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ברכות לַחַג האֱבִיר **Calgary Edition**

March 30, 2020

*Best wishes
for a happy,
healthy Passover*



113 years and growing strong

By Susan Dvorkin and Harold Lipton

On March 3, corresponding to the 7th of Adar, the traditional yahrzeit for Moses²¹, the Calgary Chevra Kadisha held its 105th annual dinner honouring its volunteers. Approximately, seventy people, almost all volunteers or their partners, were in attendance as the Chevra thanked its volunteers and honoured two individuals for their service.

William Aizman was recognized for his 25 years of service as president, and he was honoured by being named Honourary Life President. Mr. Aizman thanked all of the people he has worked with over the years. He assured everyone the Chevra will always be close to his heart, and he will remain close to the Chevra.

Louis Bracey, who is retiring as Executive Director, was recognized for his compassionate efforts over the past nine years. Mr. Bracey will take over as President of the Society.

This was the first event for incoming Executive Director, Rick Pollick, who took over January 1st. Mr. Pollick is transitioning into his new role, and he is expected to continue with the same compassion for bereaved families that has been the hallmark of the Society for the past number of years.

Rabbi Binyomin Halpern was guest speaker at the dinner. Central to his presentation was encouragement to individuals to make end of life preparations, including creating personal directives, to ensure that one's wishes are known and surviving family members are relieved from having to make many decisions in their time of grief.

A new executive and board was recently voted into office, and most appear in the photo alongside this article.

The Chevra Kadisha, now in its 113th year of service, remains one of the few such organizations in North America whose services are provided almost exclusively by volunteers, including the manufacture of hand sewn



Chevra Kadisha of Calgary — Annual Volunteer Dinner — Adar 7, 5780 — March 3, 2020. Left to Right: Daniel Shiminow, Sam Gutman, Darlene Switzer-Foster, Louis Bracey (President), Rick Pollick (Executive Director), Harold Lipton, William Aizman, Ted Switzer, Darryl Gurevitch, Susan Dvorkin, Laurence Davis, Rochel Matusof, Halley Girvitz, Harvey Rabin. Absent: Herb Rosenberg, Izak Paul, Bernard Magidson, Labie Doctor.

shrouds. The volunteers come together as a community, regardless of their personal beliefs or levels of observance, to maintain the centuries old tradition of preparing the deceased for their final journey with the utmost respect and dignity. Unlike most other larger Jewish communities, the Calgary Chevra provides preparation and burial services to the entire Jewish community regardless of religious affiliation.

Over the past number of years, the Chevra has progressed in the modernization of its operations and in its succession planning. Currently, it is facing the corona virus concern by maintaining and increasing its safety standards for the protection of its volunteers. It has access to medical consultation and education to identify where

additional practices may be implemented.

The Chevra seeks to reassure the community that every effort is being made to keep current with growing knowledge about the current health concern. Readers are encouraged to access the Alberta Health Website at <https://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx> for up to date accurate information on the corona virus and strategies for prevention and treatment.

The services of the Chevra are considered chesed shel emet, deeds of true kindness, in that they are freely given with no expectation of repayment. Public recognition is usually not sought, and the annual dinner is the sole occasion where its volunteers are recognized for their selfless contributions.

Conservative movement leaders say virtual minyans are permissible

By Ben Harris

(JTA) — The leaders of the Conservative movement's Jewish law committee issued a crisis declaration allowing the recitation of the Mourner's Kaddish with a virtual online prayer quorum.

In a statement issued this month, Rabbis Elliot Dorff and Pamela Barmash, the co-chairs of the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards, said that given the current

public health crisis it's permitted to constitute a prayer quorum, or minyan, with individuals connected by videoconference.

"This permission of constituting a minyan solely online, whether for all prayers requiring a minyan or only for Mourner's Kaddish, is limited to this 'sha'at hadehak' (crisis situation), where for weeks at a time, gathering a minyan is not possible without risk to human life," the rabbis wrote. "This permission is also limited to an area where most of the synagogues have been ordered, or

recommended, to close for the crisis."

Under traditional understandings of Jewish law, a minyan requires the presence of ten adult Jews in one physical place. The CJLS itself upheld that standard by overwhelming majority in a 2001 paper authored by Rabbi Avram Israel Reisner.

But the Dorff and Barmash letter, while not a formal committee responsum, nevertheless argues that the current coronavirus pandemic constitutes an extraordinary situation in which this particular limitation of Jewish law may be suspended. Their opinion does impose certain limits, including requiring participants to see and hear one another and to respond with the Hebrew

Continued on next page

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plague and misfortune.
May we soon see the day when
we can again join together in
celebration of freedom.

חג שמח!

Stay informed: Calgary Jewish Federation update

(Calgary) – On Friday March 27, 2020, Yanni Segal, President of Calgary Jewish Federation and CEO Adam Silver sent this community update.

Good morning:
We hope you have been keeping safe and feeling well, as our community (and the broader world) continues to grapple with the current reality of COVID-19, along with the health fears and financial impact it is bringing with it.

As shared in other correspondence with you, we continue to be inspired by the work and dedication of our community's agencies, and we have been moved by the numerous phone calls and emails from community members offering to help in whatever ways are most needed.

Calgary Jewish Federation is focused on community and remains committed to ensuring we continue to have a vibrant, connected, and safe Jewish Calgary.

What we have done/are doing:

Convened our community's synagogues, schools, JFSC, Calgary JCC, Chevra Kadisha, and Camp BB Riback by video conference to discuss challenges and solutions, as well as share best practices related to the current crisis. These virtual meetings will continue, enabling our community to quickly respond to changes in COVID-19 measures.

Reached out directly to leaders in our community's agencies to discuss the specific impact on their operations and to services provided to their constituents.

Spoke with Calgary Police Service, noting the reduced hours of operation of our agencies, and requesting more frequent patrols and parking lot visits by their officers.

Continued planning with the core Federation team to ensure programs and other initiatives are offered through different virtual modalities, and to identify new gaps in

service that might need to be filled. Please be sure to look for Inclusion, PJ Library®, Jewish Adult Calgary (JAC), Hillel, Holocaust Education programming and more. Our social media channels and website are good places to start.

Participated in a provincial town hall teleconference focused on COVID-19 and its impact on faith communities.

Participated in a federal teleconference organized by our advocacy partner The Centre for Jewish and Israel Affairs (CIJA), with The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development. The featured topic was *Assisting Non-Profits Provide Essential Services to Canadians During this Crisis*.

Ongoing assessment (with partners) about pressing emergency needs due to COVID-19 and its impact on our community.

What we are working on:

Enhanced programming, learning, and community building online.

Consultation with our community's agencies as they navigate internal challenges, as well as the needs of their constituents, during these difficult times.

Working with peer Federations, as well as charities/non-

Purim fun at the JCC on March 6



profits across the country to lobby for more and varied types of government support.

Continuing to place a focus on community security, liaising with agencies, and with Calgary Police Services.

Creating a virtual online hub and e-newsletter to share program offerings, contact information for help, and opportunities for volunteering or assisting with other needs.

Ensuring that when we are able to resume our typical lives, our community is once again ready to be the envy of many – that we emerge from this as strong as ever.

Wishing you strength, good health and a restful Shabbat.

For community updates, visit jewishcalgary.org

Virtual minyans

Cont. from page 2

word “amen” at the appropriate times.

It also notes the particular concern regarding its application on the Jewish Sabbath, when use of electronic devices are generally prohibited. In particular, the statement notes that any livestream should not be activated by a Jewish person on the Sabbath, a limitation that poses problems for platforms like Zoom, which normally require users to actively log in.

Among the many ways the coronavirus pandemic has upended Jewish life, the recitation of the Mourner's Kaddish is among the most emotionally weighty. Mourners traditionally recite the prayer daily for 11 months after the death of a parent, and for 30 days after the death of other close relatives, and it is often considered an important piece of the grieving process. As sweeping restrictions on social gatherings increasingly became the norm across the world in recent days, many Jewish mourners found themselves unable to gather the ten people necessary to recite it.

“Some [mourners] may feel distress at not being able to recite [Mourner's Kaddish] in the absence of a minyan,

particularly for a prolonged period, and rabbis must reassure mourners that they are fulfilling their Jewish legal obligations under the circumstances and should feel no guilt whatsoever in remembering and honoring the deceased in this way,” said the letter.

The letter also provided a link to prayers that can be said in lieu of the Mourner's Kaddish.

RELATED RESOURCE: My Jewish Learning, one of JTA's sister sites, has launched a Virtual Minyan for those looking for an online opportunity to recite the Mourner's Kaddish.

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CJA transitions to remote learning

Calgary Jewish Academy staff have been working hard to accommodate students and families during this sudden change. Utilizing Google Classroom, the staff have transitioned their classroom learning materials online for our students to access. They also have online classes for all students Nursery through Grade 9, where students are able to interact with their classmates and teachers digitally through the Zoom conferencing platform. Teachers are delivering curriculum in a variety of ways including: interactive zoom sessions, non-interactive videos on Youtube, and written instruction. In addition, students can schedule one on one sessions with teachers for additional support. Lastly, they have compiled a list of free learning resources, which are available on the Student & Parent section of our website, organized by grade level and subject.



CJA students prepare for remote learning.

Netanyahu’s rival agrees to stop fighting and join him. Here’s why.

By Gabe Friedman

(JTA: March 27, 2020) — One of the crazier weeks in Israeli politics in recent memory ended on a fittingly dramatic note: Benny Gantz, the former army chief who came close to unseating Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in three straight elections, laid down his proverbial arms.

Gantz will join a so-called unity government with his rival to prevent a possible fourth election and allow Israel to attack the coronavirus crisis as quickly as possible.

Before the coronavirus hit, Gantz was angling toward forming a “minority government” — a coalition that didn’t have enough seats in the parliament to claim an official majority. But it would have been pushed over the governing threshold by the support of the slate of mostly Arab parties (in the form of votes), which prefer to sit in the opposition on principle.

Obstacles abounded, however, and the pandemic heightened the urgency of striking a deal in order to optimize the government’s response.

Unsurprisingly, Gantz’s move to join Netanyahu’s right-wing Likud party and the other more right-wing parties that comprise the prime minister’s contribution to the coalition was a polarizing one. Some commentators and some of Gantz’s allies hailed the decision as the ultimate show of patriotism, putting one’s country over individual aspirations.

Others — including Gantz’s two main partners in his Blue and White group, Yair Lapid and Moshe Yaalon, who disagreed with the move — called it political cowardice. Lapid and Yaalon packed up their respective party members and left Blue and White (the fourth party head in Blue and White, fellow former military chief Gabi Ashkenazi, stuck with Gantz and will enter the government with him).

The compromise is a complicated one, with several details and multiple possible outcomes. But here are the tangible takeaways from the deal being reported so far:

Gantz nominated himself and was elected speaker of the Knesset, Israel’s parliament — for now. That was a calculated move, backed by Likud, to block Meir Cohen, a member of Lapid’s party, from vying for the position. Cohen could have scuttled the Gantz-Netanyahu coalition deal if elected. *The Times of Israel* reports that once the government is officially formed, Likud Knesset member Yuli Edelstein — who shut down the government last week in historic and controversial fashion — could return to the position. Look for that to raise eyebrows.

Gantz will serve as defense minister, or possibly foreign minister, under Netanyahu as prime minister for 18 months. Then Gantz is scheduled to rotate into the top role — but that’s far from a certainty.

A Netanyahu ally will become finance minister, while a Gantz ally could become foreign minister (or defense minister, depending on which role Gantz takes).

The now center-left Labor Party, once Israel’s dominant political force but currently commanding only a handful of Knesset seats, will join Gantz in the brokered coalition. The center-left Gesher party, whose leader recently threw a wrench in Gantz’s previous coalition hopes, also will join.

Avigdor Liberman, the right-wing hawk who has been calling for this kind of unity government for months, ironically will not join the coalition with his Yisrael Beiteinu party, sources close to him told the Hebrew media. Liberman said Gantz “hid things and behaved in an amateurish manner” throughout the process.

What it all means: Things could change, of course, as none of this is final. But Israel’s unprecedented political deadlock, which led to three elections in a year, looks to be resolved.

Gantz was the best hope that anti-Netanyahu Israelis had of unseating the man who has been prime minister for over a decade. His political future now appears uncertain.

Also, while Gantz was not a very liberal candidate — he is often labeled center-right, or at most a centrist — he and Netanyahu certainly have their disagreements over policy and how religious they think the state should be. It will be interesting to see how their disagreements play out in a unity government and if that kind of government can function as one to pass legislation.

The remaining wild card: Netanyahu does still have one big cloud hanging over him — his indictment for corruption. If he is convicted sometime in the future — his trial has been delayed due to the coronavirus — all deals would be off.

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Dear JNF supporter,

In these challenging times, we at Jewish National Fund of Calgary are, like you, focusing on the health of our community by following the recommendations from health authorities. As such, our office in the Calgary JCC is closed, though we are working off-site, checking voicemail and email. If you need to contact us, you may email Calgary@jnf.ca or call Elliott Steinberg, Executive Director, on his cell phone: 403-701-4882.

Furthermore, our annual Negev Gala, scheduled for May 7th, has been postponed. We’ll announce our revised plan for this event when it has been finalized. If you have questions about the status of purchases, sponsorships, donations, or advertisements that you’ve already committed to, please call Elliott at the number above.

We urge everyone to stay home, stay healthy, and look forward to moving past this outbreak and on to better things.

Thank you.

Cheryl Gurevitch
President, JNF Calgary

Elliott J. Steinberg
Executive Director, JNF Calgary

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ATTENTION HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS AND SPOUSES

The Claims Conference has negotiated the following liberalizations with the German government.

Article 2 and CEE Fund

The following Jewish Holocaust survivors, who were persecuted in the open ghettos identified below, for at least three months, may be eligible for a monthly pension from the Article 2 or CEE Fund:

- In Romania, survivors persecuted in Botosani, Galati, Focsani, Tecuci, Roman, Piatra Neamt, Barlad, Vaslui, Alba Iulia, Constanta, Targu Neamt, Harlau, Buzau, Ramnicu Sarat, Stefanesti, Craiova, Pascani or Bacau between August 1941 and August 1944;
- In Bulgaria, survivors persecuted in Plovdiv, between September 1942 and September 1944;
- In the Netherlands, survivors persecuted in the ghetto in Amsterdam, between September 1941 and September 1943.

Note: Jewish Nazi victims from these open ghettos in Romania, Bulgaria and Amsterdam may also be entitled to a pension from the ZRBG (Ghetto Pension). This pension is not administered by the Claims Conference.

The maximum annual income and asset limit for the Article 2 Fund and for social welfare services has been changed. The annual maximum income for eligible recipients is now CAD \$66,300 per annum and the maximum allowable assets held by the recipient has been raised to CAD \$1,326,090 (excluding the principle residence of the applicant). The German Ministry of Finance has determined that “old-age pensions and pensions on account of reduced earning capacity, occupational accident, occupational illness, or death, or comparable benefits” should not be included in calculating an applicant’s income for the purpose of an application to the Article 2 Fund. For more details see <http://www.claimscon.org/what-we-do/compensation/background/article2/comparable-payments/>.

NOTE: It is not possible to receive an Article 2 Fund pension in addition to a pension from the BEG. Applicants who were a fetus during the time that their mother suffered persecution described may also be eligible. Eligibility is dependent on all the criteria of the fund being met and for a full set of criteria see www.claimscon.org

Child Survivor Fund

The Child Survivor Fund will provide those who took part in the Kindertransport a one-time payment amounting to €2,500 per person.

Participants of the Kindertransport in this sense are deemed to be Jewish persons who met the following cumulative criteria at the time of the transport:

- o they were under 21 years of age at the time of the transport, unaccompanied by their parents and took part in a transport that was organized by third parties, not organized by the German government, in order to escape potentially threatening persecution by German forces;
- o they were transported from somewhere within the German Reich or from territories that had been annexed or occupied at the time;
- o the transport took place between November 9, 1938 and September 1, 1939 or was approved by the German authorities after November 9, 1938 but before September 1, 1939.

In addition, all pension recipients who were in one of the open ghettos in Romania, Bulgaria or Amsterdam named above and born after January 1, 1928, may be entitled to a one-time payment from the Child Survivor Fund administered by the Claims Conference.

New Payment to Spouses of deceased Article 2/CEE Fund beneficiaries

Beginning January 1, 2020, the Claims Conference will provide payments to eligible spouses of deceased recipients of the Article 2 and Central and Eastern European (CEE) Funds.

A spouse of an Article 2/CEE Fund beneficiary may, upon the death of the Article 2/CEE Fund beneficiary, be entitled to receive €513 per month for up to 9 months, paid in three quarterly installments, if the following conditions apply:

1. The spouse is alive as of January 1, 2020 or the date of application, whichever is the latter; and
2. The spouse is alive at the date of the payment; and
3. The spouse was married to the Article 2/CEE Fund beneficiary at the time of death of the Article 2/CEE Fund beneficiary; and
4. The Article 2/CEE Fund recipient passed away at any point while he or she was receiving a payment from the program.

The spouse of a Holocaust survivor must be alive at the time of each payment.
Other heirs, including children, are not entitled to receive any payment in lieu of the spouse.

To download an application from our website, please go to: www.claimscon.org/apply

For more information, contact:

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The Claims Conference has an Ombudswoman. To contact the Office of the Ombudswoman, please email Ombudsman@claimscon.org or write to The Ombudswoman, PO Box 585, Old Chelsea Station, New York, NY 10113, USA

Asking the important questions



Jay Solomon

By Jay Solomon

(March 2020) - For centuries, Jews everywhere have gathered with family and friends around the Seder table to recount the story of the Exodus from Egypt, a narrative that has captured our attention for generations. It is an annual reminder that, even amid uncertainty, we can draw upon our traditions for guidance, for comfort, and for inspiration. It is a reminder that, despite hardship, and in the face of adversity, the faith and spirit of the Jewish people has always – and will always – endure.

No lesson could be more important today. These are profoundly challenging and uncertain times. The COVID-19 pandemic currently spreading throughout the world provides an important opportunity to pause and reflect on where we’ve been and and remind ourselves that we have persisted as a people for millenia despite incredible hardship. At a time of great stress, Jews know more than most that we should balance our legitimate

concerns and challenges with hope about where our journey will take us in the future.

This year, my Seder will look, feel and be different than in the past. We will not be gathering in large numbers with extended family. We will not be going to my parents’ house. And, we will certainly not sit across the table from my 95-year-old grandparents.

Instead, my wife, our three children, and I will read the Haggadah – while video conferencing with family near and far.

For me, the focal point of the Passover Seder has always been the **Four Questions** – an opportunity to pose difficult questions about our history and our future. This year, our community will be asking many questions. These are the ones that will characterize our Seder table.

How can we support those on the front lines? As we keep hearing from health care professionals and other essential front line service workers, the single most effective way to help is to heed the advice of public health authorities and stay home! If you are like me, you will find this very difficult as we are used to springing into action during times of need.

What should we be doing to advocate for those most in need during these unsettling times? Maybe it’s raising money to ensure our Federations can continue to support the most vulnerable in our community or donating food staples to the local food bank. Perhaps it’s donating to ensure there’s enough personal protective equipment at our local hospital or urgent care clinic. And it’s joining CIJA in our efforts to ensure all levels of government provide charities, non-profits, and social services agencies

with the the resources they desperately need to continue doing their vital work during these challenging times.

What will life look like after COVID-19? Like all things, this pandemic will pass, and with some luck, life will return to something resembling what we used to call normal. But, what will that mean? History has shown that times of great hardship often create opportunities for innovation. Will this pandemic spur the next generation of scientists and doctors to new breakthroughs? Will medical companies produce new technologies to better protect citizens from future viruses like COVID-19? Will corporations continue to encourage flexible workspaces? Will places of worship continue to make their services available online for greater participation?

And – finally – what lessons can we teach our children and ourselves? Much of the Jewish diaspora has been fortunate, of late, to live during times of prosperity in a world of relative safety, security, freedom, and good health. But, as COVID-19 is teaching us, things can change quickly. Each of us has a responsibility to do our part: to take care of each other, and to contribute to repairing our society. My wife and I are using this time to reinforce the concepts of tzedakah and tikkun olam with our children, to imbue them with empathy, humility, and gratitude. And to teach them that we are all – Jews and non-Jews, young and old, near and far – in this together.

Wishing you all good health.

L’Shana Haba’ah B’Yerushalayim.

Jay Solomon is Associate Director, Campus, The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA)

Contemplating Earth-Focused Judaism: Pesach and the quiet heart inside chaos



By Rabbi Gila Caine

Purim is always a hectic time, but this year it really overdid it. And now here we are in a world with around half a million ill and some 24,000 people dead from COVID-19. The economy has slowed, schools are shut, and people are losing their jobs. Those who can are closed into their homes. I can go on, but you all read the news of chaos and suffering and fear roaming outside.

Over the past few weeks I’ve encountered many forms of

fear. It takes shape as anger, confusion, impatience, sadness, or other emotions that arise when meeting the unknown. This of course makes total sense because a glimpse of what our world might look like to coming generations is not a comforting sight.

Just as our Purim of three weeks ago was a prelude to our Pesach, today’s chaos could be a prelude to creation. A friend wrote just this week: “Peace is not a lack of fighting, but the quiet of the heart inside chaos.” What does that mean? I’m looking to Pesach for an answer, specifically to the first one ever, known as Pesach Mitzrayim (the Pesach of Egypt). Its importance lies in that Bnei Yisrael chose to celebrate freedom while still living in a system of slavery. Huddling in their homes as Adonai called down vengeance on Egypt, they chose to leave the known – slavery – for the unknown freedom of the desert. I find the image of them in their homes at this moment very powerful, this image of closing in. Imagine what they might have focused on at that moment of Tzimzum (reduction, or, closing in) – perhaps on their

loved ones, or the state of their body. Perhaps they were thinking about what they needed most to have with them on the way out. Perhaps they worried about their donkeys and goats and other animal companions.

Now a huge portion of humanity is going through a long moment of “Pesach Mitzrayim.” We are asked to stop and look at the chaos we’ve created outside with our greedy consumerism, our unethical economy, the way we zoom around non-stop with our cars and planes and boats carrying cargo and people from place to place. And the whole world is screaming to Adonai to put a stop to our slavery – our self-enslavement to stuff.

All of this is on hold as we go into our homes and ask ourselves, when we leave them, will it be back into a Mitzrayim of slavery, or into the unknown desert potential of sacred freedom?


Preparing for Pesach this year should be about this question: Where can we find quiet in the heart of chaos? Where can each of us find G-d and holiness (however you define and envision it) amid all this madness? What are each of you going to do so that the world we build after our current pandemic will focus on new life and true freedom?

Chag Sameach.

Rabbi Gila Caine is the spiritual leader at Temple Beth Ora, Edmonton’s Reform Congregation.

The above column is part 3 of a series on Contemplating Earth-Focused Judaism.

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a Happy and Healthy Passover



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for the Jewish community.

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Matzah Mac & Cheese Recipe

By Sonya Sanford

(Noshers via JTA) - I first tried “matzah mac & cheese” at my friend Daniel’s Shabbat potluck dinner. For a few years running, he hosted huge groups of people every single Friday night, and his family provided most of the food. The menu hardly changed, and this was one of the staple dishes. It may technically be a Passover food, but that didn’t stop him from serving it year-round to a room of happy eaters.

Like a lot of Passover foods, you may question the name. This has no macaroni, nor does it use kosher for Passover pasta. It unquestionably tastes like matzah. Matriah mac & cheese falls into the category of “matzah pizza” or “matzah lasagna,” i.e. things that get named after comfort foods you can’t have if you’re keeping kosher for Passover, and might taste a little different from the original. I have no problem using matzah as a substitute for crust or in place of sheets of pasta, especially if it tastes good. There’s a humility about it that feels true to the spirit of the holiday.

Whatever you choose to call it, this dish is cheesy, creamy, and filling. And as a comfort food, it should not be confused with health food. This is the get-me-through-the-last-days-of-this-holiday-all-I-want-is-pizza food. This is the kind of dish you throw together last minute when you want to spend less time in the kitchen; served with a big salad and you have a complete meal. Try making it after the seders — and after the leftover matzah ball soup and brisket are gone. This is the dish you taste and think about eating next Passover.

Ingredients:


- 8 squares matzah, or as needed
- 2 cups milk
- 3 large eggs
- 1 tsp salt
- ½ tsp ground pepper, or to taste
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1½-2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 1½-2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese

Directions:


Preheat the oven 350°F.
Grease a 9” x 13” baking dish, ideally ceramic or pyrex.
In a large shallow dish, whisk together the milk, eggs, salt, and pepper. Use a dish that is large enough to place whole squares of matzah into.
Dip squares of matzah into the egg and milk mixture before placing them in an even layer on the bottom of the baking dish. Use about ¼ cup of sour cream and spread it evenly onto the bottom layer of matzah. Top the matzah with a heaping cup of shredded cheddar cheese, and a heaping cup of shredded mozzarella cheese.
Repeat the process two more times with layers of dipped matzah squares, sour cream, and cheeses.
Add one last layer of matzah for a total of 4 layers. Top the matzah with the remaining sour cream and a generous ½ cup of each kind of cheese. Pour the remaining egg and milk mixture over the layers of matzah and cheese. Cover with foil and bake for 35 minutes.
Uncover the dish and bake for 5 minutes uncovered, until bubbly and cheesy. Almost all of the liquid should be absorbed into the matzah at this point. If you like your matzah mac & cheese browned on top, turn the oven to broil, and broil for 1-2 minutes (watch carefully, the top will brown fast).
Let the dish rest for 5-10 minutes and then serve.



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**HALPERN AKIVA ACADEMY
2020 GALA DINNER POSTPONED**

In light of the current COVID-19 situation, we regret to announce that our planned May 24th Fundraising Gala has been postponed



Halpern Akiva Academy has continued to fully operate online with ZERO downtime through the current COVID-19 crisis, delivering the highest quality education to our students

Now more than ever, we need your support to help us ensure that every Jewish child can receive a Jewish education

Our online fundraising campaign will continue in place of our Gala Dinner

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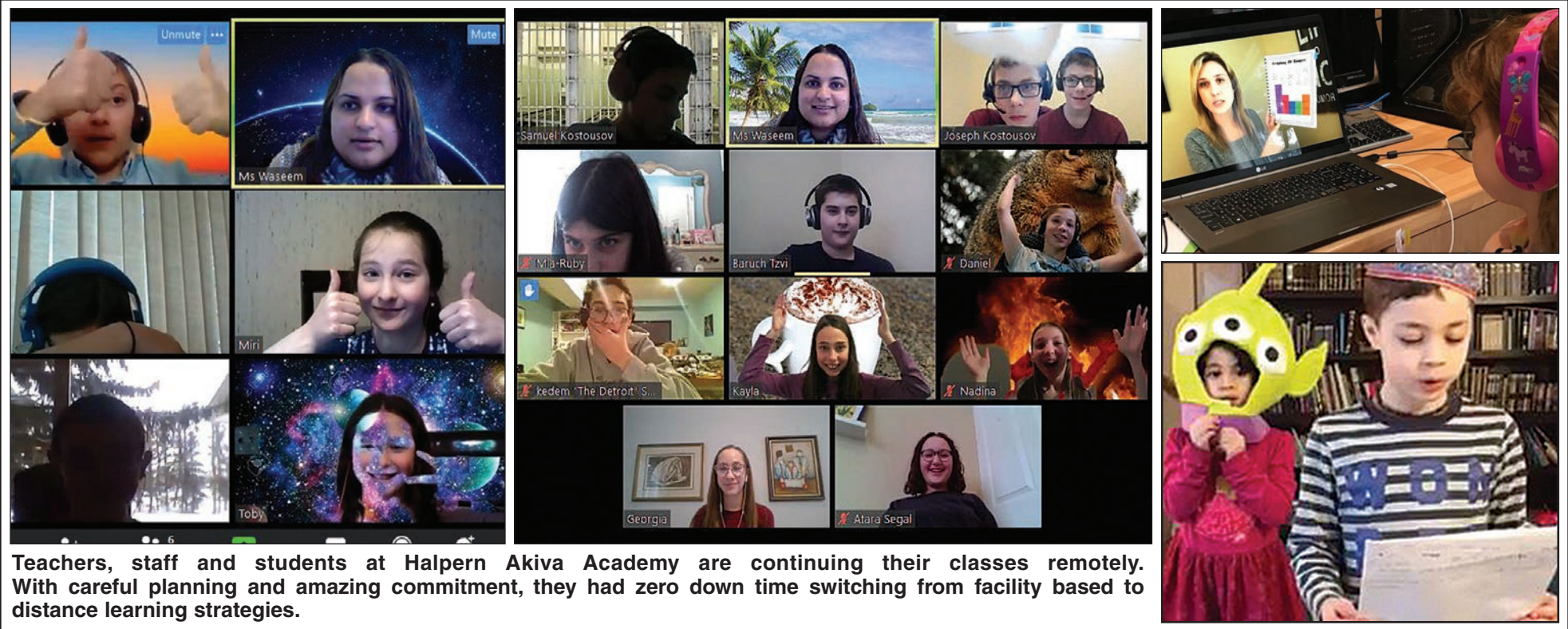
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Teachers, staff and students at Halpern Akiva Academy are continuing their classes remotely. With careful planning and amazing commitment, they had zero down time switching from facility based to distance learning strategies.

Distance learning at Akiva Academy

By Rabbi Chaim Greenwald

(March 2020) - Last Friday, we had an intuition that school closures were coming so we asked teachers to send home student materials in case we wouldn't be open the following week.

One teacher took their class to our STEAM Lab and operated their class over Google Meet to practice for the eventuality that did come to fruition.

We are so proud of the response of our teachers and staff to remote learning.

We were fortunate to have had a scheduled PD day the first day of school closures and used that day to collaborate on how we can best service our students and families during this challenging time. Our teachers and administration met and came up with a framework to get started.

We started remote/ distance learning the next morning and have been going strong since.

Our main goal was to keep as much "normalcy" as possible by sticking to our regular schedule. We encourage students to start their day at 8:15 as usual with their first morning class.

Specialties such as music, art and physical education

became even more important. Our teachers have been phenomenal at adapting providing video or live physical education and music lessons. Our parents have been supportive with one even volunteering to do a Yoga Class over Zoom.

We use Class Dojo to post and submit assignments for students in Nursery through Grade 6. In addition teachers are scheduling video conferences using Google Meet. Materials are printed in school and available for parents to pick up at their convenience during school hours. For families that are in self-isolation we send the materials electronically as well.

Pesach preparations continue with students making their own Haggadot and practicing the songs for the seders.

It is our hope and prayer that everyone should be safe and well and can be physically close once again. Until that time the learning and social connections continue remotely at Halpern Akiva Academy.

Wishing the entire community a Happy and Healthy Pesach.

Feedback from Parents:

"I am so proud of our school for not missing a day and the learning has continued straight according to the

regular schedule from 8:15-3:30."

"Given the zero-downtime we have seen, I think the teachers and administrators have done a fantastic job of making this pivot to online learning. The content is improving daily as the teachers, students and parents get more familiar with the new platform and daily routines."

"My experience with Kindergarten; there has been a noticeable improvement in the last few days and my child is very happy with her lessons. She was busy learning about 2D/3D shapes, the Hebrew letters Pay and Fay, making a bedikat chametz kit, and she even did a great PE workout... beats my day of endless conference calls."

"I am so amazed at the dedication of the teachers. As a teacher myself, I know how hard it is to shift and adjust and our teachers have been amazing. Our children really enjoy the connections to their teachers and classmates at a time when they can't be together."

"I want to thank you and the staff of Halpern Akiva so much for all of your tremendous efforts and amazing work right now. I am amazed by the way the staff has on such short notice pulled together an online program for our children. And even managing to include things like gym, art and music! I can only imagine the effort that goes into this and am so grateful."

Rabbi Chaim Greenwald is Director of Judaic Studies at Halpern Akiva Academy in Calgary.

Chag Sameach!

Happy Passover to all our Donors, Supporters and Friends



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Seder plate rituals combat oppression



By Cantor Russ Jayne

(Calgary) - The traditional Seder plate contains an egg, shank bone, *karpas*, *charoset* and *maror*. Some also make room for *hazeret*, another kind of bitter green. Recently, however, other fruits and vegetables have shown up on the plate, representing a variety of causes from solidarity with oppressed Jewish communities to welcoming the intermarried. As a Hazzan, an integral part of my role is to encourage the introduction of new rituals into our spiritual practice. With that in mind, I would like to take you on a brief journey through some of the more “interesting” additions that have graced, and continue to grace the Seder plates of 21st Century Jews.

First was the orange, which has come to symbolize the power of Jewish women - female Rabbis and Cantors, the Jewish midwives in the Exodus story, gender-neutral language in prayer books, among other places. Yet when Jewish Studies professor Susannah Heschel first plunked down a tangerine on her Seder plate in the early 1980s, it was in the name of gay and lesbian inclusion, as she explains in her essay on Miriam’s Cup.

"During the first part of the Seder, I asked everyone to take a segment of the orange, make the blessing over fruit, and eat it as a gesture of solidarity with Jewish lesbians and gay men, and others who are marginalized within the Jewish community...In addition, each orange segment had a few seeds that had to be spit out – a gesture of spitting out, repudiating the homophobia that poisons too many Jews."

Although not its original intention, this fruit has evolved over the decades to represent the inclusion of all “outsiders.” If you look at recent *Hagaddot* from the Shalom Center, you will see this beautiful explanation.

“Why this orange? Because in olden days there was no orange on the Seder plate and it was said that outsiders — gay men and lesbians, transgendered people, converts, those who lack some important ability or skill, the unlearned — all these no more belonged in the community than an orange belongs upon the Seder plate. So we place an orange to say firmly, all these belong in our communities."

Then, a few years ago, olives started showing up. First, they symbolized a call for peace between Israelis and Palestinians, as stated in the Shalom Center’s “Freedom Seder for the Earth."

"Why this olive? Because for millennia the olive branch has been the symbol of peace, and we seek to make peace where there has been war."

More recently, though, it has taken on an activist bent representing the olive trees of Palestinian farmers that have been destroyed as a result of the Separation Barrier.

How about an artichoke? In an essay on interfaithfamily.com, Rabbi Geela Rayzel Raphael suggests this prickly vegetable with the soft heart for the interfaith-friendly Seder plate.

"Like the artichoke, which has thistles protecting its heart, the Jewish people have been thorny about this question of interfaith marriage. Let this artichoke on the Seder plate tonight stand for the wisdom of G-d's creation in making the Jewish people a population able to absorb many elements and cultures throughout the centuries - yet still remain Jewish."

Hard to top, however, is the Progressive Jewish Alliance, which in 2010 put together a “Food Desert Seder Plate” that banished the original arrangement altogether, replacing it with items symbolizing the lack of access to

Purim Party at Beth Tzedec



Photos by Laura Moser

fresh, healthy food in many low-income neighbourhoods. A rotten piece of lettuce illustrated that inner-city grocery stores often carry only spoiled produce. A potato chip instead of the boiled potato in the *karpas* space indicated that high-fat potato chips are cheaper and easier to find than fresh potatoes. The egg was missing as well since fresh eggs were one of the luxuries lacking in these neighbourhoods.

Now however strange some of them might be, Seder plate additions are within the spirit of the holiday. These symbols are intended to make a link between the biblical story of the Jews leaving Egypt, and participants' contemporary narratives. When we update the Seder plate we become part of the continuous revelation which began at Sinai and continues to this very day. Our “enhancing” of the Pesach experience with modern symbols and rituals is a great affirmation that we, as a people, take our Judaism seriously. Given the effect of COVID-19 on this year’s celebrations, I can only imagine what additions will grace our Seder plates in years to come.

Of course, what I long for is the day when these symbols can be removed from our plates, when there is no new form

of oppression we need to bring to the forefront. Because that will mean that the narrow places of “Egypt” will truly be a thing of the past and that we will, at last, be celebrating as “children of freedom.”

Chag Sameach to one and all!!

Cantor Russ Jayne is Chazzan at Beth Tzedec congregation in Calgary.





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May God grant strength to those who
tend to the sick and all those who are
working to preserve the public health.
May the healer of all flesh and the
source of all life bring a swift end to
disease and suffering.

Blessed are you, our God, who leads us
from the narrow places to freedom.



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In loving memory of Jack J. Locke z”l



Jack Locke z”l

(AJNews) – Born in Calgary, Alberta, Jack Locke resided in Westmount, Quebec for the past 15 years with his wife Karen Elaine Spencer. He was known for his humour, passion, gentleness, and compassion, “a true joy from hat to boot.”

Besides being a mayoral candidate, bus driver, baker, handyman, aquarium flusher, and avid protester,

Jack (or J.J. Lokshtanov as he liked to be called) was a poet, editor, and freelance journalist. In 2011, Jack was Via Rail’s Destination’s Magazine In-House Poet. He read his work in Canada, the U.S., and France.

Jack was a great fan of the poets Leonard Cohen, Irving Layton, and Dylan Thomas. He inspired others to learn about the power and beauty of poetry by inaugurating poetry events, establishing groups such as Montreal’s Foundation For Public Poetry/Fondation Poésie Publique, and publishing poetry books.

In 2009, Jack was the editor-in-chief of *Leonard Cohen: You’re Our Man*, a collection of 75 poets reflecting on the writing of Leonard Cohen. Other titles he has released include *Journeys of a Left Wing Sheep Farmer* (MacKillop, 2011), *The Life and Rhymes of a Jewish Mother* (Golick, 2012), and *Let There Be Light Verse* (Golick, 2013.)

Jack was selected as a contributing artist for *Art Song* 2019. He worked with composer Kelly Krebs to develop his poem, “I Am a Cowboy from Hat to Boot”, presented on July 6, 2019, for a performance with baritone vocalist Steven Bélanger and pianist Corey Hamm.

Jack discovered his poetic form, Villanelle, while living in France in 2005. Like Jack, this 19-line poetic form frequently treats the subject of obsessions and often appeals to outsiders. Its defining feature is an unconventional tone.

Jack had a passionate social conscience. Protesting public institutions’ infliction of harm on the community became a thread in his life, both in the West and Quebec. He ran for Mayor of Calgary repeatedly on one issue: the removal of fluoride from the water system. His most recent battle was against Quebec’s Bill 21 (“secularism law”), which he felt trampled on the rights of all Canadians.

Jack passed away on February 17, 2020.



A portrait of Jack Locke (J.J. Lokshtanov).

PJ Library has resources for families

The world has thrown families across the country a major curveball, but even as the majority of us are stuck at home, PJ Library is there to lend a helping hand.

The Jewish non-profit that sends free books to more than 200,000 across North America (and 700,000 across the globe) each month has been proactive in creating numerous creative and unique ways families can fill the hours at home -- from awesome activities to pandemic parenting and work-from-home wisdom.

Below, find some of the daily activities and hubs families can use to break up the boredom of sheltering at home:

PJ Library is offering a plethora of sounds and activity ideas on their “Resources for Quarantined Families”, including Storytelling games to play with kids, printable games and much more.

Three times each weekday, PJ Library is hosting a live community storytime session featuring a “read aloud” by PJ Library staff, parent -- *and even the authors themselves!* Storytimes are at 11am, 1pm and 4pm ET, and storytime

PJ Library Digital Resources

Family Activities
pjlibrary.org/familyactivities

Storytimes and Craft-Alongs
every weekday at 11am, 1pm, and 4pm Eastern

Virtual Field Trips
Noon every day

Follow for virtual author visits, classes, sing alongs and more!

can be accessed via the PJ Library Facebook Page and their official Instagram account.

The PJ Library Facebook Page is also hosting a daily schedule of craft demonstrations and sing-a-longs, virtual field trips, and more for kids. Virtual field trips include a “trip” to London’s Royal Opera House to check out some incredible live performances, a trip to Tel Aviv with the Sesame Street crew and even the PJ Library warehouse! There are even Zoom Video craft sessions for adults, too.

PJ Library’s “Have I Got a Story for You!” podcast is publishing all-new episodes. The podcast, which brings classic Jewish folk tales from the page and gives them a modern, fun-filled audio twist, delivers some great new offerings, with a new episode published each Tuesday throughout the month at <https://pjlibrary.org/podcast>. Currently, families can tune in to “The Passover Story for Kids” and “Sweet Town Rivals” about the rivalry between fairies and trolls! Stories coming up include “Al Learns the Four Questions” (Available 3/31).

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Chag Pesach Sameach

As Pesach approaches, we recognize that this year, our Seders will look different to previous years because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

While preparing for this very special Pesach, please consider supporting those who reach out for help by making a financial donation to stock Pooh’s Corner (Wynne Thal Pantry). Call us at 403.287.3510 or visit jfsc.org.

All of us at JFSC extend to you warm wishes and good health.

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A MESSAGE FROM ADAM

As I write this message, I have spent the last week connecting with many of our community's agencies and leadership who have been planning for Jewish community programming and service delivery in an environment which is totally uncharted territory. Coupled with this challenging reality are the added strains of fear, uncertainty, and anxiety in our community and in the world at large. Health concerns, financial worries, and changes to our social support systems are sure to weigh us down, place strain on our relationships, and cause us to lose hope. These, indeed, are unprecedented times and, truly, a moment in our history during which we must come together to weather the storm.

At this time of need, I am inspired by the thoughtfulness, kindness, and compassion I have seen. Our agencies have put our community first – their students, congregants, members, clients – and have worked to swiftly adapt their efforts to best serve Jewish Calgary, while adhering to Alberta Health mandated practices to stem the spread of COVID-19.

At a time when we are distancing ourselves from others physically, it is imperative we maintain social and communal connections, even if they are by phone, email, text, or a long distance wave on our daily walks. I

have heard stories of community members shopping for seniors and doing medication deliveries, and efforts by people who have prepared games and snack packages to drop at the front door of family and friends, even if just to share a smile from a distance and maintain a semblance of community.

There are frequent reports of Zoom and WhatsApp Havdallah events and virtual parties, along with online education forums and Facebook Live concerts. Everyone seems to be doing all they can to maintain a sense of normalcy and retain a sense of connection. We must continue to journey through the unknown together, and continue to prepare for – and dream of – the time the clouds part and we can marvel at the rainbow as it appears in our communal sky.

As such, we need to be hopeful and we need our community's agencies to be strong. To borrow an excerpt from Federation's recent e-blast:

Decisions being made at this time are very difficult and painful, and we should thank these agencies for all they are doing to ensure Jewish Calgary has hope for a bright future when the clouds part. As such, and while we understand the personal financial impact COVID-19 is bringing with it, we encourage everyone to maintain their memberships,

tuitions, and other commitments to whatever degree possible to ensure the viability of our community's agencies. We need them to be strong for all of us in the coming weeks and months.

As we shortly welcome Passover, and contemplate a fifth question – *why is this year different from all other years?* – let's remember that although our seders might be celebrated differently this year, we can still find ways to feel connected and even create new traditions. So, rather than focusing on who and what is missing, let us try to embrace and enjoy who and what is present.

I look forward to seeing the innovation we will apply to get through these times, the dedication and love that we will find to support one another, and the amazing things we will continue to do together in the future.

From my family to yours –
Chag Pesach Kasher v'Sameach,

Adam Silver
Adam Silver
CEO, Calgary Jewish Federation



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HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2020 | 26 NISAN 5780

In light of the current situation, we will not congregate together in-person to commemorate Yom HaShoah. However, we invite and welcome the community to take part in a commemoration at home. At 6:30PM on Monday, April 20, please recite *kaddish* for the child whose name is on the card enclosed in your Alberta Jewish News newspaper, as well as for other loved ones lost in the Shoah. Stand in unity with Calgary Jewish Federation and our global community to remember and honour the over six million lives lost.

THANK YOU

Federation is extremely grateful to the following dedicated volunteers who helped write *kaddish* cards in memory of the children who perished in the Shoah: Vered Amir; Marnie, Jonah, & Chloe Bondar; Richard Bronstein; Sarah Ginzberg; Claire & McKenna Kolman; Dahlia, Sophie, & Mila Libin; Craig, Heather, Jack, & Ryan Lister; Sasha & Jade Pigeon; Judy Shapiro; Elliott & Micah Steinberg; Deborah, Hannah, Lilah, & Benjamin Silver.

COVID-19

STAY INFORMED

Calgary Jewish Federation is committed to caring for the health and well-being of our community and playing a constructive role in supporting our agencies. The situation with COVID-19 is extremely dynamic and we will continue reviewing information provided by Alberta Health Services and the Province of Alberta to make proactive decisions when necessary to protect our staff, partners, and community.

We know that this is a trying time for many members of our community; we also know that we come together as a community when times are difficult. As an organization, we want to stress that while we are being vigilant about physical distancing and doing our utmost to protect our most vulnerable, we also want to hear from anyone who needs assistance.

Our community agencies, schools, and synagogues have been exemplary with their leadership and messaging. We continue working with them to navigate these challenging times and ensure we emerge on the other end of this as strong as ever.

For important updates and to keep track of the status of Federation services or programs, please visit our website at jewishcalgary.org. As well, updates will be made on our social media platforms:

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Wishing you good health and peace,
The Board and Staff of Calgary Jewish Federation



Calgarians were warmly welcomed and quickly made friends with Winnipeggers at the 10th annual Limmud Winnipeg held last month at the Asper Jewish Community Campus in Winnipeg. Pictured above: Calgary Temple B'nai Tikvah's Rabbi Mark Glickman shared the fascinating story of the Cairo Genizah with Limmud attendees.



Calgarians find new opportunities for Jewish learning

By Michele Doctoroff

Winnipeg may soon be a new winter travel destination for Alberta Jews. While the air outside was definitely brisk, the warmth radiated through the tenth annual Limmud Winnipeg at the Asper Jewish Community Campus, Feb. 29 - March 1.

This year 3 current/former Calgarian speakers shared their insights and expertise in 5 separate sessions. Accompanying them were 5 more Calgarians, many experiencing their first, but probably not last Limmud weekend.

Limmud is an international Jewish learning experience, happening worldwide for the past 40 years in over 90 different communities in 38 countries. This past December Limmud England held a 5-day Limmud with over 1000 sessions. Winnipeg Limmud is more modest with over 30 sessions spread over 1 ½ days, attracting approximately 450 participants.

From live Kirtan music, Kosher cooking demos, cultural, historical and political presentations and more, there was something for everyone as participants chose 7 different sessions to attend. The Saturday-night dessert table

offered amazing tortes and cheesecakes, including the Winnipeg famous shmoo torte. Sunday's breakfast, lunch, and snacks were also included in the very reasonable \$60 registration fee.

Rabbi Mark Glickman from Temple B'nai Tikvah in Calgary engaged his audiences with the fascinating story of the Cairo Genizah, where nearly 300,000 individual documents, many over 1,000 years old have been recovered, and what this discovery has meant for our understanding of our past. In his second session he shared an epic tale of cultural destruction and survival of how the Nazis plundered tens of millions of Jewish books, highlighting the many books from the collection that survived.

With deep emotion, Andrea Davis from Calgary shared her terrifying experience of having to make a decision to jump into the ocean from a sinking cruise ship. Her gratitude for all the smallest kindnesses extended to her and her husband as they survived the horrific night and its aftermath, brought a tear to the faces of all in the room. As Andrea shared her resiliency and healing, she brought audience members to a place of gratitude and love.

Sydney Switzer, originally from Calgary, was one of

several international speakers, arriving from her current home in Glasgow. She shared from her unique experience working as a Jewish educator in the vibrant Jewish community in Mumbai, telling of the many customs and traditions unique to Indian Jewry. Her second presentation discussed new approaches and thinking for engaging young adults in a Jewish world that has meaning for them, and she highlighted many opportunities that are available to young Jewish adults worldwide.

All the Calgary participants and speakers were very impressed with the diversity and expertise of the speakers. The biggest challenge was deciding which sessions to attend.

For more information on how to present at Limmud Winnipeg, March 6 and 7, 2021, or to attend as a participant contact Florencia Katz coordinator@limmudwinnipeg.org

For more information on connecting with Albertans attending, contact Michele Doctoroff switzert@telus.net

Michele Doctoroff is a three-time Winnipeg Limmud attendee and passionate about bringing people together for unique & meaningful Jewish experiences.



The Calgary Jewish Academy
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חג פסח שמח

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Jewish students unite in Zoom University Hillel

By Deanna Schwartz

(Alma via JTA) - At Zoom University Hillel, there are no comfy places to study or free snacks. There's no director or rabbinic intern or student board. But there are memes, words of comfort and a sense of community as strong as any university's Hillel house.

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced nearly every college to transition to online courses and, in most cases, move students out of their dorms and back to their homes. College students naturally have taken to Facebook meme groups to cope with the sudden lifestyle change.

The Zoom University Hillel Facebook group, which was founded by Clark University student Ari Hoffman, stemmed from a larger group with over 200,000 members called Zoom Memes for Self Quaranteens.

Hoffman posted in the original group, jokingly asking, "So who wants to join Zoom University Hillel?" When people expressed interest, Hoffman created the group. Within four days, the group had over 8,000 members.

Hoffman said he didn't expect the group to grow so quickly.

"It was kind of wild how it blew up," he told me.

In the group are memes, polls, Zoom hangouts, matchmaking and, of course, Jewish geography.

Tyler Bardfeld, a sophomore at the University of Delaware, posted in the group looking to unravel the "largest conceivable game of Jewish Geography." Within 18 hours, the post had over 2,000 comments of students clicking on people's names to see how many mutual friends they have.

"I thought it was interesting how there were all these people that I recognized from summer camp and when I was in BBYO and people from school ... I didn't think it would get as many comments as it did, but it was fun," Bardfeld said.

Adina Ornstein-Luks, a student at Vassar College,

JAC and Soup Sisters team up with JFSC



On March 5, JAC (Jewish Adult Calgary) and Beth Tzedec 20's-40's group came together with the Soup Sisters to help Jewish Family Services Calgary provide nourishing soup to the less fortunate in the community! They made a whopping 160 servings of soup!

shared a similar experience of joining the group and immediately seeing people she knew from summer camp, college and home all in the same place.

"I was like, 'This is crazy. This is the intersection of all of the Jews I've ever known all in one place!'" Ornstein-Luks said. "I really got a kick out of it. I was looking through and I had mutual friends with everyone."

Like many Jewish gatherings, humor plays a huge role in the group. A poll questioning whether or not Shrek is Jewish (Shrek means fear in Yiddish) sparked vigorous debate. Sophie Frieden, a student at DePaul University (and Alma ambassador) started a thread of bar/bat mitzvah pictures and glow-ups.

"The humor is good. We're able to make fun of each other, but in a lighthearted way. There's good banter," said Sofia Freudenstein, a student at the University of Toronto.

Occasionally a political debate breaks out, but the group mostly remains civil and drama-free, something that can be rare for online Jewish spaces. Especially rare among a group of college students, there has been almost no discourse surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Members are using the larger group to find smaller pockets of community, with call-out posts such as "Where are my Russian-speaking Jews at," "Where are my trans

Jews at?" and "Where are all my Latino Jews?"

Freudenstein said she loves how everyone is finding their niches in the group.

"For me, it was finding all the other Canadians," she said.

Ornstein-Luks posted looking for other queer Jews and got a lot of responses right away — prompting her to create a spinoff group called Zoom University Hillel (but queer) with Jacob Miller, a fellow Vassar student. She said this smaller subgroup has been the best part of the experience for her because it's allowed her to connect one on one with people and serve as a self-described "queer yenta."

Numerous group chats on Facebook Messenger, Slack, Snapchat and What's App have started from the group. People are using the group to find friends, something New York University freshman Nina Robins said she thinks is unique.

"You don't necessarily see social media as a place to make more friends ... but I think people in this group are really down to meet new people and I think that's cool," Robins said.

Hoffman said it's nice to have people to talk to during all this isolation.

Continued on page 16

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HAPPY PASSOVER



Wishing everyone a happy, healthy Passover
Steve, Debbie & Melissa Baylin



Best wishes to our family & friends for a happy Passover
from
Sheila Bermack and family

Best wishes to our family & friends for a happy Passover
from Marilyn and Ted





Best wishes to our friends & family for a happy Passover
from
Bob & Cheryl Shiell and family



Wishing the Jewish community a happy & healthy Passover
from Walter Moscovitz



Happy Passover
from
Kim, Adam, Alex & Zach Chulsky



Wishing everyone a happy, healthy Passover
from
Ruth & Norman Dvorkin



Wishing everyone a happy, healthy Passover
from Miriam Milavsky and family



Wishing the Jewish community a happy & healthy Passover
from Judy Shapiro, Richard Bronstein, Noa & Talia

Chag Sameach
from Dr. Stewart & Irene Ross



Wishing everyone a happy, healthy Passover
from Jenny Belzberg & family



Wishing the Jewish community a happy & healthy Passover
from Judy Shapiro, Richard Bronstein, Noa & Talia



Happy Passover
from
Sid & Bronia Cyngiser

Best wishes to our family & friends for a happy Passover
from
Ron & Barb Krell and family



Wishing everyone a happy, healthy Passover
from Louise Alin & family





Wishing everyone a happy, healthy Passover
from Elizabeth & Lorne Carson and family



Happy Passover
from Susan Dvorkin, Dara & Josh Singerman

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy Passover
from Esther Migdal and family



Have a happy, healthy Passover
from
Rudy & Jeanette Berger

From Char & Gerry Molotsky and family
פסח שמח לכולם

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy Passover
from Reesa Girvitz and family



פסח כשר ושמח
From Esther & Gary Silberg and family



Wishing everyone a happy, healthy Passover
from
Wynne & Harvey Thal

Wishing the Jewish community a happy & healthy Passover
from Arleyn Hoffman Chetner & family



Happy Passover
from
Diana Kalef, Elliott, Jonah & Michah Steinberg

Happy Passover
from
Mel & Gail Ksienski





Have a happy, healthy Passover
from
Harvey & Alexandra Cyngiser and family

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy Passover
from Eva & Gordy Hoffman



Best wishes to our family & friends for a happy Passover
from Lorne & Beth Price and family



Happy Passover
from
Jeff, Helen, Emma Jacob, Hannah & Juan Faber



Happy Passover
from
Becky Hapton & family



Best wishes to our family & friends for a happy Passover
from Lorne, Raechelle, Shoshana & Leo Paperny



Have a happy, healthy Passover
from Bruce & Hally Giroitz and family

Wishing the Jewish community a happy & healthy Passover

from
The Balaban Family




Chag Sameach
from Robbie & Neil Wagner & family



Happy Passover
from
Cheryl, Jason, Jacob & Gabrielle Gurevitch




Have a happy, healthy Passover
from Israel Lachovsky and Helena Barker




Have a happy, healthy Passover
from Cheryl & Morley Shore and family


Wishing the Jewish community a happy & healthy Passover
from Adam & Deborah, Hannah, Lila and Benji Silver

Happy Passover
Marnie, Darren, Jonah & Chloe Bondar



Have a happy, healthy Passover
from Norman & Rosslyn Steinberg and family






Wishing the Jewish community a happy & healthy Passover
from The Plucer Families


Best wishes to our family & friends for a happy Passover
from Betty Sherwood & Jim Casquenet




Happy Passover
from Rosyln Mendelson & David Hodgins




Wishing the Jewish community a happy & healthy Passover
from Jaigel and Leonard Shapiro



Wishing the Jewish community a happy & healthy Pssover
from Brian & Gail Sidorsky & family




Wishing the Jewish community a happy & healthy Passover
from The Zivot Family




Best wishes to our family & friends for a happy Passover
from Stan & Carey Smith and family

Wishing the Jewish community a happy & healthy Passover
from Michele Doctoroff, Ted Switzer & Sydney Switzer





Wishng the Jewish community a happy & healthy Passover
from Norman & Katherine Schachar and families



Best wishes to our family & friends for a happy Passover
from Jackie & David Busheikin and family


Have a happy, healthy Passover
from Jerry & Fay z"l Schwartz and family






Happy Passover
from Rob, Cheryl, Danielle & Jarrett Milner

Wishing the Jewish community a happy & healthy Passover
from Jerry & Faith Dubisky & family




Wishing the Jewish community a happy & healthy Passover
from Steve, Tracey & Oscar


Wishing everyone a happy, healthy Passover
from Sandy & Larry Martin and family



Wishing the Jewish community a happy & healthy Passover
from Lional & Judy

Best wishes to my family & friends for a happy Passover
from Al Osten






Wishing the Jewish community a happy & healthy Passover
from Bill & Lily Lister and family


Best wishes to our family & friends for a happy Passover
from Theresa & Charles Groner and family

Best wishes to our family & friends for a happy Passover
from Phil & Harriet Libin, Michael & Matthew Ackman, Stuart, Sierra & Thea Libin





Wishing the Jewish community a happy & healthy Passover
from Shirley & Al Chafetz



Happy Passover
from David & Cynthia Prasow and family

Wishing the Jewish community a happy & healthy Passover
from David & Susan Inhaber and family

ПОРЯДОК СЕИДЕРА

קדש קאדדש
Пронизосят Ки д а у ш над бокалом вина.

ורחץ ורחץ
Омывают руки, но не пронизосят при этом обычного при омовении рук благословения.

ברפס ברפס
КАРПАС
Обмакивают «карпас» в соленую воду, пронизосят благословение над овощами и кушают.

יחץ יחץ
ЯХАЦ
Среднюю мацу, из трех находящихся на «кевре», делят на две части; большую часть прячут для «Афикоман».

מגיד מגיד
Начинается чтение Агады. До того, как младший в семье задает вопросы «Ма ништа-на» наполняют второй бокал.

ורחץ ורחץ
Омывают руки для еды, но на этот раз с обычным благословением.

מוציא מצה מוציא
МАЦА
Пронизосят благословения «Хамощи» и «Ал ахилас мацо», и кушают кусок мацы, величиной с «казант».

מרור מרור
МАРОР
Пронизосят благословение «Ал ахилас морор» и съедают горькую зелень, величиной с «казант», предварительно обмакнув в «харосет».

בורך בורך
КОРЕХ
Делают своеобразный сэндвич из двух кусков мацы, прокладывая между ними «хазерет»

שלחן עורך שולחן עורך
Праздничная трапеза.

ברך בורך
БЕРАХ
Наполняют третий бокал вина и пронизосят застольную молитву.

צפון צפון
Съедают «Афикоман», величиной с «казант».

הלל הלל
ХАЛЛЕЛ
Наполняют четвертый бокал вина и пронизосят специальную халлебную молитву «Халлел».

נרצה נרצה
НИРЦА
После окончания правильно проведенного Сейдера можно быть уверенным, что он был одобрен Всевышним



Happy Passover
from
Allen & Wendy Mendleman
and family



Happy
Passover
from Rebecca Berlin
and family

Wishing the Jewish community
a happy & healthy Passover
from Phyllis D'Aguir



Wishing everyone a
happy, healthy Passover
from Stephen, Ben & Sophie
Kaganov



Wishing the Jewish community
a happy & healthy Passover
from Marg Semel, Adam Singer,
Rachel and Hanna



Happy Passover
from
Mary & Ken Taub
and family



Best wishes to my family
& friends for a happy Passover
from Louise Kirschner



Wishing the Jewish community
a happy & healthy Passover
from Jackie & Hayim Hamburger
and family



Best wishes to our friends and
family for a Happy Passover
from
Lauren & Sam Bell



Wishing you &
yours the blessings
of peace and good
health at Passover and
throughout the year
from Carol Ryder
and family



Wishing the Jewish community
a happy & healthy Passover
from
Sandra Fayerman



Wishing everyone a happy,
healthy Passover
from Medina Shatz
& Randy Best



Best wishes to our friends and
family for a happy Passover
from Darryl, Alli, Joseph
& Leo Gurevitch



Best wishes to our family &
friends for a happy Passover
from Zohar & David
Wallach and family



Wishing the Jewish community
a happy and healthy Passover
from
Kebilat Shalom



Chag Pesach שמח
from
Fanny and Leo z'l Wedro



Best wishes to our family &
friends for a happy Passover
from
Frances Pearlman and family



Chag שמח
from
Debbie & Nelson Halpern and family



Chag Pesach כשר ושמח
From Sandra & Harold Lipton and family



Wishing everyone a
happy, healthy Passover
from Minnie Zuckier and family



Alberta Jewish News thanks everyone in the Calgary Jewish Community for participating in this holiday greeting project. Chag Kasher ve Sameach!

Jewish students unite

Cont. from page 13

“Just having a little group that’s smaller than that bigger group but still a good amount of people to talk with [is really nice],” Hoffman said.

As one would expect in a group of over 8,000 young Jews, there is plenty of matchmaking. Multiple matchmaking Google forms have emerged, promising to find applicants their true love/bashert through a blind Zoom date.

Aaron Raimi, a college student in San Diego, took the matchmaking to a new level by creating the spinoff group Zoom University MeetJew – Find your #CoronaCutie, which gained nearly 3,000 members in a matter of days.

“I was thinking, ‘Why doesn’t someone create a page that revolves around dating?’ ... I thought it could be something fun, so I posted on the [Zoom University] Hillel page saying, ‘So, am I gonna be the one who has to create this

Jswipe/dating/shidduch Zoom University page?’ I got a bunch of reactions,” Raimi said. “I was like, ‘You know what, everyone’s quarantined, I have a lot of time on my hands, I’ll just make this and see what happens.’”

While Zoom University Hillel is created and run by students, there are also online programs from Jewish college professionals. Hillel International recently launched Hillel@Home, a series of virtual events with speakers, and many college Hillels have created their own virtual programs.

Zoom University Hillel is not the only Jewish-focused Zoom meme group, either — there’s also the Zoom University Chabad and the Zoom Beit Midrash, among others.

In a time of fear and uncertainty, these Facebook groups are bringing students together and providing a sense of community.

“This would have never happened if we weren’t in this situation, which is why I’m really trying to see this as a

positive,” Ornstein-Luks said. “This group is truly iconic. I think it’s so funny and so powerful.”

Multiple students have posted in the group expressing their gratitude for the community.

Mason Brown, a University of Minnesota student, posted his appreciation, saying “It’s amazing that during something as serious as a global pandemic, we’re so willing to come together (albeit virtually). I hope everyone is doing well, and staying safe and healthy. I can’t wait to meet more of you and make connections over the next hectic few weeks or so, but I hope this group continues even beyond that.”

Freudenstein said the group has given her a sense of unity that she didn’t expect.

“It’s not just my Hillel that I’d be comfortable in, but no matter what campus I’d go to, Hillel would try to make me feel comfortable,” she said. “That’s a really nice feeling.”

An essay about Vehi She’amda

By Atara S., Grade 7, Halpern Akiva Academy

Rabbi Chaim Greenwald, Director of Judaic Studies at Halpern Akiva Academy, assigned his Grade 7 students to write an essay discussing the Passover Haggadah and the COVID-19 pandemic. The following is Atara S’s essay.

The translation for Vehi She’amda is that, “Hashem has saved us from our enemies as they tried and still try to destroy us.” What is the real purpose of this song we sing

on Pesach? How can we relate to this today, that Hashem “saves”? We are facing one of the hardest points in the last 20 years -- social isolation, quarantine and not being able to take part in our Jewish community. Shuls are closed, several Jews have contracted the virus and we still say, “Hashem saves”.

It is all the way we look at it -- do we want to look at it the positive or the negative way? Yes, this is a hard time. Is this the first time something challenging and scary has happened to the Jews? No, of course not. Looking way back, the first time we see such horrible things happening to the Jews is the story of Pesach. I think we can take a valuable lesson here.

Hashem always has a plan when it comes to tough times. What did He do when Bnei Yisrael were in Egypt?

He freed them from slavery, and they gained riches and cattle. They received the Torah and became His nation as one. They were brought together because of a traumatic event. Maybe bad situations happen to us to make us stronger and to bring the Jewish nation and even the world closer as one.

As Bnei Yisrael have done in the past with every hardship pushed at them, we must come out of this challenge with positive lessons and a new outlook on life. We must gather as one to support each other through tough times just as our ancestors have done for the past 3000 years. So let us all have a meaningful Pesach and next year in Jerusalem (B”H)!

from the

Sources

Everyone’s invited:
(Well, almost everyone...)

by Eliezer Segal

By reciting the Passover Haggadah we are fulfilling the Torah’s command to tell about our liberation from Egyptian oppression. The pivotal section of the service, in which the ancient rabbis expound relevant passages from the Bible, is designated “*Maggid*,” from the word meaning “to tell.” The Haggadah presents this narration of the exodus story as the answer to the “Four Questions” that the children ask about various peculiarities of the festival meal.

Immediately preceding the Four Questions is a short passage whose precise function is not clear and has generated diverse interpretations. It does not appear in Haggadah manuscripts that follow the old Israeli rite, and only its last line is found in the tenth-century liturgy of Rav Saadia Gaon. Some medieval commentators treat it as a Babylonian creation.

This text consists of three parts: (1) we point to the matzah as the “bread of affliction”; (2) we extend an invitation to the needy to join in the Passover offering; and (3) we contrast our current state of subjugation and exile with the anticipated celebration of next year’s holiday in true freedom in our homeland.

This section is usually designated by its opening words “*ha la ma ‘aniyah*,” Aramaic for “this is the bread of affliction.” Maimonides’ text, in use among Yemenite Jews, precedes it with a declaration in mixed Aramaic and Hebrew, “in haste we departed from Egypt.”

The insertion of an Aramaic text is surprising in a service that is otherwise all Hebrew.

This incongruity elicited numerous explanations. Some commentators linked it to the seder’s thematic structure which weaves between evocations of enslavement and of liberation; the shift in language between the Four Questions and the “*Ha Lahma*” somehow suggests that we have not quite arrived at the “freedom” stage of the seder.

Rabbi Eliezer ben Joel Halevi (“Raviah”) explained that the use of Aramaic was for the benefit of women and children who did not understand Hebrew. Some authorities seem to suggest that in ancient Jerusalem Aramaic held particularly joyous associations.

Rabbi Simeon Duran explained how the *Ha Lahma* is an appropriate lead-up to the Four Questions: At this point in a normal banquet, the children would expect to proceed directly to the meal and would be wondering why this night is different. In anticipation of that situation, the Babylonian rabbis introduced this passage in Aramaic, their local Jewish vernacular, in order to make it clear that this was not just a fancy meal but a special religious feast commemorating the exodus.

Although the invitation to the hungry appears in the

Talmud, it is not connected there to the Passover seder. It is mentioned as an act of exemplary piety by the Babylonian sage Rav Huna. Before commencing his meal he would always open wide the doors of his house and announce “Let anyone who is in need come and eat!” Rava commented that he himself was unable to emulate this practice on account of the military garrison stationed in his town of Maḥza who would devour all his provisions if they heard such an invitation.

The Jews of medieval France and the Rhineland inhabited a world teeming with supernatural spirits. They worried that if they extended their invitation in Hebrew, mischievous party-crashing demons would ruin it. Hence it is advisable to filter them out by issuing the declaration in Aramaic - a language that, according to the Talmud, demons do not understand.

Some commentators objected that this was unnecessary since the Passover night is deemed a “night of guarding”- in the sense of “a night on which they are protected from demons”; though perhaps this could be interpreted as “a night on which they should protect themselves from demons,” which would fit the situation quite nicely.

Rabbis Yom-Tov Ishbili and David Abudraham suggested that the concern was not for demons but for angels who also have a long record of rivalry with the people of Israel. However, angels are also unable to understand the Aramaic invitation; otherwise they might show up inopportunely while we are proudly celebrating our ancient moment of triumph and remind the Almighty of some sinful shortcomings that make us undeserving of redemption.

Some authors objected that the line “next year we shall be free,” is worded in Hebrew (though some rites recite it in Aramaic as well). Raviah ascribed this to the fact that the passage originated in Babylonia where their non-Jewish neighbours understood Aramaic and might take offense at the Jews’ unpatriotic dissatisfaction with their place of residence. (The ninth-century Babylonian Ga’on Rav Mattityahu reported that as Jews came to have more non-Jewish than Jewish neighbours, they would offer the gentiles food in advance so as to forestall them from showing up at the seder.)

Rabbi Simeon Duran explained that the desires

for freedom and the ingathering to Jerusalem are so prominent in Jewish thought that children would understand them even when they are expressed in Hebrew. At any rate, those constitute heartfelt prayers that we do want the angels to understand and fulfill.

Referring to the matzah as “*lehem ‘oni*” equates it with the expression in the Torah whose simplest translation is “bread of affliction.” As such it recalls not only the hasty departure from the land of our enslavement - but also the oppression from which we were fleeing. Some authorities inferred that the slaves themselves were fed a diet of this crudest and cheapest of foods. We give this aspect of the matzah tangible representation in the practice of breaking one of the matzahs, thereby distinguishing it from normal holiday breads that are eaten from whole loafs.

However, the talmudic sage Samuel offered a more homiletical play on the word ‘oni, expounding it from a similar root meaning “to answer” - it is the bread over which we provide answers.

Indeed, one can hardly imagine a more fitting characterization of this quintessentially Jewish event, a meal at which some unleavened bread draws the participants into a lively and incisive symposium of questions, answers and learning.

‘From the Sources’
by Eliezer Segal is sponsored
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from
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חג פסח כשר ושמח

HAPPY
Passover

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JFP Publisher Richard Bronstein was awarded the Ben Doktor Award of Excellence for his outstanding service to the community. The event co-chairs, Jordan Balaban, Perry Feldman and Michael Men, posed with Premier Wall, a member of the RCMP and Dr. Robert Barsky.



“Welcome to Brad Wall’s Bar Mitzvah”

By Daniel Moser

(AJNews) - “Welcome to Brad Wall’s Bar Mitzvah,” Alberta Premier Jason Kenney exclaimed as he greeted the crowd at the 69th B’nai Brith Dinner in Calgary at the end of February. A traditional line no doubt repeated countless times in the Beth Tzedec synagogue, this time it was said in jest and responded to with a chorus of laughter and applause, fitting for what followed, an evening of splendor and philanthropy.

The Premier had the pleasure of introducing the guest of honour for the night’s festivities, and he was the first to bring up a topic that was bubbling just under the surface for many in attendance, and westerners across the land: Will the next title Brad Wall holds be that of Prime Minister? Throughout the evening, Mr. Wall, the former Premier of Saskatchewan, was reminded he still had hours

to file his paperwork for the leadership of the Canadian Conservative Party. But, despite praise, and gentle nudges from friends, the answer remained consistent, at this time Brad Wall has no interest in seeking the highest office of the land.

Mr. Wall sat down for a conversation with University of Calgary Chancellor Deborah Yedlin. The two discussed Mr. Wall’s life and times, his connections to Alberta and his opinions and recommendations on current events. Although he was reluctant to give any hard advice to Premier Kenney, or his successor in Saskatchewan, Premier Scott Moe, he did offer his opinion that both conservative stalwarts are heading in the right direction, and as long as they keep the economy on the top of their to-do-list, they can’t go wrong.

Another important aspect of the evening was the presentation of the Ben Docktor Award of Excellence. This year’s recipient was Richard Bronstein who after a lifetime of service in media, culminating in the publishing of the Jewish Free Press for the past 15 years, decided to retire.

In addition to Mr. Wall’s conversation and presentation the focal point of entertainment was the live auction. Rambunctious auctioneers and runners took to the stage to find the highest bidder on some truly won-

derful packages leaving all attendees with smiles on their faces.

The evening was a smash success. A highlight was the Co-Chairs of the event having their chance with the microphone. Jordan Balaban, Perry Feldman, and Michael Men thanked the crowd for their atten-dance, and exuberance and explained the importance that B’nai Brith played in their Jewish lives. For years the three young leaders attended Camp BB Riback in Pine Lake, and partici-pated actively in the B’nai Brith Youth Organization, in which they made life long friendships which continue to this day. Seeing months of hard work and fund-raising pay off in such tremendous fashion was awe inspiring, and the three Co-Chairs were quick to offer praise and thanks to Polina Brenner, B’nai Brith Calgary Lodge 816 Office Administrator, and Lodge President, Dr. Robert Barsky.

Proceeds from the eve-ning went to support the Calgary Menorah Founda-tion. For over 100 years Calgary B’nai Brith Lodge 816 and the Menorah Foundation have been pleased to provide financial assistance to numerous community charities. One of the featured charities of the night was Project Cypress, an organization near and dear to Mr. Wall’s heart. Funds from the dinner for Project Cypress were directed to the RCMP Veterans’ Association Foundation which helps ensure our Mounted Police are taken care of during times of need, and that vital information and education is provided to underrepre-sented communities.

Children
Healthcare
Women

Happy Passover

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National Executive Director
Alina Ianson

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For change of address, please send both old and new addresses. We welcome your stories, pictures, artwork and opinions. Please send submissions to our office at the address above.

Next Deadline: April 22, 2020

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CALGARY’S B’NAI BRITH DINNER

welcomed over 600 guests to the Beth Tzedec Synagogue on Thursday, February 27, 2020 in the spirit of philanthropy and generosity to benefit a number of worthy causes in both the Jewish and greater community of Southern Alberta.

The 69th annual Dinner was a tremendous success and would not have been possible without all of our volunteers, sponsors, advertisers, prize and auction donors, dinner patrons and individual donors.

Thank you

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Calgary Lodge 816

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YEG Virtual Jewish Film Festival: May 3 -7

Grab some popcorn and a pop and get comfy in your own home for the Virtual Edmonton Jewish Film Festival, from May 3 – 7, 2020.

Though the Jewish Federation of Edmonton made the difficult decision to cancel the live Edmonton Jewish Film Festival, all is not lost. They have now announced the new format and schedule. The festival is free to everyone – all you need is an email address and a computer or smart screen to participate.

“The Jewish Federation of Edmonton is pleased to bring the Virtual Edmonton Jewish Film Festival to our community and beyond – free of charge,” announced JFED Director of Development Susan Schiffman. “While we are physically apart, this is a great way to gather as a community and we are pleased to present an assortment of films that will provide diversion, entertainment and comfort in these difficult times.”

Complementing the five feature films that make up the body of the virtual festival, EJFF is showcasing a juried selection of short films from film makers around the world. These ‘shorts’ will be presented after the feature films. Exhibiting these films at the EJFF provides opportunities to see a variety of films which may not receive mass distribution, and for independent filmmakers to reach new audiences.

Guest speakers and virtual pub talks will also be added to the schedule as the date draws nearer. Stay tuned to jewishedmonton.org for film trailers, updates and to register for the Virtual Film Festival.

“Once again, the Edmonton Jewish Federation is very grateful to our dedicated sponsors, advertisers and amazing group of volunteers who are making this festival possible,” concluded Schiffman.

The schedule for the Virtual Edmonton Jewish Festival is:

Golda’s Balcony, The Film

English, Historical Drama, 86 min.
Sunday, May 3, 3 -10 PM

In this rare, multi-camera angle shoot from the original run of the hit Broadway play “Golda’s Balcony,” Tovah Feldshuh brilliantly recreates 100 years of Jewish history, playing 45 different characters including Ben-Gurion, Moshe Dayan, Holocaust survivors, Israeli soldiers and, of course, Golda Meir herself. Feldshuh portrays the amazing rise of Golda from Russian schoolgirl to Prime Minister of Israel, with heart, dazzle, and jaw-dropping artistry.

With Slight Steps

Israel, 2018; Hebrew with English subtitles
Documentary short:10 minutes

Film director Guy Hodes takes his 96-year old grandmother back to Kibbutz Dalia, and to a time when she was the High Priestess of Israeli folk dancing. She observes how the kibbutz’s outdoor dance amphitheater has deteriorated and reflects upon how Israeli ideals, too, have changed; yet with slight steps, she will dance with her grandson.

Picture of His Life

Israel, USA, Canada, 2019
English & Hebrew with English Subtitles
Documentary, 72 minutes
Monday, May 4, 3 – 10 PM

Daring Israeli underwater photographer, Amos Nachoum embarks on a perilous quest to the Canadian Arctic in pursuit of his ultimate dream of swimming alongside a polar bear and capturing the encounter on film. This breathtaking, intimate portrait reveals a passionate artist who risks life and limb in pursuit of singular beauty.

How to Swim

Israel, 2018
Hebrew with English subtitles
Short: 15 minutes

Avigail is at the doctor’s office in the homestretch of her pregnancy and everything seems to be on track, yet she finds herself terrified. What follows is a wacky, day-long adventure, filled with vulnerability and humor.

Golden Gym

Israel, 2019
Stop motion animated short; 6 minutes

After his daily workout at the gym, 70-year-old Tsvi is involved in a car accident and his family confiscates his car keys. Unwilling to give in to the loss of independence that comes with old age, Tsvi carries on with his life as before. His determination will lead him to a great new adventure!

Those Who Remained

Hungary, 2019
Hungarian with English subtitles
Drama: 83 minutes
Tuesday, May 5, 3 - 10 PM
This is the poignant and painful story of two Hungarian

Holocaust survivors, a young girl and a middle-aged man, whose relationship helps them to heal and provides them with someone to live for, when all they once loved is lost. Set against the backdrop of the chilling menace of Hungary’s Stalinist regime, the film is exquisitely acted, and beautifully photographed.

Hope Dies Last

United Kingdon, 2017
Silent short film: 8 minutes

A powerful silent short based on the true story of Józef Paczyński, a Polish political prisoner at Auschwitz who was the personal barber to camp commander Rudolf Höss for much of the second World War. Each time he was ordered to cut the Nazi’s hair, Paczynski feared that the haircut might be his last.

The House of Wannsee Street, Memoirs of a German Jewish Family

Argentina/Germany, 2019
Spanish/English with English subtitles
Documentary: 70 minutes
Wednesday, May 6, 3 -10 PM

Poignant questions of identity and resilience are brought to life as award-winning Argentinean filmmaker Poli Martinez Kaplun confronts her mother and aunts about their hidden Jewish past. Eighty years after her family’s flight from Germany, she returns to their family house on Wannsee Street, just a few feet from the site where the Wannsee Conference decreed the Final Solution for the Jews of Europe.

The Keeper

UK/Germany, 2018
English; Historical Drama: 120 min.
Thursday, May 7, 3 -10 PM

The Keeper tells the incredible true story of Bert Trautmann, a German soldier and prisoner of war who, against a backdrop of British post-war protest and prejudice, is chosen as Goalkeeper for Manchester City, and goes on to become a British football icon. Though his signing causes outrage to thousands of Manchester fans, many of them Jewish, Bert receives support from an unexpected direction: Holocaust survivor Rabbi Alexander Altmann. Bert’s love for Margaret, an English-woman, carries him through, and he convinces even his harshest opponents by winning the 1956 FA Cup Final, playing with a broken neck to secure victory. But fate will soon twist the knife for Bert and Margaret, when their love and loyalty to each other is put to the ultimate test.



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PREPARATIONS AND ASSURANCES: ISRAEL BONDS’ CORONAVIRUS STEPS



We want to thank you for your ongoing support of Israel Bonds.

Having spoken with Israel’s Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon and Israel’s Accountant General Rony Hizkiyahu, both expressed confidence that Israel’s economy is strong and well-positioned to face whatever challenges might emerge as a consequence of coronavirus.

Regarding any Israel bonds you own that have reached maturity, or Israel bonds in your portfolio currently generating interest, know that Israel prides itself on having never missed payment of principal or interest since the first Israel bonds were issued in 1951, including during times of conflict and terrorism.

Prioritizing the best interests of our international investor base and the wellbeing of our staff, we have updated our corporate business continuity plan to take into account new realities stemming from the coronavirus pandemic.

Moreover, in keeping with Federal and Provincial directives, we are operating with heightened awareness, including the temporary closure of our offices. The staff of any impacted offices are working remotely. You can find updates and

assistance at **israelbonds.ca** or through client support at **1.866.543.3351**, or at **OnlineCustomerSupport@israelbonds.ca**

We want to assure you that you can continue to invest in Israel bonds as before, including **ONLINE**.

You should also be aware we have discussed the situation with executives at Computershare, the fiscal agent, to ensure they also have contingency plans encompassing the needs of Israel bond investors.

In this difficult environment, you have our solemn promise we will do all that is necessary to ensure that the faith you have placed in the Bonds enterprise and Israel remains unabated.

We wish you, your family & loved ones, the entire community and the people of Israel a safe, healthy, happy and meaningful Pesach.

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*Happy Passover
to the entire Jewish
community of Calgary*



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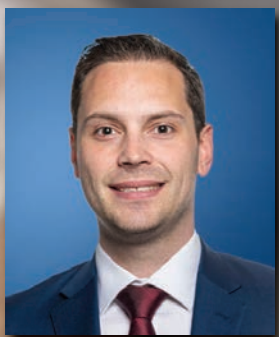
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