



ALBERTA Jewish NEWS

Publication Mail Agreement Number: 40050628

Volume 32, No. 2

Visit us online at albertajewishnews.com

February 8, 2021

B'nai Brith Calgary presents Michael Mostyn: March 7



Michael Mostyn, CEO of B'nai Brith Canada

B'nai Brith Calgary Chapter 816 is welcoming special guest, Michael Mostyn, CEO of B'nai Brith Canada at a very special Zoom webinar on March 7, 2021, 10 am MST. The webinar is part of B'nai Brith Calgary's Speaker Series.

Michael Mostyn serves as a senior spokesperson for the community and speaks out on behalf of Canadian Jewry and other communities whose human rights are under threat globally.

The chapter will also be hosting a tribute to William (Willy) Kohn who was a former President of B'nai Brith Calgary, active in the Jewish community, UJA and the early days of Camp BB. Mr. Kohn passed away on the evening of December 11, 2020, just 20 days shy of his 94th birthday.

Admission is by donation which can be made before or after you register at: bnaibrithcalgary.org/donation/. A portion of the funds raised will be donated to the Toni Kohn-Woodward Foundation.

B'nai Brith Calgary Chapter 816 President Darren Bondar is encouraging the whole community to participate. "With the postponement of our annual dinner which is our key fundraiser and the needs of the organizations that we support as great as ever during the Covid-19 pandemic, we greatly appreciate your generosity and support," stated Bondar.

Advance registration for this webinar is required:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ut6v1e5qT8-lEu985X6NMg

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Michael Mostyn is the Chief Executive Officer of B'nai Brith Canada, and he oversees the breadth of B'nai Brith's programming and advocacy initiatives.

He is a barrister and solicitor in good standing with the Law Society of Upper Canada. Prior to his appointment to this key portfolio at B'nai Brith, he was a successful litigation lawyer in Toronto, where he practiced law as a partner at Mostyn & Mostyn. He has also served as Chief Strategic Officer in the high tech start-up sector, where he was responsible for developing corporate vision, strategic partnerships and new business opportunities in the public and private sectors.

Michael has been involved with B'nai Brith Canada for many years in a variety of roles, prior to his appointment as Chief Executive Officer. He began his association with B'nai Brith as captain of the Maccabees in the B'nai Brith Men's Ice Hockey League, where he played right wing.

He previously held the position of National Director of Public Affairs, leading B'nai Brith's Ottawa office and being the point person for government relations and diplomatic affairs on behalf of Canada's grassroots Jewish community.

Since his first international experience as a presenter at the 14th Bileta Conference: "Cyberspace 1999: Crime, Criminal Justice and the Internet" at the College of Ripon & York, England in 1999 while in his third year of law school, Michael has established himself as a leading advocate for human rights.

Michael represented B'nai Brith Canada and was an official member of the Canadian Delegation to the International Task Force on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research in Prague, Czech Republic, in

Celebrating Purim virtually



Purim, which takes place on Feb. 25 & 26, is a holiday for partying but this year, the coronavirus makes things different. For safety reasons the festivities will be celebrated over zoom. Check your local synagogue and community listings for virtual events and party at home.

2007. It was at this historic meeting that Canada officially became an observer country to the IHRA.

In 2008, Michael represented Canada at the Atlantic Association of Young Political Leaders International Conference in Tirana, Albania. Albania ascended to NATO in 2009.

He was a member of the B'nai Brith & Canadian delegations to the 3rd Global Forum for Combating Antisemitism in Jerusalem, Israel, 2009.

He was also a member of the Canadian delegations to the Solidarity with Belarus International Donor Conference in Warsaw, Poland and the Belarus International Implementers Meetings in Vilnius, Lithuania in 2011.

Michael was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012 in recognition of his community service to Canada.

Micah Libin will be moderating the webinar event.

Jewish Studies Week returns to U of A virtually: March 23-25

Jewish Studies Week returns to the University of Alberta - virtually - from March 23 to 25. Presented by the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies, this annual series brings together three expert speakers in a trio of virtual lectures and Q&A sessions to explore a breadth of topics across Jewish history, literature, and culture.

This year's lineup includes renowned historian Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Ronald S. Lauder Chief Curator, POLIN Museum Core Exhibition and University Professor Emerita and Professor Emerita of Performance Studies at New York University. Professor Kirshenblatt-Gimblett will deliver the 2021 Tova Yedlin lecture "Coming of Age: Jewish Youth in Poland between the War" on March 23 live via Zoom.

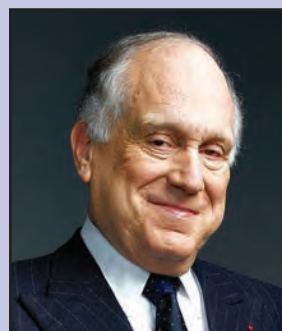
On March 24, hosted by Dr. Peter Sabo, Belzberg Lecturer of Jewish Studies at the University of Alberta, Professor Vered Weiss, Israel Institute Teaching Fellow in the Department of Jewish Studies at SF State, will present "Juda and the New Jew: Undead Jewish Israeli Identities." This virtual talk will explore the 2017 Israeli television series *Juda* as a platform for social critique, and exposes the productive use of the vampire as means to address antisemitism and reconsider social boundaries. Content warning: the presentation will discuss sex and violence and will contain spoilers for first season of *Juda*.

The Annual Central European Art History Lecture concludes the series on March 25. In her talk "Rethinking Jewish Space in Vienna before 1938" Professor Lisa Silverman explores how texts including newspaper articles, novels, caricatures, and maps created by both Jews and non-Jews reveal the significance of the coding of space as "Jewish" or "not Jewish," both inside and outside Vienna, particularly after the collapse of Austria-Hungary in 1918. Professor Silverman is associate Professor of History and Jewish Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Contributing Editor of the Leo Baeck Institute Year Book for Central European Jewish history. This talk is co-sponsored by the Department of Art & Design at the University of Alberta.

Registration is required but all events are free to attend and open to the general public.



Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett



Ronald S. Lauder



Lisa Silverman



Vered Weiss

Na'amat Canada elects Calgary VP: Susan Inhaber

By Maxine Fischbein

There is much cause for celebration amongst members and supporters of Na'amat Canada in Calgary and Edmonton as they bask in the afterglow of the organization's November election when Susan Inhaber made history, becoming the first known Albertan to ascend to the national vice presidency of Na'amat (formerly Pioneer Women).

Like Na'amat organizations around the globe, Na'amat Canada and its affiliates in Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa and Montreal support projects in Israel that, strengthen women and families. Alberta chapters mirror those projects locally helping to strengthen similar good works here at home.

Notably, says Inhaber, Na'amat, an acronym for *Nashim Ovdot U'Mitnadvot* – Movement of Working Women and Volunteers – is the largest Jewish women's organization in Israel. One of its early founders was Golda Myerson – later known as Golda Meir – who served as secretary general of the organization and went on to become Israel's first and only woman prime minister.

Na'amat is deeply rooted in Labour Zionism and remains a force to be reckoned with on women's rights in Israel. Representatives of Na'amat Israel regularly liaise with Members of the Knesset, advocate for fair labour laws for Israeli women and provide leadership in the fight against domestic violence.

In approximately three years, Inhaber will ascend to the national presidency marking another important first for Alberta. Only one other Western Canadian has presided over the organization. Eva Natch, of Winnipeg, served as Na'amat Canada president during the mid-1970s.

Physician Sandi Seigel, who became the organization's national president in November, hails from Hamilton, Ontario.

Susan Inhaber first joined Na'amat Canada Calgary in 2000. Soon after, she took on the presidency of the Keshet

Hatikvah chapter. Following the merger of Keshet Hatikvah with Ariel chapter, Inhaber became president of the successor Yachad chapter.

As chapter president, Inhaber began attending national board meetings as Calgary representative. In 2011, she became a member-at-large on the national board. She has been there ever since, spending the last term chairing the national education committee.

In addition to other responsibilities as national VP, Inhaber currently serves as the national chair of membership engagement and leadership development. One of her biggest priorities is to grow the organization. As has been the case with other Jewish membership organizations, Na'amat numbers have dwindled in recent years.

Inhaber says that national membership is approximately 400 with the majority of members residing in the East. The organization once boasted a national membership of at least 400,000, according to archives at the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta.

At 18 or 19 members, the Calgary chapter – currently presided over by veteran Na'amat volunteer Stephanie Sacks – is small but mighty. Recognizing that the future of the organization relies upon the engagement of young women, Sacks – a previous Na'amat Calgary president – has made significant efforts over recent years to appeal to that demographic and further plans are afoot, Inhaber said.

Na'amat Canada Edmonton has three chapters: Aviva (Barbara Wiseman, president) Tikvah (Maya Feldman, president), and Chevra (Yuliya Massarsky and Caitlin Bar-Nur, co-presidents).



Susan Inhaber at Ramat Eliyahu Daycare in Rishon Le'Tsion, Israel.

The president of Na'amat Canada Edmonton, Darlene Bushewsky, expressed delight at Inhaber's election as a national vice president.

"We've never had a VP or president from Alberta," Bushewsky said.

"We are excited for the future of Na'amat. Both Susan and Sandi have a vision during this time of change."

Pioneer Women programs in Edmonton include Hamentaschen for Seniors and financial support for seniors' programs provided by Jewish Family Service and the Jewish Drop-In Centre. Na'amat Edmonton participates in the Basically Babies program, providing donations of baby items, financial support and hands-on volunteering in support of mothers in need who are referred by a variety of local social services organizations. A much-loved tradition within the Jewish community is

Continued on page 19

Thanks to all our dear friends
for their kind wishes
and offers of assistance,
and for being there for both of us.
We're truly grateful for your friendships.

Debbie continues her battle
with her characteristic positivity,
as we live our lives as fully
as we can one day at a time.

Debbie & Albert Krygier & Family

The family of
Jack Voldar z"l
(Jacob Volodarsky)
wishes to express
their gratitude
for the many expressions
of sympathy,
acts of kindness
and charitable donations
in memory of
our dear husband, father,
grandfather
and great grandfather.

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

PAPERNY FAMILY

JCC
CALGARY

JOIN THE CAMP JCC TEAM FOR A

SUPER
SUMMER!

WE ARE SEEKING A
MATURE, RESPONSIBLE
CANDIDATE WHO HAS
LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE,
ENJOYS WORKING WITH
CHILDREN, AND LOVES
CAMP TO BE OUR
SUMMER CAMP DIRECTOR

FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY AT:

CALGARYJCC.COM/EMPLOYMENT



JEWISH
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
OF CALGARY

p. 403-640-2273
e. mail@jcfc.ca

www.jcfc.ca

Applications now being accepted for:



2021 Post Secondary
Scholarships

Application Due By: April 16, 2021

APPLICATION FORMS ARE
AVAILABLE ONLINE

Edmonton Jewish Community Directory makes a comeback

By Maxine Fischbein

If you are craving a good news story, this one’s for you... especially if you’ve been missing the Edmonton Jewish Community Directory, a time-honoured tradition that kept generations of Jewish Edmontonians “linked in” the old-fashioned way.

Thanks to the efforts of directory co-chairs Mona Rosenberg and Jane Soifer – and their army of 50 dedicated volunteers – a 2021 edition of the Jewish phone book will be going to press around the end of February.

The publication is a sentimental favourite among those who grew up with it and anyone who has missed the handy reference book since its publication ceased about seven years ago.

Its return couldn’t come at a better time, say Rosenberg and Soifer, given the craving of community members to come together despite the need for physical distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic. The duo is impressed by the overwhelmingly positive response of volunteers, sponsors, advertisers and those who are stepping up with listings in order to make sure that community members can “reach out and touch” each other even during a time of isolation.

While some community members choose not to list their contact information due to security concerns, Rosenberg and Soifer say that the prevailing attitude is one of excitement. They are anticipating the receipt of over 1,000 listings, a remarkable achievement in a community of approximately 5,000.

“We believe strongly in having a community directory,” said Soifer who has been volunteering on behalf of Talmud Torah together with Rosenberg for some 34 years. The two are also Edmonton Talmud Torah alumnae, and throughout the years, much of their joint effort has been dedicated to fundraising – a labour of love that provides badly needed dollars for the deeply-rooted school.

The most recently published directories have netted some \$40,000 each. The funds support programs that enrich the student experience at TT including student subsidies, Judaic studies enrichment and science and math enhancements.

There is no charge for listing one’s contact information. It is the book sponsorships, advertising and directory sales that add up to much-needed support for Jewish education.

“Especially in light of COVID, the funds are very much appreciated,” Soifer said.

“I’m glad that Jane and I are part of bringing it back,” said Rosenberg, adding that the directory was part of her life growing up, yielding friends’ phone numbers and helping families like hers organize guest lists for simchas including bar mitzvahs and weddings.

“It connects us,” added Rosenberg. “It’s been odd not having it.”

For Esther Starkman, the return of the directory is cause for celebration. She told *Alberta Jewish News* that she purchases multiple copies of the book, placing one by each telephone in her home. Older directories find a new spot in the Starkmans’ cars so that they always have access to community phone numbers and addresses when they need them.

“I think everyone I know uses it, says Starkman, a former educator and Edmonton Public School Board chair whose father, Abraham Estrin, was a long-serving president of the Talmud Torah board of directors.

“The directory keeps the community together,” said Starkman. “It makes you part of something.”

While the assembly of the directory used to involve literal cutting and pasting, digital tools have made it a far easier project, most of which has been accomplished within a mere four months.

“It’s quite streamlined,” says Soifer who adds that when the project is passed on to the next chairs – hopefully volunteers from the current TT parent body – the work will be easier than ever before.

While the book is back, it isn’t “same old.” Users can look forward to some modifications that are a reflection of changing times. Those providing their contact information have the option to list two phone numbers and an email address if they wish.

“We see this as a transitional phone book,” says Soifer who adds that the components of listings will, no doubt, continue to evolve as modes of communication continue to morph. “Fewer homes have landlines,” Soifer noted, adding that many individuals now provide cell numbers.

While the directory is being reprised in a digital age, it will only be available in hard copy, a choice that may allay concerns about further sharing of community members’ personal information. The book is only sold for use within the Jewish community and listings are limited to


A Tale of Two Cities: Looking back

By Maxine Fischbein

According to the Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta (JAHSENA), what is believed to have been the first Edmonton Jewish Directory was published in 1966 as a project of the Edmonton Hebrew School [Talmud Torah] Mothers’ Auxiliary. Minutes from the archives at JAHSENA identify Eve Uram and Mona Witten as having been the co-chairs in 1967. They were succeeded by Ruth Nolan the following year.

Archives at the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta in Calgary reveal that the Mooter Farein (Mothers’ Club) of the I. L. Peretz School in Calgary

Continued on page 9



community members who live in Edmonton and environs as well as those few who have recently moved.

While the deadline for listings, sponsorships and ads was previously advertised as January 31, Rosenberg and Soifer want community members to know that they will accept further submissions through the end of February.

To provide your telephone and/or email listing, contact Roberta at TTlistings2021@gmail.com. For advertising info, contact Ori at yegjewishdirectory@gmail.com. Sponsorship opportunities are available at a variety of donation levels. To become a sponsor, contact Nili at TTsponsors2021@gmail.com.

Directory co-chairs Mona Rosenberg and Jane Soifer can be contacted at edmontonjewishdirectory@gmail.com.

Rosenberg and Soifer say that interest has also been expressed in creating an alumni directory that would help to keep Talmud Torah graduates in touch the world over. Alumni interested in spearheading or contributing to this initiative are asked to contact Talmud Torah Executive Assistant Natalie Soroka at 780-481-3377.

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



Edmonton Kosher Zone

שיש ושמחו בשמחת תורה

My Hebrew Name Project


By popular demand we are issuing City Wide Certificates to everyone who participates in My Hebrew Name Project. The certificates will be handwritten by our Scholar in Residence with a feather and quill and presented to whoever sends in their Hebrew names with their parents Hebrew names by May 10, 2021.



Lag B'Omer Children's Parade: April 30, 2021

Our Lag B'Omer Children's Parade will take place on April 30. Please send via email your child's Jewish art work so it can be displayed at the event.

Email: Edmontonkosher@gmail.com or call (780) 483-1028



Publication Mail Agreement No. 40050628
Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to: Circulation Department:
102, 10155 114 Street NW, Edmonton AB T5K 1R8
E-mail: albertajewishnews@gmail.com
Tel: (780) 421-7966

Volume 32, Number 2, February 2021

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

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

Next Deadline: March 11, 2021

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

All rights reserved. No part of this newspaper may be reproduced without written permission from the publisher. The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Editor. Alberta Jewish News is published by 320754 Alberta Ltd.

2021 Golden Globes nominees

By Emily Burack

(JTA) — “Schitt’s Creek” is trying to pick up in the Golden Globes where it left off in the fall with its historic Emmys sweep.

The show about a wealthy interfaith Jewish family was nominated Wednesday for five awards, including four for the main actors and one for best series.

There are plenty of other Jewish nominations, too, notably “Mank,” the acclaimed film on the story of Jewish screenwriter Herman Mankiewicz, with six.

The Golden Globes, taking place virtually in the new pandemic normal, will be held Feb. 28 and hosted for the

fourth time by comedians Tina Fey and Amy Poehler. This time they’ll be on different coasts.

Unlike the Oscars, the Globes divide their film categories into musical or comedy and drama, allowing for a wider range of actors and actresses to be nominated. The television categories are divided, too, similar to the Emmys.

Check out all the Jewish nominees below.

Television

“Schitt’s Creek” is up for best series and Eugene Levy,

Grumans takes the chill out of winter



It's cold outside but Grumans Restaurants in Calgary are here for you! The restaurants can be reserved for private functions. They also offer full catering for Synagogue, Temple and other event spaces and in private homes including brunches, luncheons, cocktail parties and traditional dinners. Visit grumans.ca for full details.

Dan Levy, Catherine O’Hara and Annie Murphy are all nominated in the best television series, musical or comedy categories. The show follows the well-to-do family that loses its money and is forced to live in a small town they once bought as a joke.

“Unorthodox,” the hit Netflix drama based on Deborah Feldman’s memoir of the same name about a young woman leaving the haredi Orthodox world, is nominated for best limited series. The Israeli star of the show, Shira Haas, is also nominated for best actress in a limited series.

Up against “Unorthodox” in that category is “The Undoing,” a not-very-Jewish HBO miniseries adapted from Jewish author Jean Hanff Korelitz’s novel “You Should Have Known.”

Jane Levy, a Jewish actress, is nominated for her role in “Zoey’s Extraordinary Playlist,” a musical NBC comedy.

Last but not least: Al Pacino is nominated for his role as Meyer Offerman, a Jewish Nazi hunter with a Yiddish accent in the Amazon Prime show “Hunters.”

Movies

“Mank,” starring Gary Oldman (in a controversial casting decision), leads the pack with its six nominations: for best motion picture, drama, best screenplay, best supporting actress, best actor (drama), best original score and best director.

“Borat Subsequent Moviefilm,” starring Jewish actor Sacha Baron Cohen as Borat, a fictional journalist from Kazakhstan, was filled with Jewish moments and timely commentary on anti-Semitism. It received three nods from the Globes: for best motion picture, musical or comedy, for best actor in the musical or comedy category (Cohen) and best actress in the same category. Maria Bakalova, the Bulgarian actress who plays Borat’s daughter in the film, delighted viewers with a wacky breakout performance (and a memorable scene with Rudy Giuliani).

“Palm Springs,” the “Groundhog Day”-style time-loop comedy from Hulu starring Jewish actor Andy Samberg, is up for best motion picture, musical or comedy. Samberg also notched a best actor nomination in the comedy category.

“The Trial of the Chicago 7,” also starring Sacha Baron Cohen, is the story of Jewish anti-war activist Abbie Hoffman from Jewish writer-director Aaron Sorkin. The film is up for five awards: for best motion picture, drama; supporting actor for Cohen; best director and best screenplay for Sorkin; and best original song for “Here My Voice.”

Sophia Loren’s Holocaust film “The Life Ahead,” which tells the tale of survivor and former sex worker Madame Rosa, is up for two awards — best motion picture and best original song.

Jewish actress Kate Hudson was nominated for her role in “Music,” the musical drama film from singer-songwriter Sia.



You will ensure the future of a Jewish camp experience where I and the youth of our community bond in friendship, solidify our Jewish identities while building future leaders.

Be part of our future:

- Monthly giving options available
- Share Donations accepted
- Please make your gift payable to Camp BB Riback
- All gifts are tax receipt eligible

COVID 19 Revitalize Campaign

Stacy Shaikin, Director 403-471-5547 Info@campbb.com Charitable Registration #: 106835614

CAMPER REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR SUMMER 2021

Check out our summer dates and register at Campbb.com



JOIN OUR TEAM! WE ARE NOW HIRING FOR SUMMER 2021!

Apply today at Campbb.com

Or contact
Stacy Shaikin, Director
(403) 471- 5547
info@campbb.com



VIDEO GAME TOURNAMENT

NHL 21 TETRIS ROCKET LEAGUE

BIG prizes to be won!

Registration opening date
FEBRUARY 1, 2021

bbyo



CALLING ALL MACHON, VILLAGE AND CURRENT STAFF!

CAMPER & STAFF HAVDALLAH

FEBRUARY 27TH • 7:30 PM
ZOOM LINK TO COME

Camp BB Riback

Sign up for the Alberta Jewish Schmooze e-news today!



Keep up to date on a weekly basis - delivered right to your inbox.

Visit albertajewishnews.com to sign up

The JNF Edmonton 2021 Negev Gala honouree is Gayle Tallman

The Edmonton Jewish National Fund has announced that Gayle Tallman is the honouree of the 2021 Negev Gala which will be held virtually on June 22, 2021.

“Gayle is a most deserving JNF honouree and we are thrilled to announce and invite you to join us in celebrating such a special member of our community,” stated JNF Edmonton Board President Erin Wright and Executive Director Jay Cairns.

Gayle Tallman is a retired community professional, who dedicated her life to youth development and leadership. She is a former Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, Edmonton United Jewish Appeal, and the Edmonton Jewish Community Center.

Gayle is an Anne Frank Award recipient for her work in teaching compassion and ethics through the lessons of the Holocaust and creating Edmonton’s first Facing Hate Holocaust Symposium for High Schools. She also helped to develop and coordinate the delegation of Coast-to-Coast Canada March of the Living program, which continues to take tens of thousands of people annually through an emotional Jewish experience in Poland and Israel.

Save the date – June 22, 2021 – and more details will follow over the coming months.

Following the superb presentation of last year’s virtual Negev Gala, which was produced by Reel Mensch Studios, and honoured Odette and Jacob Masliyah, community members are eagerly anticipating an entertaining and engaging evening celebration, from the comfort of their own homes.

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

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

“In the interests of safety and compliance with provincial regulations, the JNF Edmonton office has transitioned to a phone message system. Messages will be returned within 24 hours and for more timely responses

HONOURING


GAYLE TALLMAN



Save the Date! The Edmonton JNF Negev Gala will be held virtually on June 22, 2021.

we encourage communication via email at edm@jnf.ca,” they explained. “Tree bank holders can submit orders via email, and we have an incredible new selection of tribute cards to choose from. Office visits are by appointment only.”

JNF Edmonton is wrapping up their annual Tu B'Shevat campaign. You can still participate by visiting jnf.ca/donate.





The Edmonton Talmud Torah Grade One students held a Virtual Tu Bishvat Seder with the Jewish Seniors' Drop-In Centre. There were approximately 80 people zooming in. TT also joined JNF once again for a Tu B'shevat tree planting campaign.



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:

EDMONTON CHEVRA KADISHA
12313-105 Ave., Edmonton, AB T5N 0Y5

Or securely at:
www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/edmonton-chevra-kadisha/

For more information, please call 780-482-3065

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND OF EDMONTON

NEGEV GALA

HONOURING

GAYLE TALLMAN



SAVE THE DATE

TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2021 - 7:30PM MST

JNF CANADA
BUILDING ISRAEL TOGETHER

FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR HOME!
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
EDM@JNF.CA 780.481.7881 JNFEDMONTON.CA



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



COVID-19 INFORMATION

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR SELF-ISOLATION

For more information call 211

Financial support is available if you need to isolate, you are caring for someone in isolation, or you are unable to work due to illness.

If AHS directs you to self-isolate and you are unable to isolate safely at home contact 211.



Learn more

alberta.ca/covidtranslated



CJA Kindergarten students welcome Miranda Currie to their classroom

By Joseph Tappenden

On Wednesday February 3, 2021, the Kindergarten class at the Calgary Jewish Academy had special guest Miranda Currie join them via Zoom for an impromptu concert. Miranda Currie, a northern Indigenous artist from Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, was nominated for Aboriginal singer songwriter of the year by the Canadian Folk Music Awards in 2015. Her mission as an artist is to create northern indigenous content that is accessible to children and families.

Her performance on Wednesday engaged Kindergarten students by integrating their learning of the environment with music and indigenous culture. The music she played that morning had the educational nature of describing northern Canadian landscapes, the wildlife that live within them and the importance of sustainable living. She also introduced students to the Dene language of



Indigenous singer songwriter Miranda Currie visited the CJA Kindergarten class virtually.

Tli'cho, teaching them the beauty and diversity of the indigenous culture that makes up an important part of the mosaic of Canada.

Rachel Blanchard, a Kindergarten teacher at the CJA, shared in the excitement with her students. “Miranda was not only engaging as a performer, but she found ways to make what we are learning about relatable and significant in our everyday lives,” said Blanchard. “After the performance my students were wanting to learn more about Canadian landscapes and wildlife, curious about the different ways they could explore the topic.”

Blanchard shared the many ideas the Kindergarten team engages their students on various lessons throughout the year, including open-ended learning, utilizing outdoor learning spaces and using technology to interact with people they wouldn't normally have the chance to interact with. “With apps like Zoom becoming more mainstream and easier to use, our classroom can meet and speak with people like Miranda to add value to what they learn,” noted Blanchard.

When asked what's the next exciting thing that's coming to the Kindergarten classroom, Blanchard wittingly responded “That's a surprise.”

U of T Students Union ordered to abandon BDS against Israel

In a recent landmark ruling – the first of its kind in Canada - a University of Toronto panel has ordered the University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union (UTGSU) to immediately cease using compulsory student fees to promote the antisemitic BDS movement.

The claim, brought forward by U of T graduate student Calgarian Chaim Katz and supported by B'nai Brith Canada, challenged whether a student society at the university could “embark on a campaign of economic and academic warfare against people of a certain nationality, and forcibly conscript its members to the campaign by way of their membership fees?”

The ruling, made by the Complaint and Resolution Council for Student Societies (CRCSS), a panel composed of students, found that the UTGSU's BDS Caucus had

violated the school's Anti-Discrimination Policy by engaging in discrimination based on nationality. During their investigation, the CRCSS panel found that the BDS Caucus Policy was not consistent with “open, accessible and democratic principles” and failed to meet the university's “commitment to freedom of speech and expression.”

The CRCSS then issued five recommendations to the UTGSU, including revising its bylaws to prevent boycotts based on nationality, making the BDS Caucus student fee refundable, and revising its Anti-Discrimination Policy to align with the Ontario Human Rights Code.

If the UTGSU does not outline how it will implement the recommendations by March 1, and fully implement them within one year, the University's Vice-President and

Provost may withhold the student union's compulsory fees.

The ruling comes as the culmination of five years of dogged activism by Katz, and assisted by B'nai Brith Canada, against the UTGSU's BDS policy and antisemitism on campus.

In 2016, the Judicial Board of the Students' Society of McGill University similarly ruled that BDS was discriminatory and that the student union could not legally endorse it. That challenge was spearheaded by Edmonton student Zev Macklin. The U of T ruling marks the first time that a Canadian university has ordered a student union not to promote BDS.

Continued on page 8

Thank you

to all our family and friends
for your expression of love,
donations and condolences on the loss
of our dear sister in law Jean.

She was a special lady,
an amazing woman
and we will miss her very much.

Harriet and Phil Libin

The Mydlarski Family would like to acknowledge
and thank our caring family, friends,
and community members for the overwhelming
support extended to us in memory of our
beloved husband, father, and grandfather
Jacques Mydlarski z"l.

The outpouring of so many expressions of condolence,
and kindness, the charitable donations, cards, meals,
emails, numerous phone calls and Zoom calls,
brought us all such warm feelings of love and comfort.

A special yasher koach to Beth Tzedec's NML members
who gratefully make it possible to attend
virtual weekly services.

With heartfelt and grateful appreciation, Lila Mydlarski
Karen and Brent Parker and family
Marc and Claudine Mydlarski and family

REGISTRATION IS OPEN



CJA registration is available for students entering Preschool through Grade 9.

Students engage in STEM learning, a dual curriculum with a focus on developing Jewish identity and the Hebrew language, and much more, all with an emphasis on academic excellence.

To enroll your child or for more information visit:
www.calgaryjewishacademy.com

**AN EARLY REGISTRATION DISCOUNT IS AVAILABLE
UNTIL MARCH 25th, 2021**



Canada adds Proud Boys to list of terrorist groups

(Ottawa) – On February 3, the Government of Canada placed 13 new groups on the *Criminal Code* list of terrorist entities, including four ideologically motivated violent extremist groups: Atomwaffen Division, the Base, the Proud Boys and Russian Imperial Movement.

The addition of the Proud Boys on Canada’s list appeared to mark the first time that the U.S.-based group - that originated in Canada - was formally designated as terrorist.

Canadian officials who spoke anonymously to journalists after the Washington DC Capitol riot in January described the Proud Boys as a “neo-fascist organization that engages in political violence” and who “espouse misogynistic, Islamophobic, anti-Semitic, anti-immigrant, and/or white supremacist ideologies and associate with white supremacist groups.”

In addition, Canada also listed: three Al Qaida affiliates: Jama’at Nusrat Al-Islam Wal-Muslimin, Front de Libération du Macina, and Ansar Dine five Daesh affiliates: Islamic State West Africa Province, Islamic State in the Greater Sahara, Islamic State in Libya, Islamic State East Asia, and Islamic State – Bangladesh, and Hizbul Mujahideen.

“Violent acts of terrorism have no place in Canadian society or abroad. Today’s additions to the *Criminal Code* list of terrorist entities are an important step in our effort to combat violent extremism in all forms,” stated Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Bill Blair.

“Canadians expect their Government to keep them safe and to keep pace with evolving threats and global trends, such as the growing threat of ideologically motivated violent extremism. The Government of Canada will continue to take appropriate actions to counter terrorist threats to Canada, its citizens and its interests around the world.”

CIJA CEO, Shimon Koffler Fogel welcomed the announcement.

“Terrorist groups operating in Canada are a serious risk to the safety and security of Canadians,” stated Koffler Fogel.

“Canada’s Listed Terrorist Entities is an essential tool to counter the threat of violence that groups espousing these toxic ideologies pose to Canadians. Regardless of their ideology, be they Islamist, Neo-Nazi, or White Supremacist, these groups fan the flames of hatred and antisemitism to the detriment of us all.

“We welcome these additions to the list. The Government of Canada’s action enables swifter prosecution of terror suspects while also cutting off the funding to those seeking to foment hate and terror in Canada.”

According to a gov’t press release, “based on their actions, each group meets the legal threshold for listing as set out in the *Criminal Code*, which requires reasonable grounds to believe that an entity has knowingly participated in or facilitated a terrorist activity, or has knowingly acted on behalf of, at the direction of, or in association with such an entity.”

The *Criminal Code* mandates severe penalties for people and organizations that deal with property or finances of a listed entity. A listing can also support the denial or revocation of a Canadian organization’s charitable status if it maintains connections to listed entities. Furthermore, persons seeking entry into Canada may be inadmissible if they are found to be associated



Protesters who claim to be members of the Proud Boys gathered with other supporters of President Donald Trump to protest outside the U.S. Capitol, Jan. 6, 2021. (Alex Edelman/AFP via Getty Images)

with a listed entity. A listing also helps to facilitate the removal of an entity’s online content.

The Government of Canada will continue to identify and target entities that meet the threshold for listing, regardless of their ideology, as a means to apply significant consequences on these groups and the individuals that support them.

“CIJA continues to urge the Federal government to do what is required to protect Canadians from hate, including adding two other organizations to the Listed Terrorist Entities. Those organizations are Samidoun, an opaque Palestinian organization with alleged ties to a currently Listed Entity, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP); and, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), a branch of the Iranian armed forces responsible for terrorist acts around the world.

“We will also continue to call on Canada to establish a security rebate program for at-risk communities, equipping law enforcement with the tools to counter hate crime, and enacting policies that counter the proliferation of online hate.”

U of T Students Union

Cont. from page 7

“This is a massive victory for Jewish students at the University of Toronto and across Canada,” said Michael Mostyn, CEO of B’nai Brith Canada. “B’nai Brith will continue its fight against antisemitism at U of T in all of its forms, until Jewish students and faculty are safe from every form of discrimination.”

“Today is the day that I hoped would come for more than five years,” said Chaim Katz, the Calgary born and raised

student behind the complaint. “I thank B’nai Brith for its constant and unwavering support. The students and community members I have had the privilege to work with were instrumental in reaching this day. I expect the University to implement this ruling without delay.”

The UTGSU is the only student union in Canada that forces all members – even Jewish and Israeli students – to fund a Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Caucus that uses student fees to attack the Jewish State. Over the past year and a half, two of its executives have resigned over allegations of antisemitic conduct.

“This is a critically important win in the fight against the growing scourge of antisemitism and anti-Israel sentiment on university campuses that, time and time again, has contributed to a toxic environment for members of the Jewish community,

including students and professors,” said Michael Levitt, President and CEO of FSWC.

“Congratulations to U of T graduate student Chaim Katz and B’nai Brith Canada for spearheading this grassroots effort, and to all our ally Jewish community organizations who along with FSWC have long been engaged in the battle against antisemitism at U of T and university campuses across the country.”

Alberta Jewish News extends a Yasher Koach to Chaim Katz for his persistent positive activism in seeing this claim through to resolution. Chaim, originally from Calgary, was a student at both Halpern Akiva Academy and Calgary Jewish Academy; he is a Camp BB-Riback alumnus (both as a camper and staff) and was a Torah Reader at both House of Jacob and Beth Tzedec Congregations.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday March 18, 2021

7 pm online via Zoom

connect

heal

grow

JFS

EDMONTON

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES, EDMONTON

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU to join us to celebrate resilience, share our Annual Report, accept our Audit Report, elect our 2021 Directors and meet the staff and board members.

Members and general public are all welcome!

Please register:

RSVP to info@jfse.org or call 780-454-1194

DO YOU OWN RENTAL PROPERTY?

ARE YOU TIRED OF LATE OR NO RENTAL PAYMENTS?

TENANTS ARE YANKING YOUR CHAIN?

LOOKING TO EVICT THOSE TENANTS?

NOT SURE HOW OR DON'T HAVE THE TIME?

Contact **EDMONTON EVICTION SERVICES INC** to find out if you can evict and how we can help you reduce stress and move forward.

e-mail: don@EdmontonEvictionServices.com

cell: 780.974.8427 fax: 780.997.9387

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

CALL NOW – DELAYING COSTS YOU MORE!

MIND

BODY

SOUL

BETH ISRAEL

EDMONTON'S FAMILY SHUL

STAY

CONNECTED

You've got this!

MIND

BODY

SOUL

matters

active

sense

You've got this!

program details at familyshul.org

2021 NAACP Image Awards: The Jewish nominees

By Emily Burack

(JTA) — Several Jewish stars are among the nominees for the 2021 NAACP Image Awards, which celebrate Black achievement in movies, television, music and literature. The list announced on Feb. 2 features a mix of familiar Jewish names, such as the often-awarded rapper Drake and TV star Tracee Ellis Ross, along with rising artists like actress Jurnee Smollett and rapper Doja Cat. The ceremony will air virtually on March 27. Here are the Jews to know.

The stars

Jurnee Smollett received a nomination for her breakout role as Leti in “Lovecraft Country,” the HBO horror drama that received eight nominations, including for outstanding drama series. Smollett last won a NAACP Image Award for her role in the 2008 film “The Great Debaters.” “Black-ish,” which stars Tracee Ellis Ross, leads the TV categories with 11 nominations, including for outstanding series. Ross was tapped for the sixth consecutive year as outstanding actress in a comedy series — she’s won four times. Ross tacked on another nomination, as outstanding actress in a motion picture for “The High Note,” and now has 16, bringing her career total to 16. Multi-hyphenate star Daveed Diggs, whose 2020

included an instantly iconic Hanukkah song and a viral dig at Donald Trump, was nominated for his portrayal of Marquis de Lafayette/Thomas Jefferson in the filmed recording of the musical “Hamilton,” the Broadway sensation that was released on Disney+ last summer. The musical film received a total of four nominations. Diggs is up against his fellow “Hamilton” star Leslie Odom Jr.

The shows

The Netflix sitcom “#blackAF,” starring Jewish actress Rashida Jones alongside creator Kenya Barris, was nominated for outstanding comedy series, as was “The Last O.G.,” which stars Jewish actress Tiffany Haddish alongside Tracy Morgan. “Bridgerton,” the hit Netflix series based on the series of the same name by Jewish romance author Julia Quinn (nee Julie Cotler), received three nominations: for outstanding drama series, for Rege-Jean Page’s star turn as the Duke of Hastings, and for Adjoa Andoh’s portrayal of Lady Danbury. “Big Mouth,” the very Jewish animated Netflix show about puberty in suburban Westchester, received a nod for outstanding animated series. The series made waves after it recast the voice of the character Missy, a Black Jewish tween, after Jewish actress Jenny Slate stepped away in June. “At the start of the show, I reasoned with myself that it was permissible for me to play ‘Missy’ because her mom is Jewish and White — as am I. But ‘Missy’ is also Black, and Black characters on an animated show should be played by Black people,” Slate wrote in a statement posted by Instagram. Toward the end of last season, Missy’s voice changed to from Slate to Ayo Edebiri, a writer on the show.



Doja Cat, Daveed Diggs, Jurnee Smollett and Missy from "Big Mouth." (Netflix; HBO; Getty Images)

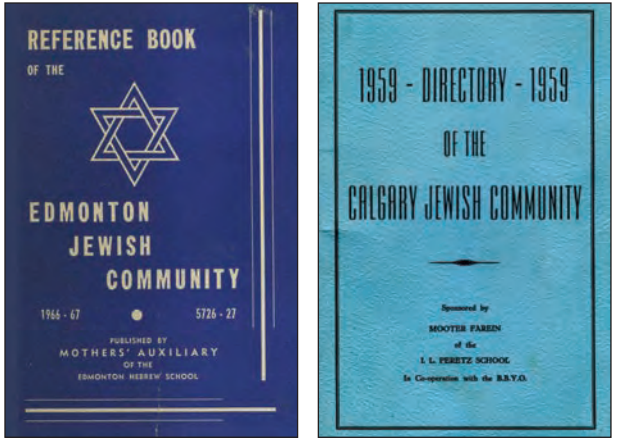
Music

Breakout rapper Doja Cat, real name Amalaratna Zandile Dlamini, was nominated for best new artist for her record “Say So.” Doja Cat also garnered many nods at the 2021 Grammys. Drake, real name Aubrey Drake Graham, received three nominations: for outstanding male artist, and two for outstanding hip hop/rap song, for the tracks “Laugh Now, Cry Later” and “Life Is Good.” Jhené Aiko, a singer-songwriter with Jewish heritage, received two nominations for her song “B.S.” feat. H.E.R., and a nomination for her album “Chilombo.” Author Walter Mosley, who recently was honored with the National Book Foundation’s lifetime achievement award, was nominated in the outstanding literary work, fiction category for his novel “The Awkward Black Man.” Laura Freeman, a children’s book illustrator, received a nomination alongside author Nikki Grimes for their children’s book “Kamala Harris: Rooted in Justice.”

A Tale of Two Cities *Cont. from page 3*

began producing the Calgary Jewish Community Directory as a fundraiser for that school in 1959, the same year its new school building was opened. The Mooter Farein executive at that time included Sylvia Ashkin, Freda Driben, Sophie Friedman, Bertha Gold (president), Frances Pearlman, Helen Signer, Rifka Switzer, Ethel Waterman, Riva Wolf and Freda Yacowar. Jean Libin – who passed away just last month at the age of 101 – was the inaugural coordinator of the Calgary Jewish Community Directory. When the Peretz School and the Charles Waterman Talmud Torah (Calgary Hebrew School) merged in 1987, The Calgary Jewish Academy Parents’ Auxiliary (now known as The Calgary Jewish Academy Parents’ Association) continued the tradition. According to long-serving Calgary Jewish Community Directory Chair Kim Chulsky, the most recent Calgary Jewish Community Directory was published in 2016 when a dearth of

voluntarism led to a hiatus. “People were so exciting about getting it,” said Chulsky who, in addition to her volunteer efforts, was a staff member of The Calgary Jewish Academy for 10 years, serving for a time as Director of Admissions. “The directory was a big deal. People loved it.” Chulsky hopes that the revival of the directory in Edmonton will inspire parent volunteers at The Calgary Jewish Academy to step up and bring back their book too. Game on in the Battle of Alberta! Sincere thanks to archivists Colleen Paul at JAHSENA and Roberta Kerr at JHSSA for their dedication to preserving and sharing the history of our Jewish communities. Community members who have photos and documents pertaining to local Jewish history are urged to share them with our archives so that researchers and writers can continue to tell the proud story of Jewish Alberta for generations to come.



Contact the Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta at jahsena@shaw.ca or 780-489-2809 or visit their website at www.jahsena.ca. Contact the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta at jhssa@shaw.ca or 403-444-3171 or visit their website at www.jhssa.org.

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2021 | 7PM

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND OF CALGARY

NEGEV GALA

HONOURING

DIANE COLLEY-URQUHART

JOIN US FOR FUN AND FUNDRAISING AT OUR VIRTUAL NEGEV GALA AND ENJOY SOME SPECIAL GIFTS, DELIVERED TO YOUR HOME

JNFCALGARY.CA CALGARY@JNF.CA 403.255.0295

JNF CANADA

Celebrate Passover with Alberta Jewish News

Next print date is March 15, 2021
Next Deadline: March 11, 2021

To book a holiday greeting, visit albertajewishnews.com or call 780-421-7966

JFSC

Enriching Lives, Strengthening Communities

We're Expanding! Introducing: Family Enrichment

Program Outline

The Family Enrichment Program is designed to support individuals and families in strengthening and promoting healthy family environments.

- Providing access to critical resources and tools that improve family wellbeing
- Empower clients to achieve self-determined goals
- Providing parent education, consultation, and support to strengthen parent/child relationship
- Reducing isolation and increasing knowledge on community access and support
- Offering advocacy and emotional support

Services Offered

- One to One Case Manager Support
- Educational Workshops
- Job Coaching/Resume Building
- Positive Parenting Programs
- Access to Resettlement Supports
- Access to Community Support
- Financial Coaching
- Group Programs
- Basic Needs
- Dementia Support

Referral Parameters / Criteria

- Referral source can include the client, or professional
- Client must live in Calgary

JFSC is acting in accordance with all AHS standards regarding COVID-19 protocol. Staff will be conducting health assessments prior to visits and will be properly equipped with the COVID-19 tool kits with all necessary safety gear including gloves, masks and hand sanitizer. Clients are asked to update staff with any new symptoms that occur.

P:403.287.3510 F:403.287.2735 E: info@jfsc.org www.jfsc.org

Historian Deborah Lipstadt empowers Albertans in the fight against antisemitism

By Maxine Fischbein

An historic change in local Holocaust commemoration occurred when Mayor Naheed Nenshi first proclaimed civic observance of International Holocaust Remembrance Day (IHRD) in January 2020. Bringing greetings together with Counsellor Diane Colley-Urquhart and Calgary Public Library Foundation CEO Tracy Johnson, the Mayor read the 2021 proclamation of the city’s observance of IHRD on January 27 as the Calgary Public Library – in partnership with Calgary Jewish Federation and event sponsors Barb and Ron Krell and Lily and Bill Lister – welcomed more than 1,500 individuals to a highly anticipated virtual talk by celebrated historian Deborah Lipstadt.

“Her latest book, *Antisemitism Here and Now*, reminds us of the imperative to take off our blinders to our own biases and call antisemitism what it is,” said Calgary Jewish Federation co-president and event moderator Jared Shore.

“Dr. Lipstadt is an inspiration to the Jewish community and those who stand with us against hate in all its forms. Her work continues to help strengthen us through honouring our past and looking to our future,” Shore added.

“I want you to know how touched I was by the fact that this is being hosted and organized, in part by the library,” Lipstadt said in her opening remarks.

“One of the earliest acts of treachery of the Nazi regime in 1933 was the book burning in May of 1933,” added Lipstadt who referenced Heinrich Heine’s cautionary observation a century earlier – “Wherever they burn books, in the end will also burn human beings.”

During her informative and engaging presentation, peppered with wry humour, Lipstadt – the Emory University professor and author who was sued by Holocaust denier David Irving and portrayed by actress Rachel Weisz in the 2016 feature film *Denial* – presented a compelling case for the continued fight against both hard core and soft core antisemitism, empowering listeners to speak up when they encounter antisemitism and racism of any kind.

“An antisemite is someone who hates the Jew more than absolutely necessary,” said Lipstadt who added, “If I hate you one iota more because you are a Jew, that’s antisemitism.”

While antisemitism is sometimes expressed in a seemingly positive fashion – “Some of my best friends are Jewish!” – it is an example of prejudice in which people are judged, “not by what they do but because of the group they come from,” Lipstadt said.

There are some elements that distinguish antisemitism from other forms of racism, Lipstadt said. While looking at people of colour and thinking lesser of them, the racist says “there goes the neighbourhood,” added Lipstadt.

The antisemite “punches up,” despising Jews as richer, more powerful and smart, though “not in an affirmative way.”

“The Jew becomes the threat,” noted Lipstadt who referred to such views as “culturally entrenched” and “ubiquitous.”

Lipstadt said that not unlike the current COVID-19 pandemic, antisemitism throughout history has mutated, spawning infinite and often deadly variations beginning with the way that the New Testament story of Jesus’ death was used in succeeding generations to vilify Jews.

From there, antisemitism morphed beyond religion moving to Voltaire, Karl Marx, the pseudoscience of eugenics and, eventually the Nazis, Lipstadt said.

Today, antisemitism is occurring both on the political right and political left, said Lipstadt, citing recent manifestations within Britain’s Labour Party and on college campuses as examples of the latter. Some on the left erroneously consider all Jews to be white, to enjoy class and to have privilege, thus believing that they can’t possibly be victims. The problem is compounded when those on the political left reject the possibility that they themselves might harbour biases, Lipstadt said.

When antisemitism occurs on the extreme right, as has been increasingly evident in the United States in recent years, it tends to be expressed in a more violent fashion, Lipstadt said, referencing the Charlottesville Unite the Right rally where marchers with torches chanted “Jews will not replace us,” “Heil Hitler”, and “Next stop



Historian Deborah Lipstadt with Jared Shore, Co-president of Calgary Jewish Federation.

Charlottesville, final stop Auschwitz.” Other recent examples cited by Lipstadt included murderous attacks at synagogues in Pittsburgh and San Diego and an attempted massacre at a Synagogue in Halle, Germany.

Lipstadt noted that disturbing attacks from the far right are also targeted at non-Jews, referencing deadly mass shootings at an El Paso Walmart and the mosque in Christchurch New Zealand.

Those involved in these and similar violent attacks, are often motivated by white genocide theory, Lipstadt said.

“What it essentially argues is that there is an international plan to destroy white Christian culture and replace it with black people, with brown people, with Muslims, to do away with millennia of white Christian culture.”

Such sentiments are held by many who stormed the US Capitol on January 6, Lipstadt said, adding that those who embrace these views believe that the “puppet master” behind the threat is the Jew.

Lipstadt shared an overview of types of antisemites, from the easily identified extremist to the “dinner party” or “salon” antisemite, “Someone who doesn’t think of himself or herself as an antisemite but will say: Oh, my firm just

Continued on page 16

A LETTER TO OUR COMMUNITY

Could you ever have imagined this world in which we find ourselves? And that it would have lasted this long?

The Calgary Jewish community has risen to this occasion by shifting programs, classes, and events online, dreaming up new ways to engage one another and doing what we can to stay connected.

You know how important it is to our community that we continue our work now and in the future. To ensure financial stability, the organizations listed below are currently participating in the LIFE & LEGACY® initiative focused on strengthening our community now and forever.

Please consider making an after-lifetime charitable gift to secure the future of Jewish Calgary.

Your gift costs nothing today – it starts with a promise, your commitment that you will remember one or more of these cherished organizations in your will, trust, retirement account, or life insurance policy. The Letter of Intent is available on our website at jewishcalgary.org or you can contact Diana Kalef at dkalef@jewishcalgary.org or 403-444-3154.

Those who came before us built and seeded Jewish life so that we would have places for connection, education, prayer, and fellowship. Now is your opportunity to do that for the next generation.

We hope you and your loved ones are in good health and remain that way. We look forward to welcoming you to the LIFE & LEGACY family.

Sincerely,

Beth Tzedec Congregation
Calgary JCC
Calgary Jewish Federation
Camp BB Riback
Halpern Akiva Academy

House of Jacob Mikveh Israel
Jewish Family Service Calgary
Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta
Temple B’nai Tikvah
The Calgary Jewish Academy



P.S. If you are able to submit your LOI before March 31, 2021, organizations will receive cash incentive grants in the spring!



JEWISH Together FUND

Our Calgary community has shown incredible strength during 2020, but many organizations still have financial needs that are more than our annual UJA campaign can support. To offer additional assistance this year, we created the **Jewish Together Fund (JTF)**. JTF was funded using 50% of the increased portion of every UJA donation that was over and above the 2019 amount.

In the first round of applications **\$49,000** was distributed to the following six organizations:

- Beth Tzedec Congregation
- Calgary JCC
- Chabad Lubavith of Alberta
- Halpern Akiva Academy
- Temple B’nai Tikvah
- The Calgary Jewish Academy

In the second round of applications **\$39,000** was distributed to the following five organizations:

- Calgary JCC
- Camp BB Riback
- House of Jacob Mikveh Israel
- JFSC
- The Calgary Jewish Academy

For detailed information go to: jewishcalgary.org/ways-to-give

ROUND 3 APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

Together **WE CAN**
UJA 2020

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US REACH OUR UJA 2020 FUNDRAISING GOAL!
Tax receipts are in the mail.

community calendar

Want to know what's going on in Jewish Calgary?
Check out the Community Calendar at jewishcalgary.org

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

Calgary Jewish Federation

The strength of a people.
The power of community.
jewishcalgary.org

A MESSAGE FROM ADAM SILVER

Each year, the month of February marks two very significant events: Black History Month (BHM) and Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance, and Inclusion Month (JDAIM). As a community, we are made better and more complete by ensuring we embrace diversity and inclusion. We not only recognize the strength that comes in welcoming people of all abilities and backgrounds to our community, but we also acknowledge the responsibility to live our lives with empathy, partnership, and intentionality.

The Jewish people have a long history with the Black community, with some similarities in overall experience, and with alignment and collaboration in historical achievements. Both communities also intersect, and our Jewish community includes Jews of Colour who might find themselves balancing the strengths and challenges facing both communities in a combined way.

Both communities have known, and still know, discrimination. Both communities have known slavery, persecution, and human atrocities. Both communities have broad and meaningful cultures that they struggle, at times, to pass down to the next generation. Although my intention is not to suggest a tit-for-tat exchange of horrors

and challenges, it is clear that both communities have suffered and continue to be the "other" (or outsider) even in modern times. There have also been significant human and civil rights achievements when these communities have worked together. Each community has stood up for the other, and both communities have come together at times to work toward achievements based on shared values. Please acknowledge BHM with me – seek out resources, participate in online programs, and give pause and thought as to how you, and we, can live and breathe the value of true community and compassion in earnest.

February is also a time during which we embrace differences as strengths. This is not limited to only JDAIM, as our community has a small but robust program department focused on inclusion throughout the year. However, JDAIM is a time to reset and provide a reminder that people of all abilities are welcome in Jewish Calgary.

Those in our community with special needs and abilities are strengths – not weaknesses. They teach us every day about what is possible, about caring and kindness, and about human nature. While we are not perfect and have a long way to go, Jewish Calgary continues to make

strides in accessible programming, education and training, and in deeper, true integration of our programs and services. Again, we have a long way to go, but it is inspiring to see our community's organizations leading the way to provide more opportunities to even more community members. Please be sure to seek out JDAIM programming, and don't be shy to ask organizations with which you are affiliated about the efforts they are making to welcome people of all abilities.

Keeping empathy, warmth, and thoughtfulness at the forefront of what we do as a community will support a vibrant, more engaged, model Jewish Calgary. **Together, WE CAN** include all! **Together, WE CAN** lift up others! **Together, WE CAN** be whole.

Wishing you and yours a safe and meaningful February. B'shalom,

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.

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE SOON

IBP

opens doors

Calgary Jewish Federation's Integrated Bursary Program can help you, if you find it's a financial struggle to participate fully in Jewish life in our community,

With one application followed by a discreet, personalized session with a Federation volunteer, you can access subsidies for day schools, summer camp, and recreational activities – depending on your need. Applications will be available at jewishcalgary.org or Calgary JCC, Halpern Akiva Academy, JFSC, and The Calgary Jewish Academy.

For information email ibp@jewishcalgary.org or go online: jewishcalgary.org/ibp-making-jewish-life-more-affordable

Join us as we celebrate Inclusion, Diversity, and Community!

JDAIM

FEBRUARY 2021

Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance & Inclusion Month

Calgary Jewish Federation is proud to celebrate another Jewish Disabilities Awareness, Acceptance, and Inclusion Month with the community this year!

This unified effort among Jewish organizations worldwide celebrates diversity and fosters acceptance and inclusion of people with disabilities and mental health conditions.

FREE

Dancer Jules

A TikTok Jewel

Sunday, February 21

1:30PM | Register for Zoom

Enjoy a dance workout with TikTok personality, **Julia Slater** (@dancerjules) followed by a Q&A moderated by **Julianna Enciu**.

In partnership with: PJ Library®, Calgary JCC, Make Me Famous, and Connect Up with Downs

DANCER JULES

A TIKTOK JEWEL

Shalva

A Butterfly Beyond Borders

Sunday, February 28

11:00AM | Register for Zoom

Join us for a story of successful Inclusion and *Tikkun Olam*, directly from Jerusalem! Keynote speakers include: **Kalman Samuels** (founder of Shalva, the Israel Association for the Care and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities), **Sara Samuels** (guitarist in the Shalva Band and volunteer at Shalva National Center), and **Marilyn Samuels** (Professor emeritus at University of Calgary). Q&A moderated by **Jason Markusof**.

In partnership with: The Azrieli Foundation, B'nai Brith Calgary Lodge 816

Should you have questions about our programming or if you need accommodations, contact Karina Szulc, Inclusion Manager at 403-473-8073 or karinas@jewishcalgary.org. Register and more info at:

SHALVA

A Butterfly Beyond Borders

jewishcalgary.org/jewish-calgary-inclusion/jdaim-2021

HAPPY

Purim

To register and for more information about our virtual events go to:

jewishcalgary.org

FEBRUARY

21

Purim Puppet Play

PJ Library® | 10:00AM

24

Hands-On Hamentashen

PJ Library® | 6:30PM

24

Pandemic Purim Party

Hillel | 7:00PM

25

Murder Mystery Ball

JAC x Beth Tzedec | 7:00PM

26

Tot Shabbat Purim

PJ Library® | 10:00AM

Abe Silverman appointed to province’s anti-racism council

By Jeremy Appel

B’nai Brith’s Alberta public affairs manager Abe Silverman has been appointed to the province’s anti-racism advisory council.

Silverman says he got news of his appointment to the 20-person committee, which includes representation from the Black, Filipino, Muslim, Jewish and Blackfoot communities, among others, about a month ago.

“I’m very proud that I would be asked to serve on this government committee,” he said. “I hope that the Jewish community who I represent will understand that I’m there to speak on behalf of the Jewish community.”

The council’s first meeting is scheduled for Feb. 19 to set an agenda, which will be followed up with three subsequent meetings throughout the year.

“Hopefully we will have a very talented group of people who are very familiar with the issues,” Silverman said.

Silverman, a Holocaust survivor, has been researching and lecturing on Jewish issues for about 50 years, as well as engaging in interfaith dialogue, which he says is a valuable asset in combatting racism.

“It helps you come away with other peoples’ perspectives. I know very well, and consider myself somewhat of an expert on, issues that we Jews face, whether it’s anti-Semitism or anti-Zionism. That I know a lot about,” he said, citing his relationship with the Al Rashid Mosque, as well as the Indigenous, Chinese, Ukrainian and Polish communities.

“Everyday, even at my age, I learn things.”

Ultimately, it’s about listening and working together on mutual issues of concern with various communities, even those with which he may have profound disagreements on certain topics, such as Israel.

“You always must maintain respect and understand that they’re entitled to that point of view, just as you’d hope they respect your point of view,” said Silverman.

“What’s important is that during those discussions to try and find issues that you have in common. We often find during those discussions that we have more in common than differences. And that’s what we need to do — build on those things that we have in common.”

Silverman isn’t the only Jewish person on the council. Judy Shapiro, the former associate executive director of the Calgary Jewish Federation, and the inaugural publisher of Jewish Free Press was appointed to the panel when it was established in early 2019.

There were four subcommittees the original panelists were divided into, each with a particular issue to look into — the accreditation of foreign professionals, investigation and reporting of hate crimes, anti-racism education, and diversity in government.

Shapiro was on the hate crimes subcommittee, which was expanded to look at policing writ large.

The original lineup issued a report with a series of recommendations that was given to the government in mid-January, but hasn’t been released publicly as of writing.



Abe Silverman has been appointed to Alberta’s Anti-Racism Advisory Council. (Pictured above with B’nai Brith Canada CEO Michael Mostyn).

The new committee will examine how to implement these recommendations, Shapiro says, adding that she hopes the report gets public release.

Shapiro shares Silverman’s view that sitting on the committee is largely an exercise in listening to other communities’ perspectives.

“I’ve learnt a great deal about the experiences of racism of other communities. It’s heightened my own awareness, particularly of Indigenous communities,” she said. “We’ve got a lot to learn, all of us.”

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

Conservative candidate touts party’s staunch support for Israel

By Jeremy Appel

Rick Peterson is running for the nomination to be the federal Conservative candidate for Edmonton-Strathcona, the sole Alberta riding not represented by a Tory.

Peterson, who was a Progressive Conservative prior to the party’s merger with Reform, says the riding, with its diversity and amount of government employees is a bellwether of sorts for the party’s fortunes across the country.

“The really fascinating thing about this riding is for the

Conservative party, if we can win a riding like Edmonton-Strathcona, that means that we’re ready to win ridings like that in urban Canada that will lead us to a majority,” he said.

Peterson says he wants to learn from the Jewish community, touting his admiration for Israel’s tech sector.

“As an MP, the first thing I’d like to do... is go to Israel and meet everyone who’s involved in technology, research and IP development, because nobody does it better,” he said. “I’d like to steal a couple of your thought leaders and bring them to Edmonton-Strathcona, and set them down

in one of the empty buildings on Whyte Avenue, and say, ‘Hey, let’s build this startup.’”

Incumbent NDP MP Heather McPherson sits on the Canada-Israel Interparliamentary Group; she’s been critical of Israel’s proposed unilateral annexation of the West Bank, which has since been put on hold. She is also a strong advocate on issues relating to poverty reduction, gender equality, environmental protection and human rights.

“The federal NDP’s views on Israel... are, I’ll be polite and say, nuanced at the most,” said Peterson.

“It’s one thing to sit on a committee, but you’ve got to stand up and say the right thing whenever it’s necessary to, and the NDP is conspicuously silent at times when they need to stand up for Israel.”

The Conservative Party’s official policy of moving the Canadian embassy in Israel to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv, as the U.S. and several other states have done, has overwhelming support within the party, he added.

Canada’s foreign ministry has never recognized Israel’s unilateral annexation of East Jerusalem in 1980. However, former prime minister Joe Clark vowed in 1979 to move Canada’s embassy to Jerusalem, but backtracked once he formed his short-lived government.

Asked whether he supports a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Peterson paused briefly.

“I support a two-state solution when the Palestinians have the right to have a voice that is a clear democratic vote for who they’d like for leadership, which isn’t the case right now,” he said.

Peterson also addressed recent controversy over notorious white supremacist Paul Fromm’s donation to the leadership campaign of Ontario MP Derek Sloan, which lead to Sloan’s ouster from the party.

He says while he’s never heard of Fromm, Sloan’s expulsion was a long time coming, due to the last-place leadership candidate’s support for conversion therapy and his smearing of Dr. Teresa Tam, who was born in Hong Kong, as an agent of the Chinese government.

“I don’t think any party can be 100 percent foolproof to somebody you don’t want making a donation. The clear question is when you find out about it, you have to rectify it,” said Peterson. “When caucus votes you out, you’re off the island. It’s as simple as that.”

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



PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

B’nai Brith Canada is the country’s oldest independent Jewish Human Rights organization. We are a principled grassroots voice, dedicated to eradicating racism, antisemitism and hatred in all its forms, championing the rights of the marginalized, while providing basic human needs for members of our community.

Canada’s **only** Anti-Hate Hotline is open 24/7 to anyone who experiences antisemitism or discrimination. **1.800.892.2624 (BNAI)**



Calgary B’nai Brith Speaker Series
Sunday, March 7th at 10am – 11:30am



Michael Mostyn, B.A., J.D.
CEO B’nai Brith Canada



A Tribute to William (Willy) Kohn
Former B’nai Brith Calgary President

Michael serves as a senior spokesperson for the community and speaks out on behalf of Canadian Jewry and other communities whose human rights are under threat globally.

Willy was active in the Jewish Community, UJA, the early days of Camp BB and became president of B’nai Brith Calgary, giving both time and financial support to a myriad of charities, causes and individuals.
A portion of the funds raised donated to The Toni Kohn-Woodward Foundation

Register at bnaibrithcalgary.org | Admission by donation
P: (403) 255-6544 | E: bbcalgary@telus.net

FOR YOUR PROPERTY MANAGEMENT NEEDS




SECURE REALTY INC.
STACY SHERLOCK
ASSOCIATE BROKER

O : 403.243.4446
C : 778.847.3485
SHERLOCK@SECUREREALTYINC.COM

This month's update from Edmonton Talmud Torah School




It has been at busy month at Edmonton Talmud Torah School. A highlight for the Kindergarten and Grade One students was learning about the environment and all the activities associated with the celebration of Tu B'Shevat.




EDMONTON TALMUD TORAH SOCIETY
תלמוד תורה כנגד כולם


Strategic Plan Update #4 - February 2021




INFORM
Summer-Fall 2020



CONSIDER
Winter 2020-21



STRATEGIZE
Winter-Spring 2021



COMMIT
Summer 2021
3-5 year plan

Current Phase: CONSIDER

The Talmud Torah Society wants to extend an enthusiastic THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our planning survey. We received over 200 responses from members of the community, ranging from current and prospective parents, to alumni and the broader Jewish community!

We are currently working through the survey data and look forward to sharing our findings as soon as possible. In the meantime, you can continue to engage with us through our social media page on Facebook, "Friends of Talmud Torah Edmonton", where we post school and society news, volunteer opportunities, and other community initiative information.

Thank you again,

Edmonton Talmud Torah Society Board

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

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



**WITTEN
LLP**

Barristers & Solicitors

Suite 2500, 10303 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton Alberta Canada
T5J 3N6

T: 780.428.0501
F: 780.429.2559
E-mail: lawyers@wittenlaw.com
Web: www.wittenlaw.com



JFSE
EDMONTON

**Jewish Family Services Edmonton:
Recruiting New Board Members:**

Jewish Family Services helps anyone in need. We are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in the greater Edmonton region, no matter a person's creed or ethnicity. Our commitment is to empowering our clients and helping them find pathways for healing, growth and opportunity.

JFSE is currently seeking interested individuals to join the Board of Directors. This is a volunteer position and board members are voted in for a two-year term of office with an option to renew for two additional two-year terms. Bi-monthly board meetings are normally in-person however, during the pandemic are held virtually. The Board of Directors is responsible for the effective governance of the organization. Directors provide sound and ethical guidance for the organization, ensuring the organization has the resources to achieve its mission. JFSE has made a commitment to diversity and inclusion and strive to ensure the composition of the Board is reflective of this action.

Experience: We are looking for individuals with a background in at least one of these areas: non-profit governance (member of other boards); law, human resources, and planning. We are particularly interested in candidates who have business and/or finance experience or knowledge. We encourage all who are interested in supporting the organization consider applying.

Please email your cover letter and resume to: info@jfse.org by February 19th, 2021

Simchas and Celebrations

First Impressions



Rabbi Gila Caine

By Rabbi Gila Caine

Baby naming ceremonies are my favorite, both to attend and to perform. All life cycle events are extremely meaningful and being with people at key moments in their lives is a true blessing. But the event that moves me beyond measure is welcoming a new baby, a new neshamah (soul/spirit), into our world. It must be one of the oldest rituals we have as humans and one of the most hopeful, a celebration of life’s full potential, asserting itself even in the hardest of times and roughest of situations. And a baby naming is a celebration of pure love for this new person – not for their achievements or their learning, or because they have made a good match or lived a valuable life. All these events are meaningful and by rights we should rejoice in them. But at a *Brit Milah* (circumcision ceremony) or *Simchat Bat* (the joy of a daughter) our heart overflows with gratitude for the mere existence of this new human.

Jewish baby naming, or covenant, rituals have a secret history that is quite elaborate. We all know of the Brit Milah for boys, and I assume most of you have attended a Shabbat morning when the father or both parents get called up to Torah to announce their new daughter’s name. But all around the Jewish world we have a treasure trove of rituals bringing our children into Avraham and Sarah’s covenant with God, bestowing protection on them and blessing them with a good life. Because Brit Milah is a mitzvah, we find more uniformity in the structure and timing of the ceremony (the 8th day after birth in case you were wondering). But for girls, the timing is all over the place. Various traditions can hold the ceremony on the sixth day, the seventh night, the first Shabbat, the fourth Shabbat, after 30 days, when her parents find the time... In some places they decorate the baby’s crib with jewels and sweets and gather around blessing her. In others her parents invite all the young siblings, cousins, and neighbors to lift her crib three times, each time the children shouting out “Holle Kreish!” (we are not sure where that word came from. One suggestion is that it’s a name of an ancient goddess). After, the children proclaim the newborn’s name, her parents give them sweets, and everyone celebrates. In another tradition it is the little girl’s aunt who, during the celebrations, would whisper the new name into the baby’s ear like a sweet secret between the two of them. In many families it has now become

customary to revive the ancient *Eretz Israeli* tradition of planting a tree for each of their children at birth. We did that with our kids – an almond tree for one and a pomegranate for the other – and even though we no longer live close to our trees, the children still talk about them. They are part of our family.

As in many areas of Jewish ritual and especially in spaces that were once ruled by women, we now see a huge revival and deep creativity. We see a hunger for unearthing and bringing back to practice many rituals that were either forgotten or lost in the fires of the Shoah. We see the delight mothers and fathers find in making the first celebration of their child’s life a sacred occasion, an event that ties them not only to G-d and their immediate family, but also to their ancestors and to the Earth they are living on.

Whether you are expecting now or know someone who is about to become a parent, think about holding this celebration. They say we only have one opportunity to make a good first impression. Let us impress our babies and impress upon them the blessing and depth of being a part of our community.

Rabbi Gila Caine is the spiritual leader at Temple Beth Ora in Edmonton.

JFED Legacy Fund created with Proceeds of the OPH sale

(AJNews) – A joint statement was issued on Jan. 29, 2021 from OPH President Len Dolgoy and JFED President Steve Shafir to update the Jewish Community of Edmonton on the proceeds from the sale of OPH to Revera.

The statement appears below:

As a result of the sale of Our Parents’ Home (OPH) in December, 2020 we are pleased to announce the establishment of Legacy Funds in excess of \$13 million with the Edmonton Community Foundation to benefit the Jewish Federation of Edmonton (JFED) and the Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta (JAHSENA).

An endowment of \$12 million has been created by OPH for JFED. A further \$300,000 endowment has been created for JAHSENA, to assist with the creation of a permanent home for the display of JAHSENA’s archives. Those endowments will be managed through the Edmonton Community Foundation. A further \$1 million endowment has been created, through JFED and OPH, for a permanent professorship in Jewish Studies at the University of Alberta.

OPH Board Chair, Len Dolgoy, said: “The sale of Our Parents’ Home occurred after careful consideration by the Board of Directors to ensure the long-term

viability of OPH and its programs, and, at the same time, allowed us to create endowments of profound impact on the Jewish community.”

Jewish Federation of Edmonton President, Steve Shafir, said: “These endowments by OPH for our Federation are unprecedented. Together with our annual UJA campaign, these gifts enhance the stability and reach of JFED and its programs, and will be key pillars in our mission to sustain and enhance Jewish life in our community.”

Jewish Federation of Edmonton will soon be commencing a strategic planning initiative that will help establish needs and set the short and medium term goals for the community.



INCEPTION PHOTO BOOTH



PHOTO BOOTH RENTAL

- DIGITAL BOOTHS
- PRINTING BOOTHS
- SLIDING PHOTO BOOTHS
- ROAMING BOOTHS
- INFLATABLE GLOW EXPERIENCE
- AND MORE!!

CONTACT US AT

WWW.INCEPTIONPHOTOBOOTH.COM

780-965-7811

CAPTURE YOUR SIMCHAS WITH



For all your videography needs

Call 780-263-4533 or
jared@reelmensch.com
www.reelmensch.com



OLIVER SQUARE REGISTRIES LTD

A fast, full service, friendly & convenient registry centre.

**Oliver Square • 11648 104 Ave
PH 780.408.2000
www.osreg.ca**

- Licensing, Registrations & Renewals
- All classes of written & road tests
- Drivers’ Abstracts
- Name Searches & NUANS
- Commissioners for Oath
- Corporate Registrations & Searches
- Vital Statistics Certificates & Registrations
- Personal Property Lien Searches & Registrations

**And many other services for
Public & Professional**

“Licensed to please.”



Simchas and Celebrations

The Paradox of the Unthanked Volunteer

By Susan Dvorkin and Harold Lipton

Volunteers offer their time without requirement or obligation, and in doing so, connect with others pursuing a common goal. Together, they make vital contributions to their community. Jewish organizations in Calgary are able to function, grow and achieve success because of the tireless efforts of their volunteers.

The Calgary Chevra Kadisha also relies on its volunteers, but what makes this organization different from most other groups is that its function is actually mandated by Jewish law. Proper and respectful burial is one of the most fundamental elements of Jewish communal life. The volunteer work performed in the Chevra is considered *chesed shel emet*, deeds of true kindness, in that there is no expectation of reciprocation or reward for performing the mitzvah of preparing the deceased for burial. Thus, the work of the volunteers is seldom acknowledged.

While other organizations make a point of publicly honouring their treasured volunteers, the Chevra Kadisha does not. Rick Pollick, current Executive Director at the Calgary Chevra, explains that preparation of the deceased

for burial is completed purely out of respect for the deceased. “In any other year,” noted Pollick, “the Chevra would have a private dinner for its volunteers for the primary purpose of thanking them, and at no other time do we publicly extol them for their work. This year, the pandemic has pre-empted holding such a dinner, and we would be remiss if we didn’t let our volunteers know how much their efforts are appreciated.”

Each year, the Chevra Kadisha of Calgary holds a dinner to honour its volunteers and is the only occasion when the volunteers are invited to join together and be acknowledged for their selfless contributions. In a typical year, the dinner is held on the 7th of Adar, the traditional *yahrzeit* of Moses. The COVID-19 virus has rendered this year as anything but typical, and so this year’s dinner, which has been held for one hundred and five consecutive years, has been pre-empted in order to comply with COVID restrictions. Much of the Chevra’s business has had to be modified and adapted for safety reasons, and the Chevra is blessed that its volunteers have risen above and beyond to continue to serve all members of our community in their



greatest time of need.

Chevra Kadisha president Louis Bracey says “we regret that we do not have the opportunity this year to thank our volunteers in our usual way at the annual dinner. This organization was one of the first institutions in the history of the Jewish community in Calgary. Throughout the generations, the volunteer has been the backbone of what we do, and without them, we could not perform our needed functions. So I want to take this opportunity to thank every volunteer for their efforts. Whether it is sewing *tachrichim* (shrouds), performing *tahara* (ritual preparation of the deceased for burial), or helping to make a minyan at the funeral, all of these functions are vital to the Chevra Kadisha performing its work in the Calgary community. *Yasher kochachem* to all. While we hope we will not need your services in the coming year, may your strength and dedication continue.”

In appreciation of its volunteers, the Chevra Kadisha this year will be planting trees in Israel in their honour.

Sacred moments happen every day

By Rabbi Amanda Schwartz

(Kveller) - “I think Judah lost some of his manners when he lost his hair,” my 5-year-old daughter, JoJo, commented a few days after her little brother, Judah, had his Jewish ritual haircutting ceremony, known as an *upshern*. She reflected on how, since Judah’s first haircut, he was using more potty talk, being more aggressive, and calling her names.

I thought about this comment and realized that perhaps she was right — I *had* noticed him doing these things more

since we cut his hair. Later that evening, I brought up this idea with my husband, Jason. He disagreed, stating that Judah had been doing all of these behaviors for a while, and perhaps I had just missed them until this moment.

One of my favorite job responsibilities as a rabbi is officiating life cycle ceremonies. The language I usually use to describe these rituals to families is that the ceremony elevates the moment — we take something that could be otherwise mundane and transform it into something sacred.

But the wisdom of both my husband and my daughter

inspired me to think about rituals in a new way. Instead of viewing ritual as a vehicle to creating sacredness, I began to think about how the sacred was already present — I just needed the ritual to open my eyes to it.

In this case, Judah had already been growing up, of course. Every single day, he moved a little more away from babyhood and transitioned more into boyhood. And yet, too caught up in the day to day, I had overlooked this sacred passage. But when we took the time to ritually cut his hair, I started to see this holy transition.

The word *upshern* means “to shear off,” and it is a Jewish tradition dating to the 17th century, primarily among

Continued on page 18

Floral arrangements for every occasion.

We can help you create a unique bouquet at your **Glenmore Landing Safeway Florist.**

SAFeway
Ingredients for life



Simchas and Celebrations

Calgary wine-tasting bar working to weather COVID storm

By Jeremy Appel

Calgarian Chris Fodor opened a tasting room at his urban winery in February 2020, and then we all know what happened.

Fodor, who's been in the wine business for 15 years but started the City & Country Wine brand in 2017, says he's had to adopt various strategies to survive under shifting lockdown restrictions.

"It's been an interesting time, that's for sure," says Fodor. Adapting to the new normal involved "a lot of extra handwork," as well as time and cost, he says.

"Everything that we do typically is done either at the bar or table-side, so we would deliver the tastings. At some points, people would get six different glasses with their wine, which is a huge amount of work for the staff to try and provide the experience, but keeping distance not to be pouring into my glass and your glass, and the net glass, in the same bottle we've already drunken out of."

Pandemic or not, Fodor says the goal is to give customers "a wonderful experience."

City & Country Wine opted not to charge a COVID fee,

or even increase their prices as a result of the extra work that went into making their bar COVID-safe.

"Luckily, we were able to get more glassware to help us through some of that, but it was tough," said Fodor. "There are some days when you start running out of glasses and there's not a lot you can do except work harder. We have a wonderful team who did that."

The bar closed for 10 weeks during the first lockdown and then had to adapt to new social restrictions, which they managed by setting their online store.

"We re-opened. Things were slow on some days, better on other days. There was no consistency, or rhyme or reason," Fodor says.

And then in mid-November, they had to close again.

"In the past year, we've been closed five out of the 12 months," Fodor said.

He says the most popular wine is their red, which outsells white by two-to-one. "I completely understand that, because you can drink red wine any day. It's hard to drink a white wine today when it's -16 out."

They make wines from grapes grown in B.C., Ontario, Oregon, California, Chile and South Africa. Fodor says he's



hoping to add Australia to the mix this year.

At this point, they're not doing any tastings, but they're looking at re-opening to do tastings by appointment only, which is what many wineries throughout North America have done to stay open, he added.

Continued on page 17

Antisemitism fight

Cont. from page 10

hired a new associate. He's a Jew, but he's very honest."

There is also the "enabler," says Lipstadt, "the person who stirs up the pot."

"Often they are not an antisemite, but they behave in an antisemitic fashion."

"We've seen it in the leadership of the United States in the past four years, a failure to condemn... the dog whistle, the wink-wink, nod-nod," Lipstadt said.

"The clueless antisemite" is, according to Lipstadt, one for whom culturally entrenched antisemitic tropes roll off the tongue without a thought.

Lipstadt urged the audience to be the "unwelcome guests at the dinner party" by challenging unacceptable remarks.

"Telegraph the message to the other people at the table, the children in particular... that this kind of talk and these kinds of attitudes are unacceptable."

"We live in such a charged atmosphere now that we have to say something," Lipstadt said, adding that we must also do so when others are the target of racism.

"We cannot be selective about the 'isms," said Lipstadt. "We can't fight one and not the others."

"We like to say 'Never Again.' The sad thing is, since the Holocaust it has not been never again. We've seen Rwanda, the former Yugoslavia, the treatment of the Chinese Muslims," Lipstadt said.

Lipstadt urged the audience to be cautious when levelling accusations of antisemitism.

"Sometimes there is criticism that is valid. You might not agree with it, but it is not antisemitism. We have to be careful when we call people out on antisemitism. It should not be said lightly."

This applies to the automatic assumption that those who speak critically of Israeli policies are ipso facto antisemitic. Criticism of Israel does become problematic when Israel's right to exist is called into question and when Israel is subjected to "singular focus that is not applied to other countries," Lipstadt said.

"Antisemitism is a danger to Jews, who are most hurt by it... but there's a much more fundamental reason [to fight it], Lipstadt said. "Antisemitism is a threat to democracy."

Stressing the significance of the Library bringing Holocaust education to the virtual town square, Lipstadt circled back to the power of words.

"It never begins with genocide. It begins with words. So on a night when I am being hosted, in part, by the Calgary Public Library, I stress to you the importance of words. Be careful of the words we use, be careful of what we say," Lipstadt said.

"I revel in my Jewish identity. It's a source of joy," added Lipstadt. "It's not just the oy... It's the joy that keeps me going."

Antisemitism isn't what makes us Jews, said Lipstadt adding, "That is the despite. It isn't the because."

Ending on a high note, Lipstadt said, "We are very blessed to be bearers of a very rich and very multifaceted tradition that has given so much to the world. May it continue to do so and may we be part of that effort."

Jared Shore told *Alberta Jewish News* that about half of attendees signed in to Deborah Lipstadt's talk via the Library's website and Facebook page, indicating significant engagement in the broader community.

"Her big message is that while we need to be vigilant, we can't allow antisemitism to define us," Shore said.

"It was an important event. The broader reach created by the library is favourable for our future. We need partners in wrestling with antisemitism," said Calgary Jewish Federation CEO Adam Silver who lauded the efforts of Library staff and Holocaust and Human Rights Education co-chairs Marnie Bondar and Dahlia Libin in the organization of the event.

"We are really proud of the fact that Deborah's talk resonated with so many people," said Libin, who was impressed by the many deeply thoughtful post-event survey comments from attendees who reflected on their own biases and behaviour.

"The survey confirmed that many people watched with their families, meaning we hit a younger crowd," said Bondar. "That's a big deal. We want our kids to speak up."

Maxine Fischbein is a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter.



GRUMANS
DELICATESSEN
MOSTLY TRADITIONAL • SINCE 2005

**CATERING FOR ALL OF
YOUR CELEBRATIONS
& LIFE CYCLE EVENTS**

- KIDDUSH LUNCHEONS
- SHABBAT DINNERS
- PARTIES & RECEPTIONS
- EVENT SPACE FOR PRIVATE FUNCTIONS

www.grumans.ca
BRITANNIA: 5103 ELBOW DR SW (403) 452-6561
DOWNTOWN: 230 11th AVE SW (403) 261-9003



CITY & COUNTRY
**CALGARY'S ONLY
URBAN WINERY & TASTING BAR**

**CUSTOM
LABELLING OPTIONS
AVAILABLE**



Enjoy the best grapes from around the globe,
sample and sip our wines made right here in Calgary.

cityandcountrywinery.com **544 - 38A Ave SE Calgary AB | 1-403-245-0449**

ADAM SINGER, M.A., LL.B.
Divorce & Family Law

☎ 403.476.0153
asinger@wilcraft.com
www.wilcraft.com

1601, 333 11th Avenue SW, Calgary, AB, T2R 1L9

WILSON **LAYCRAFT**





YOUR WEDDING DAY. YOUR WAY.
Jane Paterson
jpweddingsyyc.com
Alberta Authorized Marriage Commissioner

**Margarita's
dishes**

at the Calgary Farmers Market

For Catering and Delivery
Call Danny Korduner
403-667-7567 • 510 77 Ave SE Calgary



Simchas and Celebrations

My married tax life – so far

By Michael Sadovnick

My wife and I got married back in 2009 on a warm and sunny November 8th day in Toronto. We chuppa'd, we hora'd and we ate a little too. After being married, we bought our first place and then continued on the trajectory that comes with such a simcha – getting a mortgage, kids, daycare, moving to a new city, Jewish School, and so on. But as this is a tax article, lets discuss the tax obligations of being married.

When does one have to say they are married/common-law? Well, it is not only when you sign the ketubah; you can in fact trigger being common-law unintentionally under Tax Rules earlier (although it may not be the same for provincial family law purposes). For tax purposes, you are considered to be married after having lived together in a “conjugal” relationship for 12 months – although you can be separated by having a breakdown in this marriage and being apart for only 90 days. Of course, if you have a kid or they have custody of your kid while being in a conjugal relationship, the time can be earlier.

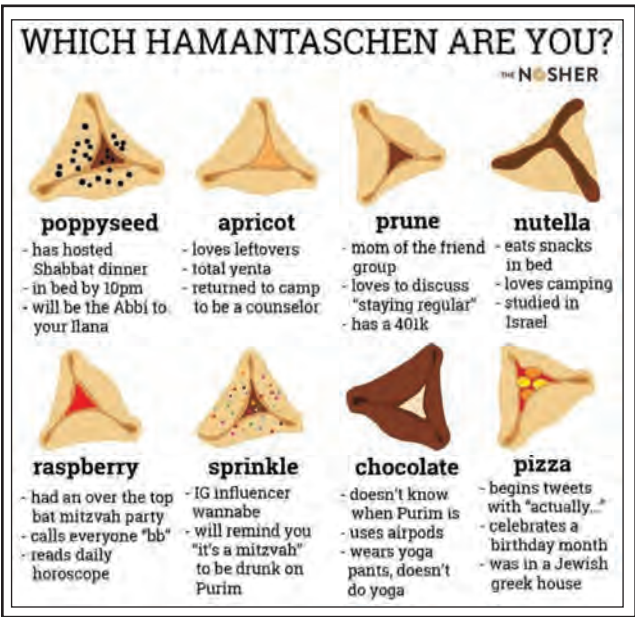
Now to buy that first house, I tapped into my RRSP and took out a Home Buyer Plan RRSP loan. You can borrow, interest free, up to \$35,000 to help with the purchase of your first home but you will be required to pay it back over the subsequent 15 years (or include a portion in your income). If you have the time, and do not have enough in your RRSP, you can contribute 90 days before withdrawing to participate in the program (that way you can get the \$35,000 and the tax deduction for the RRSP contribution).

Living in Canada, where we do not do joint tax filings, you will also notice that your name appears on your spouse's tax return along with your income. This is not because you get to benefit from filing joint returns, but

because the CRA uses several ‘family income’ based tests to determine if you are eligible for benefits... although they tax on an individual basis which gets them more money. The most significant family income tested benefit for a young family is the Canada Child Benefit which can provide families with significant funds to support their child related costs.

Next thing you need to know is that once you have a child (or adopt) you will likely incur childcare costs. Now since the tax system tries to pay out the least, there is a rule that requires the lower income spouse (assuming they are not a student or in jail) to take the deduction for the childcare costs. Once you have added up all of those childcare costs, you then have a limit of \$8,000 (per kid under 7 years old) or \$5,000 (per kid under 16 years old); \$11,000 if your child qualifies for the disability tax credit. Many people think that the amount is tied to a child, but that is not the case. For example, if one kid has \$9,000 in costs (and qualifies for \$5,000) and the other has \$1,000 (and also qualifies for \$5,000) then you can still claim \$10,000. However, if the lower income spouse does not have sufficient qualifying income (generally business or employment income) the childcare costs will not deductible.

In 2016, we moved to Edmonton with our two little kids. Like many young families who are moving for a new job within Canada, we got to claim moving expenses. This is actually a pretty generous system in that there are no caps for legitimate moving related expenses, but you can expect to be audited every time and you have to move at least 40 kms closer to your job. There are restrictions on what you can claim. For example, house hunting trips do not qualify, but the commission you pay on selling your old house (if you buy a new one) do qualify. You can also make claims for temporary living expenses (up to 15 days) and temporary meal costs (if you are passing through a Michelin Star Kosher Restaurant, I recommend you go for dinner; the CRA auditor may challenge you on this, but you should still win).



Finally, it came to take out membership at Beth Israel Synagogue in Edmonton and enroll our kids at Edmonton Talmud Torah. From Beth Israel, we received donation receipts – do not throw these out – and after our kids outgrew the ELC at Talmud Torah, more donation receipts from the school. Another great tax savings – for each dollar in charitable receipts (over a cumulative \$200), you get 50% back, in Alberta, regardless of income. For those who pay the top Federal rate of 33%, they will get up to 54% back! Even better, if I had invested in GameStop and donated the shares (before it came back down) I could have avoided the capital gains tax (about 24% in Alberta at top rate) on my gain and received the donation tax credit.

But I digress... marriage is about more than just taxes right?

Michael Sadovnick is a partner at Sadovnick Morgan LLP. He can be reached at michael@smllp.ca.

Wine-tasting bar

Cont. from page 16

“You would book in, pre-pay and then we’d have this space for you,” said Fodor. “I think it will be successful. It will allow us to have a limited number of people in the tasting room and keep the social distance, even more so now.”

He says he was so preoccupied with getting the business up and running that he hadn’t paid attention to the news about COVID spreading throughout Asia and Europe.

“When the announcement came that there was coronavirus and everything was being shut down, I was absolutely and completely shocked. I had my head in the wine,” said Fodor.

“It was seeing your dream just get quashed and not knowing what will really happen next.”

He says the current measures they have in place are sustainable at the moment, but like everything these days, the long view is a giant question mark.

“I’m not sure exactly what we’re going to be able to do next as a business, or even as a society, if we can’t mitigate this and other risks that come in the future,” Fodor said.

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



**Fresh Challah
available every
Thursday, Friday,
Saturday & Sunday!**

Visit your local baker at
COBS Callingwood
6655 - 178 Street Northwest, Edmonton
Open until 7 P.M.

WWW.COBSBREAD.COM

SADOVNICK MORGAN LLP
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

Life’s not simple, but we can help.

We help our clients by reducing the complexity and simplifying their tax and accounting needs. We offer full-service accounting and tax services while also helping with legacy planning by offering estate and multi-family office services.

**Empowering the Building
of Multi-Generational Legacies**

Professionals + High Net Worth
+ Private Enterprises + Family Offices

Tax - Cross Border - Assurance - Advising - Family Enterprise Advising

Call for a free consultation:
(587) 401-4900
www.smllp.ca michael@smllp.ca



STARKMAN
Realty Ltd.

For All Your
Real Estate
Needs, contact

Daniel Starkman
BROKER/AGENT

P 780.863.0778
F 780.453.3567

#7, 11641A Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 0M9

www.starkmanrealty.com

starkmanrealty@rogers.com
An independent broker member

**Moving?
Moved?**

 **New
to the
community?**

**Don't miss a
single edition!
Send your
new address
to**

albertajewishnews@gmail.com

Simchas and Celebrations

Ethos Bridal celebrates 50 years

These are challenging times, but Ethos Bridal Boutique will help make your wedding day a wonderful experience.

Fashion trends have come and gone, but the classic elegance of Ethos Bridal Boutique has withstood the test of time and flourished. They are proudly celebrating their fiftieth anniversary of dressing Alberta's brides and bridal parties.

Every special occasion begins with the dress and that is the specialty of Ethos Bridal Boutique. From flower girl to prom, bridesmaid to bride, evening gown to mother-of-the-bride, it's no wonder that visiting Ethos has become such a sentimental family tradition.

Stan and Haya Stein, along with Haya's brothers, Sam and Hayim Hamborger, founded Ethos in 1970 in Alberta and they have worked together for 50 years to bring the finest quality gowns to Canadian brides and their wedding parties.

Hayim manages the day to day operations with precision and dedication to the bridal fashion industry. Ethos matriarch, Haya Stein has a passion for all things bridal and a natural talent for designing extraordinary wedding gowns and evening wear. You will find her designs at Ethos under the Anna Rose Label, lovingly named after her mother.

"Making your wedding day a wonderful experience is our main objective," said Haya.

"In our bridal salon you will find a wide range of dresses including exquisite couture designer wedding gowns,

bridesmaid dresses, mother of the bride dresses, mother of the groom dresses, flower girl dresses and a large selection of elegant evening gowns, special occasion dresses, graduation/prom dresses and unique bridal accessories."

With 50 years' experience in the wedding industry, Haya has cultivated close relationships with the world's most celebrated fashion houses and fills her store with their finest collections. She inspires her professional bridal consultants to graciously serve every bride and help her find the perfect dress... at the very best price!

"We have an assortment of dresses that flatter every figure and offer styles for any taste or special occasion," remarked Haya.

Bridal collections include Haute Couture Naama & Anat, Mon Cheri, Paloma Blanca, Madeline Gardner Prom, Sophia Tolli, Julietta, Atelier Pronovias Barcelona, Calla Blanche, SKY Collection, ellie wilde mon cheri, Mikaela by Paloma Blanca, Angela & Alison and Ethos Couture.

Originally based out of both Edmonton and Calgary, the Edmonton store, located in West Edmonton Mall was a favorite destination shopping experience for brides for many many years. Now Edmonton shoppers make the special trip to Calgary to sample the unique Ethos bridal selection.

"Our beautiful dresses bring the customers into the shop," noted Haya, "but it is our amazing customer service that brings customers back year after year and across



generations of friends and family members."

By appointment only - visit Calgary's historic Devenish Building on 17 Avenue you will find the latest bridal, bridesmaid, mother-of-the-bride, flower girl, prom and evening wear collections. Book an appointment online at ethosbridal.com or call 403-245-4188.

Sacred moments

Cont. from page 15

Hasidic Jews. In most Hasidic communities, a young boy's hair is not cut until the age of 3, a tradition attributed to Leviticus 19:23, which teaches that one should not eat fruit from a tree until a tree has grown for three years. Since people are compared to trees in the Torah, the idea is to wait until 3 years of age before cutting a child's hair.

There is some variation among different Hasidic

communities in terms of the age of the ceremony and how it is celebrated — customs range from a ranging from a quiet, private affair at home to a public celebration. Many times, the ceremony is connected to the child beginning to wear a kippah and tzitzit, as well as beginning his Jewish education.

More recently, the upshern has been adopted by Jews outside of the Hasidic world, like my family. Though this tradition was originally intended only for little boys, we waited until my daughter was 3 years old to cut her hair, too. (And, truth be told, we actually cut my son's hair prior to his third birthday because he was getting eye infections from his hair falling into his eyes.)

Though Jason may have been more aware of Judah's growth — and therefore, perhaps, didn't need the ritual in the same way I did — Jewish sources indicate that at least I'm in good company when it comes to being oblivious to being surrounded by sacred moments. For example, in Genesis 28:16, the patriarch, Jacob, awakens from a dream in which he is visited by the God, and declares, "Surely the Divine was in this place and I did not know it!"

Similarly, Moses, when he approached the burning bush, was told by the Divine to take off his shoes, for he was standing on holy ground — something Moses did not appear to be aware of before receiving this memo. One of the blessings of the morning service praises the Divine for opening the eyes of the blind. Judah's *upshern* helped me realize how life cycle rituals are one of the tools that allow the Divine to open our eyes to sacred moments we may have otherwise missed.

Another, perhaps more mainstream, example to

illustrate this idea is a Jewish wedding. According to the Talmud, a Jewish wedding requires the presence of a *minyan*, 10 people, in order to recite the *sheva brachot*, the seven blessings for marriage. Beginning with our sages thousands of years ago, there was an insistence on having community present at a wedding. I would argue that one critical component of having loved ones at a wedding is to open their eyes to the sacred nature of the relationship being sanctified.

As a rabbi, almost all of the wedding couples I work with have been together for years. Most already live together; many have seen each other through life-threatening illnesses or the deaths of family members; some even already have children together. Yet something shifts for those who witness a couple standing together under the *chuppah*, from seeing the relationship as one of a committed couple to that of a sacred union. This relationship was already sacred, of course, yet the ritual allowed all of the loved ones present to see that reality. For those beloveds who make the choice to elope or marry through common law, often family members and friends struggle seeing the couple in a new light, since they were not there to witness the ritual transformation.

One of the many fabulous things about rituals is that they can be relatively simple, and Judaism has so many amazing templates from which to draw. Returning to Judah's *upshern*: I had hoped to craft the perfect ceremony, by asking friends and colleagues for ceremony templates, and, perhaps, even writing some of my own liturgy and then celebrating with a large group of friends and family. But then Covid-19 happened, and not only did we lose the possibility of bringing together a large group, I also lost the free time to plan the ceremony thanks to the our new work-from-home, school-from-home reality.

What the ceremony ended up comprising were simple things I could easily access: a blessing over haircutting from ritualwell.org; the Priestly Blessing, an ancient prayer found in the book of Numbers that asks for the protection and light of the Divine; Shechechyanu, a gratitude blessing for having reached a specific moment; singing "*Simon Tov u'Mazel Tov*," a celebratory song; and a festive "meal" consisting of cupcakes with pink frosting, Judah's favorite.

Though I can't be certain, I would like to think this ritual would have been just as eye-opening if we simply marked this important "first" by just saying the Shechechyanu and eating pink cupcakes. After all, ritual is less about the precise words recited and more about the intention of the moment, allowing us to have our eyes opened to the sacred, which is all around us. *Baruch atah Adonai Pokayach Evrim*, Blessed is the Holy One who opens the eyes of those who do not see.

Become an Ethos Bride



Ethos Bridal, a bridal boutique in Calgary since 1970.

Winner of the Reader's Choice Award 2020.

Exquisite couture designer wedding gowns, bridesmaid, mother of the bride, and a large selection of elegant evening gowns and graduation dresses.


ETHOS BRIDAL
(403) 245 - 4188
908 - 17 Ave. SW

Naama & Anat Bridal Couture

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Ethos Bridal will help make your wedding day a wonderful experience.

By appointment only.
Email service@ethosbridal.com
or call (403) 245 - 4188



Pesach is coming!
Book your holiday greetings online
at albertajewishnews.com

Simchas and Celebrations

Na'amat *Cont. from page 2*

Na'amat Edmonton's annual Sukkah Hop.

According to Bushewsky, there are approximately 35 Na'amat members in Edmonton. Long-time Na'amat Edmonton stalwart Beryl Nahornick believes that at the organization's height, Na'amat membership in Edmonton may have been as high as 150. Nahornick, who once represented the Edmonton Na'amat Council at national board meetings, was effusive in her praise of Susan Inhaber.

"She is great... She did a program at the Western Leadership conference that gave me naches," Nahornick said.

A nice synergy has been developing between Na'amat Calgary and Na'amat Edmonton, aided in large part by the need of both organizations to pivot to online activities in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. This has blurred borders somewhat, easing endeavours such as a Western Leadership Seminar that took place via Zoom last month, bringing Na'amat members in Vancouver, Edmonton, and Calgary together in shared activities.

Na'amat supports an astonishing number of projects in Israel, including the Shalom Day Care in Jaffa – one of 200 Na'amat sponsored day cares in the country. True to its name, the facility cares for both Arab and Jewish children, says Inhaber. Students learn in both Hebrew and Arabic and their holidays are equally observed.

PJs to PJs programs in 24 multi-purpose Na'amat daycares means that parents who are having difficulty coping with parenting can bring their children in their pyjamas during the early morning and pick them up the same way in the evening, knowing that they will be clothed, fed, nurtured and changed back into their pyjamas in time for pickup and bedtime. The multi-purpose centres provide additional supports for parents who are struggling, including the provision of counselling and even take-away meals.

In celebration of her most recent birthday, Inhaber raised funds via Facebook for one of her favourite projects, Ramat Eliyahu in Rishon L'Tzion. A former teacher, Inhaber has a passion for literacy, so she purchased books that could be shared with mainly Ethiopian families, helping to make reading to their youngsters part of their daily routine.

Inhaber has been to Israel four times with Na'amat, each time gaining more insight into the projects supported by Na'amat members in Alberta and across Canada. Examples include the Glickman Centre for the Prevention of Domestic Violence in Israel, the Kanot Youth Village, legal counselling centres, and 17 technological high schools, eight of which serve Arab villages.

According to Inhaber, every three years, Na'amat Canada establishes major capital campaigns in support of worthwhile projects. The 2020-2023 priorities include the Abba Project which is increasing counselling for men in order to improve the situations of families living with domestic violence. Another priority is the addition of new space at the Kanot Youth Village so that the facility, which previously provided only high school classes, can serve students in grades seven through nine.

Supporting such ambitious projects requires significant funds. Calgary and Edmonton Na'amat members have repeatedly risen to the occasion through luncheons, teas, dinners, special events and casinos which – under pre-COVID conditions – were staffed by qualifying charitable organizations every 18 months. Following Na'amat Edmonton's lead, Inhaber was the inaugural casino chair in Calgary.

Casino proceeds and other funds raised through Na'amat initiatives like scholarship galas and annual phone-a-thons support projects in Israel as well as similar local initiatives. Edmonton Na'amat chapters support bursaries at Olds College, MacEwan University and NAIT. In Calgary, Na'amat supports bursaries for second-year students in the Early Childhood Care program at Bow Valley College.



Let us spread the word
for you and celebrate

YOUR
SIMCHAS
WITH ALBERTA JEWISH NEWS

We welcome notices about Weddings, Births,
Bar Mitzvahs and other milestone events,
and offer reduced rates
to help spread the word to the community!

We are happy to be part of the celebration!
For information contact Deb at 780-421-7966
or albertajewishnews@gmail.com.

For the past 23 years, Na'amat Calgary has been engaged in the highly successful School Supplies for Kids program, an initiative through which donors and Na'amat volunteers team up to provide badly needed school supplies for more than 1,000 kids in Calgary area domestic violence shelters. Since its inception in Calgary, the project has been picked up by other Na'amat chapters across Canada, including those in Edmonton. The very popular Na'amat Bingo, which was held annually between 1992 and 2009 was one of Jewish Calgary's most eagerly anticipated annual social events.

In her capacity as national vice president, Susan Inhaber has some ambitious goals. She is seeking to increase Na'amat's membership across the country and will work toward restoring the organization's prominence in Winnipeg while starting chapters in both Saskatchewan and Atlantic Canada. Other plans include growing the donor base and increasing overall exposure to the impressive work done by Na'amat both in Canada and in Israel.

"I'm blown away by the dedication of Na'amat members," says Inhaber. "I've learned so much by becoming part of the leadership."

Inhaber says she is particularly moved as she meets Na'amat veterans in their 70s, 80s and 90s who remain active in the organization. She fondly recalls meeting one woman, now over 100 years of age, who attended a mission in Israel at the age of 90.

"Their power and strength is just amazing," marvels Inhaber. "So is everything they've accomplished."

Inhaber, who already has significant accomplishments under her belt, is looking forward to being a part of new synergies within the world of Na'amat, including an upcoming virtual Scholarship Gala jointly hosted by



A selection of the books that were purchased at the Ramat Eliyahu Day Care in Rishon Le'Tsion with funds provided by Na'amat.

Na'amat Canada and Na'amat USA featuring the iconic Dr. Ruth. The 92 year-old Holocaust survivor and sex therapist became a celebrity in the 1980s with the launch of her radio show Sexually Speaking. The Zoom event takes place on Sunday, March 7 when the diminutive yet larger-than-life Dr. Ruth Westheimer will speak, in part, on education and empowerment of women.

For more information on Na'amat Canada and its programs, go to naamatcanada.com or find them on Facebook at Na'amat Canada. To find out more about Na'amat in Calgary, visit Facebook at Na'amat Canada Calgary. For more about Na'amat in Edmonton, visit Facebook / Na'amat Canada Edmonton.

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

Some Pioneer Women/Na'amat History

Na'amat (formerly Pioneer Women) is the current name of the Labour Zionist women's organization that began in Israel in 1921 as the Moetzet Hapoalot (Council of Working Women).

Pioneer Women was first established in Canada in 1925 shortly after its North American founding in New York City.

The first chapter of Pioneer Women in Edmonton – named for Esther Kramer – was established in Edmonton in 1931. According to documents in the archives of the Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Southern Alberta (JAHSENA) members of the chapter were inspired by Golda Myerson (Golda Meir) with whom they met when she visited Edmonton in 1936.

In its May 25, 1934 issue, the Calgary Herald reported that Mrs. J Joffe [Ruth Joffe] was elected president of the "Palestine Pioneer Women's Organization." Other archives at the Jewish Historical Society of Southern

Alberta (JHSSA) refer to Tillie Shulman and Betty Dvorkin as the Calgary founders of Pioneer Women in 1936 when Golda Myerson is also believed to have visited Calgary, inspiring local women.


During the 1950s, Pioneer Women opened a national office in Canada (1951), elected its first Canadian executive (1956).

In 1965, Pioneer Women in Canada became fully independent.


In 1976, the organization was rebranded in Israel and the diaspora as Na'amat.

Na'amat chapters are currently active in Israel, Canada, the United States, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Peru, Uruguay and Belgium. In 2015, a solidarity mission to Israel brought three busloads of women together representing most of these countries. Na'amat Chapters once also existed in England, France, Australia, Chile and Colombia. According to newly-minted Na'amat Canada Vice President Susan Inhaber, the organization continues its efforts toward increased international connections.

WHEN YOU ARE READY, WE WILL BE HERE, TO CELEBRATE WITH YOU



CARRIAGEHOUSE.NET | 403.253.1101 | SALES@CARRIAGEHOUSE.NET



CARRIAGE HOUSE HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE

NEWLY RENOVATED BALLROOM
KOSHER KITCHEN
CUSTOM MENU DESIGN

from the

Sources

Mysterious Mordecai

by Eliezer Segal

In the annals of English literature, the most prominent bearer of the name “Mordecai” was a Jewish character who played a central role in *Daniel Deronda*, the last novel published by Ms. Mary Ann Evans, better known by her pen name George Eliot.

Mordecai Cohen appears there as the mentor who inspires the novel’s eponymous hero to delve into Jewish tradition and ultimately devote himself to gathering the dispersed Jews into a proud independent nation on their native soil. Eliot’s outspoken anticipation of classic Zionism was published in 1876, some two decades before Herzl’s *The Jewish State*.

Eliot took great care in crafting every detail in her works, so it seems fitting to seek significance in her choice of this particular name for her character. Although she was a rationalist who rejected the dogmatic Christian orthodoxy in which she was raised, the stories and personalities of the Bible strongly influenced her craft. It is therefore not unreasonable to scrutinize *Daniel Deronda* in search of motifs deriving from scriptural sources.

I can think of several possible associations between Mordecai Cohen and his biblical namesake.

The character referred to throughout most of the novel as Mordecai was really named Ezra (Mordecai is his middle name), a designation that he resumes in the closing chapters. This duality of names is not adequately explained, apart from its helping to postpone the discovery of his true identity until the plot is ready for it.

Recent scholarship has argued that the biblical Mordecai and Ezra exemplified contrasting responses to the realities of Jewish exile. Mordecai strove for full integration into the gentile culture, prompting him to serve in the Persian government and even to encourage Esther’s marriage to the heathen monarch. Ezra, by contrast, participated in the return to Zion, the rebuilding of the Temple and restoration of Jewish sovereignty, while insisting that Jewish men divorce their non-Jewish wives.

Perhaps by means of this double naming Eliot wanted to express two different dimensions of the modern Jewish engagement with the outside world: Though the Mordecai-like goal of integration into the broader society might be a desirable one, ultimately it is only a first step toward

fulfilling Ezra’s ideal of an independent polity in which Jews can live according to their own laws and values (in contrast to the eternally “wandering Jew” who was named Ahasuerus in Christian legend).

The book of Esther derives the name of the festival Purim from “*pur*,” referring to the lottery that Haman cast to determine the date of the Jews’ destruction. Indeed, gambling plays an important part in *Daniel Deronda*. The story opens in a casino as Daniel casts a disapproving gaze at the lovely Gwendolen’s roulette-playing. Towards the book’s end, the Jewish heroine Mirah confronts her unscrupulous gambling-addicted father Lapidoth. This seems to reflect the author’s disapproval of passive reliance on chance rather than the exercising of moral autonomy.

Yet the biblical tale and the Victorian novel share a puzzling ambivalence as regards the respective roles of human initiative and supernatural control over the affairs of mortals. The book of Esther contains no explicit mention of G-d, but traditional readers discerned the intricate divine operation behind the scenes in the form of what Nahmanides and other Jewish theologians termed “hidden miracles.” Similarly, Mordecai in *Daniel Deronda* displays an ability to foretell major and minor events with an accuracy that seems prophetic but might derive from his keen psychological insights. By the book’s conclusion numerous serendipitous coincidences reveal themselves to have been necessary for the realization of Mordecai’s plans and the tidy unfolding of this archetypically Victorian storyline. Given Eliot’s ambivalent and changing attitudes toward religion, rationalism and moral responsibility, it is unclear how we are intended to interpret this theme.

There are additional motifs in *Daniel Deronda* that echo those of the Megillah. For instance, the central plot concerns a tragic marital conflict between two strong-willed aristocrats that is reminiscent of the story of Vashti and Ahasuerus.

According to a convention in the Hebrew and Yiddish literature of the Haskalah (Jewish Enlightenment) movement, the name Mordecai—usually paired with the European name Marcus—was assigned to virtuous exponents of enlightened modernity, young men whose Hebrew literacy and commitment to Jewish tradition were combined with proficiency in European culture and,

ideally, to the corridors of political power; even as the ancient Mordecai the Jew had served faithfully in the court of Ahasuerus, and as subsequent “court Jews” had utilized their influence to defend the interests of their coreligionists. These valiant depictions of enlightened Mordecais may have arisen in reaction to a longstanding convention in Purim parodies (*shpiels*) of portraying Mordecai as “Mondrish,” a comical buffoon.

Eliot had before her a tangible embodiment of such an enlightened “Mordecai-Marcus” in the person of her friend Dr. Emanuel Oscar Deutsch, scion of an intensely traditional rabbinic family from Silesia, who became a respected academic authority on Semitic languages and held a position at the British Museum. Deutsch achieved celebrity for an appreciation of the Talmud that he published in an influential English intellectual journal, an article that became a best-seller and succeeded in stemming the generally negative assessments of the Talmud that had been prevalent in British society.

Deutsch was the main source for the novelist’s impressively accurate depictions of Jewish texts and practices, her serious study of Hebrew, and her conversance with efforts to revive autonomous Jewish communal life in Palestine. Like Eliot’s Mordecai, Deutsch was afflicted prematurely with a disease that ended his life early in Alexandria, Egypt, while en route to the land of Israel.

One commentator observed that Eliot’s Mordecai resembles his biblical namesake in that they both awaken the Jewish identities of crypto-Jews—the scriptural Esther who “had not shewed her people nor her kindred,” and Eliot’s Deronda who was previously unaware of his Hebrew lineage.

So too, Deutch’s pupil Mary Ann Evans rose to prominence (under an assumed name) as both a reigning dignitary of English literature and as an influential advocate for the Jewish nation.

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

Upcoming Holocaust Programming in Calgary and Edmonton

By Maxine Fischbein

The January 27 talk by Deborah Lipstadt was a prelude to further Holocaust-related programming in 2021 for both Jewish Calgary and Albertans at large, say Calgary Jewish Federation Holocaust and Human Rights Education Co-Chairs Marnie Bondar and Dahlia Libin.

Holocaust Commemoration

This spring, Calgary Jewish Federation will be expanding on traditional Yom Hashoah programming with Shoah Week, featuring a variety of commemoration and education activities.

On April 7, the day before Yom Hashoah, the Calgary, Edmonton and Winnipeg Jewish Federations are jointly presenting a live virtual talk by Judy Batalion, author of the soon-to-be-published book *The Light of Days: A Narrative History of Jewish Women who Fought the Nazis in Polish Ghettos*.

The inspiring theme of resistance during the Holocaust will once again be prominent on April 8 when Calgary Jewish Federation invites everyone to join in the annual Yom Hashoah commemoration and program. The theme of this year’s program is *After Liberation: Life in the DP Camps*, an exploration of local survivors’ experiences in Displaced Persons’ camps following World War II.

“We are asking survivors and their families to share photos and documents that document local survivors’ experiences in Displaced Persons’ camps during the Holocaust so that we can include their stories,” Bondar said. Submissions should be sent to Bondar and Libin at holocaustedu@jewishcalgary.org.

While Yom Hashoah will once again be observed virtually due to the pandemic, Bondar and Libin say that all the time-honoured components of Calgary’s Yom

Hashoah commemoration will be maintained.

“It is an important and sacred day in our community,” Libin said.

Holocaust Education

The 37th Annual Holocaust Education Symposium will take place online May 3 – 7. The basic format of pre-pandemic symposia has been preserved, including overviews by historians, a film presentation, and the testimony of Holocaust survivors and next generation speakers. This year, schools in both Edmonton and Lethbridge will take part in the virtual program.

Other Holocaust-related presentations take place upon request. Recently, Sylvie Hepner shared the Holocaust testimony of her late uncle, Marcel Segal, in a virtual program presented by the Red Deer Museum. In another recent online presentation, Marnie Bondar and Dahlia Libin spoke to students in the faculty of Social Work at Bow Valley College who are studying intergenerational trauma.

Bondar and Libin are currently in the midst of creating a Holocaust Youth Ambassador Program that will be delivered locally in conjunction with Yad Vashem. Participation will be open to all Calgary youth.

The Calgary Public Library – in partnership with Calgary Jewish Federation – will be providing interactive virtual Holocaust education programs this spring for youth between the ages of 11 and 14 and those between the ages of 15 and 18. Interested youth and parents should watch for details and registration on the Calgary Public Library website. Community members who have not already applied for their free library membership are encouraged to do so. Watch for program details at www.calgarylibrary.ca.

A Holocaust and Human Rights Education initiative

recently linked students at The Calgary Jewish Academy and Halpern Akiva Academy with Holocaust survivors or their surviving spouses through the International Holocaust Remembrance Day Letter Writing Mitzvah Project.

Students’ positive and heartwarming messages helped to break through the isolation caused by COVID-19, said Libin and Bondar, who personally delivered the letters, artwork and other goodies while checking in with survivors and spouses who were thrilled at the outreach.

Faces of Holocaust Survivors

Libin and Bondar have been engaging Holocaust survivors, their families and an army of volunteers in an exciting project that will share the images, experiences and wisdom of Calgary-based Holocaust survivors and those who are connected to our city. The photographic exhibit *Here to Tell: Faces of Holocaust Survivors* will be mounted when it is safe for Calgarians to once again congregate. Both the exhibit and accompanying book will honour living survivors, memorialize those who have passed, and engage subsequent generations in sharing their legacy.

Yad Vashem Virtual Tour

Calgary Jewish Federation is currently organizing a virtual tour of Yad Vashem, Israel’s Holocaust museum. This will be a rare opportunity for participants to get an up-close look at the exhibits and holdings of the museum and research centre despite the pandemic.

Go to jewishcalgary.org for updates on these and other Holocaust education and commemoration programs.

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



To advertise your event or business with Alberta Jewish News, contact Dan at 780-421-7966 or albertajewishnews@shaw.ca

LIKE US on



albertajewishnews.com

FOLLOW US on



@albertajewishnews