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Deborah Lipstadt will speak at Alberta virtual event: Jan. 27

By Maxine Fischbein

Albertans will have the unprecedented opportunity to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day - January 27 - with world-renowned American historian Deborah Lipstadt who will speak in a 7 pm live virtual address presented by the Calgary Public Library.

Mayor Naheed Nenshi will bring greetings on behalf of Calgarians while Councillor Diane Colley-Urquhart will read the city proclamation declaring this year's observance of International Holocaust Remembrance Day in Calgary.

Dr. Lipstadt's talk kicks off a year-long partnership between the Calgary Public Library (CPL) and Calgary Jewish Federation's Holocaust and Human Rights Education Department that will see a range of Holocaust-related programming by CPL as well as new acquisitions pertaining to the Shoah, say Calgary Jewish Holocaust and Human Rights Education and Commemoration co-chairs Marnie Bondar and Dahlia Libin.

Lipstadt's presentation, *Antisemitism: 76 Years after the Holocaust*, is being held on the 76th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, the date designated in 2005 by the United Nations General Assembly as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The event is generously supported by Barb and Ron Krell and Lily and Bill Lister and is open, free of charge, to Albertans who register in advance.

Lipstadt is well known in both academic circles and popular culture as a tireless warrior against Holocaust denial. Her book *History on Trial: My Day in Court with a Holocaust Denier* tells the story of the libel lawsuit brought against Lipstadt and Penguin UK by Holocaust denier David Irving in the English courts. The events were retold in the 2016 feature film *Denial*, starring Rachel Weisz.

The Doro Professor of Modern Jewish History and Holocaust Studies at Emory University in Atlanta Georgia, Lipstadt is also the author of *The Eichmann Trial*, *Beyond Belief: The American Press and the Coming of the Holocaust and Antisemitism: Here and Now*.

Why are we still talking about antisemitism more than three quarters of a century after the Shoah?

"Sadly, it is still a problem," explained Lipstadt last month. "As much as we'd like to imagine that it would have gone away, that it would have disappeared by now, it hasn't."

In terms of structure and "the content of the charges" antisemitism has remained the same, Lipstadt told *Alberta Jewish News*.

"What's different is our understanding of the dangers of antisemitism. We were reminded 76 years ago in a graphic way and we are much more sensitive. It's like someone who has been repeatedly abused or repeatedly raped or repeatedly beaten up; they're much more sensitive to the warning signs," Lipstadt said.

"We're surprised today at the way it is manifesting itself, that it is so prevalent. It has caught many people by surprise, even those of us who study it, even those of us who look at it closely, even those of us who spend much of our lives immersed in grappling with it," Lipstadt said.

Like COVID-19, antisemitism and racism are highly contagious and potentially deadly.

"It's a pandemic that has been around for a lot longer... Antisemitism has been called, and rightfully so, the longest or oldest hatred," Lipstadt said.

"We continue to fight it... Each time we should be better prepared."

During her talk, Lipstadt will discuss various historical and current aspects of antisemitism including Holocaust denial.

Lipstadt calls out antisemitism when she sees it, with no exceptions for those in high office.

Edmonton lights Giant Menorah



Chabad Edmonton Rabbi Ari Drelich lit the Giant Menorah at the Legislative Grounds with greetings from MP Kelly McCauley, MLA Lorne Dach and Counc. Jon Dziadyk. The inspirational event was live streamed. (See article on p 4). Photo by Jim Moses

This includes the August 2017 torch-lit Unite the Right rally that took place in Charlottesville, Virginia when neo-Nazis and skinheads took to the streets in a show of force that led to the death of one counter-protester and injuries of 19.

"Charlottesville was horrible and [President Donald Trump's] attempts to make it sound like it was two groups equally fighting each other - nice people on both sides - was equally horrible... It's very disturbing."

AJNews spoke to Lipstadt before the violent insurrection on Capitol Hill that once again demonstrated the need for anti-hate education and action. Neo-Nazis and white supremacists emboldened by the President of the United States were among the perpetrators in the assault on democracy and human rights that took place in Washington DC on January 6. It is important to note that similar organizations are active in Canada, underscoring

Continued on page 9

JLI course explores life, death, and the afterlife

(Edmonton) - This winter, Rabbi Mendy Blachman of Edmonton JLI will offer *Journey of the Soul*, a new six-session course by the acclaimed Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) that will answer a question which has occurred to every self-reflective person: What happens when we die?

Beginning February 1, at 7:30 pm, students who enroll in this course will embark on a journey that will edify them and put them at ease with the topics of life and the afterlife. Practical and powerful, reflective and relatable, *Journey of the Soul* teaches a Jewish perspective on life that begins before birth and lasts well after a person's passing.

[The course will be offered over Zoom. Sign in information will be provided at the time of enrollment.]

"Death is both mysterious and inevitable," Rabbi Mendy Blachman, the local JLI Instructor in Edmonton, told *Alberta Jewish News*. "Understanding death as a continuation of life reveals the holiness of life while putting everything in a dramatically new context. The soul is on one long journey that is greater than each particular chapter."

Journey of the Soul considers what happens to the soul at birth and again at death, whether there is a "better place" after this one, whether our loved ones continue to connect with us, the Jewish understanding of reincarnation, and how to relate to an afterlife even if we're not spiritual.

The subtitle of *Journey of the Soul*, "How to look at life, death, and the rest—in peace," is indicative of an approach to the topic which is at once serious, but also relaxed and sometimes whimsical.

"The topic of death and the afterlife is one that has always fascinated thinking people," explained Rabbi Naftali Silberberg of JLI's Brooklyn, New York, headquarters. "But particularly during these tumultuous times when, sadly, so many have lost loved ones to COVID, the need has become even more pressing for a course that presents the uplifting Jewish perspective on mortality, death, and the afterlife."

Dr. John Martin Fischer, distinguished professor of philosophy, University of California, Riverside, finds *Journey of the Soul* to be "of interest to any human being,

since we all think about dying, death, and the afterlife... The Jewish tradition offers unique answers to the intellectual issues and also strategies for coming to terms with death. I highly recommend the course." Dr. Simon Shimshon Rubin, Director of the International Center for the study of Loss, Bereavement, and Human Resilience at the University of Haifa considers *Journey of the Soul* "a timely and timeless opportunity [that] cannot help but deepen our appreciation of human connections and the way in which we find and make meaning in life."

As with all of JLI's programs, *Journey of the Soul* is designed to appeal to people at all levels of knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with a synagogue.

People interested in participating may call 780-200-5770, email JLI@ChabadEdmonton.org or visit www.ChabadEdmonton.org for registration and for other course-related information. (See ad on page 4).

A project of Chabad of Edmonton.

Fellow residents help Erica Karabus celebrate Chanukah

By Maxine Fischbein

She may be the only Jewish resident at Calgary's Manor Village at Signature Park, but Erica Karabus enjoyed a festive Chanukah this year due, in large part, to the kindness of fellow residents Ann Kennedy and Carol Fraser who chose to honour their neighbour's traditions in the midst of ubiquitous Christmas celebrations.

Kennedy went the extra mile when she realized that Karabus would not be able to celebrate Chanukah with her children and grandchildren due to COVID-19 restrictions.

"The building was decorated so much for Christmas," Kennedy told *Alberta Jewish News*. "It was all Christian or commercial symbolism... It seemed to me we should celebrate the Jewish traditions because we have a Jewish person in our midst."

Kennedy's search for a Chanukah led her to the gift shop at Beth Tzedec Synagogue. At the time, she was not aware that Karabus is a member of the congregation.

The Synagogue's senior management team was moved by Kennedy's quest and chose to emulate her kindness, gifting The Manor with a beautiful Chanukah, candles and dreidels that Kennedy hopes will be used by the seniors' residence for years to come.

When Kennedy returned with the Chanukah paraphernalia, a holiday social was taking place at the Manor, complete with Christmas cookies and eggnog. She seized the moment to display the Chanukah items and to let fellow residents know that Karabus would be speaking about her holiday and leading candle lightings on the first and last nights of the festival.

"Given the interest, there were far more than 15 people who want to be there," Kennedy told AJN.

Unfortunately, due to COVID protocols, the candle lightings were capped at 15.

Erica Karabus felt blessed as residents gathered, enjoying jelly-filled Timbits from Tim Hortons – a uniquely Canadian riff on traditional sufganiyot – and spinning dreidels while asking Karabus questions about Chanukah and Judaism in general.

"It made me feel very good," said Karabus, who is open about her religious practices including efforts to maintain at least some aspects of kashrut while dining in her communal setting. That choice is supported by the Manor's chef who regularly meets with Karabus to discuss upcoming menus.

"It is absolutely wonderful that the residents of The Manor care so much about Erica and want to

acknowledge her holiday in the spirit of inclusion," said Cantor Russell Jayne.

"Her observances are being treated with the respect and dignity they deserve," added the Cantor, who was thrilled to use his discretionary fund to give the Chanukah gift to The Manor.

Cantor Jayne often supports and participates in Jewish activities for seniors at the Trinity Lodge.

"It is frustrating that we can't get together as we usually do," said the Cantor who added that the next best thing has been to support the efforts of seniors' homes so that they can assist residents in their religious observances.

Trinity Marketing Director Val Bracey says residents miss the Cantor whose visits have had to be postponed due to increased COVID precautions.

There was a Chanukah dinner for all Trinity residents featuring brisket and latkes. Past years have included a special dinner for Jewish residents and their family members but that activity has also been curtailed due to the pandemic.

An electric menorah was lit in the lobby of the Trinity each afternoon during the holiday with the prayers recited by residents Jack Adler and Shirley Goldberg.

"There wasn't any singing," said Val Bracey. "Normally this is a very vibrant place, but we really tried to hold back."

The Trinity Lodge recently came out of a lockdown last month after one staff member tested positive for COVID-19.

Trinity Chaplain Bart Dailley made an extra effort to brighten the holiday, sending Chanukah cards to each Jewish resident, Bracey said.

At Our Parents Home in Edmonton, recreational therapist Natalie Voegli and her colleagues were dedicated to ensuring that all residents were able to enjoy as many of the customs and flavours of the season as possible.

A COVID-safe door drop took place during Chanukah,



Erica Karabus, lighting the Chanukah candles at the Signature Park Manor Village in Calgary, with fellow residents Ann Kennedy and Carol Fraser.

bringing treats with tam to all Jewish independent, memory care and supportive living residents; each package included a Chanukah message by Temple Beth Ora's Rabbi Gila Caine, donuts from Bliss Baked Goods, marshmallows, chocolate coins and Chanukah cookies.

A candle lighting took place in the OPH lobby every afternoon at 4:30pm throughout the holiday, with safe distancing and other COVID protocols in effect. Other Chanukah festivities included a dinner with latkes, and dreidel crafts for memory care residents.

"As the recreation therapist, I wanted to provide some normalcy for all our residents throughout the holidays," said Natalie Voegli adding that whatever holiday they celebrate, residents are receiving customized gifts and treats.

Back in Calgary at The Manor at Signature Park, Erica Karabus did not have other Jewish residents with whom to celebrate. But she was not alone. Ann Kennedy and Carol Fraser joined Karabus in her candle lighting, reciting the English translations after she chanted the traditional Hebrew prayers. Chanukah 5781 proved both fun and memorable as together they kindled an appreciation of the Jewish reasons for the season by bringing others into their circle of friendship and light.

Maxine Fischbein is a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for Alberta Jewish News.

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Thank you

*to all our family, friends, and community members
for your outpouring of kindness, love
and support in memory of our
dear sister and aunt, Susan Bondar z"l.*

*All your meals, gifts, flowers, donations,
phone calls, Zoom calls, emails and text messages
were gratefully appreciated and a comfort to us all.*

*Michael and Annabelle Bondar
Darren and Marnie Bondar and Family
Amy Bondar and Joe Waldman and Family
Sari and Rob Staniloff*

The family of
DOREEN ALBERT z"l
would like to acknowledge
and thank all those
who reached out
with their love, support,
donations, and condolences
on the loss of our
dear mother, grandmother
and great-grandmother.

The Kohn family
wishes to express their gratitude
for the many expressions
of sympathy, acts of kindness
and charitable donations
in memory of our dear husband,
father, grandfather and great grandfather,
William Kohn z"l.

Warmly, Lea & the Kohn family

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Edmonton Kosher Zone

B"II

שיטו ושמחו בשמחת תורה

EDMONTON FORWARD APRIL 29, 2021



Join in the creation of a life size Children's Sefer Torah. The Children's Sefer Torah will be feather and quill-inscribed, written and built by our youth in the Edmonton community. It will be making its debut, as we enter the New Era.

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This Torah with great workmanship and materials specifically made for children will include children's prayers, blessings and Grace after Meals. This Torah will take turns being housed and part of all Jewish children's programs in our city so that our children can see and be part of the appreciation of accepting our Torah anew.

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Chabad children's programs adapt with the times

By Regan Treewater-Lipes

(AJNews) - The words "change" and "adapt" have become staples in our COVID-conscious day and age. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the lives of our children. Almost a year has passed since the term "online-learning" became a household word uttered countless times each day. And yet, as the Jewish youth enrichment programming at Chabad of Edmonton has demonstrated, there are endless possibilities for new innovation approaches to improve engagement.

"It is more important than ever to show our kids that they are a part of a Jewish community," commented Rabbi Dovid Pinson in a recent phone interview. "Our focus is on what they need."

My husband Dmitriy and I have been sending our son Benji to the Chabad of Edmonton's CKids weekly programs for many years now – and we all consider it an essential part of his 10-year-old's world. On Sunday mornings he might grumble as we coax him out of bed, but by pick-up time, he never wants to leave; it often takes us up to thirty minutes to tear him away from his friends and activities. On the drive home he barely stops to breathe as he recounts all he and his friends worked on, talked about, and the activities that the Rabbi, Rebbetzin, and their helpers expertly orchestrated. That was before.

When this new year of CKids programming kicked off in September 2020, parents still dropped off their eager youngsters at the Fantasyland Hotel, but this time, instead of just reminding our sons that kippas stay on their heads, we also needed to reiterate that facemasks need to remain on at all times. But quickly the children were welcomed by Team Pinson's electric positivity, and suddenly, normality felt possible again.

"We wanted to put our energy into figuring out and adapting to what the children need most during these times," Rabbi Dovid explained. "We don't focus on thinking about if we will have a great big program. It's about asking: 'what do the kids need?' and if we can address what they need guided by their Jewish learning, then we are successful."

When in-person CKids activities were taking place, each child would have their own individual workstation set up just for them. "This way we were able to maintain social distance and the kids would be able to see their friends and we could all interact. We still have some of this with

our online Zoom sessions, but it can be difficult when each child is joining from an entirely different environment," he noted. "But this has shown me that I need to be more aware while I'm teaching."

When new restrictions were introduced, the Pinsons worked quickly to adapt CKids yet again. "We were able to collaborate and share strategies and resources with other Chabad programs from across North America," explained Rabbi Dovid.

Within days of the new regulations being rolled out, Benji woke one morning to find a box of carefully pre-prepared materials waiting for him on our doorstep. Inside were all the things he would need to participate in weekly CKids activities from our own basement. Now, every two weeks I go pick up pre-organized program packages for Benji to use during CKids Zoom meetings. Perking my ears up to listen in from upstairs, the energy and enthusiasm is explosive, and the kids could not be more excited to see Rabbi Dovid and all their friends.

As Chanukah grew closer, we all knew that we would have to find new ways of sharing the light of the holiday with our friends and families. On Sunday, December 13, a motor parade of 100 cars, 40 of which were adorned with giant Chanukiyot, wound its way from the West End of Edmonton, down Whyte Avenue, past the Provincial Legislature, and back again via Stony Plain Road. Hot thermoses of tea in hand, bags of Bissli at the ready, our family secured the large metal Chanukiya to the roof of our car and set out. As we drove by the Legislature, familiar faces of volunteers from the community waved and reminded us all to stay safe and remain in our cars.

"We handed out almost 300 gift boxes," Rabbi Dovid told me happily. "Our CTeens all got a package delivered to them for Chanukah. Each teen received a CTeens thermos that we brought in from New York, hot chocolate for their thermoset, and poems about keeping warm.



A motor parade of 100 cars celebrated Chanukah in Edmonton.

They also got a Chanukiya and were asked to give it to someone else to help share the light if they already had one at home." Smaller children, like Benji, got a dreidel and Chanukah gelt and eight tiny glass bottles packed with special Chanukah missions to complete each night. Benji took these nightly missions very seriously. If possible, this was Benji's most engaged and traditionally-aware Chanukah yet.

"Attendance and participation in our programs has grown," said Rabbi Dovid. And in a time when so many are suffering loss, emotional fatigue, and economic hardship, the support of a strong Jewish community, and enriching Jewish education is an elixir for the mind and soul. "We know that so many people everywhere are experiencing incredible challenges and tremendous loss and grief. We just keep asking ourselves what those around us need. The fourth Lubavitch Rebbe would teach that you don't stop because there is a river in your path but figure out how to jump over it."

In this way the Pinsons have found creative ways of launching over the obstacles of our time. "Much of what we do is not in spite of COVID, but because of it." Rabbi Dovid now conducts weekly thirty-minute one-on-one teaching sessions with pre-Bar Mitzvah age children. "This is such an incredible thing that we're able to do. The kids aren't able to go to shul, but they have direct access to their Rabbi." Each week, 30 children jump on Zoom individually

Continued on page 13

Sabbath: Time for G-d

The Calgary Council of Christians and Jews (CCCJ) invites you to a "Talks with Tea" presentation via Zoom, on

two Sunday afternoons, January 24 and 31st, at 4pm. You can relax with your cup of Tea and we'll provide the Talkers. The topic, SABBATH - TIME FOR G-D? will be discussed by two engaging speakers, Rabbi Binyomin Halpern, and Professor Mark Buchanan respectively.

father, Rabbi Eliezer Halpern.

Professor Buchanan teaches in the area of Pastoral Education at Ambrose University in Calgary. He is the author of *The Rest of G-d: Restoring Your Soul by Restoring Sabbath* as well as other books relating to faith and practice. His teaching is enhanced by his years serving as a pastor.

Please register before January 24, by emailing rochyrab@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link. If you receive this notice by email, click on the Zoom link below at 3:45 each day. <http://us02web.zoom.us/j/81070029225>

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Rabbi Binyomin Halpern
Author and Rabbi,
House of Jacob Mikveh Israel

Professor Mark Buchanan
Author and Professor of Pastoral Education,
Ambrose University

Bondar brings B'nai Brith to a new generation of men and women

By Maxine Fischbein

(AJNews) - Darren Bondar is excited to have ascended to the presidency of one of Jewish Calgary's most deeply rooted organizations. In November, long-serving B'nai Brith Lodge #816 president Rob Barsky turned the gavel over... not only to a new leader but to a new generation.

The transition bodes well for the 103 year-old chapter of B'nai Brith, an organization that has been served by some of this community's most dedicated and philanthropically inclined, including Barsky and Harold Lipton, two long-time volunteers whose efforts were lauded by Bondar in his August, 2020 leadership proposal.

Since the establishment of their charter in 1917, the Calgary lodge has attracted thousands of members and served the Jewish community and the community at large, generously funding charitable organizations, most notably those serving youth.

According to information provided by the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta, Lodge #816 had approximately 90 members in 1926, a number that swelled to 215 in 1944, including veterans who enjoyed the benefit of free membership, a salute to their service during World War II. Membership through the 1960s, 70s and 80s was steady at approximately 250 members, "... peaking in 1987 with just over 300." In 1998, there were about 200 local members.

While B'nai Brith Lodge #816 has maintained their proud history of community service in Calgary, the organization has witnessed a decline in membership numbers, particularly in recent years, a challenge affecting many membership-based organizations. According to Darren Bondar there are currently about 50 members.

It is a trend that Bondar and his energetic executive are seeking to reverse. Together with Vice President Sam Feldman, Secretary Perry Feldman and Treasurer Stacy Shaikin, Bondar has already hit the ground running armed with a leadership proposal he submitted to the organization at the end of August.

"It's nice to see this younger generation step up and take leadership roles," Bondar said.

"It's great to read through the history and see how active B'nai Brith was. We hope to bring a little of that back to Calgary."

Bondar, who was raised in Calgary, joined B'nai Brith when he returned to the city some 14 years ago after living in Edmonton.

He feels very much a product of the Calgary Jewish community and B'nai Brith, having attended both the Calgary Hebrew School (now The Calgary Jewish Academy) and the I. L. Peretz School. Bondar attended Camp B'nai Brith (now Camp BB Riback), worked as a member of the camp staff for seven years and served as camp director in 1998 and 1999. He was also a leader in B'nai Brith Youth Organization International #31, serving as president in 1989.

Bondar's leadership resume includes a two-year stint as treasurer on the Camp B'nai Brith board of directors followed by four years as board chair between 2002 and 2006.

"I saw that B'nai Brith was an organization in need of my skillset," Bondar said. "What a great organization to be a part of with its 103 year history in Calgary."

Bondar and his team are currently planning the 2021 B'nai Brith Dinner which was postponed to this coming fall due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Speakers are being secured and details for what Bondar describes as B'nai Brith's "marquee event" will be announced shortly, Bondar told *Alberta Jewish News*.

Once it is safe to assemble, Bondar also looks forward to launching a membership drive in order to "... increase the membership base that is open to both men and women and get some fun programs going throughout the year."

"We have a handful of female members," Bondar said. "Part of this launch is to really make it vocally known that women can and should be members. It is a human rights organization and we don't discriminate between men and women who want to join."

Other key upcoming initiatives will include improved communication to members, programming that supports members, and funding for agencies that serve youth, seniors and those most in need.

"B'nai Brith has allocated over \$100,000 a year for the past decade to various local organizations like Camp BB and the B'nai Brith Youth Organization, Jewish Family Services, and also to the general community, like Project Warmth, the Calgary Women's Shelter, and the Learning Disabilities Camp, Amicus," Bondar said. "These are all organizations that have really benefited from the generosity of B'nai Brith members for decades."

"That's going to be the fun part of the job for me, just supporting a lot of these organizations financially and writing those cheques on behalf of our members."

One of Bondar's initial promises has already been



**B'nai Brith Calgary Lodge #816 President
Darren Bondar**

fulfilled with an updated website that provides information about local and national B'nai Brith initiatives and lodge history.

"We really look forward to collaborating more with B'nai Brith Canada," Bondar said. The sentiment is echoed by Abe Silverman, Manager of Public Affairs, BB Canada Alberta Region, who expressed pleasure at the re-establishment of a relationship between the national and local organizations during the Lodge #816 presidency of Robert Barsky – a relationship he hopes will continue to deepen during Bondar's tenure.

Bondar's household is a busy one with both he and his wife Marnie engaged in community leadership positions while raising two teens. Marnie Bondar is co-chair of Holocaust and Human Rights Education for Calgary Jewish Federation.

"She's amazing, so I have to keep up with her," said Bondar.

"We feel very fortunate and are in a really great position to be able to give back to the community. Both of us are taking a lot of pride and passion in what we're doing."

A busy entrepreneur, Bondar takes joy in heading the organization that helped to inculcate his deeply-held commitment to Jewish communal life.

"It kind of feels like I am coming back full circle," Bondar said.

"We're privileged to be continuing a 103-year-old tradition in Calgary."

"It's a lot of work but we're excited about it," says Bondar.

"It's going to be fun."

Maxine Fischbein is a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for Alberta Jewish News.

Did you know?

B'nai Brith was formally established in Calgary in June, 1917. Lawyer Benjamin Ginsberg – originally from South Africa – was the inaugural president of Lodge #816.

B'nai Brith Lodge # 732 was established in Edmonton in 1913. It has a proud history, but ceased to be active over a decade ago, with the exception of participation in Remembrance Day ceremonies. A second chapter, B'nai Brith lodge #2061, was absorbed by Lodge #732 in 1956.

Lodges were established in Lethbridge and Medicine Hat during the 1930s and 1940s and thrived in both communities. A vestige of former lodge activity in

Lethbridge, the B'nai Brith Dinner has been maintained in recent years despite the overall dwindling of the Jewish community there.

Lodges in Alberta and Saskatchewan comprised the North West Canadian Council, District 6 of B'nai Brith Canada, a part of B'nai Brith International. The NWCC and lodges from Eastern Canada amalgamated in 1981, forming Canadian B'nai Brith District 22.

Calgary B'nai Brith Lodge # 816 is the sole fully-functioning grassroots B'nai Brith organization in Alberta. B'nai Brith Canada – established in 1875 – maintains its presence and advocacy work throughout Alberta mainly due to the efforts of Abe Silverman, Manager of Public Affairs, B'nai Brith Canada Alberta

Region, who is based in Edmonton.

According to Silverman, there are some 200 individuals throughout Alberta who are members of B'nai Brith Canada. The increasingly egalitarian national organization welcomes the participation of women in the previously all-male bastion. A unity pin featuring a menorah and a rainbow captures the organization's stated commitment to inclusivity.

B'nai Brith Canada has an anti-hate hotline which is open 24-7 to anyone who experiences antisemitism or discrimination. Anyone who is the victim or witness of racism or antisemitism can report the incident at 1-800- 892-2624.

CPL plans multifaceted Holocaust programming

By Maxine Fischbein

Calgary Public Library Community Learning Advocate Patrick Mealey's outreach to Marnie Bondar and Dahlia Libin less than two months ago has culminated in a dynamic partnership between the Library and Calgary Jewish Federation's Holocaust and Human Rights Education Department.

The first fruit of their labour will be the highly anticipated live virtual talk by renowned historian Deborah Lipstadt on January 27 – International Holocaust Remembrance Day – the starting point for further Library initiatives that will make Holocaust education and literature more accessible in Calgary and beyond.

Bondar and Libin were pleased to step up when Mealey contacted them to tap their expertise. Around the same time, Mealey experienced a "happy coincidence" when he discovered that funding was available through the Calgary Public Library Foundation thanks to generous donors who want to support Holocaust and human rights initiatives.

While Mealey looks forward to a Library event with the potential to attract thousands of participants, he is keeping his eyes on the big picture when it comes to Holocaust education and resources.

"In my mind, it is the kind of thing that needs to be an ongoing process," Mealey said.

"So one of my initial thoughts is to follow up the January 27th event with a history-based series on the Holocaust. It would really provide enough time to learn but also enough time to think and reflect."

Mealey says his goal is a program that allows Calgarians to "explore the roots of the Holocaust."

"Developing a sense of the cultural, political, philosophical roots of the Holocaust is important... it needs to be learned and re-learned by each generation," Mealey said.

The Library is also planning Holocaust-related programs for teens.

Active in sharing her late Babi Freda Plucer's experiences during the Shoah, Bondar has spoken to teens in Calgary and area high schools and comes with experience that will be invaluable in the planning, Mealey said.

"Teens are notoriously difficult to attract. When you go to a high school, you have a captive audience but to get them to voluntarily come to a library program isn't always easy. However, when they do come, they are committed," Mealey said.

The Library hopes to bring the Holocaust into focus for an even younger audience through story times with age appropriate books including some recommended by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

For now, the Library is planning virtual programs, with

the hope that participants can come together face-to-face once COVID-19 recedes, Mealey said.

Once it is possible to assemble, the Library hopes to feature one or more exhibits, including a Yad Vashem-produced exhibit displayed last year at City Hall when the local observance of International Holocaust Remembrance Day was first proclaimed.

Calgary Public Library and Calgary Jewish Federation are working to establish local connections by planning programs delivered mainly by Calgarians.

"That's what's going to make a big impact, that the Holocaust is important to us right here in the city of Calgary. Whether the local presenters are survivors, local authors, novelists, scholars or experts... I really want to make sure that it's brought home," Mealey said.

"It is really exciting to be able to create programming, not just for our Jewish community but for the greater City of Calgary," said Marnie Bondar. "It lets us reach far more people."

"We're really touched by the library's interest in this," Dahlia Libin said. "It's an incredible relationship. They are so good to work with."

For details on upcoming Calgary Public Library programs go to calgarylibrary.ca/events-and-programs/programs/.

Maxine Fischbein is a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for Alberta Jewish News.

An update from Jewish National Fund Edmonton

On January 6, 2021, JNF Edmonton President Erin Wright and Executive Director Jay Cairns released the following update to the Edmonton Jewish community.

"JNF Edmonton would like to thank you for your steadfast support in these difficult times. This past year has proven to be one of the most challenging years our generation has faced, and the world will never be the same as a result.

"In the interests of safety and compliance with provincial regulations, the JNF Edmonton office has transitioned to a phone message system. Messages will be

returned within 24 hours and for more timely responses we encourage communication via email at edm@jnf.ca. Tree bank holders can submit orders via email, and we have an incredible new selection of tribute cards to choose from. Office visits are by appointment only.

"We know that this year has been difficult for many individuals and businesses. If you are in a position to make a gift, we encourage you to contribute to the Annual Tu Bi Shevat Campaign, your support would be deeply appreciated. Visit us online at jnf.ca/annual-campaign/ for online donations.

"If you have any questions or would like more information, please leave a voicemail for Executive Director, Jay Cairns at the office: 780.481.7881 or email edm@jnf.ca.

"Thank you in advance for helping us build a stronger, more inclusive, healthier, and more compassionate Israel. We could not do our important work without people like you. Wishing you and your families a healthy and happy 2021."



Our New Brand & Visual Identity Are Much More Than A New Icon And Tagline, It's Israel's Future.

Over the previous decades, many of you have grown up with our logo featuring three colours - blue, green, and brown. Blue for water, green for environmentalism, and brown for land. They defined JNF Canada's raison d'être. Together, we have contributed to Israel's successful rise from its once fragile state to a technological and environmental light among nations.

As Israel has developed, JNF Canada has also evolved. Building on our environmental mission, we have also identified the need to address the lack of charitable social service infrastructure for the people of Israel to survive and thrive.

Why Did JNF Canada Redesign Its Logo?

We did more than just redesign our logo. Guided by the consultants at Blueprint, we spent many months reflecting on who we are and what our core proposition was to our supporters. What makes JNF Canada unique? Our answer is that JNF is the only Canadian charity that, together with our generous donors, are "Building the Foundations for Israel's Future." We help build charitable projects that are essential to enhance and enrich the lives of Israel's citizens in every part of the country.

In every generation, Israel's needs change. In pre-

JNF Canada building Israel together

statehood, the need was to purchase land for the early pioneers. After the state was established, there was a focus on forests, gardens, and lookouts. As the population grew, Israel experienced water shortages so reservoirs were required. These needs have been addressed, thanks in part to the success of our work. More recently, JNF Canada has become more involved in social infrastructure projects like community centres, playgrounds, rehabilitation facilities and youth centres. While our environmental mission will remain a priority, we are excited to also support these vitally important social service needs, in collaboration with a variety of agencies and charitable organizations.

The new JNF Canada logo is not a rejection of the past, rather we embrace it. The values at the core of JNF Canada have not changed. The key message of our new visual identity is that we are forward-looking, dynamic, creative, and modern while respecting our beautiful past. We are inspired by the founder of modern Zionism, Theodore Herzl, who dreamed of an Old-New Land – Altneuland. JNF Canada will continue to honour the values and traditions of our past as we turn our eyes forward to building the foundations of Israel's future, together.

Our Brand Mission

Building Israel Together

JNF builds strong communities for Israel's future. JNF projects help people live better by linking the generosity of Canadians to the environmental and social infrastructure needs in Israel. We have supported community growth for generations, and we passionately carry our historic mission forward for a strong and sustainable future.

JNF is the go-to organization for those who want to connect with and build a better Israel together.

Our Visual Identity

Our new logo is made up of an icon and uses the acronym JNF. This reflects how most people inside and

outside the organization colloquially refer to us. We will still use Jewish National Fund of Canada on formal and legal documents.

Our icon is full of meaningful symbols:

The Colours

JNF Canada's new visual identity conveys Israel through the use of blues and white. The focus of our work is exclusively directed toward Israel and no two colours exemplify Israel more than these.

The Blue Box (Pushke)

Made up of the four pillars and the coin slot above, this modern representation of the Blue Box is a powerful symbol of JNF Canada's long fundraising history and the enduring support of our donors.

The Pillars

The four pillars represent strength and upward growth. This will also be used in our design system to represent buildings, as a core element of our brand "Building Israel Together".

The Leaf

We replaced the tree from our previous logo with a young leaf sprouting from a branch. It is a nod to our environmental history, our ongoing commitment to environmental projects, regeneration, and new beginnings. We have been connecting Canadians to Israel for decades, but still perceive ourselves as young and dynamic.

With the new branding also comes a revitalized approach to fundraising and many exciting and meaningful building project opportunities.

We look forward to sharing these (and more of our new look) with you in the coming months!

For more information please contact: edm@jnf.ca
780.481.7881

JNF'S NEW TREE AND TRIBUTE CARDS!



Order Today and honour a loved one for any occasion. \$18 per card or 10 for \$150



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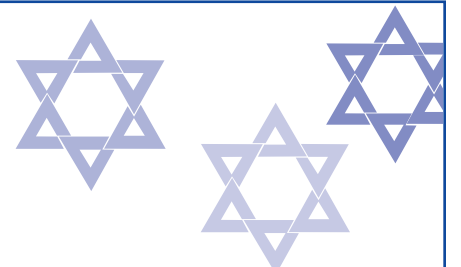
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JNF Tu Bi'Shevat Campaign

This year, the holiday of Tu Bi'Shevat begins on January 27th, which is International Holocaust Remembrance Day. In recognition of these coinciding days, JNF has carefully selected a project that will provide vital assistance to Holocaust survivors. As well, we encourage you to memorialize or honour those who experienced the Shoah by planting trees in the Plugot Forest in their name.

Help Holocaust Survivors Cope During Their Golden Years

Many of the nearly 200,000 Holocaust survivors living in Israel today were children during WW2, children who suffered an unimaginable tragedy. After the war, they made every effort to rebuild their shattered lives, but not all succeeded. Many continue to struggle with their traumatic pasts. Over the past years, the number of survivors requesting support continues to grow. As the survivors age and face additional challenges their needs grow and their support network becomes more limited. With your help, JNF will renovate Amcha's Centre in Rehovot servicing Survivors with psychological and social support. This centre has become dilapidated and is unsuitable for many activities. This centre will provide a rich array of programs, that after a year of isolation due to the pandemic, have become more important than ever. Now is the time to help us honour these brave Jewish heroes and ensure their final chapters are filled with support and happiness.

Plant Trees To Attract Bees At Plugot Forest

Plant some trees to attract the bees! Join us renewing the arson-damaged Plugot Forest with new "bee-puller" trees to bring more of these vital insects to the local ecosystem! This Tu Bi'Shevat, we invite you to participate in our most time-honoured tradition and help us renew the arson-balloon damaged Plugot Forest with new, "bee-puller" trees to increase the bee populations by attracting other bees to the area. Bees are central to the functioning of our entire ecosystem by fertilizing which produce 90% of the world's food. Located in the Northern Negev close to the city of Kiryat Gat, the Plugot Forest holds great significance in Israeli history as the site of one of the great battles during the War of Independence and includes many other heritage sites and is a wonderful recreational spot for families to spend quality time immersed in nature.



For more information contact edm@jnf.ca or call 780.481.7881.

Honour A Loved One

You are welcome to support one, both, or let JNF decide. For all donations of \$100 or more, JNF is pleased to provide you with a beautiful personalized certificate in memory or honour of a loved one who experienced the Holocaust.

We kindly ask you to consider supporting our annual campaign on a monthly basis, which will enhance our capacity to reach other donors to join in our work.

Thank you for your trust in JNF and Happy Tu Bi'Shevat.

Chasia's Enchantment to launch Jan. 28

By Regan Treewater-Lipes

"I offer you a gateway into your own peacefulness, healing, joy and personhood." And in these unprecedented times, who would not benefit from some healing and peace? Hilda Chasia Smith, a native of Winnipeg, and long-time resident of Calgary, is the author of a new book that promises just that!

"When I gather poetry, it is universal for healing and love," explained the accomplished teacher in a recent FaceTime interview. *Chasia's Enchantment* is a timely publication of collected guided meditations, poetry, and visual art bringing together the plethora of Smith's countless talents. She is a teacher, a musician, a painter, a writer, a yoga instructor, and a spiritual healer rooted in the teachings of Jewish thought and tradition.

"Jewish sources teach of the simultaneous importance of knowledge, understanding, and wisdom, and Hilda Chasia Smith is the living embodiment of all three," writes Rabbi Mark Glickman. A staple of the Calgary Jewish community, Smith exudes passion and energy from her core, and radiates this same positivity with great intensity. On Jan. 28, the book will be launched via Zoom.

The book itself is small in size but abundant in what it offers readers. "The book is all about working from the inside out," she offered. "If a poem from the book speaks to you, then do not just read it once, read it as many times as you need to. We all deserve healing, and joy and love."

"Do you know that some people are afraid of joy, not consciously, but they're actually afraid to let themselves feel joy, and they inadvertently run from it."

Smith hopes that her readers will be able to tap into their inner joy and peace through her words. Her offering to the world around her is her attempt to start a ripple effect of positivity. "The laws of Torah and the understanding of the person who you are -- it is completely soul encompassing," she stated with conviction.

Chasia's Enchantment takes a holistic spiritual approach of *tikkun olam* – Smith is doing her part to repair the world. The book "integrates my knowledge and experience on the subjects of Judaism, Kabbalah, yoga, and meditation. These have been a major part of my life as a universal soul; as a multidisciplinary teacher, an artist, and musician."

The daughter of Holocaust survivors Mendel and Rachel Sztternfeld, Smith recalls watching her mother and grandmother lighting Shabbat candles on Friday evenings.

"By candlelight I would watch them reading from the Tkhine, and it was so inspiring. I would feel, and still feel, such gratitude for being a Jewish woman," she remarked.

Many of her poems draw inspiration from Judaism. In her poem "Torah," Smith writes: "May that which imbues every heart and soul/ with glorious life keep unfolding."

Smith explained: "As a child I knew that my family had been murdered in the Holocaust, and I have always felt that I have a duty to bring joy into the world." For her vessel of joy, Smith opted to use her Hebrew name for the title of the volume, "The title of the book was never a question." Chasia had been her grandmother's stepdaughter, whom Smith and her mother never got to meet. Smith's connection to the name "Chasia" is one that is deep and meaningful.

Her poems are not all connected to her Jewish identity,

but also to a philosophy for healthy positive living that she has cultivated for decades. "The whole purpose is to help others relax and bring calmness, self-love, and love for others."

In a global reality where so many are feeling anxious, isolated, and overwhelmed, stopping to reflect on one of Smith's guided meditations could be just the thing for settling frayed nerves.

"I breathe, I breathe in love and life and yes, I let go of what does not serve serenity. I trust, I love, I am wholeness [...] I breathe out love, creativity, and forgiveness. I breathe in prosperity."

Mazel tov to Hilda Chasia Smith, whose book will be launched formally on Tu Bi'shevat – Jan. 28, 2021. For more information visit durville.com.

Regan Treewater-Lipes is a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for Alberta Jewish News.

J N F C A N A D A

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

2021 5781

RESTORE & REMEMBER

THANKS TO YOUR GENEROSITY, JNF IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF COUNTLESS ISRAELIS.

You can help JNF build the foundations for Israel's future by contributing to the 2021 Annual Campaign.

By supporting our Annual Campaign, you will help Holocaust survivors cope during their golden years and aid in restoring the Plugot forest with "bee puller" trees to attract these vital insects to the ecosystem.

Please give generously and let's Build Israel Together!

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Yes! I would like to contribute to the 2021 Annual Campaign with a gift of:
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This month's update from Edmonton Talmud Torah School



Edmonton Talmud Torah students head back to school on-site on Jan. 11 and they're looking forward to resuming their studies with their friends and teachers. They celebrated a Spirit Week Hanukkah right before the winter break.


EDMONTON TALMUD TORAH SOCIETY
 תלמוד תורה כנגד כולם


Edmonton Jewish Community Directory 2021
 Back by Popular Demand!

After an outpouring of requests from our Jewish community members, the Edmonton Talmud Torah is looking forward to re-publishing a community directory in the spring of 2021. Although Covid-19 has physically separated us, it has also kindled a need to connect us with each other.

Our community has always been close, and the directory has served as a tool to maintain and connect individuals, institutions and businesses throughout the city, as well as being a major fundraiser for the Society.

Please take a few minutes now to enter the following link in your internet browser (<https://bit.ly/2021ttlistings>). You will be directed to an online form where you can fill in your listing information.

If you prefer to provide your information via phone, please call Natalie Soroka at the Talmud Torah Society office 780.481.3377 or email TTlistings2021@gmail.com.

We hope to collect your response by the end of January.

Help us spread the word! Please forward this information to family and friends who may wish to be listed **or to advertise** in our new directory.







TRAVEL IN HEBREW CLASS
 WITH LIA HERSHKOVITZ

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN TBO FOR A FOUR-WEEK

It will prepare you to live your dream vacation to Israel and get you talking like a local. Although we can't go on vacation yet, this class will help scratch that travel itch! Travel through the streets of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and the sites of the Dead Sea, Eilat, and the Negev. Knowing all the right questions to ask!

No prior Hebrew needed. This class will be primarily taught using transliteration, so no reading skills needed.

TEL AVIV SATURDAY, JAN 9 7:00 PM	JERUSALEM SATURDAY, JAN 16 7:00 PM	THE DEAD SEA SATURDAY, JAN 23 7:00 PM	EILAT AND THE NEGEV SATURDAY, JAN 30 7:00 PM
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COST: \$36 (ALL FOUR SESSIONS) OR \$10 PER INDIVIDUAL SESSION.
[CLICK HERE TO TO PRE-REGISTER](#)

Bio: Lia Hershkovitz is the founder of Guide Me Away, a Vancouver based travel agency. Originally from Israel, she moved to Canada ten years ago. She has an insatiable passion for travel, and genuinely believes it opens doors, expands the mind, and enriches life. She is excited to share the Hebrew language through the lens of travel.

Renowned historian speaks

Cont. from page 1

the urgency of tuning in to experts like Deborah Lipstadt whose life is devoted to exposing and opposing racists and anti-Semites and showing others how to do the same.

While Lipstadt decries right-wing extremism, she does not limit her criticism to one side of the political spectrum.

"[Antisemitism] comes from the right and from the left. It comes from Israel haters and it comes from white supremacists. It comes from both sides, and my challenge to the audience, my challenge to my students, my challenge to people who read my books, is the need to take both sides seriously and not to only see antisemitism when it is on the other side of the political transom," Lipstadt told AJN.

"You have to be aware of it when it is right in front of you, assumed by people with whom you agree on other issues. There might be a tendency to say, 'well, in that case I'm going to ignore it.' No, you can't ignore it. You've got to call it out."

For many, Holocaust denial seems a perplexing and even absurd manifestation of antisemitism especially given the thoroughness with which the perpetrators documented their acts and how determinedly Holocaust survivors, liberators and some bystanders have shared their eyewitness testimony.

Lipstadt says it is important to identify and oppose both hard core and soft core denial.

"Hard core denial is when you deny the facts. Soft core denial is, in quotation marks, squishier. It takes different forms. Sometimes they invert it so that the Jews become victimizers and others become the victims."

Soft core denial, while less obviously sinister, minimizes the Holocaust in a seemingly subtle – but ultimately

dangerous – progression.

Lipstadt harshly criticised US President Donald Trump's inner circle for soft core denial in 2017 when the White House released an International Holocaust Remembrance Day statement that intentionally omitted reference to the murder of six million Jews during the Shoah.

"Soft core denial is something that our kids are facing more and more when they go off to University these days," said Holocaust and Human Rights Education Co-Chair Marnie Bondar.

"Listening to Deborah's perspective is hopefully not just good learning for Albertans but also empowering in teaching us how to respond," Bondar added.

Lipstadt says legitimate criticism of Israeli government policies is sometimes wrongly perceived as antisemitism. She points out, however, that it is problematic when Israel is criticised for certain actions while similar wrongs by other nations are overlooked.

While she supports Israel, Lipstadt has criticised Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for courting the leaders of Hungary, Poland and Lithuania, countries that have attempted to whitewash antisemitic policies and their Holocaust histories.

Lipstadt leapt from academic and literary acclaim into popular culture when Rachel Weisz portrayed her in *Denial*.

"The fact that producers in Hollywood, that the BBC, that the media thought my story was worth telling was a trip... It certainly brought it to the attention of millions of people and that's quite something," she said.

"It had me fighting with my lawyer much more than I actually fought with my lawyer and things like that, but by and large it was very accurate. The screenplay writer, David Hare, knew this was a story about truth and knew he couldn't play with the truth. It would be hypocritical to



Renowned historian Deborah Lipstadt will be addressing the Alberta community virtually on Jan. 27 at 7 pm. Registration is free.

write a screenplay about truth that depended on things that weren't true."

Lipstadt has high praise for Rachel Weisz.

"She is a consummate professional. You asked how it felt to be portrayed by her... it was a great privilege."

And it will be a rare privilege for an Alberta audience to hear Deborah Lipstadt.

"We really hope that the audience will find it informative and that it gives everyone the opportunity to reflect on the Holocaust, where we're at and what's happened over the last 76 years," Holocaust and Human Rights Education Co-Chair Dahlia Libin said.

"We are at a critical point in our history... There is a tremendous confluence of antisemitism," said Calgary Jewish Federation Co-President Jared Shore – who will be moderating the Lipstadt program. "Holocaust denial and antisemitism are not exclusively Jewish concerns."

"The partnership with the Library and the City exemplifies this," added Shore, who praised the work of Bondar and Libin as Calgary Jewish Federation "doubles down on Holocaust education."

"The community should stay tuned for some very powerful events and programs," Shore said.

Deborah Lipstadt will speak via Zoom on January 27th at 7:00pm. Calgary Public Library members can register at calgarylibrary.ca/events-and-programs/programs/antisemitism-76-years-after-the-holocaust. The event will also be live streamed on the Calgary Public Library Facebook page. Other residents of Alberta are asked to preregister at lstcharles@cjcc.ca (subject: Antisemitism: 76 Years after the Holocaust). For more information about the event, contact the Holocaust and Human Rights Education Department of Calgary Jewish Federation at holocaustedu@jewishcalgary.org.

Maxine Fischbein is a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for Alberta Jewish News.

Did you know?

Beginning in 1984, an annual Holocaust Education Symposium for Calgary and area high school students has taken place at Mount Royal College (now Mount Royal University), typically at the beginning of May. The Symposium is co-sponsored by Calgary Jewish Federation and MRU in partnership with the University of Calgary, and local public, separate and private schools. Some 3,600 students participate each year.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Holocaust Education Symposium will be delivered virtually. The format and content will remain the same with presentations by historians, screening of a Holocaust-related documentary and testimonies by Holocaust survivors as well as second and third generation speakers. Teachers will be able to access the various modules for a full week as well as supplementary educational materials and resources.

The Dianne and Irving Kipnes Holocaust Education Symposium – presented annually by the Jewish Federation of Edmonton – is usually held in March.

The half-day program for Grade 12 students typically attracts 1,000 Edmonton high school students and their teachers and is similar in format to the program offered in Calgary.

Thanks to a partnership between Calgary Jewish Federation and the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, schools in Alberta's capital city will be participating in Calgary's virtual Holocaust Education Symposium this May. Some Lethbridge schools will also be logging in and organizers are sharing the opportunity with schools throughout Alberta. Further projects linking Calgary and Edmonton are in the works.

The Holocaust and Human Rights Education Department of Calgary Jewish Federation is in the midst of producing an evocative, museum-quality photo exhibit and book featuring local Holocaust survivors and those who live elsewhere but are connected to the Calgary community.

For more information on these and other Holocaust and human rights initiatives, contact Marnie Bondar and Dahlia Libin at holocaustedu@jewishcalgary.org.

**ANTISEMITISM:
76 YEARS AFTER THE HOLOCAUST**

Join renowned professor and historian Deborah Lipstadt in honour of International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Deborah was sued for libel by a Holocaust denier. Her story was depicted in the 2016 film *Denial*. She will talk about Holocaust denial, antisemitism, and her ongoing experiences in combating them.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27 • 7PM

Visit JEWISHCALGARY.ORG to register for this free virtual event. Open to all Albertans.

**BETH TZEDEC
CONGREGATION**

Tu B'shevat Art Night
via Zoom

Wednesday January 27
6:30-7:30pm
For children (and their families) in 3rd through 6th grade

Tu B'shevat is coming - get in touch with the spirit of the holiday as well as your own creative spirit. Artist Yehoshua Hooper of Kavanah Arts will lead participants in an interactive Zoom workshop focused on nature and conservation. Participants will create wondrous pieces of art *themselves*, using only basic supplies and ingredients. No artistic training is necessary!

Members: Free Guests: \$18
RSVP to info@bethzedec.ca or 403-255-8688.
Zoom information and suggested supplies will be sent following registration.

For more information contact Jonah at jpotasznik@bethzedec.ca.

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Partnership 2Gether: Connecting Israel and Canada

By Barbara Crook – Partnership 2Gether

I did not find my 2020 Chanukah miracle at a party, in a synagogue, or even in my latke-scented kitchen.

In fact, I was alone in my house when it happened. Alone – except for 100 other individuals and families from across Canada and the Upper Galilee, who came together over a magical Zoom call to light candles on the first day of Chanukah, and to remind us that the Jewish people can always find a way to connect.

For once in the Zoom world, the computer screen was not a poor substitute for human interaction. And after months of seeing faces that looked like mug shots, every single person was engaged and smiling so broadly that our faces were in danger of breaking.

In fact, we could never have done this kind of gathering in person, even in pre-COVID times. It was a Chanukah blessing we never quite anticipated.

I'm the Canadian co-chair of the Coast-to-Coast Partnership of Partnership 2Gether (P2G). Our partnership connects six Jewish communities in Canada – Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, Ottawa and the Atlantic Provinces – with Israelis in the Galilee Panhandle, near Israel's border with Lebanon.

Our Israeli partners are from Kiryat Shmona, Metulla, Galil Elyon, Mevo'ot HaHermon and Yesod HaMa'ala. Some are city dwellers while others live on kibbutzim and moshavim.

In a normal year, representatives from the 11 communities, including the five Israeli mayors, meet in Canada in the spring and Israel in the fall. We get updates on our joint projects in Israel, plan new projects and partnerships, and enjoy home hospitality.

Many of our elementary and high schools are partnered with schools in the Upper Galilee, and most years there is some kind of exchange – *mifgash* – in which students visit their pen pals in person.

Then came COVID-19 and multiple lockdowns in both countries. Face-to-face meetings were out, many schools became virtual, and parents and teachers in both countries were burning out.

But we determined to stay in contact and fulfil our mandate of *Gesher Chai* – the “living bridge” connecting our communities

We took advantage of Zoom to increase our meetings, and organized webinars featuring Israeli experts in such areas as community resilience, social mobility and Israeli politics and security.

Our projects are still going strong, despite COVID restrictions and recurring lockdowns in Israel.

Our funding of *Mashabim*, the Community Stress Prevention Centre in Kiryat Shmona, has allowed high school principals, teachers and guidance counsellors to work with experts and to share best practices about fostering resilience during COVID.

Derech Ruach (Journey of the Spirit) is in its second year teaching high school students philosophy and literature at Tel Hai College. The 60-odd students in the two cohorts easily adapted to virtual classes when necessary, and didn't blink at the idea of four hours of classes after a long school day.

And when the Grade 3 and 4 students in the region could physically connect in the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) labs that we helped establish, they designed and built innovative products and projects, with the teachers acting only as supervisors.

And then came our Chanukah virtual *mifgash*, organized by lay leaders and professionals in both countries. I had no hand in planning it, and didn't know what to expect.

I saw some familiar faces and some new ones. And then more people kept signing on. And more, until there were 101 screens on the call. There were babes in arms, there

were people in their 70s, and every age in between.

Teacher Hadas Elimelech and some of her Grade 6 students from Hameganim School in Kiryat Shmona did a lovely presentation in English, then lit the first candle as we joined in the blessings.

My Israeli co-chair, Shaul Zohar, who teaches tennis to children and adults of all physical and developmental abilities, made a menorah by drilling holes in the handle of a tennis racket, and did a courtside candle-lighting with his students.

And the Grade 4 class at Talmud Torah in Edmonton, led by Ben Ragosin, played a charming Chanukah song on their glockenspiels.

The Chanukah *mifgash* was all of 23 minutes long. It turned a day of isolation and stress into a day of joy that resonates to this day.

It connected friends and strangers, adults and children, Canadians and Israelis, in a ceremony that celebrated light and banished darkness. It reminded us that even in this pandemic, we are stronger together.

This article was reprinted with permission of the Ottawa Jewish Bulletin.



Teacher Hadas Elimelech and some Grade 6 students at Hameganim School in Kiryat Shmona prepare to light the first Chanukah candle.

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UJA 2020 **WE CAN**



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UJA CHAIR

MESSAGE

This past year, I decided to continue a second term as UJA Campaign Chair, knowing that we were faced with fundraising during the COVID-19 pandemic. We all put our heads together to tackle this challenge and with the leadership of Adam Silver, Diana Kalef, and of course our Federation Co-Presidents, Jordan Balaban and Jared Shore, we came up with a plan to stay the course with the objective of a flat campaign to mirror the previous year.

We initiated the Jewish Together Fund and charged our volunteers and canvassers to go out and meet our goal and guess what... we matched last year's campaign and raised an additional \$150,000 for the Jewish Together Fund! Thank you to our working group and many canvassers who were responsible for making this happen. This success is the result of the collective efforts of many people.

I would like to extend a special thank you to you, the donors, for coming through in a great time of need. You are all responsible for making this year's campaign as successful as it was – because **Together WE CAN!**

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community calendar

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A MESSAGE FROM ADAM SILVER

During a recent Zoom conversation with MK Michal Cotler-Wunsh, she referred to some wisdom from the late Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks¹ on the topic of positivity. She noted that he differentiated between optimism and hope in the following way: optimism is wishing for positive outcomes in a passive way, whereas hope stems from the belief that we can and must play a role in making positive outcomes come to life. Both approaches are certainly better than their counterparts, but only hope presents an opportunity and delineates a responsibility for us to actively influence positive results. Being optimistic provides us with a mindset, but being hopeful requires us to embrace our personal role in animating that mindset.

As I write this message we are approaching Shabbat *Shemot*, the Torah portion in which Moses encounters G-d as represented by the Burning Bush, and we see Moses' ascension to leader of the Israelites. Despite the incredible story of how Moses was saved as a firstborn male, how he grew up in the Pharaoh's court, and how he came to see the Burning Bush, perhaps the most interesting side story is how Moses was a reluctant leader.

G-d spoke to Moses and had to address three core excuses that Moses made when he was tasked with leading the Israelites out of slavery. The first concern was that the people would not listen to him, that they would not value what he had to say. His second concern was that he was not good with words, that he couldn't speak. The third concern was actually a declaration – choose someone else. Moses was concerned that no one would listen to him or value his efforts, that he would be poor at leading and making a difference, and wanted to throw his hands up and defer to someone else.

In addressing the concerns and fears of Moses in *Shemot*, Rabbi Michelle Missagieh notes that, "All Moses needed to do was be Moses. All each of us needs to do is be the best person we can be, responding to the challenges around us and using the unique qualities we are gifted. It's about showing up and hearing the call."

Connecting this thinking to my reference to optimism and hope, it is imperative that we, individually and collectively, be optimistic about the future of Jewish Calgary and the Jewish People, and that we animate these

feelings through our hopefulness. Our actions and deeds must align with our thoughts.

This year's UJA slogan – "Together, WE CAN" – is not meant to be only words. It is to serve as a call to action and a reminder that we are a community. Like Moses, we might find ourselves being reluctant, concerned, and uncertain. However, it is in each of us to be successful and to lend our talents and passions to Jewish Calgary. We are caring, we are proud, and we are capable of more than we can dream.

Together, WE CAN care for one another. Together, WE CAN build an incredible community. Together, WE CAN do anything. Best Wishes for a safe, enjoyable, and healthy 2021!

B'shalom,

Adam Silver
Adam Silver
CEO, Calgary Jewish Federation

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Together WE CAN

UJA 2020

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Focus on Finance

Commercial Real Estate – Looking forward post COVID-19

By David Wallach and Riley Lyster

2020 was a year like none other as we all faced adversity throughout these unprecedented times. Commercial real estate was especially hit hard, with record vacancies due to mass layoffs, and work-from-home orders. However, the night is always darkest before dawn, and as we turn the corner and look forward to 2021, we potentially see the end of the COVID-19 pandemic in sight due to the distribution of multiple vaccines. It begs the question: How will the commercial real estate industry be affected by the pandemic moving forward?

The commercial real estate (“CRE”) industry will naturally bounce back at varying rates as economies around the globe are slowly but surely reopened to the point at which they were pre-pandemic. The subsectors of real estate will also bounce back at different levels as COVID accelerated some trends, and reversed others. For 2021, when looking at the entire CRE industry, one main shift is companies moving from dense city centres and large metros to smaller interior cities and to more suburban areas of these markets. This was a focus pre-COVID as companies shifted inland to avoid the high cost of living and doing business in the New York’s and L.A.’s of the world. Companies have also shifted operations away from the traditional downtown core for the same reasons although on a smaller scale than city-to-city migration.

On top of the already prominent emphasis on green energy and LEED certified buildings, higher standards of cleanliness and safety will be added to that list. This will require some landlords to install new services and technologies that provide cleaner buildings such as, indoor/outdoor air flow, touchless entries and so on to attract tenants back to vacant spaces. This will favour more modern buildings going forward as they either have these services in place already or make it easier to install them in the future. Even though the industry will be changing, people are starting to become more optimistic as 23.7% of Canadians expect a stronger economy, up 6% from November.

Retail has been the hardest hit sector of Commercial Real Estate, with some areas of the world completely shutdown for in-person retail. Although online shopping has been growing and hit record highs during the pandemic, predictions of the death of retail are probably too harsh as “humans are social animals, and we need to be in social places” says one REIT investor. The level of online shopping that is being done right now is not sustainable, and in-person shopping will bounce back. The total retail market will shrink due the pandemic, but it certainly is not a dead industry. Shopping centres will have to get creative and convert unused space into complementary spaces such as Gaming and Entertainment Arcades, Office Space, or small Distribution Outlets.

Industrial real estate has been a bright spot throughout the pandemic and will continue to shine as life returns to normal. As consumers continue to order anything and everything online, distribution centres become more important to a company’s supply chain (Just-in-Time and Just-in-Case inventory). Manufacturers over the past 5 years have slowly moved their operations closer to home, this has been a 20-year trend for more technologically advanced industries, domestic manufacturing will trend upwards for companies to protect themselves from future border restrictions. People own on average 8 connected devices, with all this online focus; Data centers will continue to grow as people’s lives and companies shift all operations to “the cloud”. All these factors will lead to an increase in industrial space need.

Somewhere in-between industrial’s bright future and the shrinking of retail lies office space. Inevitably some workers may opt to continue to work-from-home, however 66% of workers want to either work full-time in office or part of their time. Suburban offices will benefit as companies can find more space for cheaper and “satellite” offices become the new normal instead of the giant headquarters we are used to seeing. Some companies will be looking for more space in the future in a way to emphasize safety and physical distancing. The medical-office subsector provides an investment opportunity as



Commercial Building in Calgary AB.

boomers grow older and health care spending continues to trend upward. As the sector decentralizes to reduce operating costs and move closer to patients, long-term demand for medical office space will continue to rise.

2020 will be remembered as one of the most bizarre years in human history. The pandemic dramatically changed almost everyone’s way of life. With vaccines continuing to rollout throughout 2021, the economy will slowly but surely return to where it was before anyone had heard of COVID-19. Each subsector of commercial real estate has been affected in different ways by the pandemic, and the return to normalcy will vary for each property type but humans are social creatures and will need space to live, shop, spend time and work. The question is not if we return to pre-pandemic Commercial Real Estate activity but when.

Sources used in this article include pwc.com, bnnbloomberg.ca and finance.yahoo.com.

David Wallach, – CCIM, is President-Founder of Triumph Real Estate Investment Group of Funds and

Riley Lyster - is an Investment Analyst, at Triumph Real Estate Investment Group of Funds.

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Focus on Finance

The COVID Bill is coming

By Michael Sadovnick

Welcome to January, the start of the COVID Tax Support hangover. To date (January 7, 2021), the Canadian government has provided \$55,000,000,000 in Canada Emergency Wage Subsidies, \$38,000,000,000 in Canada Emergency Bank Account loans and \$81,000,000,000 in CERB payments amongst all the various other programs that have been launched during COVID. The Federal Deficit is expected to go to \$381 Billion dollars Federally for this year and \$24 Billion in Alberta. Ouch!

This is all extremely uncomfortable for me as a liberally minded fiscally conservative taxpayer. There is no question that the support was needed and that while the programs were rushed with minimal oversight and debate built in, the hangover will be hard to digest. Unless of course we go with the theory that government debt no longer matters, but one day it will.

Here are some ideas for what the government may do to raise revenue (though unlikely, they could also cut costs).

Taxing the sale of principal residences - I think this is unlikely due to it being a terrible platform for an election, especially for a Liberal party that has its support in the cities with the highest property value increases - Vancouver and Toronto. However, some of the ridiculous gains that are tax free in these cities keeps it in the news.

Increase in capital gains rates - Only half of a capital gain is taxable and only half of capital loss is deductible (and only against capital gains). In return for this preferential tax treatment, the government expects taxpayers to take on more risk with their investments.

If they lose, they have incentive to try again and if they win they reap the rewards. However, even before COVID, the difference between the tax rate on capital gains and that on dividends was significant - in Alberta a "non-eligible" dividend (this is the typical dividend paid by a small Canadian Controlled Private Corporation) can be taxed at 42.31% while a capital gain can be taxed at 24%. This incentivized tax planning strategies to take advantage of the discrepancy, and Canada tried to crack down on this back in 2016, but then backed off after uproar from the tax and business community. I think capital gain rates will change at some point, but not in the short term and may be something more creative than just increasing the rate but more of an attack on tax strategies or even different rates for different kinds of capital gains (ie. Long Term and Short Term).

Wealth tax - I think this is unlikely due to very legitimate concerns about implementation of these taxes (a reason why many countries have backed away from them). The goal is noble in trying to tackle wealth inequality as well as to raise revenue when people of significant wealth have not disposed of their assets, but the concerns are significant. These concerns include how to value wealth, how to prevent people from hiding wealth (ie. gifts, art, Cayman Islands), how to get those to pay who may be cash poor, how to prevent double tax and perhaps most significant how to implement in a way to prevent the wealthy families, who are desirable for many countries, from leaving the country (of note - Israel has a tax exemption on foreign income, for 10 years, for people who make Aliya).

Death/estate tax - I see this as being more likely than a wealth tax as it can be implemented within the current framework of our tax system and can be modeled on the US. The US requires a payment of 40% of their wealth above an arbitrary threshold (\$11.7 Million US in 2021) the includes a complex gift tax regime to avoid people gifting their assets before death. [Of note, it is assumed

that Trump paid significant consulting fees to Ivanka's company to reduce his wealth for estate tax purposes and now has a potential tax evasion case he may have to deal with]. I also see this as unlikely, and if it happens, it will probably take several years to evolve to a workable system and would hopefully be part of a complete overhaul of our overly complex tax rules.

Sales Tax - This is the easiest one, maybe an increase of GST/HST by a few percentages? This would have a high risk of upsetting voters though during an election as it is broad and unlike the other methods discussed and it will impact everyone. Lower income people are often seen as the most impacted by sales tax increases.

Raise personal tax rates - During the past number of years tax rates have increased significantly and it is not clear that they can go much higher, if higher at all, as Canada has some of the highest tax rates out there with BC at 53.5% on income above \$220,000.

Make it someone else's problem

This is where I see the highest likelihood. I do not see any interest by the Federal Government to raise taxes during a pandemic, or to do an entire review of the tax system (after their disastrous 2016 changes). Someone will have to deal with this at some point, but right now I think the governments are going to be the big spenders and let it be someone else's problem - after the pandemic.

When it comes to taxes, my favorite joke is, "the only thing two Jews can agree on at Shul is how much that other guy should be donating." After all it is all about just paying your fair share - right? Here is hoping to the end of the pandemic and a magical windfall that erases our debt.

Michael Sadovnick CPA, CA, CPA(AZ), TEP is a Partner at Sadovnick Morgan LLP, Founder of TaxForDoctors.ca and is also a Family Enterprise Advisor. You can reach him at michael@smllp.ca

Chabad *Cont. from page 4*

at prescheduled times with Rabbi Dovid.

"We are seeing incredible progress because of the one-on-one format," he explained. "The way I teach has evolved, and many of the tools I've adopted are ones I will keep using."

In our home, these sessions have resulted in Benji reflecting in greater detail upon his own actions and surroundings. He collects ideas throughout the week of things he wants to talk to Rabbi Dovid about and is gaining much greater inner and outer insight through the process.

While so many educators, myself included, wistfully dream of a day when all will return to something resembling what once was, both Rabbi Dovid, and Rebbetzin Devorah, have found new approaches to teaching that they intend to continue developing even after COVID-19 is fully in the rear-view mirror of our collective consciousness. For Jewish youth programming in Edmonton, the words "change" and "adapt" have brought

about creativity and collaboration and united the City's Jewish community in a new way that could not have been anticipated.

In a television interview with Carlie Robinson on *CityNews* Rabbi Ari Drelich stated: "Let's do what we can do and do things in a safe manner...When two poles are falling, even though they're both weak, when they fall against each other, each one's weakness will be the other one's strength."

Rabbi Dovid also reminded me to think of this as an opportunity to grow. As so many battle the harsh realities of COVID-19 though, Edmonton's Jewish community can take solace in the fact that our children are finding

strength in meaningful Jewish learning.

Regan Treewater-Lipes is a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for Alberta Jewish News.

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Focus on Finance

CJA Centre of Innovation and Entrepreneurial Spirit

Submitted by CJA

The Calgary Jewish Academy is pleased to share that phase two of their future ready school programming will be opening this spring. In addition to the Robotics Centre of Excellence which opened in September of 2017, the CJA's Centre of Innovation and Entrepreneurial Spirit has already started to engage students. In addition, in the next twelve months we hope to add a financial literacy program to this centre.

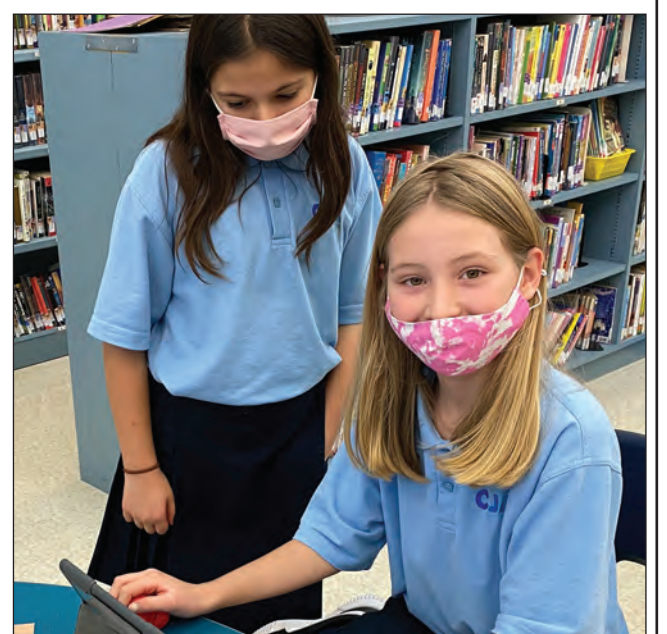
The Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurial Spirit will provide connections to our community by amplifying the importance of innovation, creativity and imagination in relation to Judaism. Judaism is always attempting to strike a balance between past and future: looking into our history to find the insights and wisdom of our ancestors and looking forward to wondering how we will create the best possible world for our descendants. A 21st century Jewish education should use all the tools it has at its disposal in order to help with this dual vision- including curricula that introduce the wisdom that both STEM and Torah to young learners.

Calgary Jewish Academy's Centre of Innovation and Entrepreneurial Spirit will continue to expand over the course of the next twelve months. The Centre will be designed to utilize students' imagination and increase students' creativity. The centre will provide students with an understanding of the importance of using new ways of thinking to create a better life for all. Students will engage in a multitude of Stem learning tools, utilize design, multimedia, imovie, stop motion, coding, programming and 3D printing to solve and innovate.

Students will be encouraged to use their imagination and creativity in a productive way and to encourage new thinking using makerspace and design thinking strategies to complete their projects.

The centre for creativity and innovation will provide students with the opportunity to improve or to replace something, for example, a process, a product, or a service.

The goal in the future is to have students engage in a



The CJA Centre of Innovation and Entrepreneurial Spirit has already started to engage students.

financial literacy program in the fall of 2021. This program will provide an excellent foundation and enhance students' knowledge of business and finances.

Moreh Jonah Potasznik is currently leading the centre and will be working with Mr. Jeff Warner and CJA faculty to further the centre's purpose. Students in grade 1-3 will be expanding their knowledge of coding and robotics in the centre using the newest DASH Robots. Students in

Students at CJA will be collaborating with their peers to design and innovate in an effort to make an impact on our community and our world. Students will work in teams to solve problems, design and create solutions and present their ideas to their peers and teachers.

Teachers at CJA will be sharing their ideas, key learnings and utilizing student ideas to create and expand their understanding of the world around them. Teachers

will utilize new technologies and integrate Alberta and Judaic studies curriculum in their design of lessons.

Utilizing the knowledge and expertise of our community, the CJA will be inviting parents and community members to speak to students about innovation and design.

Jonah Potasznik is a Jewish educator with a background in both experiential and formal education. After spending three years learning in the Beit Midrash at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, he came to Canada to continue working towards making Jewish text and tradition come alive for learners of all Jewish backgrounds. Moreh Jonah has Masters in Jewish Education from Hebrew College and the Pardes Institute, and a certificate in Experiential Jewish education from Hebrew Union College- Jewish Institute of Religion.

For more information about CJA, visit cja.ab.ca.

Grumans adapts to Covid reality

By Jeremy Appel

Calgary's Grumans Delicatessen has so far been able to weather the COVID-19 storm, which has affected both its locations in different ways, necessitating a two-store solution for the restaurant.

The deli's downtown location is owned and operated by Peter Freiberg, while the Britannia location is run by his sister, Gail.

Peter Freiberg says his location does a lot of catering for large events and has many people who work downtown stop by for lunch. Both of course evaporated immediately after the initial lockdown was imposed in mid-March.

This, he said, led to a massive reduction in staffing at the pandemic's outset.

"When your sales get cut in half, you've got to cut your costs in half, so right out the gate we went from 20 employees down to three, and we slowly built up the delicatessen side of things as far as takeout goes," said Peter.

They also got "more aggressive" with Skip the Dishes and DoorDash, even though those food apps take a 25% cut of commission on deliveries, he said.

"Really what it's about is keeping the wheels turning, keeping the lights on, keeping people employed and keeping the Grumans name out there," Peter said, adding that he increased prices a bit on app, offering customers a discount if they come and pick up their orders.

The location's landlord has been very understanding with regards to the deli's reduced capacity to pay its rent, Peter added.

The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy was also helpful in allowing Grumans to bring back seven of its downtown staff, bringing it up to half of what it was pre-COVID.

"We did have some catering over the summer. (It) didn't completely disappear, but it's pretty well gone as far as the corporate lunches we used to do, and the breakfasts and the corporate meetings," Peter said.

In the summer, restaurants were able to return to indoor dining, which naturally required a heightened focus on cleanliness and enforcing physical distancing measures.

"My job all of a sudden became making sure everybody was safe, whether it was my staff or my customers, and we did everything we needed to do as far as sanitizing goes and keeping the people separated ... putting up the barriers between our booths," said Peter. "Slowly but surely our customer base came back."

As COVID numbers began to increase, they of course had to close in-house dining again.

"No question, it's been a struggle. But we're up for the struggle ... we're up for the battle," Peter says. "This is a war and we're not going to lose."

That said, he acknowledges the immense difficulty of planning for the future at this time.

The Britannia location on Calgary's south side has more of a traditional take-out set up, explains Gail Freiberg. It's also newer, having opened three years ago.

"We're in a residential neighbourhood, so we're not as dependent on people working downtown coming in for lunch or the corporate catering," says Gail.

"We get a lot of people who live in the neighbourhood, or different parts of the city, that come to us for take-out, so

GRUMANS
DELICATESSEN
MOSTLY TRADITIONAL • SINCE 2005

we were still able to do a lot of take-out with our stuff in the deli."

She says the Britannia location is more convenient for many members of the Jewish community who want traditional Jewish food.

It was a smoother transition from pre-COVID practices at the Britannia location than downtown, as they only had to shut down the restaurant while take-out continued as normal.

"If people are having their smoked meat fix, they'll just get it to go, instead of eating it in the restaurant," said Gail.

This isn't an ideal situation for a restaurant to be in, but it leaves the Britannia location well-positioned for a return to normalcy once COVID numbers are down.

"They're not able to sit down and enjoy a meal at a table inside the restaurant. It's certainly not the same," said Gail. "There's definitely some people who haven't been able to come or haven't been coming, but hopefully they'll be able to come back when things get normal again."

Jeremy Appel is a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for Alberta Jewish News.

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Focus on Finance

A conversation with Jeff Bowling at Canadian Western Bank

By David Wallach

I had an opportunity to discuss, Commercial Real Estate Financing, during and post COVID-19, with Mr. Jeff Bowling Senior Vice President, Real Estate Lending at Canadian Western Bank. Excerpts from our conversation appear below.

David: On March 16 the Canadian business world almost came to a standstill, what was lenders' response to the mandatory lock down?

Jeff: Canadian Western Bank (CWB) was among the first in Canadian financial services to proactively reach out to our business owner clients to understand the extent they were struggling with cash flow issues because of the impact of COVID-19. Under our #CWBhasyourback program, we delivered individualized advice and support for each client based on their individual circumstances and assisted in adapting their banking to allow more operations to be completed remotely.

David: How did the lending community support the mortgagors?

Jeff: We worked proactively and closely with our clients experiencing temporary financial difficulty to manage payment deferral options and support access to government programs on a case-by-case basis. At its peak, we provided payment deferrals to over 25% of our loan portfolio to help our clients manage through the economic turbulence. As payment deferral periods concluded, we have been successful in working with clients to resume normal payments. As of late November, the percentage of outstanding loans deferring payments has declined to approximately 1%, with three quarters of those clients paying the interest portion of their contractual payment. Our teams continue to actively support our clients through government lending initiatives to provide businesses with relief through this period of market disruption. At October 31, 2020, we administered the advance of nearly \$90 million of Canada Emergency Business Account loans, which are funded by the federal government.

On October 31, 2020, we also funded approximately \$130 million of loans, with partial federal government guarantees through Export Development Canada's Business Credit Availability Program.

David: What did the lending community learn from the 2008-2010 economic downturn and put to work during the COVID-19 economic meltdown?

Jeff: I can't speak to what other lenders learned during that time, but I can tell you that at CWB some of our strongest relationships were forged during our clients' most challenging times. When other banks turned away or were too difficult to deal with, we were there for our clients. That's part of the history of how our bank started 35 years ago and remained central to how we supported our clients through the 2008 downturn and today's challenge.

David: As we are preparing to get vaccinated, are lenders now open for business, looking to finance real estate investments?

Jeff: From CWB's perspective, we continued to prudently support our current borrowers through the economic turbulence this year and originate new lending that remained within our risk appetite. In fiscal 2020, our commercial mortgages increased 12% from fiscal 2019, with growth driven by strong new lending volumes with well-capitalized, high-quality borrowers. Real estate project loans contracted 13% with new growth more than offset by the impact of successful project completions and payouts. Projects underway prior to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to progress, although at a slower pace given physical distancing protocols. Reduced demand for condominiums and high land prices negatively impacted project starts, which have been further impacted by curtailed economic activity related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

David: Has properties criteria changed as result of what we have experienced, and still experiencing, in past 9 months?

Jeff: The pandemic has affected each asset class in



Jeff Bowling Senior Vice President, Real Estate Lending at Canadian Western Bank.

different ways whether it is retail, office, industrial or multi family. For example, it is difficult to determine the long-term impacts of "work from home" on the office market and related space requirements or the increase in on-line shopping on big box retail. Conversely, these same factors have positively impacted suburban multi family in larger markets.

David: Has Mortgagors criteria changed in past year?

Jeff: The fundamentals of lending really have not changed. Properties need to be looked at individually based on asset class, location, tenant mix, lease maturities, amongst other factors. The impact on individual asset classes certainly needs to be taken into consideration when evaluating the financing. Lending against an office building looks very different in Calgary or Edmonton than it did ten years ago given prevailing vacancy rates. Conversely, the suburban multi family market in other areas such as the GTA is seeing the positive impact from fewer people needing to be in the downtown core.

Continued on page 16

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Focus on Finance

A conversation with Jeff Bowling *Cont. from page 15*

David: As a local bank with headquarter in Edmonton, are there any regions you are avoiding at this point?

Jeff: Our vision is to be the best full-service bank for business owners in Canada. We lend in all areas where we have a presence which allows us to understand the markets that we are doing business in. We continue to make progress on our strategic goal of 30% for our overall loan book for BC, AB, and ON respectively. We are focused on growing our brand and market share in Ontario, leveraged by our new full-service branch in Mississauga and growing wealth management business. On October 21, 2020, 28% of our loan portfolio was comprised of loans domiciled in Ontario and other provinces in Central and Eastern Canada, up significantly from 10% at the end of 2010.

David: Now please take out your crystal ball do you expect interest rates to go up, go down or stay where they are in 2021?

Jeff: Our forward-looking guidance has been developed on the assumption of no further Bank of Canada policy interest rate adjustments in fiscal 2021. This was driven by an underlying economic assumption of a continued gradual recovery of the Canadian economy, with no big peaks or valleys from GDP growth perspective. Certainly, interest rates being "lower for longer" is the current outlook.

David: Do you expect Cap Rates to go up, go down or stay steady?

Jeff: That is a difficult question. While the current low

interest rate environment will assist in keeping cap rates low from a historical perspective, there may be a larger divergence depending on location but, perhaps to a larger degree, the asset class of a property given the current and emerging trend already mentioned.

David: Last question, do you expect Commercial Real Estate Investment activity to go up, go down or stay steady in 2021?

Jeff: We expect growth in our real estate loan portfolio to remain relatively consistent with our overall growth rate of loans, with the exception of real estate project loans. We continue to assess construction-related lending opportunities within targeted markets. Within the parameters of our established risk appetite, we will continue to finance well-capitalized developers on the basis of sound loan structures and acceptable pre-sale/lease levels and have a strong pipeline of new lending opportunities, particularly as the economy recovers and delayed construction re-commences.

David Wallach is President/Broker at Barclay Street Real Estate in Calgary.



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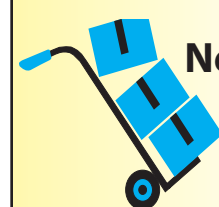
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from the Sources Forces of Nature

by Eliezer Segal

The original significance of the Fifteenth of Shevat [“Tu BiShvat”] was to demarcate the agricultural year to which a fruit belongs, since tithes and other religious laws apply separately to the crops of each year. The Mishnah situated the dividing line for trees in the month of Shevat which occurs towards the middle of the Israeli rainy season. The School of Hillel, whose position was accepted as normative, placed it on the fifteenth day of that month.

As regards the reason for selecting this date, Rabbi Hoshaiiah in the Talmud explained that by this stage most of the year’s rain can be assumed to have fallen; hence the older fruit derived their sustenance from the previous year, whereas subsequent fruits belong to the coming year. Rashi explained that the trees’ reliance on the new water is recognizable by the flow of their sap.

Commentators differ whether the operative consideration is the number of days between the onset and termination of the rainy season, the volume of rainfall, or the change in temperature. All of the above positions accept the premise that the relevant transition occurs on the fifteenth of Shevat.

But wait. The months on the Jewish calendar are calculated by a lunar cycle in which twelve months of twenty-nine or thirty days add up to 354 days—whereas the natural seasons that govern rainfall, plant growth and temperature are based on the 365-day solar year! Indeed, talmudic sages raised the question of whether “Shevat” was being used here in its normal sense as a lunar month, or as a designation for a date one month into the solar winter season (known as the “tekufah of Tevet”). They concluded that the reference was to the lunar month of that name. Indeed, the new year for trees would commence on the same date even in a leap year, when an extra month is inserted, and the lunar year is seriously out of sync with the solar tekufah.

A Babylonian Gaon observed that Shevat marks the time when trees awaken from their winter dormancy, beginning to soak up fluids and come alive. This stage, which would qualify as an appropriate “new year of the

trees,” occurs around the midpoint of “Shevat” of the solar cycle (around January 30).

The Tosafot expressed astonishment at the Talmud’s preference for a lunar date even though the ripening of the fruit follows the sun. It is perhaps typical of their thinking that they relied less on empirical observation of the botanical facts than on scriptural prooftexts. They invoked the words of Deuteronomy about “the precious fruits brought forth by the sun”; but noted that the same text goes on to speak of “the precious things put forth by the moon.” Ultimately they conceded that “in most calendar-related matters Israel reckons according to the moon.”

Rabbi Moses Sofer of Pressburg (“Hatam Sofer”) found this explanation inadequate. He cited Rashi’s comment to Deuteronomy that the influence of the moon is limited to vegetables that grow from the earth like cucumbers and gourds, whereas trees follow the rhythms of the sun. It is thus quite possible that the date of the fifteenth of Shevat might arrive—as in a leap year—before the tree’s sap has begun to flow.

The Talmud taught elsewhere that “the year follows the moon,” which Rashi explained in the sense that we follow the months as they would have been if the year had not been intercalated. For the sake of convenience, we call this month Shevat, but the decisive date should be determined by the climatic conditions.

“If this is so,” writes Rabbi Sofer, “then what difference does it make whether or not in most years it is designated as Shevat, seeing that in any case the chill of Tevet persists during Shevat, so that there is no sap in the trees and they are not ripening—and yet the tithing follows the year of the ripening! Under the circumstances, what grounds are there for declaring the new year in Shevat?” And even if (as the Tosafot asserted) Jews follow lunar chronology for other purposes, that should not warrant a violation of Tu BiShvat’s botanical basis.

Several authorities cited a passage from the Jerusalem Talmud in which Rabbi Hoshayah admonished the witnesses to the sighting of the new moon by reminding

them that their role in determining the dates for the beginnings of months had tangible legal consequences. This was true not only in civil matters (such as defining rent periods), but even for capital cases; for by determining a person’s birthday, they might also be defining whether an offender is an adult or a minor. In the latter instance, even though the formal ages of twelve years for a female or thirteen for a male are supposed to serve as indications that the person has matured physically—in practice the law subordinates the physiological processes to the authority of the court charged with regulating the calendar.

In support of that principle Rabbi Abin expounded the words of Psalms: “unto G-d that performeth [gomer] all things for me,” which could be interpreted to mean “G-d completes things according to me,” in the sense that the Almighty sometimes defers to the decisions of my [=human] authority.” Accordingly, Rabbi Solomon Ibn Adret concluded, “whatever an earthly court declares is confirmed by the celestial court.”

Scholars like Rabbis Judah Mintz and Shabbetai Cohen inferred from this that the holy Torah can override scientific evidence in the realms of physiology, botany or climate—or at least warrant reinterpretations of the empirical data.

The Hatam Sofer’s theological position resonated with some later Jewish traditionalists, and perhaps we should blame him and his followers for the outlook, current in some communities, that scientific standards of public health must yield to the religious benefits of superspreader weddings, funerals or yeshivah classes.

However, nature—as we are often reminded—does not like to be trifled with.

‘From the Sources’ by Eliezer Segal is sponsored by the Zeisler Families of Edmonton, Calgary and New York City

Chanukah Concert reimagined

Submitted by Halpern Akiva Academy

The Halpern Akiva Academy Chanukah Concert, a long-standing school tradition, was reimagined for 2020 as a virtual Chanukah Production. This year our students and staff created a very special show for home viewing. Every school family received an artistically designed Chanukah gift bag which included a personalized card, a 3D customized logo dreidel designed and printed by our students, and treats to enjoy while watching the Chanukah Production from the comfort and safety of their own home.

Our students did an incredible job preparing, performing, videoing, editing, and producing an amazing Chanukah Production. The artwork in the hallways, on the cards, on the bags and design of the 3D dreidels was outstanding. We have so much to be proud of.

After watching the video, we all joined a Zoom post-

production gathering to wish each other a Happy Chanukah.



Halpern Akiva Academy students and staff did a great job preparing and performing a 2020 virtual Chanukah Concert.

We received so much positive feedback on the video and everyone enjoyed the Zoom gathering after watching the video. If you did not have a chance to watch the video yet or would like to share it with family and friends please visit halpernakiva.ca and click on our YouTube Channel.

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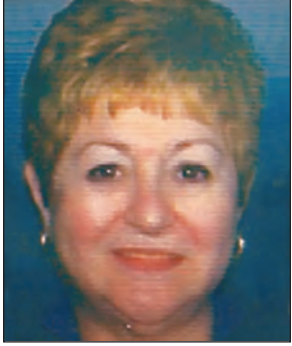


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Memorial Tributes



Obituary for Evelyn Bell Numerow (nee Nep) z'l

April 21, 1940–
December 26, 2020

Apr. 21, 1940 – Dec. 26, 2020

With deep sadness we announce the peaceful passing of Evelyn Numerow at her home in Richmond, BC on the morning of December 26, 2020.

Evelyn will be dearly missed by her children Leonard (Danna), David (Susan), and Michael, her sister Gail Nep and nephew Dustin Shore (Michelle Livingston), her grandchildren Kevin, Allison, Jennifer, Jeffery, Logan, Benjamin and her great-niece Jaden. She also leaves many cousins and relatives including William (Ann) Gleberzon and family, Sandy (Howard) Collerman and family, and Mickey (Gerry) Namak and family. Mom will also be greatly missed by her special friend Harris Gulko.

Evelyn was predeceased by husbands Kenneth Numerow (1990), Samuel Brownstone (2002), her parents Jennie (2002) and Louis Nep (1954), her brother Gerald Nep (2009) and Gail's husband Blair Dawe (2002).

Mom was born at the Grace Hospital in Winnipeg, growing up in the North End. After the unfortunate early passing of her father Louis, she almost single-handedly

raised her sister Gail, while her mother worked. After obtaining her Manitoba's teachers certificate, she taught at Collicut school for several years before settling down to have her 3 boys. During those childhood years, mom was a staunch supporter of Jewish education for her children, becoming active on the Rosh Pina Synagogue Education Committee and supporting the boys through their USY days. From there she became active in Sisterhood, becoming President for many years during the 1990's. She was especially proud for being the Honoree for the 2011 Etz Chayim Torah Fund Brunch.

Evelyn was also a wonderful cook and pastry chef. After refining these talents at the Synagogue for many years, she co-founded the bakery "How Sweet It Is", providing pastries to locations including the Westin hotel for many years. And everybody truly loved her masterpiece creation: the Brandy Alexander Torte. After this, she ran the family business, Numerow Trading Company, successfully for more than 30 years.

Mom also had a strong love for music. In her early days, she was active in high school musicals and productions. As children, the boys all remember music continually playing in the house or cottage on her favorite radio station CJOB. Later in life, she received pleasure from leading and participating in singing at multiple Sisterhood conventions. She passed this love for music onto her children and all of her grandchildren. You should have seen her kvel when Logan was given the honor to sing the Kol Nidre prayer at shul in Richmond! Evelyn was also a regular attendee and supporter of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet.

Mom also loved to spend winters with her sister Gail,

family, and friends in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

Thank you to our special friend in Mexico Kina Castaneda for all of her help there. And it was in Mexico that mom solidified the special relationship she had with Dustin, since he was a child. Dustin "loved his Auntie Evy" like a mother.

In 2003, the family discovered a summer vacation spot in Okanagan Falls, BC. Mom spent many hot summers with her children and grandchildren swimming in the beautiful waters and tasting incredible wines throughout the countryside.

In 2010, Mom met the next love of her life, Harris Gulko. They spent many happy years together in Winnipeg, Okanagan Falls, and Puerto Vallarta, eventually moving to Richmond BC in 2017 to be closer to both of their families.

Everybody will remember Evelyn for her strength, wisdom, charm, and great sense of humor. We can still hear her contagious laugh. And she cared deeply for everybody around her.

We want to express special thanks to Yuko Abeyama and her team of so many wonderful caregivers from Nikoniko Quality Care in Richmond, BC. who helped mom to live with comfort and dignity at home, for those last 6 months.

Evelyn will be interred beside her husband Ken at the Shaarey Zedek cemetery in Winnipeg, MB, Canada on Wed. Dec. 30, 2020 at 3 pm. Due to current Covid guidelines, the funeral will be broadcast at: www.szwinnipeg.ca. Shiva will be observed privately.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to either the Heart and Stroke Foundation or the Beth Tikvah Congregation & Centre of Richmond, BC.



Obituary for Mrs. Miriam Adler, z'l

July 22, 1932 –
December 18, 2020

Jul. 22, 1932 – Dec. 18, 2020

It is with great sadness that the family of Miriam Adler z'l announces her passing on December 18, 2020 - the 8th day of Hanukkah.

The funeral was held December 20th and due to Covid restrictions it was a private funeral. Miriam was 88 years old and was married to her beloved husband Bernie for 65 years.

Miriam was pre-deceased by parents Jacob and Esther Dashevsky, sisters Helen Spevakow (Abe) and Lillian Milner (Johnny), and grandson Clayton Stockford. She is survived by her husband Bernie Adler and by children Shirlyann (Lawrence) Bliss, Heather Adler, Reisa (Murray)

Sheckter, and Marc Adler. Also she had 15 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren as well as numerous nephews and nieces.

Miriam was born July 22, 1932 in Pouce Cope, BC. She grew up on a farm near Hythe AB in the Peace River country with her parents and three sisters.

Miriam was an extraordinary wife, mother, sister, aunt, grandmother, great grand-mother. She was a truly righteous woman, an Eishes Chayil.

Everyone who knew Miriam was made to feel part of the family with her kind manner and generous spirit. She will be greatly missed by all.



Thank you to Dr. Daisy Fung, the entire Capital Care Lynnwood staff and Jane and Weng, her caregivers.

Donations can be made in memory of Miriam Adler to the Beth Israel Synagogue PH. 780-488-2840 or the Edmonton Chevra Kadisha PH. 780-482-3065.

Thank you to all our family, friends and community members for your outpouring of love and support in memory of Miriam Adler.

All your meals, gifts, donations, phone and Zoom shiva calls, emails and text messages were gratefully appreciated and a comfort to us all.



Obituary for Dr. H. Richard Uretsky z'l

May 22, 1946 –
November 9, 2020

May 22, 1946 – Nov. 9, 2020

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Dr. Harvey Richard Uretsky, on Monday Nov. 9, 2020, after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.

He is survived by his wife Pauline, children Jason (Dani), Sari, Aubrey (Lauren), grandchildren Jayden, Aliya, Ethyn, Iyla, Rena, Noah and Blair, siblings Jerry (Elizabeth), Karen Hering (Abe), Trudy Harowitz (Howard), extended family and friends.

Rick was born and raised in St. Catharines Ontario, the second of four children to Abe and Sara Uretsky. Rick moved to Edmonton to attend the University of Alberta, where he met and married Pauline in August of

1968. He completed his medical degree in 1970 and specialized to become an Obstetrician and Gynaecologist in 1974.

Rick practiced medicine for forty-two years both in Edmonton and Jackson, Tennessee. He served as chief of OB/GYN at the Grey Nuns hospital and Chief of Surgery in Jackson. He focused much of his career on treating pregnant patients with diabetes and established protocols for their highest standard of care. He delivered an estimated fifteen thousand babies over his career. Rick was blessed to be able to work along side his son Aubrey for over six years until he retired in 2016.

Family was everything to Rick. He and Pauline celebrated their 52nd anniversary this past August. Their three children and seven grandchildren were his pride and joy. He had a special bond with each family member individually, and these connections will be cherished by each of us forever.

Kindness, humanity, integrity, generosity, humility, humour, compassion and an ability to make others feel special are just a few of the qualities used to describe Rick in the outpouring of condolences received by the family.

Rick felt it was his duty to give back to both his

professional and Jewish community. He served on numerous boards and committees and as an expert witness in many medical cases across the country. He taught Hebrew lessons and ran services for members of the synagogue in Jackson. He performed many a bris in our community and served on the board of the Edmonton Talmud Torah and the Beth Shalom Synagogue.

Some of Rick's loves in life included guitar playing, the Yankees, coaching local sports teams from the couch, writing poems, golf, gardening, travel, making his famous crabapple wine jelly, attending film festivals, sharing holiday meals, and spending time with family and friends.

Our loss is profound and Rick will be missed by so many. The family would like to thank the many doctors and nurses at the Cross Cancer Institute and the Misericordia Hospital for their compassionate care. A special thank you to Rabbi Schwarzman.

Memorial donations may be made in Dr. H. Richard Uretsky's name to the Alberta Cancer Foundation by calling 780-643-4400 or online at www.albertacancer.ca (choose Cross Cancer Institute. On the payment page, tribute information section, specify in memory of Dr. H. Richard Uretsky).

CORRECTION NOTICE

Please note that the Obituary for Dr. Richard Uretsky that ran in our December edition was missing the last 3 paragraphs. We are reprinting it in its entirety, with our apologies to the family.

Alberta Jewish News offers space for Obituary notices and Thank you notices at reduced rates.

Contact Deb for the details at 780-421-7966

or albertajewishnews@gmail.com



Few details known on OPH sale to Revera

By Jeremy Appel

Our Parents Home (OPH) has been sold to large private long-term care provider Revera, which says it will do everything it can to preserve the facility's Jewish character while safeguarding against COVID.

"Revera understands that Our Parents Home is a preferred retirement home for the Jewish community. We intend to keep this as an important part of the culture and identity of the home, while remaining open to welcoming others as a multi-cultural and non-denominational home," says company spokesperson Susan Schutta.

The facility, which opened in 2015 and is adjacent to Beth Shalom Synagogue, is keeping its mashgiach and rabbi on staff, and will continue celebrating Jewish holidays, Schutta added.

However, OPH's page on Revera's website makes no mention of any of these features.

According to a joint news release from OPH and the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, the sale was completed on Dec. 15 and was done to ensure OPH's long-term viability.

Federation President Steven Shafir declined comment on the sale.

"OPH is a separate legal entity from the Jewish Federation of Edmonton and is not affiliated with the Jewish Federation of Edmonton," said Shafir.

However, the news release says that the Jewish Federation of Edmonton is the beneficiary of the sale.

In a follow-up email, Shafir said that more details would be made available to the Jewish community in early 2021. As of press time, no further information has been provided.

This sale comes as private long-term care providers have received increased scrutiny for a vastly disproportionate 80% of COVID deaths in Canada occurring in their homes.

From March to September, there were 87 outbreaks at Revera homes alone, which lead to 266 deaths.

"Throughout the pandemic, the health and safety of our residents and staff has been our priority. We're proud of our incredible employees who have provided care and comfort to thousands of seniors throughout the pandemic," said Schutta.

"We've been heartbroken by loss, yet we adapted, persevered and held strong."

The company has several measures in place to limit the spread in its homes, she added. This includes monitoring residents twice a day for symptoms, mandatory masking for staff, screening staff before and after each shift, cohorting them in specific areas of each facility, and enhanced cleaning procedures.

Additionally, Revera commissioned a report entitled "A Perfect Storm" on how it handled the pandemic's first wave and how it can do better, written by Dr. Bob Bell, a former hospital CEO, Ontario deputy health minister and retired surgeon.

It identifies community spread as the main factor leading to COVID outbreaks in long-term care and calls on governments to invest in surveillance testing for staff and visitors, "accelerate the redevelopment of ageing long-term care infrastructure," and address staffing shortages.

The report was the result of research from an expert advisory panel the company convened.

According to reporting from left-leaning news website PressProgress, two of these panel members have represented Revera in the past — architect Santiago Kunzle represented the company in development consultation hearings while lawyer Bob Bass has defended Revera in labour negotiations.

York University nursing professor Jacqueline Chorniere told the site that the report's recommendations don't go far enough.

"There is a need to pay workers a living wage to cut down on their need to work in several homes to cobble

together adequate income," Chorniere said.

Further, Carleton University social work professor Hugh Armstrong said the report's fatal flaw is that it calls on governments to provide funding to address shortcomings that are endemic to the private long-term care industry itself.

"It's an attempt to point the finger somewhere else, away from Revera," Armstrong told PressProgress. "The directors and the managers, their first obligation is profit. That's their fiduciary responsibility."

Jeremy Appel is a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for Alberta Jewish News.



In Edmonton, an OPH gift bag for Jewish residents included a Chanukah message from Temple Beth Ora Rabbi Gila Caine, a sufganiah from Bliss Baked Goods and holiday related treats.


Jewish YEG stories online project seeks participants

By Paula Kirman

Jewish Edmonton Stories Online, is a project for Jewish and non-Jewish Edmontonians alike to learn and connect with the stories and places of our community's past, that will launch in the fall of 2021. We are seeking remarkable stories and memories from interested members of Edmonton's Jewish community that connect to a particular place in the City. Stories do not have to be submitted in a complete format. At this point, we're looking for story ideas and summaries. We will follow up with you once the stories are selected for sharing on our coming interactive storytelling website. Stories will be recorded via audio, video, and/or written transcription via an interview process.

We intend for the stories to represent diversity within the Jewish community, including, but not limited to elders, Sephardim and Mizrahim, women, LGBTQ individuals, and people with disabilities. All recording will be carried out safely with COVID-19 protocols in place. The storyteller will be paid a small honorarium. At this time when we are physically isolated due to COVID-19, it's important to reach out in as many ways possible to connect and share our community's knowledge, history, and experiences.


This project is being made possible with the support of the Edmonton Heritage Council, JAHSENA, WordsPicturesMusic.com, #YEGFilm, and the Jewish Federation of Edmonton. To share your story, or for more information, feel free to connect with us at stories@jewishedmontonstories.ca. Deadline for stories: March 1, 2021.




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Strategic Plan Update #3 - January 2021


INFORM
Summer-Fall 2020




CONSIDER
Winter 2020-21



STRATEGIZE
Winter-Spring 2021



COMMIT
Summer 2021
3-5 year plan



The TT Society's Strategic Planning process is now fully in the **CONSIDER** phase. We are pleased to share both an **announcement**, as well as put out a **call to the community** (see [survey link below](#)).

OUR MISSION

We are excited to make public our newly developed TT Society **MISSION** statement.

"Talmud Torah Society fosters an inclusive place of learning and community rooted in Jewish history, traditions and values."

This mission was carefully developed by the Board to be a simple way to communicate the reason for TT Society's existence. Our mission, along with our vision and values, will guide us as we develop our strategic plan and prioritize our organizational goals.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The Talmud Torah Society wants YOUR feedback!

Along with our mission, we have developed a DRAFT vision and values statement, as well as some additional questions to learn more about why having a Talmud Torah day school and childcare centre is important to Edmonton's Jewish community. We are looking for input not only from current and prospective parents, but also TT students, staff, alumni and the greater Jewish community – EVERYONE is welcome and encouraged to respond!

We hope to gather as many responses as possible over the next few weeks to develop an understanding of themes that are important to the community. This will help inform our priorities moving forward, so please click the link below and share freely, and encourage others to do the same!!

This short survey will be open and collecting feedback until January 31, 2021.

Please visit the link below to access the survey and share your thoughts!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TTSOCIETY>

Missed some info? See all our strategic plan updates at:

<https://talmudtorahsociety.com/about-us/planning-for-the-future/>

COVID-19 INFORMATION

STAY SAFE, ALBERTA.

Do the right things to help prevent the spread.

We're all tired of COVID-19, but this fight isn't over. We all need to do the right things to prevent the spread—and protect the most vulnerable.



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alberta.ca/covid19

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