; her kids are Canadian and the children who heard her speak would be a part of the last generation to hear from a survivor of Auschwitz.

The 95-year-old Holocaust survivor said it is important for young students to be present at ceremonies like this to learn more about what causes war; she believes hate has a lot to do with it. She said it's important to stop hate in our society.

“When I travel across this country, I speak for all children - children whose voices are silenced by hate. They cannot speak for themselves,” she said. “I ask of you, for those present here today, to make a commitment to treat each other with kindness, respect and eliminate the word hate.”

As the service ended, children from several Edmonton Schools proceeded to place poppies on the grave markers of every stone in the field of honour with CAF members from every conflict.



**The Jewish Federation<sup>®</sup>**  
OF EDMONTON

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
The Annual General Meeting of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton,  
The Jewish Community Centre of Edmonton, and  
The Edmonton Jewish Community Charitable Foundation  
Will be held on Wednesday, December 4th, 2019  
Commencing at 7:00 pm, at  
Beth Shalom Synagogue, Lower Auditorium  
11916 Jasper Ave., Edmonton, Alberta  
For the purpose of:  
1. Reviewing the financial results for the fiscal year just ended.  
2. Receiving an update on past activity.  
3. Elections of slates of Directors for the organizations.  
4. Amending the Bylaws of the various organizations, if necessary.  
5. Vote on investment/expenditure of designated JCC building funds.  
6. Vote on placing the funds of the EJCCF within the Edmonton Community Foundation.  
In accordance with the Bylaws of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, the Nominating Committee is giving notice that at the upcoming Annual General Meeting, there will be 7 vacancies to the Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, of which 6 are for a 3-year term (term expiring 2022), and 1 is for a 1-year term.  
On behalf of the Nominations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton and Chair Ellery Lew, the following is Notice of the slate of nominations of the following Directors:  
Shane Asbell – 3-year term                      Dr. Colin Muscat – 3-year term  
Irit Shaposhnikov – 3-year term              Dr. Sarah Troster – 3-year term  
Doug Wolch – 3-year term                      Ron Sorokin – 1-year term  
Any Member of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton (any individual 18 years of age or older who made a contribution between September 1, 2018 and August 31, 2019 in the sum of at least \$18.00, or any one individual 18 years of age or older who made a joint contribution with another person between September 1, 2018 and August 31, 2019 in the sum of at least \$36.00) is eligible for nomination to the Federation Board. Additional nominations may be made in writing and delivered to the Chief Executive Officer up to and including November 19, 2019, and must be made by three nominating Members and include the signature of the proposed nominee, who must also be a member. Please note that the bylaws do not allow for nominations from the floor. All nominations are as set out above.  
Any Member who would like to request that any additional business be conducted at the Annual General Meeting may do so in writing to the Chief Executive Officer up to and including November 19, 2019. Any request must be endorsed by signature of 20 Members. No other business other than that set out above or that as requested in accordance with this paragraph will be conducted at the Annual General Meeting.



# Annual Toby and Saul Reichert Holocaust Lecture will be held on November 19

(Edmonton) - The 2019 Toby and Saul Reichert Holocaust Lecture will be held at the University of Alberta on November 19 from 5 to 6:30 pm in the Telus Centre Auditorium. The guest lecturer is Dr. Herman van Goethem, Rector of the University of Antwerp. The topic of Dr. van Goethem's lecture is "The Jewish Mindset on the Racial Persecution in Occupied Western Europe in 1942: The Case of Antwerp and Belgium."

Dr. van Goethem has been full professor since 1990 in the field of political history and law history. He was curator (2008-2012) and museum director (2012-2016) of Kazerne Dossin: Memorial, Museum and Documentation Centre on Holocaust and Human Rights, Mechelen (Belgium). He has been rector of the University of Antwerp since 2016.

Dr. van Goethem is very well published and he is an interesting and engaging speaker. Everyone is welcome to attend this lecture; no rsvp is required.

Last month, the Wirth Institute had the honour of inviting esteemed historian Dr. Natalie Zemon Davis of the University of Toronto to deliver this year's Tova Yedlin Lecture. Her lecture, "Languages of the People: a Jewish Philologist on Yiddish, Romanian and French" is available to stream now. You can access the lecture in full at [vimeo.com/365454688](https://vimeo.com/365454688).

A Canadian author who wrote a compelling book about Jewish-Canadians serving in the Second World War will be in Edmonton on November 7 at a special memorial event commemorating the victims of Kristallnacht, the Nazi's 1938 Night of Broken Glass. The Kristallnacht memorial service will take place at Beth Shalom Synagogue at 7 pm.

Journalist Ellin Bessner is the author of "Double Threat: Canadian Jews, The Military and World War II." In it, she tells the untold stories of how and why Canada's small Jewish community sent thousands of men and women overseas to defeat Adolf Hitler and the Axis in the Second World War.

Bessner spent six years researching, travelling and interviewing more than 300 veterans and their families for her book.

She says it's important to remember the victims, but also the liberators: the Canadian soldiers, airmen and

sailors who volunteered to put on a uniform, and go overseas to fight to defeat Hitler, and rescue the Jews of Europe from the Holocaust.

About 17,000 Canadians of Jewish faith were among those who helped their comrades win WWII, as Bessner writes in "Double Threat," published by the University of Toronto Press. Yet these brave Jewish Canadian fighters also had to overcome widespread anti-Semitism both at home and on the battlefield, plus grave personal danger, should they fall into enemy hands and their Jewish religion be discovered.

Bressner tells an important Canadian story of courage and diversity that has never been comprehensively told before and fills an important gap in the publicly known accounts of how a country of volunteers helped win the war.

In 1945, the Second World War came to an end. For the Jews of Canada, this war was what the Prime Minister of the day, Mackenzie King, called a "Double Threat." He said Hitler was not only dangerous to freedom and democracy but was a threat to the very survival of the Jewish people as a race. In spite of this backdrop, or maybe because of it, Jewish Canadians enlisted in every branch of the service, and in the merchant marine. They fought and died in every major battle including Hong Kong, Dieppe, the Battle of Britain, the Battle of the Atlantic, North Africa, Ortona, D-Day, Falaise, the Scheldt, and throughout Northwest Europe, and in the Pacific.

Some of Edmonton's most prominent Jewish residents served in WWII, including Justice Samuel Lieberman, Hollywood movie director Arthur Hiller, and Rabbi Jacob Eisen, who became the RCAF's Canadian Jewish chaplain in London.

You can find Canadian Jewish military graves from WWII, in all corners of the world, including the large cemeteries of Normandy, as well as in Germany, England, and Holland...plus in far-flung places such as Iceland, Ghana, Libya, and Crete.

On November 11, the local Jewish Community will honour the Jewish veterans



Dr. Herman van Goethem



Author Ellin Bessner



Dr. Natalie Zemon Davis

and remember the fallen servicemen and women at a special Remembrance Day service at the Edmonton Jewish Cemetery (7622 101 Ave) at 10:30 am.

## Nazi collaborator glorified *Cont. from page 1*



A bust of Nazi collaborator Roman Shukhevych stands at the entrance of the Ukrainian Youth Unity Complex in North Edmonton.

A common argument in the United States of America during debates over Confederate statues is that their removal is a way of erasing history, but the very opposite is true. Kirman explains, "This isn't book burning – the books that outline who Shukhevych was and what he did will remain available to anyone. Monuments are about honouring someone, and a Nazi collaborator who took part in genocide does not deserve such an honour."

The statue has been in Edmonton since the 1970s and the fact that it has been discussed so sparingly is astonishing.

"I only learned about the statue a couple years ago," Kirman continues. "I was working on a film project (*A Monumental Secret*) that dealt with the topic of the Ukrainian right, and how we look at problematic monuments in light of history, with the case study being a different monument in Edmonton."

A small amount of coverage was given to the statue in 2018, but it did not gain traction, and never really reached the public. It stands to reason that a major factor in the statue's continued standing is a lack of outcry.


It is unclear if a serious attempt at having the statue removed, or altered has been made. The hope remains though that if it is approached in a meaningful manner by the correct parties that the easy and proper action will be taken.

"I think they should be willing to listen to criticism of the monument," Kirman says of the Complex, "at the very least publicly acknowledge that Shukhevych was a Nazi collaborator who took part in genocide, and put a plaque of some kind explaining his role in the Holocaust...so that anyone who sees it will learn the truth."

As defenders against antisemitism in Edmonton, the responsibility falls on leaders and members of the Jewish community to reach out to the Ukrainian Youth Unity Complex and leaders in the Ukrainian community to ask the question: Why is there a statue memorializing a Nazi collaborator, who participated in genocide, in our city?


The Ukrainian Youth Unity Complex could not be reached for comment prior to the publishing of this article.

Files from CBC Radio Canada International, Coda, Progress Report



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA  
WIRTH INSTITUTE FOR AUSTRIAN  
AND CENTRAL EUROPEAN STUDIES

### The Jewish Mindset on the Racial Persecution in Occupied Western Europe in 1942: The Case of Antwerp and Belgium



**Dr. Herman van Goethem**  
Rector of the University of Antwerp

5PM  
Tuesday,  
19 November 2019  
Telus Centre Auditorium (150)

Dr. van Goethem has been full professor since 1990 in the field of political history and law history.

He has also served as Curator (2008-2012) and Museum Director (2012-2016) of Kazerne Dossin: Memorial, Museum and Documentation Center on Holocaust and Human Rights, Mechelen (Belgium).

He has been Rector of the University of Antwerp since 2016.

[ualberta.ca/wirth-institute](http://ualberta.ca/wirth-institute)



# This month's update from Talmud Torah School



It has been a busy month at Talmud Torah School. All of the students visited the Chabad Sukkahmobile with Rabbi Dovid and learned the prayers over the lulav and etrog. The Grade 4, 5 and 6 students participated in a blanket exercise, an interactive program that teaches about the Indigenous peoples in Canada. Kindergarten students explored the concepts of engineering during an in-school field trip. For information about Talmud Torah School or to register, contact Gerald Sorokin at 780-481-3377 or email [geraldsorokin@talmudtorahsociety.com](mailto:geraldsorokin@talmudtorahsociety.com).

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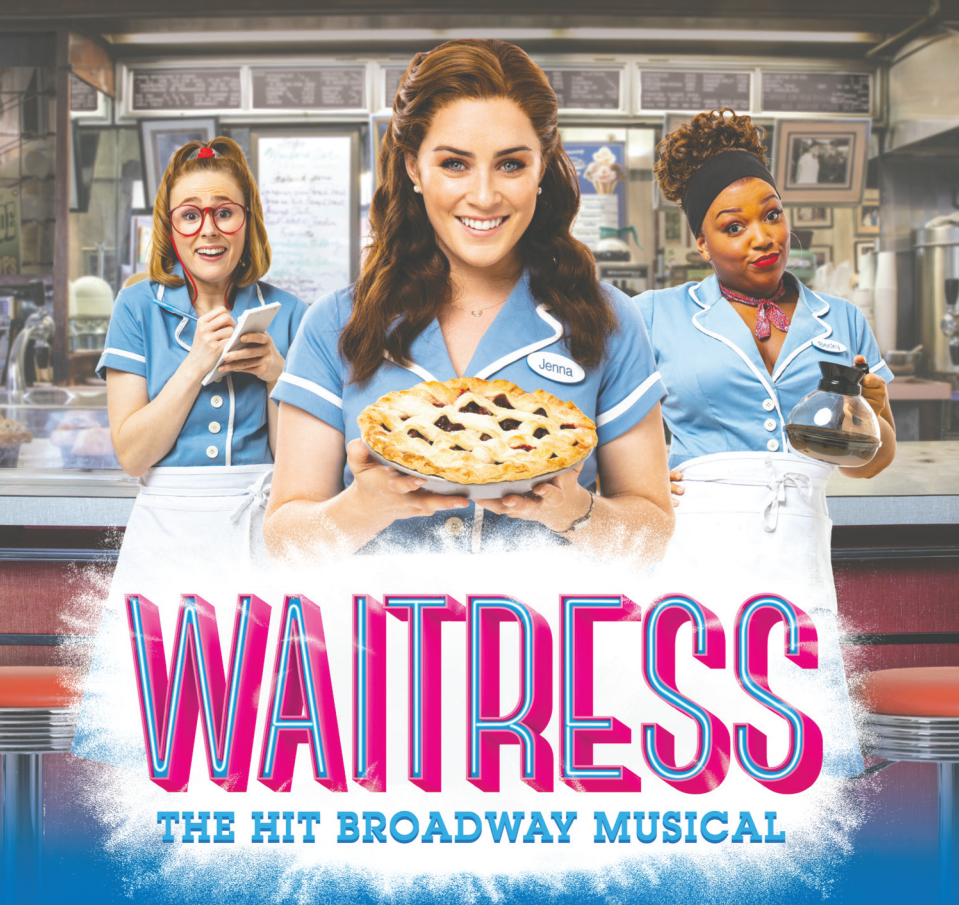
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Photo by Chris Lee

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