



# ALBERTA Jewish NEWS

Publication Mail Agreement Number: 40050628

Volume 32, No. 4

Visit us online at [albertajewishnews.com](http://albertajewishnews.com)

April 22, 2021

## Beth Tzedec honours Maxine and Markham

By Deborah Shatz

Calgary's Beth Tzedec congregation is blessed to have Maxine Fischbein and Markham Silver among its members; they are two individuals who enhance and elevate every aspect of every initiative that they undertake. The congregation will show its heartfelt appreciation at a special virtual event on May 12 at 7 pm. The double M event, a night of mirth and mitvot, will celebrate their contributions and enjoy the merriment of stand-up comedian Avi Liberman. Proceeds will benefit the legacy endowment fund of the Beth Tzedec Congregation Society.

"Markham Silver and Maxine Fischbein are two much loved members, volunteer builders who have made Beth Tzedec their spiritual home for decades," explained President David Inhaber. "On May 12, they will each be awarded our Yasher Koach award which adorns the wall to the entrance of Beth Tzedec. This is an honour which has been bestowed on only a very select few recipients and one which is well deserved by Maxine and Markham."

"It takes a village to operate a shul, but it takes special people like Maxine and Markham to make things happen. They both continue to serve our Board of Directors (Markham as legal counsel and Maxine as Past President). They also serve in so many other ways - from actively

leading services to providing sage advice to our Board; they continue to build and be of assistance when and wherever called upon.

"From the outpouring of support we have seen so far, it is easy to see why these two individuals have changed so many lives in both Jewish and non-Jewish Calgary, Edmonton and beyond."

Beth Tzedec has played an important role in the lives of both Maxine and Markham.

"It has been a great privilege to serve Beth Tzedec, mainly because of the incredible individuals I've had the opportunity to learn from and to emulate," explained Maxine.

"This recognition by my Beth Tzedec family is a great honour, one that is multiplied because it is shared with my friend and mentor, Markham Silver. While I am truly

## Celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut



Yom Ha'atzmaut - Israel's Independence Day was celebrated in Israel, around the world and across Alberta including at Halpern Akiva Academy in Calgary (left) and Edmonton Talmud Torah (right).

grateful for the recognition, this tribute to us is really a reflection of the amazing leaders who came before us and the many passionate supporters of Synagogue life with whom Markham and I are so fortunate to work, pray and play."

*Continued on page 7*

## All flights to the Edmonton Jewish Film Festival embarking now!

By Susan Schiffman

Are you tired of staring at the same four walls? We have good news. The Edmonton Jewish Film Festival Committee invites you to join us on a Jewish journey from May 2nd to May 11th. Register for the free, Virtually Perfect 25th Anniversary Edmonton Jewish Film Festival and your travels will begin. No vaccine passport

required. Just pull up a comfy chair, make some popcorn and you are off!

On Opening Night, May 2nd, travel with us to the American South for *Shared Legacies*, the riveting story of the African American/Jewish alliance during the civil rights movement. Though this story will be familiar to

*Continued on page 3*



"Cinema Rex" is one of four award winning shorts, screening at the EJFF in May.

## JLI Course in Edmonton and Calgary Bucks Trend of Bleak Predictions

In May 2021 Chabad Lubavitch of Alberta and Chabad of Edmonton will be offering *This Can Happen*, a new six-session course by the acclaimed Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) that will address a pressing question on many minds: is the current situation going to get any better?

"Many people nurse this idea that matters are getting progressively worse and, fostered by much hysterical media and general dialogue, an environment of fear and despair is all too rampant," Rabbi Mendy Blachman of Edmonton and Rabbi Mordechai Groner of Calgary, the Alberta JLI Instructors, told *Alberta Jewish News*. "Exploring the science of world history and looking at the actual facts paint an eye-opening picture, one that can provide real, practical hope."

Students who enroll in this course will embark on a journey that will explore one of the most misunderstood and maligned topics in the Jewish canon—the future redemption.

There will be four options when one can join this course:

Monday nights, starting May 3, at 7:30 PM, or Tuesday mornings, starting May 4, at 9:30 AM.

Tuesday nights, starting May 4, at 7:30 PM, or Wednesday mornings, starting May 5 at 9:30 AM.

[The course will be offered over Zoom. Sign in information will be provided after enrollment.]

*This Can Happen* presents audiences with an opportunity to finally appreciate what Judaism really means when it talks about a "Messiah." Considering that for many in the modern world, utopian visions of world peace and endless bounty sound like the stuff of fairy tales, this course summons the sources and the data to dispel such primitive notions and educate audiences that the Messianic era is a deep, broad climax to the entire story of the universe.

The subtitle of *This Can Happen*, "A credible case for feeling good about the future," is indicative of an approach

to the topic that is particularly timely. "Recent events have put so many on the edge, and the longer matters drag on, the louder the voice of helplessness becomes," explained Rabbi Naftali Silberberg of JLI's Brooklyn, New York, headquarters. "If we can make—as stated in our title—a 'credible case' to be optimistic about times ahead, that is remarkably edifying."

In a special message to all Albertans, Alberta's Senior Rabbi, Rabbi Menachem Matusof, is encouraging everyone to join this fascinating course and learn about the promise Moshiach holds for ALL of humanity.

As with all of JLI's programs, *This Can Happen* 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.

People interested in participating may call (780) 200-5770 in Edmonton or (403) 281-3770 in Calgary or visit [ChabadEdmonton.org](http://ChabadEdmonton.org) or [myJLI.ca](http://myJLI.ca) to register and for other course-related information.

The Edmonton JLI is a project of Chabad of Edmonton, and The Calgary JLI is a project of Chabad of Alberta.

BS"D



# Why Jewish Day School?

By Lesley Machon

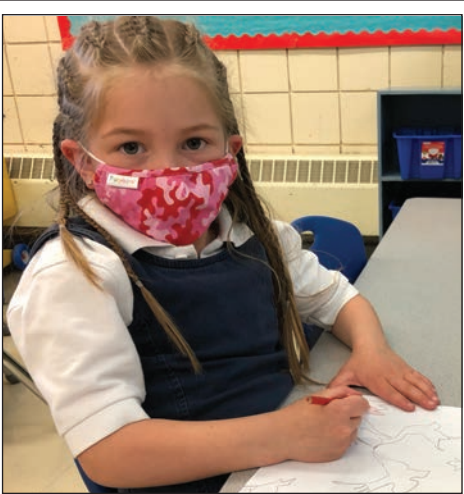
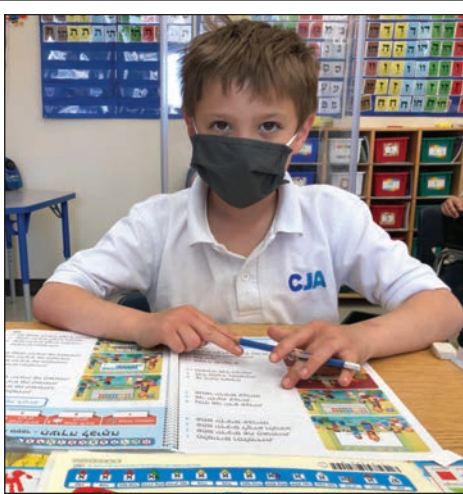
At Calgary Jewish Academy (CJA), students walk down the halls on Friday hearing the prayers of Shabbat, the sounds of locker doors and zippered binders creating a chorus with prayers thousands of years old. In this way, generational legacies are forged and nurtured, ensuring traditions and teachings of centuries past continue to find their place in the Jewish homes of tomorrow.

“Culture” as an umbrella term, refers to the practices, languages, values and world views expressed by a social group. Questions of culture are questions of community, belonging, and identity. All parents want to raise healthy, resilient children, though we often underestimate the role that culture plays in an individual’s developing sense of self. Being rooted in cultural identity offers us the structure and support needed to engage in meaningful ways with the world, and find each of our places in it. At CJA we offer a dual curriculum, which expands beyond provincial mandates to cover important gaps missing from the Alberta history curriculum (such as the history of Europe). Our approach also incorporates a full Judaic curriculum which explores the history, and the heart, of the Jewish people. Our educators strive to offer students a broader understanding of the world, so they may anchor their personal histories and experiences inside those of the collective.

Learning the stories and histories of Jewish people is important because as a broader Canadian culture, the

lives and experiences of minorities are often sidelined and skimmed over. As humans, we seek to make meaning of our daily experiences by linking events together in a particular sequence across time, and finding a way of explaining or making sense of them. This meaning forms the plot of the story we tell ourselves, use to construct societal norms. In the retelling of stories, there are always events that are not selected, based upon whether or not they fit with the dominant plots. The experiences of various cultural and minority groups are often sub-texts, and seeking them out expands the story we tell ourselves about the world. This creates more room for unique experiences and diverse expression, both in our communities and across the globe, which leads to less isolation and more room for differences. Only people who are connected to their own cultures, and willing to listen to the stories of other cultures, can truly build an inclusive multicultural nation.

In addition to the benefits of belonging to a community with a strong sense of cultural identity—such as security, trust, and access to social networks which provide support



Students at Calgary Jewish Academy benefit from a dual curriculum which expands beyond provincial mandates.

and shared values—students at CJA are given the opportunity to learn three languages: French, English, and Hebrew. They are also invited to participate in various celebrations and assemblies for Israel’s birthday (dressed in blue and white), Hanukkah (the smell of latkes clinging to sweater threads), and Passover. These celebrations connect us to Israel’s history as a nation, and remind us of our responsibility to learn from and incorporate the teachings of our ancestors. In this way, by honouring the past, we begin to build a future.

*Ms. Lesley Machon is the Junior High Humanities teacher at the CJA.*

# Honouring Children of the Shoah

By Regan Treewater-Lipes

In February of 2016 when Jacquie Seipp sat Shiva for her mother, she found herself contemplating what it is to remember past generations. “For a decade or more, every Yom Kippur at synagogue, the story of 93 young women, girls really, victims of the Shoah, had been recounted during services. Their final wish was to be remembered by someone: ‘All we ask is, say Kaddish for us, for all 93, say

Kaddish.’ I was there with family and friends remembering my mother, and the idea just came to me.” Seipp remembers that once the initial vision for One More Candle escaped her lips, its materialization took on a life of its own: “It was like a football – everyone was throwing around ideas and adding to it.”

“Lighting a candle in honour of those who have passed is a tradition to express what we cannot communicate with words. With each candle, the life of a child who lived, and was murdered, is remembered and honoured.” Within just 5 months and 3 days of submitting their application, One More Candle was approved for non-profit status, and a movement was born. The project seeks to match the names of children who perished during the Holocaust with individuals, families, and communities that can continue to remember them. “Each child represents all the generations that came before them,” explained Seipp in a recent phone interview. The Winnipeg-based organization is small, but vibrant. The bulk of the administrative work is still completed from Seipp’s own home by her husband Todd Boyer. The face of the initiative, and the driving force, is Seipp herself.

“We have a wonderful volunteer who does all our web-design. She’s finishing her PhD in Christian theology, and is so dedicated to our mission.”

To date, One More Candle has matched approximately 6,000 child Holocaust victims with Synagogues and individuals who have committed themselves to preserving their memories. “We’re asking for a lifetime commitment here,” continued Seipp. “By adopting one of our children, you are inviting their memory into your life. That child’s memory will sit at your Pesach table, and your children will remember them, and then they will teach their own children to remember them too – *l’dor v’dor* – from generation to generation.” With the help of Yad Vashem’s sizeable database of over 1.5 million names of child Holocaust victims, Seipp knows that there is a lot of work ahead of her, but hers is a labour of love. “So much of this has been b’shirt. We are the ones doing the leg-work, but Hashem’s hand has made certain that everything comes together as it must.”

According to Sharon Chisvin of the *Winnipeg Free Press*: “Since One More Candle was founded, thousands of children have been adopted by families, schools and synagogues across Canada and the United States, and by people from as far away as Australia, Venezuela, Ireland and South Korea. Many individual Winnipeggers and local groups also have adopted names, including Faith Temple.” Seipp’s own synagogue, Shaarey Zedek, of which her grandfather was a founding member, adopted one child for every day of the Jewish calendar year as have many other synagogues in North America. “The JCC in Kelowna has memorialized their adopted child with a plaque. Their younger generations will grow up seeing that plaque, and that child’s name will always be a part of their lives.” On a trip to the Kotel nearly 2 years ago, Seipp and her daughters met a fellow North American from Philadelphia. “Just a few weeks after we got home, I got a phone call from that same lady’s synagogue wanting to adopt.” Seipp believes that so much of promoting awareness of the project is dependant on word-of-mouth.

Continued on page 12



The Calgary Jewish Academy  
בית הספר היהודי בקלגרי

## CJA STRONG SUCCESS IN NUMBERS



0%  
tuition increase  
from 2020 to 2021



250  
students enrolled from  
Nursery to Grade 9



4500+  
assignments  
handed in via  
Google Classroom



576  
loaves of Challah  
enjoyed throughout  
the school year



1:1  
ratio of digital devices  
to students



14  
virtual Jewish celebrations  
for our students  
and their families



183  
school days  
filled with meaningful  
Jewish experiences



1025  
instructional hours for  
students in grades 1-9



Top 2%  
in the province of Alberta  
based upon grade 6  
PAT results

The Calgary Jewish Academy is committed to provide a safe, supportive environment that challenges our students to explore what the concepts of community and Jewish identity mean to them and how they can put their beliefs into action. The mandate/mission of the CJA is to foster: Community, Character & Confidence. Jewish Values, Identity & Traditions. Academic Excellence & Innovation.



A life forgotten dies a second death.

ADOPT THE MEMORY OF A CHILD MURDERED IN THE SHOAH.

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We are a Quality Kosher Music Dayhome for children aged 3 to 5 years.

Our activities are fun, educational and reinforce early childhood development and Torah Learning including:

- 2 wheel bike riding skills • Jewish Holiday celebration • Toilet training Assistance
- Pre reading skills • Voluntary initiatives • Science projects • Arts & Crafts
- Musical plays • Prep. School Ready • and much more

We provide a spacious main floor learning area, a child friendly fenced yard, a wholesome daily lunch and fruit snacks.

We are open Mondays through Thursdays (flexible 4 hour days).  
Open on Civic holidays - closures according to Jewish calendar only.

Dayhome Staff includes an 18 year experienced ECE Preschool Teacher plus a second qualified Staff member with First Aid Training, PC and is bilingual.

Cost: (\$5.50 per hr) \$3872 for the year (eleven months). Tax deductible receipts are available.  
Edmonton Yeshiva Katana is an initiative of Chabad of Edmonton.

To learn more and to register, **email [Torahtots1@gmail.com](mailto:Torahtots1@gmail.com)**



Film Festival *Cont. from page 1*

some, others, especially younger viewers, may learn for the first time of the Jewish leaders who marched from Selma to Montgomery in solidarity with their Black brothers and sisters, and of the Jewish students who were murdered by the KKK for standing up for civil rights. This is a film not to be missed! A conversation with the film's director Shari Rogers and other special guests will be held at 7 PM, via Zoom.

We are showing four feature films set in Israel this year, so climb aboard your virtual El Al flight. *Here We Are*, a tender drama about a father's relationship with his autistic son is beautifully acted and very moving. *Sublet* is the story of a gay American Travel writer, middle-aged and a bit stuffy, who goes to Tel Aviv to write a piece on the city; he meets a hip, handsome young film maker, and a life-changing friendship results. In addition to being a thoughtful drama about relationships, *Sublet* is also a love letter to the city of Tel Aviv. So, to accompany the film, we have invited Eytan Halon, Head of International Press, *Tel Aviv Global*, to speak about the many faces of his beloved

city. That is on May 5th at noon, via Zoom.

Our journey also includes historical travels to Nazi-era Europe. The documentary, *Love, It Was Not*, tells the true story of a senior Nazi officer in Auschwitz, who falls in love with a beautiful Jewish prisoner and becomes her protector. Thirty years after her liberation she is asked to testify on the officer's behalf. The film's use of archival footage and survivor testimonies is extraordinary. UK Journalist David Herman will join us on Zoom on May 6th at noon to share his insights on the moral and ethical questions raised in this powerful and enigmatic film. A second film, *You Only Die Twice*, also brings us to Europe. Although it is a documentary, the film plays more a like a "whodunit" telling the intriguing story of an Israeli investigating the theft of his grandfather's identity in pre-war Austria. Full of twists and turns, it is sure to hook those who love mysteries, historical research and family secrets. Joseph Patrouch, the Director of The Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies at the U of A, will help us unlock those secrets in a Pub talk at 8:30 PM on May 11th on Zoom.

Travel and entertainment should always go hand in

hand. So, if you are looking for some laughs on your virtual journey, tune in for *Kiss Me Kosher*, a slightly screwball Israeli comedy about love, family mischief and culture clash. For lots more smiles and laughs, be sure to watch our short films. *Tree #3*, *Cinema Rex*, and *Egg Cream* are all chocolatey sweet and delicious. Bring the kids and grandkids for some fun. *Shabbos Goy* is very funny but decidedly not for the kids or grandkids.

Many thanks to our sponsors and supporters who make it possible for us to deliver this great festival to our community, free of charge. Proceeds beyond festival delivery costs will go to The Jewish Federation of Edmonton's COVID-19 Relief Program, bringing food aid and financial subsidies to Jewish community members and organizations hard-hit by the pandemic. You can make a donation when you register at [Jewishedmonton.org](http://Jewishedmonton.org).

Can't wait to see you at the Festival. I am saving you the virtual plane seat next to mine for our outbound flight.

*Susan Schiffman is the Edmonton Jewish Film Festival Coordinator.*

# ISRAEL 2021 RAFFLE

**TWO FLIGHTS TO BE WON**

**DRAWING JULY 25TH 2021**

**CONTACT US TO PURCHASE A TICKET**  
**780-483-1028**

**\$55.00 A TICKET**  
**#563698**

**INCLUDES TRANSPORT TO AND FROM THE AIRPORT**

NOTE: WINNER MAY CHOOSE THE DATES WITHIN THE YEAR OF WINNING, BUT MUST LET THE ORGANIZATION KNOW AT LEAST 3 WEEKS PRIOR THE DATES CHOSEN. MUST NOT FLY OR ARRIVE ON SHABBAT OR A JEWISH HOLIDAY.  
\*\*\* IN RARE CASE ISRAEL BORDER IS NOT OPEN THE YEAR OF THE WINNING, THEN EQUAL COMPENSTAION WILL BE OFFERED.



B"H



# May 2 – 11: A stellar virtual EJFF screens in your own homes

From May 2 – 11, 2021 EJFF will light up computer screens and TVs in Edmonton homes and beyond. Films are complemented by virtual Pub Talks and Lunch Time Chats with distinguished guest speakers to provoke conversation and thought. Four award winning shorts will also be screened - May 5, two on May 10 and May 11. All films and events are free. Each film will be accessible from noon to 10 pm on the scheduled dates. You will need an email address and a computer to participate.

**Shared Legacies: The African American-Jewish Civil Rights Alliance (2020)**  
Director: Shari Rogers (USA); Documentary; English  
**Sunday May 2, 97 minutes**

May 2 at 7 pm via Zoom: A conversation with film director Shari Rogers.

The crucial historical lessons of Black-Jewish cooperation in the turbulent Civil Rights era are revisited in this fascinating, urgent call to action. Events come alive

through a treasure trove of archival materials, narrated by eyewitnesses, activists, Holocaust survivors, and leaders of the movement. This inspiring story of empathy, unity and partnership demonstrates that freedom and equality, for all, can only be achieved when people come together.

*Sponsors: The Uretsky-Leung-Harowitz-Glick-Hering families. In loving memory of Rick Uretsky z”l*

**Here We Are (2020)**  
Director: Nir Bergman (Israel)  
Drama; Hebrew with English subtitles  
**Monday May 3, 92 minutes**

This tender drama examines the intricacies of love, disability, community, and change. Divorced dad, Aharon, has given up his artistic career to look after his autistic son, Uri. They live a quiet life together, but as Uri reaches young adulthood, their cocooned life is upended when Uri’s mother decides that he needs to be placed in a specialized home that can better cater to his needs. Deeply reluctant,

Aharon decides to run away with his son, instead. They hit the road on an adventure-filled, often humorous, trek.

*Sponsors: by Servus Credit Union*

**Sublet (2020)**  
Director: Eytan Fox (USA/Israel)  
Drama; Hebrew and English with English subtitles  
Warning: explicit sexual content  
**Tuesday May 4, 129 minutes**

May 5 at noon via Zoom: Tel Aviv’s Many Faces, with Eytan Halon, Head of International Press Tel Aviv Global.

Michael, a gay, middle-aged and slightly uptight travel columnist, goes to Tel Aviv to write an article. But, when he sublets an apartment in a trendy Tel Aviv neighborhood from Tomer, a strikingly handsome and hip young film student, he finds himself drawn into the life and energy of the city, forming an intense bond with Tomer that will transform both their lives in unexpected ways.

*Sponsors: Friends of the Galilee Panhandle*

**Love, It Was Not (2020)**  
Director: Maya Sarfaty (Israel/Austria)  
Documentary; Hebrew, German, English Subtitles  
**Wednesday May 5, 83 minutes**

May 6 Noon Lunch Time Talk via Zoom: A Conversation with UK Journalist, David Herman. Sponsored by: The Holocaust Education Committee of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton.

A true story of the relationship between a prisoner and a Nazi officer. Helena Citron, beautiful and full of life, is taken to Auschwitz as a young woman, and soon finds unlikely solace under the protection of Franz Wunsch, a high-ranking SS officer who falls in love with her and her magnetic singing voice. Risking execution if caught, they go on with their forbidden relationship until the war ends and the camp is liberated. Thirty years later, a letter arrives from Wunsch’s wife asking Helena to “return the favor” and testify on Wunsch’s behalf. Will she help the man who brutalized so many lives, but saved hers?

*Sponsors: Catherine Miller, Len Dolgoy and Family, Francie Ratner, Mark Dolgoy and Family*

**Kiss Me Kosher (2020)**  
Director: Shirel Peleg (Israel/Germany)  
Hebrew, English, and German with English subtitles  
Romantic Comedy  
**Sunday, May 9, 101 minutes**

When Maria moves from Germany to Tel Aviv to be with her beloved, Shira, a series of small mis-steps puts in motion a wedding plan for the two women, a visit to Israel by Maria’s parents, a culture clash, and a fierce battle with Berta, Shira’s grandmother who is flatly opposed to any marriage between Jews and Germans. Shira and Maria discover that love is not the road to happiness they had envisioned, but more a minefield, littered with booby traps waiting to detonate.

*Sponsors: Cynthia and Wayne Pertman*

**Mrs. G. (2019)**  
Director: Dalit Kimor (Israel)  
Documentary; Hebrew, English, English subtitles  
**Monday, May 10, 54 minutes**

Alive with beautiful fashion models and sumptuous, colorful fabrics, this film tells the story of Mrs. Lea Gottlieb, legendary Israeli designer and founder/owner of the Gottex swimwear empire. The film profiles Mrs. G’s incredible creativeness, her dominant personality, her complex relationships with her two daughters, and her unbridled passion for her work.

**You Only Die Twice (2018)**  
Director: Yair Lev (Israel)  
Documentary; Hebrew, German, English Subtitles  
**Tuesday, May 11, 92 minutes**

May 11 at 8:30 pm via Zoom: Pub talk with Joseph Patrouch, Director, Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies, U of A.

In this real-life Jewish detective story, Israeli Yair Lev’s mother learns that she has inherited a posh cottage in North London and all she has to do to take possession is to prove that she is the daughter of the late Ernst Bechinsky, Lev turns detective and sets out to investigate a complicated history of deceptions and forgeries that stretches from Tel Aviv to Vienna to Zagreb. The story he slowly uncovers is an astonishing and suspenseful tale of sacrifice, love and friendship.

*Sponsored by: JAHSENA*

Shorts will be screened May 5, May 10 and May 11.  
For ticket information visit [jewishedmonton.org](http://jewishedmonton.org)

25 YEARS STRONG AND VIRTUALLY PERFECT

EDMONTON JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

FREE EVENT

MAY 2-11, 2021 IN HOMES THROUGHOUT EDMONTON

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <div>SHARED LEGACIES<br/>SUNDAY, MAY 2</div>          | <div>HERE WE ARE<br/>MONDAY, MAY 3</div>           | <div>SUBLET<br/>TUESDAY, MAY 4</div>                          |   |
| <div>TREE #3 (SHORT FILM)<br/>TUESDAY, MAY 4</div>    | <div>LOVE, IT WAS NOT<br/>WEDNESDAY, MAY 5</div>   | <div>COMMANDMENT 613 (SHORT FILM)<br/>WEDNESDAY, MAY 5</div>  |   |
| <div>KISS ME KOSHER<br/>SUNDAY, MAY 9</div>           | <div>MRS. G.<br/>MONDAY, MAY 10</div>              | <div>SHABBOS GOY (SHORT FILM)<br/>MONDAY, MAY 10</div>        |   |
| <div>EGG CREAM (SHORT FILM)<br/>MONDAY, MAY 10</div>  | <div>YOU ONLY DIE TWICE<br/>TUESDAY, MAY 11</div>  | <div>CINEMA REX (SHORT FILM)<br/>TUESDAY, MAY 11</div>        |   |
| <div>SUNDAY, MAY 2, 7:00 PM<br/>A CONVERSATION WITH FILM DIRECTOR,<br/>SHARI ROGERS</div>   | <div>WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, NOON<br/>LUNCHTIME TALK ON TEL AVIV'S MANY FACES<br/>WITH EYTAN HALON, TEL AVIV GLOBAL</div>                   | <div>THURSDAY, MAY 6, NOON<br/>LUNCHTIME TALK WITH UK JOURNALIST,<br/>DAVID HERMAN</div>  | <div>TUESDAY, MAY 11, 8:30 PM<br/>PUBTALK WITH JOSEPH PATROUCH,<br/>WIRTH INSTITUTE</div> |

The Jewish Federation OF EDMONTON

EDMONTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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# Art and Scroll Studio presents *Threads of Torah*

By Shelley Werner

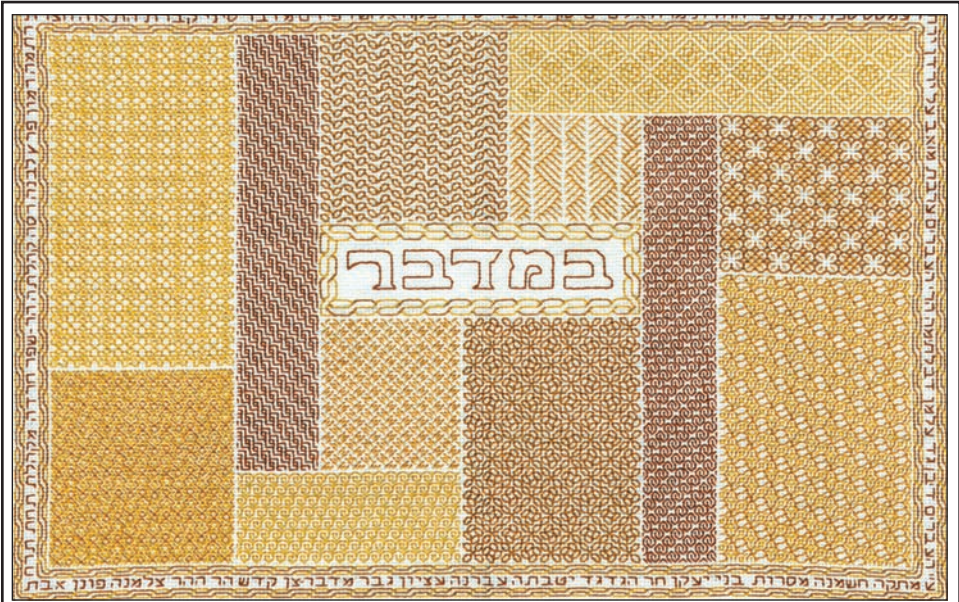
Art and Scroll Studio will host the Season Finale of their Zoominar series on Wednesday May 19, at 7 pm MDT. Each of their first eight episodes has focused on a unique artist in presentation of their work. This show will have a twist: the joint conversation of a featured artist with a well-known local rabbi.

What do an embroidery artist and a rabbi have in common? Rachel Braun weaves her multi-colored works of art taking as her inspiration the myriad sources available in Jewish heritage. Inspired by the phrases and descriptive passages found in Torah she weaves her interpretation of liturgy into colour and rhythmic line.

Rabbi Mark Glickman, spiritual leader of Temple B'nai Tikvah in Calgary, has both a keen appreciation for Judaic art and expertise in the interpretation of Torah texts. Rabbi Glickman will share his deep understanding of Torah text focusing on the traditional interpretations as well as his own perspective on the passages.

Calgary's Temple B'nai Tikvah welcomed Rabbi Mark S. Glickman as their Rabbi in July 2016. Born in Cincinnati, Ohio and raised in suburban Chicago, Rabbi Glickman graduated cum laude from Washington University in St. Louis in 1985. He received his rabbinical ordination from Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati in 1990. His first book *Sacred Treasure: The Cairo Genizah* (Jewish Lights Publishing) was published in 2011. His second book *Stolen Words: The Nazi Plunder of*

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BaMidbar (The Wilderness) by Rachel Braun

# Anti-fascist cartoonist’s message still resonates

By Jeremy Appel

The cartoon stylings of Walter Trier, who pilloried fascist leaders during the Second World War with humour, provide a useful lens for approaching the rise of the far right we’re witnessing presently, according to one of his descendants.

Born in Prague in 1890, when it was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Trier moved to Germany in 1906 for school, where he studied under famed painter Franz Stuck and did illustrations for several children’s books.

In 1936, he fled the Nazis and moved to London, where he worked with the Ministry of Information to create anti-fascist leaflets. Around the same time, Trier began drawing the covers of *Lilliput* magazine, which he continued until 1949.

After the war, he moved to Canada to be with his daughter, living in Collingwood, Ont., until his 1951 death.

Trier’s great grandson is Chris Fodor, whom readers might remember as the owner of City & Country Wine in Calgary. Another great grandchild is Chris’s cousin, Matt Fodor, a political scientist based in Toronto.

Although Trier died well before Matt was born, his legacy loomed large in Fodor’s life, describing his grandparents as the “guardians of his legacy”.

His family had Trier paintings all over the house growing up and his paternal grandmother — Trier’s daughter — donated much of more than 1,100 pieces of Trier’s work to the Art Gallery of Ontario in 1976.



## Mazel Tov!

Lena and Victor Linetsky are thrilled to announce the engagement of their son David to Jessica Weiss of Denver, Colorado.

David and Jess met and fell in love in New York, where they worked together. Their engagement took place atop a dilapidated shipping crane in Brooklyn, which they originally climbed as part of their first adventure together.

Almost immediately after saying “yes!” the couple decamped for Austin, TX for a year.

The Linetsky and Weiss families are overjoyed that these two found each other and decided to marry.

We wish Jessica and David a huge Mazel Tov!

“He was a larger than life figure,” says Matt. “So we were always well-aware of his history and life.”

He describes Trier’s work as playful, child-like and fantastical, which Trier often used to drive home his anti-fascist message.

One piece from 1942, entitled “Check Mate, the Fuehrer”, shows a dismayed Adolph Hitler losing in chess to Joseph Stalin. Matt says Trier wasn’t a Communist, but was immersed in the Popular Front politics of the day, which regarded Stalin as a key ally in fighting fascism.

Another image — publication date unknown — shows Hitler hanging from one of the spikes atop Lady Liberty’s head by the seat of his pants.

Matt, who is working on a book about the history of the NDP, says he gained an enhanced appreciation of Trier’s work as he became more politicized.

“When I got more politically-minded, I got more

interested in the family story and his anti-fascist work,” says Matt.

Not all of Trier’s work was political in nature, with many pieces focused on the artist’s love of animals. One cartoon from 1933 shows a lineup of hockey players, with the goalie holding a cat in his glove, while another from 1949 depicts an elephant in a tuxedo delivering a speech.

But Matt says Trier’s political work in particular stands the test of time, offering us a lesson in combating the rise of the radical right through satire.

“(Trier’s work) brings out a joyful, positive love of life. And fascism is the opposite of that — it has disdain for the good life. It also has disdain for intellectuals and creativity,” he said, describing Trier’s approach as “light instead of darkness.”

“You (can help) defeat them by making them an object of ridicule.”

SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2021 | 7PM

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# Edmonton JNF pays tribute to Gayle Tallman

JNF Edmonton is honouring Gayle Tallman at the 2021 Virtual Edmonton Negev Gala which will be held on June 22, 2021.

Gayle was an important and influential leader within the Jewish Community of Edmonton and beyond for several decades. She contributed to the education of a generation of youth and young adults – from coast to coast, sharing with them her love of Israel, her commitment to community service and Jewish values, and her belief in the importance of Holocaust education and awareness.

Gayle’s career was focused on teaching compassion and inclusivity to Jewish youth who would become future leaders, stated Edmonton JNF Executive Director Jay Cairns, along with Negev Gala campaign team leaders Michael Schayer, Heather Vickar and Jack Schwartzberg.

“The JNF team is issuing a call out to everyone - from coast to coast - whose life was impacted by Gayle’s amazing work.

“We need your help gathering photos and videos to honour her. Send in your favourite photo/video clip of you with Gayle when you were in a BBYO program, at Camp BB, in the JCC or from a March of the Living trip.”

Tributes should be sent by email to [edm@jnf.ca](mailto:edm@jnf.ca) or they can be posted on the JNF Edmonton Facebook page.

“I first met Gayle at the Talmud Torah where she was a student with my children. It struck me at the time and I still feel it to this day that here comes trouble. The mischief in those eyes and demeanor was very evident,” wrote B’nai Brith Manager for Alberta Affairs, Abe Silverman.

“Over the years my first impressions proved to be correct,” he continued.

“Years later when she was the Executive Director of Jewish Federation and me a Past President we worked

together on Holocaust Education. She was tireless in her quest to tell the story of the Holocaust. And heaven help anyone who stood in her way. She knew what needed to be done and no one was going to alter her course. And she succeeded beyond anyone’s expectations.

“She organized Holocaust Education Symposiums for Edmonton and area High School Students that are legendary. 3000 plus students came every year to hear the testimony of Holocaust survivors and learn the important lessons of the Holocaust. Though Gayle has received awards in recognition for her work we will forever be grateful to Gayle for being Gayle. Mischievous, dedicated, funny and trouble.”

“The Silverman family loves you Gayle and supports this well-deserved JNF honour.”

Camp BB-Riback Director Stacy Shaikin wrote, “If you went to camp or participated in BBYO in the 70s, 80s or 90s, Gayle Tallman would have touched your life in some way you never forgot.

“For me it was an interesting journey. Gayle and I were often at odds as I was a very irreverent and mischievous teen. Often times I would cross the line. Gayle didn’t have a lot of patience for my hijinks. At one point I actually crossed the line with her and we didn’t speak for a number of months. It was brought to my attention I actually hurt her feelings. I felt awful so I went to apologize. She was so impressed I would own my mistake it relieved the tension.

“Later on, she was one of our chaperones on the March of the Living in 1992. For those of you who know me, I am not the most emotional dude around. Majdanek, toward the end of our Poland stay, wrecked me. As I came out of the surgical room, there she was to greet us. She gave me the biggest hug as I broke down in her arms. I’ll never forget that moment. And I’ll never forget what a great mentor and friend she was to our whole generation.

“She taught us leadership was accountability and participating in community was a soulful pursuit. She is one in a million. This event is long overdue to celebrate a woman who touched so many our lives and taught us how to be leaders with action not words.”

“It has been my experience over the years that the best way for a Jewish community to strengthen and grow is to educate and support its youth,” wrote Mor Barzel. “Gayle Tallman embodied this vision. Personally, Gayle instrumentally shaped and strengthened my connection to our community.

“I was lucky enough to be one of those kids hired by Gayle as a Day Camp Shalom junior counsellor in 1988. Despite the ongoing ribbings, she always conveyed respect



Archive photo of Gayle Tallman with (then high school students) Daniel Shafran and Tyler Pertman. (Photo supplied)

and showed a genuine interest in our lives.

“Later, as the Lead Chaperone for March of the Living in 1990, she not only educated and comforted us, but also instilled a strong sense of Jewish identity. Gayle had faith in our abilities and pushed us to be more involved in all aspects of Jewish life. And in so doing, she encouraged a younger generation to take on leadership roles that would spark lifelong relationships within our community.

“I am incredibly grateful to Gayle for her kindness and guidance, and for helping me find my place in this community. Thank you, Gitale!”

JNF Edmonton Executive Director Jay Cairns also has wonderful memories of Gayle. “The Edmonton JCC was a very special place for me growing up,” he wrote. “I have so many fond memories of various programs, swimming lessons, BBYO board meetings (that were held in a storage closet), Hadassah meetings that my mom would go to in the basement in the 80’s. The various kosher cafes, the JNF, Hadassah and many other Jewish organizations had offices in the building. It was much more than a building, it was a place where relationships developed, where people from different walks of life came together and interacted and it was here that so many of us met Gayle Tallman.

“Gayle is a feisty, sharp witted person who always had her door open looking out for anyone who needed help... with anything. And I think more people needed a hand than even Gayle knew at the time. Gayle is also very humble, quiet and kind with an incredible sense of humour. Since we launched the campaign, I have had the pleasure of reading so many stories and kind words expressed in tribute to Gayle and in appreciation of her influence on so many people. And that’s amazing. That is a legacy.”

With the proceeds from the 2021 Negev Gala, Gayle has chosen to support a project in the north of Israel, in the Partnership 2000 region in a community that has a history and connection with Jewish Edmonton. Please join us in helping to build a youth and recreational fitness park, in kibbutz Sde Nehemia.

For more information, email [edm@jnf.ca](mailto:edm@jnf.ca) or visit JNF Edmonton / Facebook



Gayle Tallman with (then high school student) Stacy Shaikin.

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OUR HONOREE

GAYLE TALLMAN

Gayle Tallman's career has been devoted to community service. She dedicated her life to inspiring Jewish identity and leadership, impacting the lives of many along the way. She began her career with Camp BB Riback and later moved to City Supervisor positions with BBYO.



Rising through the ranks, Gayle has served as the Executive Director of Jewish Federation of Edmonton, United Jewish Appeal, and the Edmonton Jewish Community Center.

Gayle developed and coordinated the Coast to Coast Canada March of the Living delegation that continues to take tens of thousands of people annually through an emotional Jewish experience in Poland and Israel.

She is a trained and certified Spielberg Foundation Shoah Interviewer and an Anne Frank Award recipient for her work in creating Edmonton's first Facing Hate Holocaust Symposium for High Schools that continues to teach compassion and ethics, through the lessons of the Holocaust.

Gayle also worked to help ensure Edmonton had a Holocaust monument on provincial grounds and developed initiatives such as the Hate Crimes Committee with our Edmonton Police Services.

Please join in celebrating Gayle's commitment to inspiring Jewish identity and leadership.





## Beth Tzedec honours *Cont. from page 1*

Markham’s volunteer presence in Calgary is as impressive as his legal career. When he and his wife, Calgarian Lisa (Kowall) were married in Calgary in June ‘87, the Beth Tzedec Synagogue was basically a “foundation hole at Glenmore Trail and Elbow Drive” at the site of the former Beth Israel Synagogue, noted Markham.

“In May 1998 with our children, Josh and Rebecca in tow, we moved from Toronto to Calgary. By then we were no strangers to Beth Tzedec, having spent some holidays in Calgary and even a couple of High Holidays. Within a month, I was “voluntold” that I would be on the Board. And so it began,” he quipped.

“Since that fateful nomination in June ‘98 I have accepted the responsibilities as Chair of the Board, Vice President, Director, Ritual Chair and Pro-Bono Counsel. I have advised Boards and Executives as well as liaising with external counsel. In addition, as the Beth Tzedec representative I sat on the Calgary Jewish Federation’s Committee for Jewish education.”

In addition to his governance roles over the years, Markham has frequently been front and centre leading prayer services and leining Torah and Haftorah as well as being a Baal Tekiyah sounding the Shofar and being the Chazzan Shenei for High Holiday Services. He has been a member of the “ad hoc” choir and participated in a number of other musical evenings under several Cantors. He also served as moderator for an Interfaith symposium hosted at the Synagogue with the Calgary Muslim community.

Maxine and Markham have worked together in various capacities both in synagogue governance (including on Rabbi, Cantor and Executive Director search committees) and in other volunteer positions within the Jewish Community in Calgary. “I am privileged to share in this honour with her,” said Markham.

Born and raised in Edmonton and a graduate of the Edmonton Talmud Torah and University of Alberta, Maxine (nee Wolfman), a lifelong shul-goer, has always taken joy in community, both as a professional volunteer and a communal professional.

During her early 20s, Maxine served on the board and executive of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, rising to the position of VP, Community Services. She later served professionally as community relations coordinator and acting Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton.

After she and her husband Milt moved to Calgary in 1993, Maxine served on various boards and executives including Jewish Family Service Calgary and the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta. She volunteered in multiple capacities for UJA, Calgary Jewish Federation, Jewish National Fund, Akiva Academy and The Calgary Jewish Academy. Prior to becoming Beth Tzedec President in 2013, she served as ritual chair and VP (Personnel). Along the way she served on the Beth Tzedec Sisterhood board and executive and represented Beth Tzedec on the Pacific Northwest Region board of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. Maxine is a long-serving Beth

Tzedec Congregation Jewish Film Festival volunteer and has played an active role in other cultural, educational and fundraising events at Beth Tzedec.

Throughout her adult life, she has been a free-lance writer and editor and regular contributor to the *Jewish Free Press* and, more recently, *Alberta Jewish News*. She served as a writer and editor of *A Joyful Harvest* for Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta and has contributed to the JHSSA journal *Discovery*. She served for several years as communications director for Calgary Jewish Federation.

“Throughout my life, I have directly benefited from the efforts of countless community leaders in both Calgary and Edmonton,” remarked Maxine. “The Edmonton Talmud Torah and Beth Shalom and Beth Israel Synagogues helped my parents to raise me. Akiva Academy, The Calgary Jewish Academy, Camp BB Riback and Beth Tzedec helped us raise our daughters, Alysya and Emma. Volunteering has never really been a matter of choice for me. I owe a tremendous debt of gratitude and feel compelled to pay it forward.”

“I have always been very giving of my time to the Beth Tzedec Community,” said Markham. “It really is the extension of family. Being part of a kehillah like the Beth Tzedec is very rewarding and at times trying. As Golda Meir once said to Richard Nixon, she is the Prime Minister to 3 million Prime Ministers! It is gratifying that every voice may be heard, and everyone has the opportunity to give effect to their positions and opinions even if those do not carry the day.”

Markham has been involved in Beth Tzedec’s business for the last 23 years.

“I am no longer in governance as I am living with stage 4 lung cancer. I never asked for recognition and I know that there are others equally if not more deserving than I.

## Yom Ha'atzmaut at the Calgary JCC



Celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut with a cupcake drive-thru at the Calgary JCC. (Photos courtesy Shula Banchik)

It is time to pass the gauntlet to the next generation and I hope that as an “elder statesman” of this congregation I may be able to continue to lead by example. I am grateful for having had the opportunity to serve the kehillah and am truly touched that I am being honoured in this way.”

David Inhaber noted that “as humble and as generous as they are, both Markham and Maxine agreed that the proceeds of this event should benefit the legacy endowment funds of the Beth Tzedec Congregation Society, to support our Shul in perpetuity. They are once again demonstrating how important a strong shul is to a strong Jewish Community.”

“Supporting Beth Tzedec is a top priority for me, so I am moved by the generous support of my friends, family and fellow congregants,” concluded Maxine. “Without strong Synagogues we can’t reasonably expect a Jewish future. As our sages say in Pirkei Avot: You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it.”

Visit [bethtzedec.ca/events/night-of-mirth](https://bethtzedec.ca/events/night-of-mirth) for more information about tickets and sponsorship packages.



*Mazel Tov!*

It is with great pleasure and excitement that Ella Linetsky and Mike Cohen of Boca Raton, Florida, USA announce the engagement of Ella’s son Zuri Linetsky to Emily Yu, daughter of Anli and David Yu of Hsinchu, Taiwan.

Zuri was born in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, Emily was born in the Scotch Plains, New Jersey, USA. Zuri and Emily met in Washington, DC. They bonded over their shared love of pizza, travel and reading the New Yorker.

Ella, Mike and the whole Linetsky family would like to wish Zuri and Emily a huge Mazel Tov on their engagement. May their joining together bring them more joy than they can imagine and may their love for each other only strengthen as time goes by.

## A Virtual Night of Mirth and Mitzvot

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**BETH TZEDEC**  
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# STEAM Achievements at Halpern Akiva Academy

By Halpern Akiva Academy staff

Halpern Akiva Academy is very proud to celebrate the success of our Len and Faigel Shapiro STEAM Program this year! In spite of the limitations of COVID, our students were able to excel in all areas of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math).

This month, our Junior High students displayed excellent achievements in Math and Science with two Grade Nine Students scoring in the top 25th percentile in the Canadian Computing Competition Junior Division and one scoring in the top 25 percent of contestants in the Pascal Math Contest.

Halpern Akiva Academy also hosted a virtual Science Fair, with eight contestants moving on to the Calgary Youth Science Fair. Our incredible young engineers and scientists were able to secure three gold medals, two silver medals, one bronze and two honourable mentions. Additionally during further judging rounds Zack Rajesky in Grade 6 won the CYSF Elementary Life Science/Medical award, Joseph Kostousov won the Ted Rogers Innovation Award and Samuel Kostousov won three awards; the CYSF Travel Award, the Hunter Centre Overall Consumer award and the Queens University Applied Science Prize and was chosen to represent Callgary at the Canada Wide Science Fair.

In an interview, Zack Rajesky said that in his project, he tested 5 medicine flavours to see which flavour was the best (ie most preferred) depending on age and gender. He determined that chocolate was the best flavour for everyone, adults, kids, boys and girls.

When asked what inspired him to choose this topic, Zack responded, “I like to volunteer at my dad’s pharmacy and I wanted to see what people would choose because when someone gets medicine they have a choice to get a flavour and everyone usually asks: ‘what do you recommend?’ So I wanted to test to know what flavour we should recommend and see what actually is the best.”

Zack believes that his project will help people, “because researchers have studied that 90% of kids that don’t take their medicine don’t take it because it doesn’t taste good. Now if we know what medicine flavour we should use, maybe more kids will take their medicine and start getting better.

To expand on his project, Zack said, “If I could work on it more I would add more age groups, not just adults and kids but maybe a 3-10 years old group and then a 12 -18 years old group and more.”

In an interview, Samuel Kostousov said that his goal was to create an affordable way for people who are sight deprived to be able to read books. “Normal printed Braille books are very expensive and Braille e-readers currently cost about \$4000, about 30 times more than a regular ereader,” he explained. “I wanted to find an affordable way for sight deprived individuals to be able to enjoy books. My design cost about \$500 which is a fraction of the normal cost.”

His design utilized the forces of magnetism to display braille, one pin of a character having a top and bottom platform. The bottom platform rotates in half circles and both platforms have 2 magnets facing opposite directions. When the bottom platform does a half circle the two platforms come together and with another half turn, they repel. This system allows the braille display to conserve energy, only needing power when switching to a new fragment of text.

When asked what inspired him, Samuel said, “Torah values including Love your Neighbour and Gratitude have been taught throughout my Jewish education at Halpern Akiva Academy. We are constantly taught to care about others and appreciate what we have and recognize that there are others who are not as fortunate. I thought it was a great way to help people who were not given the same ability as I have and were not able to see as well as we do. In general I see reading as one of the main ways we acquire knowledge and pass it from generation to generation and that small sector of blind individuals is falling behind and the gap is widening as they do not have access to the same knowledge and resources that able seeing individuals have.

“We can assist in closing that gap by offering affordable access to resources and knowledge.”

To expand on the project, Samuel said, “Currently I have displayed the technology on one Braille pin. Given more time I would try to display at least a character and also scale down the size to make it resemble a normal Braille pin as closely as possible. I would also have blind person test it and give me feedback.”

Samuel believes that one of the main focuses of innovation in general should be “on catching-up people in society who are



Grade: 6

### Medicine Flavours Preferred By Gender & Age

Halpern Akiva Academy grade 6 student Zack Rajesky was awarded the Calgary Youth Science Fair Elementary Life Science / Medical Award.

not as fortunate, instead of focusing on moving forward those who are already capable and have access to many resources and opportunities.”

In Technology, Engineering and Art, the Academy’s 3D printer was very active printing student designed logo dreidels for Chanukah, and was used for Science and Art projects throughout the year. Our Akiva Broadcast Network (ABN) was able to proceed with personal microphones and proper distancing and PPE to allow for the safe broadcast of weekly school happenings. Art projects included backdrops for ABN, Chanukah and Purim cards to the community.

This year, we also successfully launched the BrightMinds Math program in partnership with Renert Math. This program is changing the way our students approach math problems, encouraging mental math, critical thinking and self-directed math discovery. We are seeing immense progress among our Elementary students and are excited to see the program grow!



# Cheers to 40 years!

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E-mail: albertajewishnews@gmail.com  
Tel: (780) 421-7966

albertajewishnews.com  
Subscriptions in Canada: \$37.80 per year  
Subscriptions outside Canada: \$72 USD per year

Funded by the Government of Canada | Financé par le gouvernement du Canada | Canada

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Volume 32, Number 4, April 2021

PUBLISHER: Deborah Shatz  
EDITOR: Daniel Moser  
PAST PUBLISHERS: Barry Slawsky, David Moser, Judy Shapiro, Richard Bronstein

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Next Deadline: May 14, 2021



community calendar

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Check out the Community Calendar at [jewishcalgary.org](http://jewishcalgary.org)

Have an event?  
Click on "Suggest an Event" to add it to the calendar



A MESSAGE FROM ADAM SILVER

This time of the Jewish calendar year is very purposeful. It is the season during which we count the time between the second night of Pesach (Passover) and the first night of Shavuot (The Festival of Weeks). This is called “counting the omer” – seven weeks long, to be exact. While Passover celebrates the initial liberation of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt, Shavuot marks the culmination of the process of liberation, when we became an autonomous community with our own laws, standards, and practices.

This is not a simple countdown procedure to mark the passing of time. In fact, we count UP to Shavuot. Some rabbis and scholars suggest that we don't simply achieve the transformation from our Egypt mentality to our Shavuot one. Rather, our hopes and dreams grow with anticipation over those weeks, and we emerge from our experience with persecution to our newfound freedom

with purpose. We aim to climb one step higher each day in our efforts, hoping we are ready to embrace all that Judaism and Jewish life have to offer.

Over this last year, many of us have been doing a different type of COUNTING UP – we have amassed the number of days between visiting certain loved ones and between vacations. We can share the number of days, weeks, and months we've been wearing masks and sanitizing our hands raw. We can highlight the milestones we have missed and the number of big moments that have passed and will never repeat. We can also cite the number of times we have felt overwhelmed, sad, and hopeless... or, perhaps, we've lost count.

However, we can't give up. Our community has remained strong and vibrant in the face of adversity and we are so close to the finish line. To throw our hands up now

demonstrates that the challenges we have faced over the last year and have been able to steward through are no longer important. Nothing is further from the truth. We must continue to care for one another. We must continue to be vigilant in our efforts and hopeful for brighter days. Together, WE CAN get through this. Together, WE CAN emerge from our sadness and frustration. Together, WE CAN – and will – ensure our tomorrow is better than today!

Chag Shavuot Sameach!  
Take care and keep safe,

Adam Silver  
CEO  
Calgary Jewish Federation

Building an inclusive community is a priority. Contact us and we will make every effort to meet your needs.

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# Earth Day Kabbalat Shabbat



Rabbi Gila Caine

By Rabbi Gila Caine

In my secret mental list of stuff to pack if we had to run, after some medicine, but before my wonderful cast iron pan, is a rolling pin. This is a long, well worn, wooden cylinder my grandmother gave me when she decided she'd had enough of baking. I wish I could bake like her, but at least I have her rolling pin, so perhaps one day. When I pick it up, the rolling pin is the p'shat (the initial level of reading Torah), but when I go beyond the pictures, tastes and smells it

conjures in me, I arrive at the d'rash (commentary) of inherited rolling pins.

The d'rash is about celebrating connections over acquisitions and about spending time with our family and friends rather than money on hoarding. If I went deeper, this humble wooden rolling pin could symbolize for me the whole Torah of defining what is important and sustaining in my life. Which brings us to Earth Day (April 22), and to the evolving Jewish tradition of celebrating Earth Day Shabbat on the same week.

In case you were wondering, it is surprisingly easy to make the connection because celebrating Creation, consecrating rest, and calling for freedom from slavery (to things, to people, to greed) are the core stories of Shabbat. In essence, every Shabbat is an Earth Day celebration, if only we bring the right intention to it, but this Shabbat we can be intentional about articulating all this together with the rest of the world.

This week when we celebrate at Temple Beth Ora, I'll ask people to share one item they were given or have inherited. These objects are dear to us because they hold memories of belonging and connect us to times when

“disposable” wasn’t celebrated. Once the worth of a thing rested in its durability and your ability to pass it on to your grandchildren. Today, we buy sh’mates (rags), gift sh’mates, and applaud quantity over quality. We can do this because grossly underpaid workers and slaves (a shout out here to our ancestors in Mitzrayim!) around the world are doing our work for us. Have we forgotten that being human is belonging to a tribe and recognising that we are but one element within Creation?

Fulfilling the mitzvah of Shabbat provides opportunities to celebrate, in the most joyful way, our commitment to our Judaism and to our responsibility to care for our planet. Make every Shabbat and this Earth Shabbat in particular a time to appreciate all the gorgeous, lush, awe-inspiring places and traditions we have inherited from our ancestors, grandparents, and parents. And let us also make Earth Shabbat a celebration of our commitment to pass on this wonderful legacy and planet to the generations who will follow us.

Chag Adamah Sameach and Shabbat Shalom!

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

## Threads of Torah *Cont. from page 5*

*Jewish Books* (Jewish Publication Society) was released in 2016.

Embroidery allows Rachel to enter and interpret Jewish sacred texts. Her ideas always start with words from Torah or liturgy. Next, she designs and stitches Judaic embroidery to elucidate those texts. The drafting work is highly mathematical, incorporating ideas from geometry and algebra. In 2017, Rachel collected her designs and *divrei Torah* in a book, *Embroidery and Sacred Text*. Rachel is a high school math teacher and statistician, and holds the Guinness World Record for the largest graph paper collection in the world (she has 1850+ sheets of distinct graph paper grids). She lives in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Braun explains that embroidery has “become a potent practice of living Torah and enacting Jewish life, rather than documenting myself for future generations. These experiences unfold in the offering of a *drasha*, a textual commentary, within the design itself, and indeed, in the repetitive glide of the needle through the fabric.”

Braun has said that she’s drawn to the portions of the Bible that bore most people. “I like the ‘begats’ as well as the construction details of the *mishkan*, or tabernacle,” she said. Braun uses the word meditative to describe her detailed threading and weaving of pattern and line. Repeating these details in the Torah is a way of “insisting that this biblical people’s dramatic experience is worth pausing to take note of. In embroidery, you experience that same rhythm—the little details add up to an entire story.”

“Before I start stitching I figure out how each of these different ways of acquiring Torah fit together,” she said. “The individual pieces come together as one full

presentation of the ways we can access Torah.” But there is something ineffable about Braun’s process. Pausing over each stitch and repeatedly using the same motion with the needle enables her “to get a song going in my hand. It’s an entry in immersing myself in the text.”

Rabbi Glickman will express his own interpretation of the texts illuminated by Rachel. He will share his unique background as an author and Torah scholar to provide rabbinic insight into the work. The format of the episode will be the same as Art and Scroll Studio trademark conversational style, and will allow time for questions and comments.

*Threads of Torah: Woven Words and Wisdom* will be the Season Finale on Wednesday May 19, 2021 at 7 pm MDT. For free tickets please register at [artandscrollstudio.com](http://artandscrollstudio.com).



Rabbi Mark Glickman



Rachel Braun

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## Strategic Plan Update #6 - April 2021

INFORM  
Summer-Fall 2020

CONSIDER  
Winter 2020-21

STRATEGIZE  
Winter-Spring 2021

COMMIT  
Summer 2021  
3-5 year plan

### Current Phase: STRATEGIZE

The Strategize phase of the Talmud Torah Society’s strategic plan is officially underway. This phase is marked by the creation of our strategic plan, which is informed by:

- Current Environment
- Society Needs
- Stakeholder Feedback
- Governance Best Practices
- Fiscal Responsibility

Key milestones since our last community announcement include:

- Completion of our Strategic Survey review and analysis
  - A public summary of the survey results can be found at: <https://talmudtorahsociety.com/about-us/planning-for-the-future>
- Board Strategic Planning Workshop
  - To begin the creation of the strategic plan

#### Next Steps

The Strategic Plan will be drafted for review and approval by the Society board, and the final plan will be shared with Society membership in the next few months. We will then move on to the COMMIT phase, where we will take action to achieve our plan priorities.

Thanks for continuing to engage with us.

The Talmud Torah Society Board

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

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



Memorial Tribute

Obituary for Eugene Linetsky

March 10, 1930 – March 4, 2021



Mar 10, 1930 – Mar 4, 2021

It is with great sorrow that the Linetsky family announces the passing of our husband, father, and grandfather, Eugene Linetsky, on March 4th, 2021, at the age of 90.

Eugene was born on March 10, 1930 in Periyaslov-Khmelnsky, Ukraine. He was only 11 years old when the Nazis invaded the Soviet Union and his family was forced to evacuate to Uzbekistan for the duration of the war. After the war ended the family returned to Ukraine and settled in Dnepropetrovsk, where Eugene's father, Shulem, worked in construction.

There, Eugene attended university and graduated with a degree in Civil and Structural Engineering in 1953 and went on to work in construction in Ukraine and Siberia until the 1970s. The year he graduated he also met Anna. They quickly fell in love, married in 1954, and went on to raise two children, Victor and Ella.

When the family decided that life for Jews in the Soviet Union was intolerable and chose to flee, Eugene and Anna made the difficult choice to leave their established lives behind and accompany their children on this difficult journey. After making their way through a number of European countries they eventually settled in Edmonton in 1981.

Adapting to life in a new country, with a new language and new customs, is daunting even at the best of times, but especially challenging later in life. Despite being in his fifties, Eugene tackled these challenges with quiet grace, always doing what was required to best support his family. In all aspects of his life Eugene cared deeply about quality and a job well-done, characteristics that served him well in his work and business life and inspired those

who worked alongside him. Incapable of idleness, he continued to find ways to contribute to family businesses well into his eighties.

Eugene loved sports, especially skiing, which he taught himself while in his fifties. He continued to ski with his grandchildren well into his late seventies. He loved to sing and dance, something certainly remembered fondly by anyone that attended a party with him. He also loved to travel, and he and Anna traveled extensively around the world after they retired.

After suffering a stroke four years ago, he spent his last two years at OPH, where his family visited him frequently. Anna would visit and care for him several times a day until his peaceful passing surrounded by his family.

Eugene is survived by Anna, his wife of 67 years, his children Victor (Lena) and Ella (Mickey), and his grandchildren David, Zuri, and Josh.

One of the family friends expressing condolences after Eugene passed away said, "Eugene was one of the good guys." He certainly was, and that is how he will be remembered by his friends and family.

Edmonton charity seeks support to reach fundraising goal

The Fort Edmonton Foundation has raised over \$909,000 to light the historical midway at Fort Edmonton Park. It is almost at its \$1 Million fundraising goal, selling more than 18,000 symbolic bulbs for the Light the Midway campaign. The Foundation is seeking the community's help to reach the goal of 20,000 bulbs by May 31.

The Fort Edmonton Foundation is a group of passionate community leaders and Rotarians that provide the financial resources to enable project development at Fort Edmonton Park. The Foundation was key in building the historical midway at Fort Edmonton Park in the early 2000s. It is a replica of the original 1920s Edmonton Exhibition, featuring carnival rides, games, and amusements brought into Edmonton each summer by the Johnny J. Jones traveling railroad show.

The newly expanded midway will be twice its size featuring a bigger Ferris wheel, more vintage rides, a games alley, funhouse, carnival maze, and Cabinet of Curios. In August 2020, the Fort Edmonton Foundation began its mission to raise the final dollars needed to

complete the expansion. Thanks to the public's generosity, the Foundation is almost at its \$1 million fundraising goal.


"After coming through a dark winter and the challenges of the pandemic, lighting the midway at Fort Edmonton Park is something bright and exciting to look forward to," said Janet Tryhuba, Executive Director of the Fort Edmonton Foundation. "The Light the Midway campaign has been a powerful way to keep our community working together for something positive," she added, "we can't wait for folks to help us light up the last 1,800 bulbs!" Symbolic bulbs are \$50 each, and donors receive a charitable tax receipt and personalized certificate. Bulbs can be purchased online at [www.lightthemidway.ca](http://www.lightthemidway.ca), by mailing a cheque to 67112 Meadowlark RPO, Edmonton, T5R 5Y3, or phoning 780-496-6977.

Fort Edmonton Park is Canada's largest living history museum and is

currently completing a \$165 million enhancement project. The funding for this project comes from all three levels of government and is supported by the Fort Edmonton Foundation and Fort Edmonton Management Company.

Fort Edmonton Management Company (FEMCo) operates Fort Edmonton Park and is focusing on positioning the Park as a premier cultural tourism attraction in Western Canada. Set to reopen in summer 2021, the Park will feature a new Indigenous Peoples Experience, a new front entry and guest services plaza, expanded Johnny J. Jones Midway, and many other renovations. FEMCo is managing all of the details around the Park's reopening, including building out the breadth of customer experience with unique products and experiences.

For more information about Fort Edmonton Park's reopening, visit [www.fortedmontonpark.ca](http://www.fortedmontonpark.ca).



### Edmonton's New Jewish Cemetery The Next 100 Years

Site work for Edmonton's new Jewish Cemetery got underway in Summer 2020.

The current Jewish Cemetery has served the needs of the community for more than 100 years, but will soon run out of room for new burials.

Fortunately, the Edmonton Chevra Kadisha has been preparing for this time.

Land for the new Cemetery was purchased almost 20 years ago and two-thirds of the anticipated cost is already in place.

An additional \$1 million needs to be raised this year.

This is your opportunity to participate in the next historic chapter; laying the foundation for the next 100 years of the Edmonton Jewish Cemetery.

All donations will be recognized and are tax deductible. Significant sponsorship/naming opportunities are available. Donations can be made now to:

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Or securely at:  
[www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/edmonton-chevra-kadisha/](http://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/edmonton-chevra-kadisha/)

**For more information, please call 780-482-3065**



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# LIGHT the MIDWAY

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Fort Edmonton Foundation is raising \$1 million by lighting 20,000 symbolic bulbs to support the completion of Fort Edmonton Park's historical midway expansion. **Only 1900 bulbs to go.** Please help us reach this goal!



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Mail Cheque: PO Box 67112 Meadowlark RPO  
Edmonton, T5R 5Y3





# Op/Ed: Don't compare COVID health measures to the Holocaust

By Lisa Libin

The last many months have been an incredible challenge for all Albertans. Many have lost jobs, closed businesses, some have lost friends or family, children have been flip-flopped from online to in-person school, and many have not hugged a loved one for over a year. The restrictions are inconvenient. The restrictions are exhausting. However, and let me be clear, the restrictions are not the same as the Holocaust, and those setting the parameters and enforcing them are not the Nazi regime.

As a Jewish community, we are disgusted at the increasing rhetoric comparing our provincial health guidelines to the murder of six million Jews and millions of others in the Holocaust. We are seeing a growing number of anti-maskers who think it is acceptable to wear yellow stars inscribed with "mask exempt," emulating the persecution of Jews who were required to wear similar stars as a means of identification. The notion that being told to wear a mask to protect our most vulnerable citizens is somehow comparable to the attempted genocide of an entire people is both absurd and offensive.

Former Alberta politician and current President of the Alberta Enterprise Group, Danielle Smith felt it was justified to publish an op-ed in the Post Media Network's *Calgary Herald*, aligning vaccinations with the Nazi doctors accused of conducting human experiments in concentration camps. The medical trials that Smith – a talk show host with the *Western Standard* - alluded to were performed without the consent of the victims, who suffered indescribable pain, mutilation, permanent disability, or even death as a result. They were sadistic procedures, often with torture as the primary objective. Invoking the horrors perpetrated by Joseph Mengele to one's reservations about the vaccine rollout is not only appalling, but completely insulting to our community and

others who suffered at the hands of the Nazis. Additionally, our respective cities are becoming increasingly welcoming places for white nationalists to spew their hateful views, conduct acts of violence, and grow their ranks. These protests are being presented as anti-mask events, but we are continuing to see growth of racism and antisemitism at these gatherings; white nationalists flaunting public health measures and opportunistically spreading their hatred not only towards our Jewish community, but other races, religions, and cultures. And sadly, they are doing so with impunity.

Our local police have directly said they "do not have the power to arrest individuals engaging in actions that are offensive or objectionable," and this lack of enforcement ultimately provides permission for racists to openly demonstrate their hate on the streets of our city. We are frustrated about the limitations our police currently have in being able to respond. We need our governments to ease constraints on the ability to prosecute hate speech. We need our governments to create parameters for protest, at the very basic level of banning hate symbols during protests. It's preposterous that existing legislation allows for penalties towards protests that block rail lines and highways but there are little to no consequences towards intentional acts of hatred and racism. And importantly, we need sitting governments and opposition to speak with a unified voice against this rise in hate.

As a community we are not against free speech. What we are against is the abhorrent misappropriation of one of the most horrific events in our world's history, the attempted extermination of Europe's Jews, simply because they were Jews. What we are against is the flaunting of public health measures, put in place to keep the public safe, as an opportunity to instead instill fear in much of our population – Asian, Muslim, and Black communities included.

## Good Deeds Day



Edmonton's Jewish community collected 1644 kilograms of food and donated \$500 directly to the YEG Food Bank.

As a community we are speaking out against this and we ask for other Albertans to do the same. The Alberta we are currently experiencing is not the one we know and love - perhaps, someday soon, we will see less hate and more kindness...it's our collective responsibility to call out hate where it stands, ensuring it doesn't go unchecked and it doesn't spread.

*Lisa Libin is Vice President of Calgary Jewish Federation and Chair of Federation's community relations committee, leading the mandate to build relationships with external, interfaith, ethno-cultural and government groups in the priority areas of advocating on issues of concern to the Jewish community and fighting anti-Semitism. Lisa also serves on the City of Calgary's Anti-Racism Action Committee, working towards the creation and implementation of a community-based anti-racism strategy.*

## Children of the Shoah

Cont. from page 2

"At each step, Hashem has opened doors for us," said Seipp. "When we remember just one child, we are also remembering our 6 million lost."

The 93 victims, whose stories had been told at Shaarey Zedek each Yom Kippur, asked that Kaddish be said for them. When asked about the Halakha of One More Candle's work, Seipp explained without hesitation:

"These children are our family." She emphasized: "We are a family of Jews throughout all generations. The mitzvah of memory is why we are still here." Seipp has consulted with rabbis regarding Halakhic observance, and One More Candle, as it is committed to remembering, is focused not only on ritual, but above all on making sure that each child is not forgotten. "If the child's name is lost, then they die a second death – we cannot have that," added Seipp with conviction. While some who adopt the memory of a victim include the child's name on their list of Yahrzeits, some who have adopted from outside the Jewish community pay their respects in other ways. To this end,

One More Candle has partnered with Bridges for Peace, an Evangelical group committed to promoting Jewish causes.

"When it comes to One More Candle, I have more moxie than with anything else in my life." Seipp remembers introducing herself to the head of the Canadian branch of Yad Vashem with her idea five years ago, "and look where we are now!" One More Candle is proudly partnered with B'nai Brith Canada, and their network continues to grow. "From those who generously adopt our children, we ask nothing other than their commitment and dedication to that child's memory – there is no money involved, and people are often surprised by that."

"A single candle is a symbol of the human spirit and brings light to darkness," said Seipp in closing.

Those interested in adopting the memory of a child, or interested in learning more, should visit the organization's website at [onemorecandle.org](http://onemorecandle.org) or call them at 1 (204) 228-8182.



Canada's **only** Anti-Hate Hotline is open 24/7 to anyone who experiences antisemitism or discrimination.

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Calgary B'nai Brith Speaker Series  
Sunday, June 6th, 2021 at 10am – 11:30am

Tikkun Olam: Healing yourself as essential for healing the world

Dr. Allan Donsky, MB ChB, FRCPC Psychiatry, FRCPC Pediatrics  
Psychiatrist & Mindfulness Teacher University of Calgary



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thank you  
for your kind  
expressions of sympathy.*

*Aaron, Leonard and Jedidiah*



# Domestic Violence and Coercive Control: Dispelling the Myths

By Peta Glezerson

National Mental Health Week is May 3 – 9, 2021. JFSC is proud to have Karen Gosbee, Community Advocate and Survivor, speak about her lived experiences with domestic abuse and coercive control as part of JFSC’s “Making a Difference” Online Speaker Series and annual fundraiser.

“Karen’s story is so impactful because it highlights the fact that mental health issues and abusive situations happen across all levels of society,” says Roxanne Droppo, JFSC Executive Director. “At some point in our lives, we all need a bit of help. Encouraging conversations about mental health and having accessible services in our community enriches lives and makes us stronger.” Join us for Karen’s talk on Thursday May 6 at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$18 at [www.jfsc.org](http://www.jfsc.org).

Have you ever wondered if abused women had a ‘type’? I know I certainly did. Before I knew better, I believed that domestic violence (DV) and coercive control only happened to ‘those people’ – poor, uneducated, raised with violence and abuse, substance abusers, in the wrong place at the wrong time, from certain cultural backgrounds.

What solidified my belief is that ‘those people’ tended to be more visible because I could see them living on the streets or strung out on drugs and alcohol. I saw them fighting in parking lots and I saw their wounds. Judgement reared its ugly head and before long I had a very clear picture of those individuals. As I write this, I feel an overwhelming sense of embarrassment because I realize I allowed judgement to cloud my vision instead of seeing victims of abuse (and dare I say it, the abusers too) as people. People deserving compassion, understanding and help.

So, imagine my surprise when during the course of a conversation with a donor I learned that she understood what it was like to be abused. She went on to say that her husband was an alcoholic and it was the way he slammed the car door, and the noise he made when entering the house, that alerted her to his mood and the intensity and type of abuse she was going to endure. What made this conversation so memorable and confusing was that she was a well-spoken woman who lived in an affluent Calgary neighbourhood. In my mind, I could not reconcile how she could possibly be a victim of abuse. Knowing what I now know, I see it was also rooted in judgement and came with

a significant lack of knowledge about DV and its complexities.

DV does not discriminate; it can and does happen to anyone. I clearly remember the story of a Canadian woman who was brutally murdered by her husband, Dr. Mohammed Farid Shamji, a neurosurgeon. Dr. Elena Fric-Shamji, the mother of three children, was a family physician and associate professor of medicine at the University of Toronto.

At the murder trial, the Court heard that Fric-Shamji had served her husband with divorce papers two days before, he attacked her, broke her neck and ribs, and choked her to death as their three children slept nearby. This tragic act highlights that the most dangerous time for victims of abuse is when they leave or have indicated that they want to leave. It also highlights violence experienced by highly educated professionals in abusive relationships. And DV, within the culture of affluence, takes on additional forms of abuse that are more covert, or invisible through coercive control - the manipulation of power, status, finances, institutional norms, etc. Imagine a golden cage...

The stigma exists that an educated woman should be ‘smart enough’ not to get herself into such situations, that she would ‘know better’ than to stay with someone who is physically and/or emotionally hurting them. This essentially blames the victim for the abuse and is incredibly isolating, and isolation only serves to perpetuate the abuse. Victims may feel that they cannot share their experience of abuse lest they be shamed and judged, even by those closest to them. And as a result, the abuse continues and the myth persists that educated women aren’t abused.

Victims may not have access to financial resources that would allow her (or him, as we know abuse is not discriminatory) to leave the relationship, as abusers can use financial control as part of the abuse. Affluent, educated, working individuals may avoid disclosing abuse

## Delivering Food Hampers



Edmonton MP Kelly McCauley and Chabad Rabbi Ari Drelich team up to deliver food hampers to Edmonton families.

fearing it could affect their careers. Some research has found that women who make more money than their partner may also be at greater risk of abuse as the abuser attempts to regain ‘power’ in the relationship.

No woman is immune - DV and coercive control affects all ages, classes and backgrounds and abusive men are just as likely to be lawyers, accountants and judges as they are janitors or unemployed.

What can we do to take a stand against DV and coercive control? DC thrives in environments of silence, shame, fear and isolation. We need to shine a light on the topic by talking about it, building awareness, educating ourselves, identifying abusive behaviors and taking action to prevent harm to our family, friends, neighbors and coworkers.

Victims are often manipulated and emotionally abused to believe that they are responsible for the abuse (they are not), they have no value (they do), and that the abuser will not let them leave the relationship – ever (unfortunately, in some cases, this proves to be true). DV happens to all types of victims, and in many cases, the only way abuse victims will get out of their violent relationships is in a body bag. Too much, too graphic? The reality is, DV is just that – hard to listen to and graphic.

Need confidential support? Contact Tanya through our Shalom Bayit program [tanyam@jfsc.org](mailto:tanyam@jfsc.org)


# Yom HaShoah in Alberta

Yom HaShoah was commemorated around the world and in Alberta on April 8 with special ceremonies as the Jewish Community honoured and remembered the victims of the Holocaust and paid tribute to the survivors and their remarkable journeys to freedom and a return to life.

The Calgary commemorative service was held at the Holocaust Memorial at the JCC and community members were welcome to say kaddish and lay a rock in memory of those murdered in the Shoah.


The service consisted of meaningful prayers and readings by the Rabbis and community leaders of Calgary as well as some moving songs by second generation

Continued on page 15



**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](mailto:albertajewishnews@gmail.com)**





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from the

Sources

Make mine a grande fig latte

by Eliezer Segal

When the Bible wants to extoll the merits of the promised land, it often praises it as “a land flowing with milk and honey.” This phrase appears some twenty times in scripture, most often as an incentive for the Israelites to keep their faith in reaching that elusive destination. For me it conjures up an image of rivers coursing with creamy white liquid or with overflows from hives and honeycombs. As enticing as those reveries might be, they do not appear to conform to any actuality in the land of Israel either now or in previous eras.

Natmanides was puzzled that the holy scriptures were attaching so much importance to two seemingly random features of the Israeli agricultural landscape rather than more prominent crops like grapes and olives. Therefore, he argued that milk and honey should be understood as indicators of more fundamental assets in the country’s ecology. After all, in order to allow for the cultivation of healthy, milk-producing animals and luscious fruits, there is need for fertile meadowlands, pure water and fresh air. The milk and fruit juices are thus to be seen as benchmarks for the general agricultural abundance that extends to crops like grain, grapes, olives and cattle.

The Torah mentions honey—*d’vash* in Hebrew—in its enumeration of the seven agricultural species for which the land of Israel is celebrated. Rabbinic tradition understood it as date nectar. However, it was generally accepted that this identification need not necessarily be applied to the honey of “land of milk and honey.”

Indeed some interpreters suggested that the word *talav*, which normally denotes milk, is alluding here to white wine, a usage that is attested in some ancient texts. Others point out that the word sometimes has a broader connotation of “best,” analogous to “cream” in some English idioms.

The identification of milk and honey in this context was indeed the subject of a dispute between sages during the era of the Mishnah. Rabbi Eliezer ben Hyrcanus stated that “milk” refers to juice from fruits, and “honey” to date nectar. On the other hand, Rabbi Akiva argued that milk and honey should both be understood in their normal

senses as milk from animals and honey from bees.

The Talmud collected some interesting eyewitness reports attesting to the literal fulfillment of the biblical hyperbole in their own generations. The Babylonian sage Rami bar Ezekiel claimed that on a visit to Bnei Brak he had observed goats grazing under fig trees. The fruit oozed with honey and the animals overflowed with milk, prompting Rami to declare that the mingling of these fluids was an aptly literal illustration of the biblical promise. It was also related that Rabbi Jacob ben Dositheus slogged through three miles of fig honey en route from Lydda to Ono.

Rabbi Simeon ben Lakish reported that the flowing milk and honey of Sepphoris in the Galilee extended for an area of sixteen square miles. The Talmud remarked that, though milk and honey are to be found in other regions of Israel, Sepphoris was disproportionately blessed with that resource. The Jerusalem Talmud contains a dispute as to whether the entire land was equally blessed with milk and honey, or the phenomenon was restricted to specific regions.

Rabbi Jacob Reischer found the account of Rami bar Ezekiel’s experience problematic. In such an obvious instance of flowing milk and honey, why did the Talmud trouble itself to record Rami’s associating it with the biblical image? Rabbi Reischer suggested therefore that there were some novel features in Rami’s declaration. Because the honey referred to in the Torah in connection with blessings, first fruits and other precepts is usually understood to be date nectar, there was something novel in his observation that the prospect of a land “flowing with milk and honey” also applies to fig honey. Alternatively, Rami might have been teaching us that when scripture speaks of milk and honey it does not refer merely to the individual items, but specifically to the mixing of the two fluids. These insights into the Torah’s meaning were disclosed to Rami only by virtue of his experience in Bnei Brak.

Rabbi Joseph tayyim of Baghdad (the “Ben Ish Hai”) raised similar objections to the talmudic anecdote, and

proposed a similar solution about the significance of mentioning fig honey. He noted further that goats are unlikely to graze around palm trees whose leaves and fruits are too high for them to reach. The animals did however congregate to nibble on the lower-hanging fig leaves, and in this way Rami bar Ezekiel could behold the blend of goat milk with fig honey.

Ever receptive to symbolic expositions, Rabbi Joseph Hayyim pointed out that according to a rabbinic tradition, figs had been the forbidden fruit in the garden of Eden, so it is fitting that they should signify the divine forgiveness that allowed Israel to enjoy the bounty of the promised land. It is even more appropriate that the phenomenon should be concentrated in Sepphoris whose fierce and windy mountainous climate inspires contrition in the hearts of its residents. The sixteen-square-mile area symbolized this idea numerologically: the Hebrew word for heart—*lev*—has the value of thirty-two, so that sixteen aptly represents a broken or remorseful heart.

While much exegetical activity was directed towards identifying the milk and the honey, Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch of Frankfurt focused his attention on the Hebrew root for “flowing” —*ZWB*—noting that it always refers to unnatural physiological discharges or to miracles. Only when speaking of the holy land does it denote agricultural bounty. Rabbi Hirsch inferred from this fact that the expression was not intended so much to praise the land’s natural fruitfulness as to remind the Israelites that their agricultural prosperity is conditional on fulfilling their religious and moral duties.

From this he concluded that “the only real guarantee of liberty and independence is submission to the yoke of the Torah. The seal of the Torah’s authority is imprinted on the agriculture of the land of Israel.”

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



# STRATEGIC PLANNING ROAD MAP

The Jewish Federation of Edmonton is embarking on a strategic planning process to develop our priorities for the next 3-5 years. We need your input in order to ensure that we are aware, informed and responsive. Watch for the survey coming this spring. **Heed the call! We want to hear what is important to you!**



## WE ARE HERE

**INFORM**

INFORMING THE COMMUNITY OF THE PROCESS



## REPORT

GENERATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE COMMUNITY AT THE AGM IN DECEMBER



## ENGAGE

INTERVIEWS, FOCUS GROUPS AND A SURVEY TO ENSURE BROAD INPUT AND REPRESENTATION FROM ACROSS THE COMMUNITY



## ANALYZE

ANALYSIS OF THE DATA TO DETERMINE KEY THEMES ALIGNED WITH THE FEDERATION MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

# STRATEGIC PLANNING

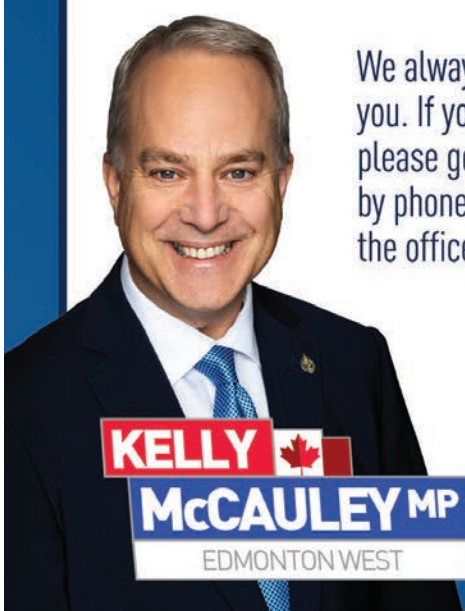
## HOW CAN YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT HELP?

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Celebratory Greetings for milestone birthdays and anniversaries are available from Mr. Kelly McCauley.



We always look forward to hearing from you. If you have any feedback to share, please get in touch with the office either by phone, through email, or a letter to the office postage-free.

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**KELLY McCAULEY MP**  
EDMONTON WEST



This month's update from Edmonton Talmud Torah School



At Edmonton Talmud Torah School, Yom Ha'atzmaut was a day of activities focused on Israel. It started with a memorial for Yom Hazikaron and then each grade chose an activity based on a city or region in Israel. Activities included headshots of students floating in the Dead Sea; paint chip kotel with Hebrew prayers; puzzle collage of Tel Aviv, Kahoot quizzes about places and things in Israel. The day was a huge success!

Yom HaShoah *Cont. from page 13*

survivors in honour of their departed love ones.

The presentation, which was available on You Tube, concluded with an incredible montage of photos that showed the journey of several of Calgary's Holocaust survivors – from concentration camps, to displacement person's camps, starting their lives in Calgary and then decades later, surrounded by their children and grandchildren in Calgary. The images are amazing; they truly show the phenomenal impact that these individuals have had as community builders in Calgary. From out of the ashes of the Holocaust, our small Jewish communities have flourished.

I urge everyone to visit [jewishcalgary.org](http://jewishcalgary.org) to view the complete displaced persons' camps gallery.

The Edmonton commemorative service was also very impactful but in a totally different way. The event, which

was also available on You Tube, included prayers and meaningful readings by the Rabbis and community leaders of Edmonton as well as by some of Edmonton's Holocaust survivors and second generation survivors.

The presentation then switched to an intimate view of several Holocaust survivors and members of their families on Zoom calls. The conversations about how families were impacted by the experiences of the elders were poignant, when and how each person in the family learned about the family history and the responsibility that each person felt in making sure that the lessons of the Holocaust would be remembered. We were given a fly on the wall view of family resilience and generational family dynamics.

A Yom Hashoah service generally includes a candle lighting ceremony and using some clever camera work, the candles were lit and passed from family

member to family member across the miles and zoom locations. Within each family the light was shared and then the four families that were featured shared the candle lighting among the families. It was a poetic moment of honouring and remembering. From generation to generation, from one family to another a community was built and is thriving.

The Edmonton service concluded at Talmud Torah School, with the students in the playground, safely distanced and wearing facemasks – singing HaTikvah. It was a very special ending to a very moving service. Although we weren't together physically, we were certainly united in spirit.



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# Rabbi and MLA advocate to get kosher food in jails

By Jeremy Appel

A Chabad rabbi is trying to get kosher food served to Jewish inmates in Alberta’s carceral institutions, but says the provincial government isn’t taking his concerns seriously.

Rabbi Ari Drelich with Chabad Lubavitch of Edmonton says this issue has been on his radar for a while, but last time he tried to do anything about it the inmate in question was let out of the Edmonton Remand Centre.

In February 2020, he was prompted to bring the issue to the attention of then-justice minister Doug Schweitzer, but to no avail.

“There was an individual who was there for two years and did come from a religious background, and try as we may we were not able to secure kosher food for him,” said Drelich. “The time came that I felt, you know what, once and for all we have to make this situation right.”

Quebec, Manitoba, Ontario and British Columbia all

offer kosher options for inmates, which Drelich says is a protected right under section 2 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which guarantees freedom of religion.

He says Chabad has worked with carceral institutions on a case-by-case basis. “Although they were nice, and on the odd time accommodated us, unfortunately it was not something they were prepared to do on a regular basis,” Drelich said.

“When we tried contacting the government officials, they basically brushed it off. They’re not looking for more work.”

Justice Ministry spokesperson Katherine Thompson told AJNews that Alberta’s jails and prisons “provide reasonable cultural and religious meals for inmates.”

In response to an earlier human rights complaint, the ministry spoke to another rabbi about giving vegetarian and vegan options to kashrut-observant inmates.

“The rabbi found these options to be an acceptable alternative to traditional kosher meals. The independent Alberta Human Rights Commission has confirmed this acceptability as well,” said Thompson.

This was the same line touted by Schweitzer and his successor Kaycee Madu, whom Drelich also reached out to. Both said that if he thinks the government isn’t doing enough to secure kosher food for inmates, Drelich should launch a Charter challenge in court or complain to the Alberta Human Rights Commission.

Drelich says vegetarian and vegan meals may be “kosher-style” but they’re not kosher unless they’re cooked in a kosher kitchen.

“We don’t know who this mysterious rabbi that they engaged with, who told them that things are good the way they are,” he said. “No bonafide rabbi would say anything like that, because it’s not true.”

The ministry said they’re unable to identify the rabbi or their congregation due to privacy issues.

Since the government wasn’t listening, Drelich went to his local MLA, New Democrat Lorne Dach (Edmonton-McClung), who brought it up in the legislature.

Dach said Drelich’s goal is “to obtain a quick and simple resolution to what he considered to be a breach of Charter-protected religious rights” and that Drelich shouldn’t have to go through the costly and time-consuming legal process.

“For a government that prides itself on red tape reduction and good relations with our volunteer sector, this is a very counterproductive and disrespectful position for the minister to take in response to a very dignified and simple request,” Dach said during a late-March legislature session.

“He simply asked: may I have a short meeting to make my case? This can be solved without cost. Minister, please meet with Rabbi Drelich.”

Premier Jason Kenney said he was unaware of this situation and will look into it.

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Next print date is May 19, 2021

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