



ALBERTA

Jewish NEWS

Publication Mail Agreement Number: 40050628

Volume 33, No. 8

Visit us online at albertajewishnews.com

August 17, 2022

JNF Edmonton honours Robin and Dave Marcus

By Deborah Shatz

JNF Edmonton honoured Robin and Dave Marcus at the 2022 Virtual Negev Gala on August 18 with an outpouring of love, respect and appreciation – combined with a whole lot of humour!

Generally, Negev Gala honourees are surrounded by friends and family at a fancy dinner and there is an outpouring of well-wishing in the room. This year JNF Executive Director Jay Cairns, Reel Mensch Studios president Jared Paull and Negev co-chairs Gaylene Soifer and Jeff Rubin were faced with a daunting task – to show the love that the community feels for Robin and Dave in a virtual event. They definitely rose to the occasion!

Robin Marcus is a beloved Talmud Torah School teacher who has been teaching for 30+ years and has had a positive impact on generations of Edmonton's Jewish students. Outside of her loving family and friends, her passions are the school, the Beth Israel shul and her Na'amat family. Robin's energy level seems to have no limits when she is volunteering her time and talents and her commitment is unparalleled.

Heartfelt testimonials were given in the school playground by current students, parents, former students who are now parents, colleagues and former students who are now colleagues. One by one, community members ranging in age from 6 to 60 explained why they love Robin. Mostly for her kindness and also because she taught them Hebrew and about the Jewish holidays and what it means to be Jewish. Robin is a true community builder and student by student she has taught yiddishkeit and menchlichkeit

Israeli dancing at Edmonton Heritage Festival



The Israel Pavilion powered by JFED and a host of volunteers, was one of the shining stars of Edmonton's Heritage Festival once again this year with two Israeli Dance Groups performing. Pictured above: Maya's Israeli Dance Group delights the festival crowd. Photo by Paula Kirman.

to two generations of Edmontonians.

The outpouring of respect and admiration was abundant for Dave too. Members of the Chevra Kadisha praised his character and his work ethic. The overwhelming consensus was that Dave has a very special blend of kindness and commitment that makes him invaluable when helping people navigate funeral plans while they are grieving from recent loss. Most of them could not imagine the Chevra Kadisha operating without Dave.

Both Robin and Dave are revered for their good-natured volunteering for many of the community organizations in Edmonton.

In addition to the moving testimonials, Jay and Jared called upon prior Negev honourees to touch base on how life has been treating them since their events. The ensuing clips were hilarious – Jacob and Odette Masliyah and Lew and Freya Wasel gave magnificent performances spoofing the glamorous life of award winners – inflated egos and all. Odette says to Jacob, "Robin and Dave are very deserving of this honour, they're so nice." Jacob is quick with his retort, "for now..." suggesting that the honour will go to their heads too.

Continued on page 10

B'nai Brith Calgary celebrates philanthropy

By AJNews staff

Calgary B'nai Brith Lodge #816 is pleased to be hosting its signature annual dinner on September 22, onsite at the Beth Tzedec Synagogue, following a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19. A hybrid event is also being offered online for those who want to attend virtually.

The event is guaranteed to be both engaging and entertaining with highly esteemed honourees Mayor Jyoti Gondek, who was sworn in as Calgary Mayor in October 2021, and Ambassador David L. Cohen, who assumed his post as US Ambassador to Canada in December.

Also being honoured at the dinner is Max Lipsman, former Executive Director of Beth Tzedec Congregation (2010 – 2021) and former Director of Camp BB-Riback (1999 – 2010).

The dinner, emceed by local media celebrity and philanthropist Dave Kelly, is expected to attract a big crowd, says BB Calgary President Darren Bondar.

"We are so pleased to be able to come together and

gather once again," says Bondar. "In the spirit of the 100-year history of Calgary B'nai Brith Lodge, the event will be a celebration of community and philanthropy. In addition to hearing from our exceptional honourees, proceeds from the event will be going to the Calgary Food Bank and Miriam's Well/Wynne's Pantry at Jewish Family Service Calgary and will allow us to support many other charities throughout the year."

Much has changed since B'nai Brith was established as an all-male fraternity, notes Bondar. The organization is now egalitarian and an increasing number of women have become active members.

The B'nai Brith Lodge is renowned for paying tribute to distinguished individuals at their annual dinner and this year's honourees are also exceptional.

Over the past eight months Calgary Mayor Jyoti Gondek has demonstrated her considerable leadership skills. Prior to being elected as mayor, she served as city councillor for Ward 3 from 2017 to 2021. She holds a Ph.D. in urban sociology, and an M.A. in organizational sociology.



Calgary Mayor Jyoti Gondek

Ambassador David L. Cohen

Many challenges face Calgarians including the economic recovery, climate crisis, lack of affordable housing, truth and reconciliation, and women's participation in the labour force. Mayor Gondek believes that solutions to these issues must be bold, and rooted in economic, social, and environmental resilience.

Throughout her career, Mayor Gondek has been known to be a driven community builder and

Continued on page 8

Who's gonna win Maccabiah?

By Danyael Halprin

For three weeks every summer from the age of eight to 15 I attended Camp Hatikvah in the Okanagan, British Columbia. One of the most anticipated times of camp was Maccabiah, a highly spirited, competitive three-day sports event. By the end everyone had lost their voices from cheering so loudly. In a call and response, we yelled: "Who's gonna win Maccabiah? We're gonna win!"

It was years later when I learned that the camp's Maccabiah was modeled after a real version. The Maccabiah Games are the third largest multi-sport event by number of competitors, after the Olympics and the Asian Games, held every four years in Israel since 1932. Featuring all of the Olympic sports, as well as chess, cricket, netball, and futsal, it hosts 10,000 Jewish athletes from 70+ countries and Israeli citizens of all religions. There are also quadrennial Maccabi Games in Pan-America, Europe and Australia.

The Maccabiah Games are named as an homage to Judah Maccabee. In 166 BCE he led an army of Jewish rebel warriors to overthrow the Seleucid Empire, which had issued decrees forbidding Jewish religious practice and forcing the worship of Greek gods.

After spotting a poster in the Calgary Jewish Community Centre last summer promoting the 21st Maccabiah Games, I set my intentions to go. *Yalla!* I was named to Team Canada's track & field open division to compete in the 10K road race in Jerusalem. This would be my second trip to Israel since Biliun 1989.

Once the 600-member Canadian delegation arrived in Israel - the junior village was located in Haifa, the masters in Netanya, and the open athletes in Jerusalem - the Maccabiah Games officially began on July 14, 2022 with the Opening Ceremonies in Jerusalem's Teddy Stadium. I'm proud to say that the diaspora is strong and thriving and it was thrilling to meet Jews from India, Uruguay, Kyrgyzstan, and The Bahamas.

Our flag bearers were Calgary twins Nick and Conaire Taub, outside hitters for U18 men's volleyball (silver). This was the brothers' second Maccabiah after being bar mitzvahed at the Kotel at the last Games. The third flag bearer was Toronto's Molly Tissenbaum, goalie of open women's hockey (gold), making its debut



Canada entering Jerusalem's Teddy Stadium at the Opening Ceremonies. Photo courtesy of Maccabiah Canada.

at Maccabiah. Tissenbaum had previously competed at Maccabiah in softball.

Esh, the torch was lit, and we proudly sung *Hatikvah*. Later in the ceremonies we solemnly observed Israel's fallen soldiers, the Israeli athletes murdered in the 1972 Munich Summer Olympics, and the four Australian athletes who were killed when a temporary bridge collapsed on their walk into the Opening Ceremonies in Tel Aviv at the 1997 Maccabiah Games.

High up in the stands in a popemobile-like enclosure were Israel's President Isaac Herzog, Prime Minister Yair Lapid, and US President Joe Biden. Biden spoke with the 1,400-member US delegation before the ceremonies; he is the first US president to attend Maccabiah.

The next night, the first Shabbat of our trip, two rabbis and their families led the service at our hotel for the athletes. Originally from Los Angeles, Rabbi Menachem Solomon gave a sermon about four rabbis debating what the most important line was in the Torah. The fourth rabbi said it was when a man took a goat to be sacrificed every day, once in the morning and then again in the evening. "It's about the value of consistency," the rabbi explained. Success in all things comes from consistency. You don't practice your sport only when you're in the mood or when the weather suits you. You will reap rewards from the devotion to your task.

My track team was a motley crew, ranging in age from 19 to 71 and competing in distances from 100

metres to the half marathon. But somehow we worked; we became a team, dare I say, a family, cheering each other on and looking out for each other. We were lucky to have Chartered Performance Coach John Stevenson of Ontario to juggle our different needs and navigate the typical Israeli *balagan* to get us to our respective start lines. In addition to being a National Starter, Stevenson is the new head coach of cross-country at Fanshawe College in London, Ontario.

Our roles quickly became defined. University of Toronto's Ben Shore supplied the melatonin and won the most medals (3); Toronto's half marathoner Vadim Gouterman did excellent race route recon; Toronto's Nathan Beber, a second year student in the sport management program at the University of Michigan, was the mensch and youngest member of the team.

My new BFF is Toronto's Phyllis Berck, a marathon champ who competed in the Maccabiah 10K. Berck worked for five years with the Calgary Olympics Organizing Committee, the 2015 Pan Am Organizing Committee, and was the chair of national women and sports organization CAAWS. She was cheered on by her husband Bruce Kidd, the 1964 Summer Olympics runner who regaled us with stories about sports, history, and his work in advocating for athletes' rights in gender, racism, homophobia, and transgender, for which he was made an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2014.

Meanwhile, we were all catering to the icing needs of our diva sprinter Alex Manuel of Ottawa for his

Continued on page 11



She's been one of Calgary's top selling Real Estate Agents for years. She has valuable experience working within Calgary's Inner City Real Estate market, and she understands every client is as unique as their home.

Tanya takes the time to listen; to understand your wants and needs. She doesn't expect your trust, Tanya earns it by consistently remaining honest, accessible and tenacious. That's what sets Tanya apart.

The Tanya Eklund Group was founded on Tanya's principles. The professionals within her group don't work for Tanya - they work for you, the client. They provide unparalleled expertise, skill and service to Calgary's inner city.

And their clients know it.

"Connect with me today - about your real estate needs for tomorrow"

RE/MAX
REAL ESTATE (CENTRAL)

THE TANYA
EKLUND
GROUP



Direct 403-863-7434

www.tanyaeklundgroup.ca

B"H

18.50 Ticket

August 20th
2023 draw date

*Y.E.S. KOSHER Friendship Circle Alberta Raffle of the Year

1. Trip to Israel 3- Two Beautiful
2. \$1000.00 cash mezuzahs with cases



***TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED FOR 18 YRS AND UP. BY AN ALBERTA RESIDENT.
NOT RELATED TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. MAIN WINNER GETS TO CHOOSE THEIR PRIZE.
LICENSE #607301. TICKETS 1,081**

GEMACH




☆ Do you have a spare menorah, gragger or dreidel?
 Winter coats and boots? ☆ Table cloths and scarves?
 ☆ Wedding gowns?
 Want to share a recipe, to chat, help pack? ☆
 Come by our warehouse Sunday - Friday and enjoy
 a complimentary coffee with a Kosher Bite.
 ☆ Call for times. ☆



587. 917. 3434 Shalomalberta.ca



My Jewish Heritage series

NEW

**in time for Rosh Hashona
MY JEWISH HEROES**

We produce children's books and educational videos.



Check out our youtube  Channel: "Wits Yeshiva of Canada"

| EDMONTONKOSHER@GMAIL.COM |
*PART OF WITS YESHIVA OF CANADA



Empower women to break the cycle of violence in Canada and Israel

By Rebecca Bowslough and Simon Williams

Due to the COVID-19 government shutdowns and mandatory quarantines, domestic violence increased significantly across the globe over the past two years. The drastic increase in intimate partner and domestic abuse has been coined the “Shadow Pandemic” by the United Nations. In Canada, one woman is killed in a violent act every three days. Legal Aid Alberta (LAA) reported a rise of 17 per cent since 2018 for emergency protection orders (EPO) that protect people facing domestic violence and remove the abuser from the family home.

In Israel, the situation is just as critical: in the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, 20,140 domestic violence complaints were lodged with police, an increase of 12% from the previous year. In fact, 12

women have been murdered in the first six months of this year.

True to its mission, CHW is leading the way to empower women by stepping up emergency support and services at this critical time. Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW) is launching the second annual S.O.S – Starting Over Safely summer campaign, with proceeds helping to empower victims of domestic violence in Canada and Israel.

One of the most frightening things about domestic abuse is that half of the women murdered by their partners never experienced physical violence before. Domestic violence can happen to anyone, anywhere, anytime. This year, through a new partnership with Michal Sela Forum, CHW is also promoting an awareness campaign to help women understand the warning signs in a relationship.



Chava. Photo by Mickey Noam-Alon

S.O.S – Starting Over Safely 2022 has three campaign priorities, including Franny’s Fund in Canada and WIZO Programs and the Michal Sela Forum in Israel. The following campaign goals will empower at-risk women and children to break the cycle of violence in Canada and Israel:

- Provide financial help for parents and families in need of an urgent response.
- Provide access to critical resources such as legal counsel and counselling services.
- Provide women and their children with the basic essentials to start over safely.
- Empower women and their children by providing financial help, social and personal support, employment support, and a network of other women in similar circumstances.
- Provide women and their children with specially trained canine protection
- Fund respite summer camp experiences for at-risk youth

CHW CEO, Lisa Colt-Kotler said, “CHW strongly believes that every human being deserves the right to achieve their full potential, while living in safety and security. You have the power to empower.”

The 2022 fundraising goal is \$350,000. All funds donated will be matched three more times by a community of dedicated donors recognized as “Matching Heroes” during the 27-hour campaign, which kicks off at 12 PM ET on Tuesday, August 23, 2022. During the crowdfunding period, each gift donated on the website www.chwsos.ca is quadrupled.

To donate or learn more, visit www.chwsos.ca.

Founded by visionary Jewish women in 1917, Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW) is a non-political, non-partisan, national network of dedicated volunteers who believe that excellence and advancement of education, healthcare, and social services transcends politics, religion, and national boundaries. Learn more about CHW at www.chw.ca.

Calgary CHW leads march

By Jeremy Appel

Supporters of Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW) walked with a purpose on August 15 and 16 — to support women and children who are victims of domestic violence in Canada and Israel.

Dorothy Hanson, the president of CHW’s Calgary chapter, told *AJNews* about 50 people attending the first day of the walk, which raised about \$9,000 for CHW’s partners at home and abroad.

Meeting at South Glenmore Park, attendees, including men, women, children and pets, walked together with purple balloons - the “colour for this cause,” Hanson said - while she stayed back at a table with water, coffee, muffins and other treats.

Some people approached the table to ask what was going on and when Hanson told them they handed her money to support the cause.

“It was a great community event. There were Jewish people and non-Jewish people,” she said.

The walk is part of CHW’s Starting Over Safely (SOS) summer campaign, which began last year specifically to support victims of domestic violence.

Hanson said the pandemic highlighted the

Continued on page 8

ONE OF THESE WOMEN IS A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.



CAN YOU TELL WHICH ONE?

EMPOWER WOMEN TO
BREAK THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE:

CHWSOS.CA



Globally, 1 in 3 women experience physical or sexual violence by a partner. Visit CHWSOS.CA to empower women and children in Canada and Israel.



Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW) empowers women and children by supporting education, healthcare, and social services across Israel and Canada.

Beth Tzedec: Re-engaging the congregation in the New Year

By Maxine Fischbein

Beth Tzedec's new education director is not getting much sleep. The father of three young sons, one of whom was born very recently, Ari Cohen's life - while full of blessing - has been hectic.

But when the native Calgarian talks about his work at Beth Tzedec, he exudes boundless energy and excitement as he provides a tour of the wonderland he will soon be creating on the Synagogue's lower level with the help of lots of little hands.

Devoted to integrating and vivifying Jewish education as a learner-focused experience, Cohen is mapping the spaces in which young congregants attending High Holidays services and Shul School will re-create the creation story and journey through Torah stories.

In the background are the bones of spectacular sukkot that were envisioned, designed and built by architecture students at the University of Calgary in contests commissioned by Beth Tzedec between 2012 and 2016.

Each year, the winning sukkah was erected adjacent

to the Synagogue's halakhic sukkah. In 2017 all five sukkot were once again celebrated as the highly-successful project reached its conclusion.

The sukkot were displayed elsewhere - most notably at Calgary's St. Mary's University - and then stored. Now, it is Cohen's intention to repurpose them, sparking the imaginations of Beth Tzedec's youngest congregants.

Cohen, who assumed his role on May 2, was born and raised in Calgary. He attended The Calgary Jewish Academy through Grade 6, enjoying summers at Camp Hatikvah, BB Camp in Lake of the Woods and Camp BB (now known as Camp BB Riback) at Pine Lake.

The son of Dr. Jim Cohen and the late Marley Rynd, Ari grew up in the Shaarey Tzedec and Beth Tzedec Congregations. He was called to the BTZ bimah as Bar Mitzvah and he and his wife, Stephanie, were wed at the Synagogue.

Armed with a Bachelor of Arts from McGill University and a Master of Arts in Workplace and Adult Learning from the University of Calgary, Cohen looks forward to completing his Ph.D. in adult learning at the U of C.

A proponent of lifelong learning, Cohen is in the

midst of developing curricula for Shul School, the B'nai Mitzvah Program and Adult Education at Beth Tzedec. He is also gearing up to participate in the ritual life of the Synagogue by leading religious services from time to time and assisting Rabbi Cantor Russell Jayne in training B'nai Mitzvah students.

"We feel fortunate to welcome Ari to the Beth Tzedec team," said Congregational President Lorne Pearl when the Synagogue announced Cohen's appointment. "He is passionate about Jewish education and philosophy."

"Ari will help us achieve our ambitious educational goals, serving every segment of the congregation and expanding on the highly successful range of offerings implemented by Engagement Director Jonah Potasznik," said Beth Tzedec spiritual leader Rabbi Cantor Russell Jayne.

Potasznik, who is currently on paternity leave, will return to Calgary together with his wife, Angy Cohen, and their recently-born son in November.

Among his many initiatives, Potasznik is the architect of a new initiative - BTZ Pods.

The goal is to unite groups of eight to 10 families in Beth Tzedec "neighbourhoods" that are microcosms of the areas in which they live. The Synagogue will provide some technical, financial and social resources to support the pods, which will be launched with one or two trial pods this year.

Continued on page 17



SUNDAY ARTS and SPORTS ULPANS

Most Sundays September-June
Beginning September 18
11:00am-12:00pm
Ages 5 - 11 (Kindergarten - Grade 5)
Congregants \$250/Guests \$500

Kids choose their Arts or Sports journey!



ARTS ULPAN

Child-centered visual and performing arts activities spark creativity as kids learn and incorporate Hebrew phrases and words in a fun-filled program featuring art, singing and skits and culminating in student-created showcases like concerts, plays and art exhibitions.

SPORTS ULPAN

Team sports including soccer, baseball, gaga and other games will keep kids active as they develop and hone their teambuilding skills. Hebrew words and phrases will be introduced during drills and encouraged throughout play.



SHUL SCHOOL 2.0

Most Sundays September-June
Beginning September 11
9:30am-12:00pm
Ages 5 - 11 (Kindergarten - Grade 5)
Congregants \$360/Guests \$720



Kids can join their friends and make new ones while enjoying their favourite activities in this arts- and games-based journey through Jewish history, stories and holidays and Hebrew language. The program is open to all kids, including those attending Jewish day schools, and provides a smooth transition into the Beth Tzedec B'nai Mitzvah program.

Two programs for the price of one!
Your Shul School experience now includes our Sunday Arts and Sports Ulpans!

B'NAI MITZVAH PROGRAM

Tuesdays
Beginning September 6
4:00-5:30pm
Grades 6 and 7
Annual tuition \$500.00

This program prepares young adults for Bar/Bat Mitzvah and life beyond!

Meaningful and fun group classes and one-on-one lessons help students build proficiency and confidence in Jewish ritual and prayer while exploring the fascinating worlds of:

- Jewish Theology
- Torah Analysis
- Jewish Practice



WWW.BETHTZEDEC.CA • info@bethtzedec.ca • 403-255-8688

Questions? Contact us at info@bethtzedec.ca or 403-255-8688.

Ready to register? Visit our website at www.bethtzedec.ca.



A L'Hitraot BBQ, hosted by Beth Israel, was held on August 14 at Westridge Park in Edmonton to bid farewell to Rabbi and Penina Claman and their family. Best wishes to the Claman family as they start a new chapter of their lives in Montreal. Photos courtesy Jodi Zabłudowski

Shalom v'Shalom at Beth Israel

By Deborah Shatz

As one door closes, another one opens and that is certainly the case at Edmonton's Beth Israel Congregation this month. This was Rabbi Zolly Claman's last Shabbat in Edmonton, and an announcement was recently made that Rabbi Guy Tal has been hired as Beth Israel's new spiritual leader.

On behalf of the congregation Beth Israel President Shane Asbell bid the Claman family farewell and wished them safe travels as they start a new chapter of their lives with the Congregation Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem in Montreal.

"We will miss Rabbi Zolly, Rebbetzin Penina, Adina, Chaya, and little Elisha dearly," wrote Asbell. "The Claman's have made a deep impact at Beth Israel and in the greater Jewish Community. From a congregational perspective we will miss Rabbi Claman's wonderful, insightful, and inspirational Shabbat morning drashot, his informative shirium, and his personable and positive personality."

"Rabbi Claman your easy and winning smile can light up a person and even a full room of people," continued Asbell. "Personally like for many of you, Rabbi Claman has become a good friend and confidant. Rabbi Claman was instrumental in establishing AJP@TT, Ancillary Judaic Program at Talmud Torah, and was one of its teachers in its inaugural year in 2021-2022.

"From the Asbell family, and from the entire congregation at BI, The Family Shul, we wish you, Penina, and your children good health, much success, joy, and prosperity in Montreal."

Rabbi Claman said goodbye to the community at a special Barbecue held in his honour at Westridge Park on August 14.

He expressed his feelings about the congregation in a message last month. He wrote, "Penina and I are deeply grateful for the friendships forged throughout our 4 years in this special community. Since 2018, our time here in Edmonton has been deeply fulfilling and meaningful. We are sad to be leaving but are really excited about the opportunities that await us.

"Edmonton has been such an ideal place to raise Adina and Chaya and to welcome Elisha into this world and into toddlerhood – which at this point he has absolutely mastered. We

will forever cherish the lessons learned and the friendships formed."

"I am indebted to the shul leadership and the entire membership for their support and for their trust in me," continued Rabbi Claman.

"One emotion that has definitely been the strongest out of the bag of mixed emotions is that of gratitude. We feel blessed to have been a part of the community and know that we have made so many lifelong friendships while we were here.

"I hope and pray that Hashem will shower the Edmonton Jewish community with blessings in all realms."

Meanwhile, President Asbell also announced that Rabbi Guy Tal will be joining the Beth Israel family as spiritual leader in September.

Rabbi Tal is an Israeli born, raised and trained Rabbi. He studied at Yeshivat Hesder Dimona and Yeshivat Gvoah Har Hamor and received his Rabbinic Ordination from the Chief Rabbinate of Israel. He served in the IDF's Golani Brigade.

Rabbi Tal has a BA in Education (Bible and Oral Law) from Michlala in Jerusalem, a MA in Jewish Studies from Hebrew University (Mexico City campus) and will soon be defending his PhD Thesis in "History of Ideas" from the Pan American University in Mexico City.

He has extensive Rabbinic and teaching experience having led congregations and taught in schools in Caracas Venezuela, Mexico City, Mexico, and in Athens, Greece. Rabbi Tal is married to Fentaye, a nurse, and has seven beautiful children.

To the entire Tal family - welcome to Edmonton!

They didn't know we were seeds

Carol Wylie



ABOUT THE EXHIBIT

They didn't know we were seeds is a series of portraits of nine Holocaust survivors and nine Residential School survivors. It is intended to acknowledge these extraordinary people who endured and survived unbelievable mistreatment and to find a way to preserve the personal nature of these memories. Through portraits of individual survivors, the series aims to create a silent dialogue between Jewish survivors and Indigenous survivors.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Carol is a painter whose work focuses on portraiture and figuration. Themes of identity, consciousness, and human interconnectedness run through her work. She holds an MFA from the Vermont College of Fine Arts and BFA and BA (Psychology) from the University of Saskatchewan. Carol resides in Saskatoon, SK and works in art education at Remai Modern in addition to teaching drawing and painting privately. She was a finalist in the Kingston Portrait Prize 2015 and the Salt Spring National Art Prize 2021 and is a member of the Studio on 20th art collective.

Stanley A. Milner Library
September 29 - November 25
jewishedmonton.org



Beth Israel's Family Favorite Recipes The Family Shul Cook Book - A collection of recipes with family notes

As we moved through Covid, and travel and sharing meals with family and friends was on hold, we all had a lot more time for home cooking. We noticed an invigorated love of sharing recipes for Yom Tov, Shabbat, and weekday meals. Be it sourdough bread, slow cooked meats, sushi, and many other types of dishes - lots of sharing of recipes was going on!

We also sadly noted the passing of so many people and were touched by one community member who, not long before their passing, had shared a description of some of their Yom Tov cooking being prepared to "drop-off" at a family member's.

So, to mark this moment in time, and in the tradition of some fantastic Jewish Edmonton Community Cookbooks over the years, Beth Israel began to collect family favorites, once a month for Shabbat Mevarchim, the Shabbat that precedes each new Jewish month. This active collection of recipes will be going on until Rosh Hashanah with the target production/distribution of the "The Family Shul Cook Book" for Chanukah 2022.

Each recipe will feature the Family name, full recipe and special notes, and full color picture.

Send your Family Favorite Recipe to sylvia@familyshul.org and share the love of great kosher home cooking!

Come one come all for *Brunch and Broadway!*



Rachel Zatoeff

By Susan Schiffman

Jewish Federation of Edmonton will kick-off the 2022/23 United Jewish Appeal (UJA) Campaign at the Fantasyland Ballroom with a fun, festive celebration that you don't want to miss on Sunday, September 18. Join us to pay tribute to the remarkable philanthropic couple, Dianne and Irving Kipnes, and to get ready for the upcoming UJA Campaign.

The Federation is thrilled to have this opportunity to recognize Dianne and Irv for the monumental impact they have had on the strength, vitality, and quality of life in our Jewish community. Among the most influential and largest life-time donors to Edmonton UJA, both Dianne and Irv have also served as campaign chairs, and the couple has made lead gifts to UJA, year after year. They have had a transformative impact on countless other Jewish organizations and people in Edmonton, Canada, Israel and, recently, Ukraine, as well. Through their extraordinary efforts and generosity, they have set an example for others and ensured the stability and future of our Jewish community. We will celebrate their contributions through remarks, videos, songs, and other tributes at this joyous event.

We have some superb entertainment in store for our honorees and guests. Irv Kipnes, like so many of us, is a huge fan of Broadway show tunes. With that in mind, the Federation invited the young Jewish Broadway star, Rachel Zatoeff, to perform. Originally trained as an opera singer, Rachel made her debut as Christine Daaé in *Phantom of the Opera*, and then starred as Maria in the international tour of *West Side Story*. Most recently she played Tsaytl, off-Broadway, in the Yiddish version of *Fiddler on the Roof*. She will sing favorites from *Cabaret*, *South Pacific*, *Carousel*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *West Side Story*. Rachel has a beautiful voice, a big heart and a great sense of humor. We guarantee she will bring the house down.

At the event, the Jewish Federation will also recognize another much-respected community member through the presentation of the Dianne and Irving Kipnes Kavod Award. Established in 2019 by the Federation, the award recognizes an individual or organization for exceptional generosity and commitment to the Edmonton Jewish community. This year's winner is someone very dear to many hearts in Jewish Edmonton. When we announce the recipient, there will be a lot of applause.

Come help us fill the house. After three long, hard years without a live UJA launch event, the Jewish Federation wants to draw people from all corners of the community to a big, fun, upbeat party. Like any proper Jewish celebration, there will be lots of yummy food (all kosher) and time to schmooze. We urge young parents to come enjoy themselves. Free babysitting is available. The event will take place on Sunday, September 18, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Fantasyland Hotel. Tickets are on sale for \$36 at jewishedmonton.org.

Susan Schiffman is Director of Development at Jewish Federation of Edmonton.

Aviv Dancers perform at Edmonton Heritage Festival



Thanks to Christina Reboh, Jay Cairns and their team of JFED volunteers, the Israeli Pavilion was one of the most popular at the 2022 Edmonton Heritage Festival. The Aviv Dancers kept audiences dazzled with their vibrant costumes and beautiful choreography. Photos by Natalie Soroka.

Beth Shalom Congregation Congregational Meeting

Members, Past Members and Jewish Community Members are invited to discuss the Beth Shalom Congregation's future

FUTURE

Date: Sunday, September 11

Time: 11:00am-noon

Place: Lower Auditorium





Our new board wants to get your input on some practical issues as we consider where we are, where we've been, and where we'd like to be in the future. Please join us for a presentation and discussion at Beth Shalom.

Please join us for the United Jewish Appeal Campaign Launch


BRUNCH AND BROADWAY

Honouring Dianne & Irving Kipnes

Sunday, September 18, 2022, 10:30 a.m.
Brunch and Broadway Review, **STARRING RACHEL ZATCOFF**
Fantasyland Hotel Ballroom

TICKETS \$36
jewishedmonton.org



Calgary CHW leads march to support victims of violence



Calgary CHW sponsored a walk at South Glenmore Park to support victims of violence. Photo by Irena Karshenbaum.

Calgary CHW *Cont. from page 4*

importance of assisting those fleeing domestic abuse, which has been called the “shadow pandemic” because of a shroud of silence that surrounds it as a result of stigma.

“One of the many unfortunate things that happened during COVID was the fact that women and children were stuck at home with their abusers, so domestic abuse rose sharply during COVID,” she said.

“In my mind, it is more important than ever to shine light on this shadow pandemic and make sure people

realize that it is still out there and more prevalent than ever, and that we need to help women.”

Franny’s Fund founder Rebecca Snukal, who’s chairing the SOS campaign this year, told AJNews she suggested some of the campaign’s proceeds go towards helping survivors in Canada, in addition to Israel.

“While it’s wonderful for us in Canada to raise money for Israel, there’s a significant need within our own local community to support families either going through the justice system, or to at least have the encouragement to even go through the justice system by knowing that there’s resources in place to assist,” said Snukal.

At the walk, Snukal delivered an impassioned speech “about how people of good heart and strong conviction have used walks and marches to focus attention on important goals throughout history,” she said, referring to the women’s suffrage and civil rights movements.

A 27-hour crowdfunding campaign dubbed “Matching Heroes” kicks off Aug. 27, with the eponymous heroes chipping in funds to quadruple the amount of money raised that day.

Jeremy Appel is a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter.

Philanthropy *Cont. from page 1*

diversity champion who understands the power of cross-sector partnerships where business, social organizations, and educational institutions are connected to local governments to better serve the people.

Before his appointment as U.S. Ambassador to Canada, David L. Cohen served as Senior Advisor to the CEO at Comcast Corporation as of January 1, 2020.

He was previously Senior Executive Vice President at Comcast, where his portfolio included corporate communications, legal affairs, government and regulatory affairs, public affairs, corporate administration, corporate real estate and security, and community impact. Cohen also served as the company’s first chief diversity officer.

Before starting with Comcast in July 2002, Cohen served as a partner in and Chairman of Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP, one of the 100 largest law

firms in the U.S. From January 1992 to April 1997, he served as Chief of Staff to the Honorable Edward G. Rendell, the Mayor of the City of Philadelphia.

Cohen grew up in Highland Park, a New Jersey town with a high percentage of Jewish residents. He graduated with a B.A. from Swarthmore College in 1977 and with a J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School *summa cum laude* in 1981. Cohen has received numerous honors and recognitions, including Honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from the University of Pennsylvania and Drexel University. Prior to his appointment to Ottawa, he lived in Philadelphia with his wife.

Over the years, Cohen served on many non-profit boards, including as vice-chairman of the board of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia.

“Federation involvement is in my DNA,” he told the *Jewish Exponent* of Philadelphia in 2013. “In my family, it would be unthinkable not to be involved in Federation and the Jewish community.”

In addition to fine dining and great company, the 70th Annual Calgary B’nai Brith Dinner will include a live auction, silent auction and 50/50 draw.

The 70th Annual B’nai Brith Dinner takes place at Beth Tzedec Synagogue on Thursday, September 22, beginning with cocktails at 5:30 pm followed by dinner at 7 pm. Tickets are \$300 per person for dinner attendees or \$180 per person for online access. A wide variety of sponsorship and program advertising opportunities are available. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit bnaibrithcalgary.org.

70TH Annual

B'NAI BRITH

Dinner

CALGARY B'NAI BRITH LODGE NO. 816
CALGARY MENORAH FOUNDATION

OFFICIAL AIRLINE SPONSOR

HONOURING

Mayor Jyoti Gondek
CITY OF CALGARY

Ambassador David L. Cohen
U.S. AMBASSADOR TO CANADA

Max Lipsman
Ben Docktor Award of Excellence Recipient

Thursday, September 22nd, 2022
5:30pm Cocktails | 7:00pm Dinner

BETH TZEDEC SYNAGOGUE
1325 Glenmore Trail SW, Calgary, Alberta

Tickets: \$300.00
CRA Registered Charity #88893 8461 RT0001

In Support of Calgary Food Bank & Miriam’s Well/Wynne’s Pantry

For more information on reserved corporate tables and sponsorships visit bnaibrithcalgary.org, email bbcalgary@telus.net or call 403.255.6554.

*On behalf of myself
and my family,
I would like to
thank you all
for your condolences
and the outpouring
of love and support
on the loss of
my dear husband Mike.*

*As always,
Annabelle Bondar*



Israel Ambassador to Canada Dr. Ronen Hoffman and Premier Jason Kenney are pictured above with Hillel and JAC leaders Hannah Giesinger, Hannah Silver, Ishmaeli Trepanier, LeeAnn Grisaru and Danielle Braitman. Also pictured are Jewish Federation of Edmonton CEO Stacey Leavitt-Wright, Calgary Jewish Federation CEO Adam Silver and a number of Alberta politicians, CIJA representatives, and community leaders from both Edmonton and Calgary. Photos: Converge Studios, courtesy Calgary Jewish Federation.

Jewish Tam at Spuds and Suds Calgary Stampede Breakfast

By Maxine Fischbein

After a two-year drought due to COVID-19, the Spuds and Suds Stampede Breakfast, held at the Hyatt Hotel in downtown Calgary brought politicians, staffers, academics, Rabbis and other professional and lay community leaders together for a rip-roaring time on parade day, Friday July 8.

A collaboration of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), Canadian Jewish Political Affairs Committee (CJPAC), Calgary Jewish Federation, and Jewish Federation of Edmonton, the annual festive event felt like Chanukah in July as Jewish community leaders – including representatives from Hillel and JAC (Jewish Adult Calgary) – hobnobbed with local, provincial and federal leaders and leadership candidates from across the political spectrum. All enjoyed Stampede fare with Jewish tam, including mini latkes and lox, and entertainment by the Calgary Police Pipe Band and the Calgary Fiddlers.

Attendees got to say howdy and shalom to Israel's Ambassador to Canada, His Excellency Dr. Ronen Hoffman, Alberta Premier Jason Kenney, Alberta NDP and Opposition Leader Rachel Notley, Calgary Mayor Jyoti Gondek and a host of federal and provincial Conservative Party leadership candidates, Calgary and Edmonton city councillors, Alberta MLAs and MPs from Alberta and beyond.

Jewish Federation of Edmonton “Sheriff” (AKA CEO) Stacey Leavitt-Wright and her posse of nine Federation leaders saddled up for the event for the first time as sponsors. But given the partnerships already forged between Leavitt-Wright, Calgary Federation “Marshal” (CEO) Adam Silver and their colleagues and friends in cattle country, it was certainly not Edmonton’s first rodeo!

“We brought a minyan,” quipped Leavitt-Wright, who described Spuds and Suds is “...a fun and well-executed event.”

“It was wonderful to help represent Edmonton and continue building the relationships we have established with our colleagues and invited guests, added Leavitt Wright. “It galvanizes my team, who were excited about it.”

Spuds and Suds provides a casual and fun opportunity to continue

Jewish Alberta and Canada’s long-standing tradition of engagement and advocacy.

Yahoo—and L’Chaim to that!

Maxine Fischbein is a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter.



REGISTER NOW for the CJHL

Interested in placing ice hockey with other members of the Jewish community?
The Calgary Jewish Hockey League plays Sunday evenings from September through early April.

The CJHL is now open for registration for the 2022 - 23 season. The non-contact league is open to adults of all skill levels looking to join a fun and organized hockey league with games once per week.

Participants can expect most games to be played in the southwest at Oakridge Arena.

For more information and/or to register please contact JHLYYC@gmail.com



Kehilat Shalom

High Holiday Services 2022 - 5783

**Services In-Person with
Rabbi Leonard Cohen**

PLEASE RESERVE EARLY

Erev Rosh Hashanah	Sun - Sept. 25, 2022 7:15 pm - 8:30 pm
Rosh Hashanah Day 1	Mon - Sept. 26, 2022 9:30 am - 1:30 pm
Tashlich (at Heritage Park)	Mon - Sept. 26, 2022 4:30 pm - 5:15 pm
Rosh Hashanah Day 2	Tues - Sept. 27, 2022 9:30 am - 1:30 pm
Erev Yom Kippur Kol Nidre	Tues - Oct. 04, 2022 6:45 pm - 9:15 pm
Yom Kippur Morning	Wed - Oct. 05, 2022 9:30 am - 2:00 pm
Yom Kippur Minch/Ne'ila	Wed - Oct. 05, 2022 5:30 am - 7:55 pm

Children's Program each morning 10:00 am

Masks will be available at the door

High Holidays - 1 yr membership included

Adults \$660 - Family \$1250

Children Under 18 free

For Membership assistance contact Sam Fishman:
Phone: 403-613-1848 Services will be held at
E-mail: info@ksocalgary.org Calgary JCC
Web: www.ksocalgary.org 1607- 90 Ave SW

JNF honours *Cont. from page 1*

Lew barks orders to Jay, his new driver to take him to Starbucks and when the order is slow he says, "Don't they know who I am?"

The humour continues with Annie Sobel doing a delightful parody of her mom Robin and Max Marcus featuring the amazing clothing and hat stylings of Dave. They both provide laugh out loud moments.

The event is emceed by Mike Sobel, who can't help but gush about the special relationship that he and his wife Jane share with the Marcus's – they are machatunim and they share the joy of their first grandchild Rayna.

Robin and Dave chose the The Clore Centre for Performing Arts in the Galilee as their Negev project. The project is perfectly aligned with their philosophy of peace and inclusivity. The Clore Centre is the only facility in Northern Israel whose mandate includes promoting co-existence by bringing students together from all backgrounds to create and make music together. Robin excitedly explained that the Centre is located in the Northern Galilee pan handle, part of the

partnership2gether area that has been twinned with the Jewish Community of Edmonton. She said that students from that region have been paired with students from Talmud Torah for years as pen pals and visiting one another during grade 9 class trips. One of the students who visited Edmonton during a recent exchange is actually now a student at the Clore Centre, she said, sharing that that student had been to their home in Edmonton. It's a personal connection, for Robin and one that she cares deeply about.

Musical interludes during the Negev Gala were by students of the Clore Centre performing songs that were known to be favourites of Dave and Robin's, capping off a wonderful event.

Viewing the gala, honouring Dave and Robin was enjoyable and moving but what truly made the event special was a little box in the corner of the screen, where we could watch the honourees react to each part of the tribute in real time. They were immensely touched and honoured by



Edmonton Negev Gala honourees Robin and Dave Marcus were celebrated on August 18. (Photo supplied).

every moment! Kol Hakavod to Jay and Jared and everyone involved in the production and yasher koach to the Marcus family.

Book shows Hitler had plans for US and Canada

By Regan Treewater-Lipes

Edmontonians who attended or live streamed this year's Yom Ha'Shoah memorial observance at the Alberta Legislature grounds will certainly remember a poignant and stirring address given by Senator Paula Simons. In it, the Edmonton-born journalist turned politician discussed a book - a malevolent, sinister, evil, and shockingly comprehensive publication of statistical information pertaining to the residences of Jews living in North America during World War II.

The Senator first spoke about this book publicly in an article she wrote for *Alberta Views: The Magazine for Engaged Citizens* in April of 2021. She writes: "Compiled by German intelligence in 1942, it details how and where to find the Jews of North America. While the first two-thirds of the book details Jewish organizations and clubs in the US, the final section provides similar demographic data for the Jews of

Canada, based on public census and immigration information. The guide includes the 'helpful' information that 48,724 Jews live in Montreal, 45,305 in Toronto and 17,236 in Winnipeg. But while those were the largest centres of Jewish population, the book records that 1,622 Jews lived in Calgary, 1,057 in Edmonton and 692 in Saskatoon."

"Here's the Holocaust brought home," continues Simons, emphasizing how close The Final Solution really came to Canadian cities. "A concrete testament to Nazi plans and ambitions to bring the extermination of the Jews to Canada. Some of those anonymous Jews neatly enumerated in Hitler's columns of numbers were my own father, uncles, aunts and grandparents, who were living in Edmonton."

In a recent Zoom interview with *AJNews* Senator Simons recalled a picture of her late father, the son of a staple Edmontonian Jewish family, standing in a studio in the Boyle-Macauley neighbourhood of the city, taken the same year that the book was published – the magnitude of this realization resonates strongly for her still.

This infamous, and once monumentally dangerous volume is now housed in the Jacob M. Lowy Collection of the National Library and Archives of Canada along with phenomenal treasures of the Jewish World. Many international organizations, museums, and historical societies declined to bid on the volume when it first came up for auction

in 2019. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum was one such group; their mandate prohibiting the purchasing of such artifacts is intended to ensure that relics of Nazi atrocities are not treated as memorabilia to be bought and sold. Procured from a private collector, the National Library and Archives of Canada purchased the book, once owned by Adolf Hitler himself, for a mere \$6,000. A book that had the potential to obliterate North American Jewry, reduced to a price-tag and transaction – or so it would seem.

Now, along with the first Haggadah ever printed in English, complete with wine smudges from counting out each plague, and a Megillah that survived Nazi attacks, Hitler's guide for exporting The Final Solution to North America sits under the watchful guardianship of some of the country's best archivists.

"It's a numinous experience to walk in there and see all of the books they have amassed," said Senator Simons. "In the best rabbinical tradition, the archive is a celebration of Jewish life, intellect, and faith. That places it so that we understand how hateful this book is in contrasts with all the other books in the collection."

Senator Simons went on to explain that: "their mission is to collect every book ever published about Canada. No matter how good or bad – they have a mandate. I was able to meet with the Lowy's chief archivist and curator, and after that conversations I can say that it was absolutely the right call. This way

Continued on page 16

Mazal Tov Robin & David!

Since 1996, Robin has been a dedicated teacher at Talmud Torah School. Her commitment to sharing her love of teaching and of Israel with her students for almost 26 years is commendable.

Yasher Koach Robin & David for this well deserved JNF honour!

Your
Talmud Torah Society
Board of Directors

Jennifer Coppens, Leor Eliyahu,
James Friedman, Jessica Hogan,
Michelle Huberman, Doug Kondor, Megan Mandel,
Sharon Marcus, Stacie Perlmutter, Christina Reboh,
Barry Slawsky, Nomi Steen, Noga Vaisblat



EDMONTON TALMUD TORAH SOCIETY
תלמוד תורה כנגד כולם

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: EDMONTON CHEVRA KADISHA

This part-time (20 hours per week) permanent position will see the successful applicant assume the duties of Executive Director for the Edmonton Chevra Kadisha reporting to the Executive Committee of the Society. The duties will include but not be limited to: managing the day-to-day operations of the Chevra Kadisha office; communication with members and facilitating their engagement; planning and organizing funerals; meeting with bereaved families; overseeing cemetery operations including staffing; fundraising; representing the Chevra Kadisha within the Edmonton community; and, being an integral part of the Society to further our mission.

The successful applicant will possess the following skills and qualifications:

- Related degree or diploma preferred;
- Will consider related work/management experience in a non-profit or corporate setting
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively while following procedures
- Strong organizational and accurate record keeping skills
- Strong computer skills including Microsoft Office
- Able to maintain confidentiality and professionalism
 - Knowledge of Orthodox Judaism
- Salary to commensurate with education and experience.

Please submit resume in confidence
before September 30, 2022.
To: David Marcus at tastybrd1@gmail.com



In its debut at Maccabiah, Canada's Open Women's Hockey Wins Gold. Open Athletics Team Canada Medalists Nathan Beber (L), Phyllis Berck, Danyael Halprin and Ben Shore. Photos courtesy of Maccabiah Canada.

Maccabiah *Cont. from page 2*

injured hamstring. It was so worth it after witnessing him blaze a 10.95 PB in the 100 metres, earning him a spot on the world ranking and in the top 100 fastest in Canada. The 100 and 200 metre winner was Israel's Blessing Afrifah who went on to win the 200 metre (19.96) at the World U20 Championships in Colombia on August 4.

In a beautiful gesture of sportsmanship, our 4x400 metre relay of Beber, Manuel and Shore invited Ukrainian runner Nikita Averliukov to be their fourth. In fact, at dinner on the first night at our Jerusalem hotel, the packed dining room gave the small Ukrainian contingent a tearful standing ovation. Unfortunately, Averliukov and Manuel had to scratch due to injuries sustained in the 200 metre final, but our new international open entry included two Americans resulting in a bronze medal.

"I loved the way the Maccabiah movement brings together Jewish people from all over the world who love sport," says Kidd. "I saw the cultural intermingling and the exchange of ideas, experiences and sporting tips regardless of country being lived every day under the banner of Maccabiah with this tremendous sense, for the most part, of secular Zionism."

On Monday, July 18, my race began near the Israel Museum at 8:30 p.m. after the sun's mighty rays had set. The Maccabiah 10K was part of the Jerusalem Night Run and we were positioned right at the start as elite athletes. A DJ and drummers entertained the

crowd, and minutes before the start American Maccabiah runner Jordan Schilit proposed to his girlfriend. Her 'Yes' fuelled him to a second place finish after the South African. Our Ben 'The Shore Thing' crushed the race to win bronze.

Jerusalem is hilly and the 10K was unforgivingly undulating with a total elevation of 361 metres. At kilometre 3 the hill was akin to Banff's Tunnel Mountain Drive times two in length, triggering my hill PTSD from Melissa's Road Race. Memorable moments were running through Jaffa Gate into the Old City along the polished cobblestone and passing by the busy plein air cafés. Right before Jaffa Gate I tripped, for the first time in a race, but didn't fall and immediately bounced back up. Later we joked that I'd gone down to touch the holy ground.

Running through Sacher Park in central Jerusalem, I crossed the finish line 8th out of 662 women and 2nd Maccabiah woman. Two nights later at Givat Ram stadium I stood on the podium draped in the Canadian flag and to receive the gold medal for placing first in my masters age group.

At Games' end Israel was the biggest winner with

500 medals, followed by the United States then Argentina (when they weren't singing they were winning their soccer games). Canada won 55 medals.

On the last afternoon of July 25, a team clothing trading frenzy broke out among the countries in the hotel lobby. It continued well into the night at the Closing Ceremonies in Tel Aviv where there was a concert featuring Israel's hottest pop stars, including Noa Kirel. I traded my delegation clothing for team gear from Argentina, Australia, Holland, and Israel. Shore scored big time, acquiring the Colombia soccer jersey #69.

For Maccabiah World Union, its hope is that the Games will strengthen the participants' Jewish identities, ties to Israel and perhaps even inspire us to make aliyah. Maccabiah will forever have a piece of my heart. While I'm not currently planning on making aliyah, I do hope to return to Israel soon. I already miss the fresh halva. *BaShana HaBa'ah.*

Danyael Halprin is a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter.

2022/23 SEASON TICKETS Available Now!
5 SHOWS 5 BUFFETS
SAVE UP TO 44%
Great Food. Great Service. Great Entertainment!
 **stagewestcalgary.com**
 play with your dinner! **BOX OFFICE 403-243-6642**

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.


Mazel Tov! for outstanding performances at the 21st Maccabiah Games in Israel, July 2022. At every level of participation, members from Alberta were exceptional ambassadors for our local Jewish communities.

- **Danyael Halprin - Gold, Track & Field (Women's Open)**
- **Brittney Sawyer - Gold, Hockey (Women's Open)**
- **Conaire Taub - Silver, Volleyball (Junior Male)**
- **Nick Taub - Silver, Volleyball (Junior Male)**
- **Zohar Broder - Tennis (Junior Male)**
- **Nicole Hult - Squash (Women's Open)**
- **Ian Power - Staff (Squash)**
- **Alana Takahashi - Staff (Medical)**
- **Tim Takahashi - Staff (Medical)**

A special Yasher Koach to Team Canada flag bearers Conaire and Nick Taub!




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



jewishcalgary.org



A MESSAGE FROM LISA LIBIN

Over the past few months, I have been fortunate to attend a number of events and simchas within our community. At each occasion, I have observed a renewed vigor amongst families and friends to be back together; to be catching up in-person instead of via Zoom. Over the last few years, the amazing staff and volunteers at Calgary Jewish Federation and our partners did a fantastic job keeping us all safely in touch. But there is nothing like being physically together to truly feel like a community.

Taking on my new role of president at Calgary Jewish Federation has come at a uniquely opportune time. While my predecessors, Jared Shore and Jordan Balaban, took on the extremely challenging and unprecedented task of navigating our community through the difficult stages of the pandemic, I feel that now we can look to a more positive time; a time to take this renewed community excitement and passion, and use it to define us moving forward. I truly believe that now is the time to make Jewish Calgary into something it has never been before.

The pandemic provided us with numerous opportunities we can not forsake. Through hard work and creativity, we were able to virtually gather with community members - many of whom in the past may not have been able or may not have wanted to

attend events in-person. We were able to provide top-quality programming with talent from outside of our Calgary borders such as internationally renowned speakers, global experts, and interactive workshops. And when we could be together - such as through the phenomenal Here To Tell exhibit at the Glenbow Museum - we did so with caution and safety. What the pandemic has shown us is that we have the ability, and need to continue, to reach all corners of our community in a mixture of ways.

The past few years have shown the importance of our community. Through the good times and bad, the support we have all provided to, and felt for one another, speaks to the foundation of what Jewish Calgary is. As I reflect on the last 24-plus months as a Federation board member, and how I was continually inspired by the personal and financial generosity of community members, I cannot help but smile with pride and admiration towards those around me.

My vision for our community moving forward is simple: to ensure Jews in our city continue to recognize the value of our community. Being apart made all of us work harder to be together, and we all need to continue working in order to keep our community strong.

As the pandemic has shown us, even a small act

can make a major difference; I ask us all to keep this in mind as our UJA annual campaign officially kicks off next month. We are fortunate to continue being resilient and vibrant but we still face many challenges going into this campaign year. Our community needs all of you - not just during a pandemic but for the future years to come. And just as we took the time and care to support our community during a global crisis, this support needs to continue as we recover and set ourselves, and our future generations up for whatever the next years hold.

I am excited for the future of Jewish Calgary. I am excited to be together with all of you in a hybrid of ways. And with that, I invite all of you to join me in this excitement, and supporting our community both physically and financially, in whatever way you are able to do so.

Shana Tova U'Metuka - may your year be sweet, happy, and healthy! I look forward to seeing all of you, in many ways, over the coming year.

B'Shalom,

Lisa Libin, President, Calgary Jewish Federation

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



On July 24, Keshet hosted its annual end of year celebration BBQ - the first one in two years! Participants enjoyed a delightful afternoon of noshing on kosher hotdogs and playing mini golf. At the event, we were thrilled to honour and recognize three wonderful champions of inclusion: Lenny Shapiro, Evelyn Sheftel-Shapiro, and Fania Wedro. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this celebration a success, including master chefs of the day, Debbie Share, Gilly Villafranca, and Jim Meadows.



For more information about Keshet, and other Jewish Calgary inclusion initiatives, contact Federation's Inclusion Manager, Karina Szulc at karinas@jewishcalgary.org or 403-444-3158.

CALGARY PRIDE 2022

Calgary Jewish Federation is proud to participate in a number of amazing initiatives to celebrate the 2SLGBTQ+ community - and we would love to have you join us!



Pride Shabbat Dinner

Friday, August 26 5:00PM | \$18 per person Temple B'nai Tikvah

A wonderful opportunity for our political and queer communities to come together for a family-friendly evening of schmoozing, catered vegan food, and celebrating Shabbat.



Pride Drag Brunch

Sunday, August 28 10:00AM - 12:00PM | \$30 per person Beth Tzedec Congregation

Enjoy a catered breakfast, bottomless mimosas (non-alcoholic options available), and a professional drag show. Dress in your best drag, or come as you are - all are welcome to



this adults only event. Half of the proceeds will be donated back to Calgary's 2SLGBTQ+ community.



Pride Parade

Sunday, September 4 11:00AM - 12:00PM | FREE 6 Street SW

Show your pride and march with Jewish Calgary at this family-friendly event! We will meet at a pre-determined spot at 10:30AM. Come donned in your most colourful, festive clothing and



show your support for our 2SLGBTQ+ community members. Accessible for all mobility needs.

Questions? Contact Danielle Braitman at dbraitman@jewishcalgary.org

REGISTER AT JEWISHCALGARY.ORG OR SCAN QR CODES



THIS IS MY JEWISH CALGARY

All activities on this page are made possible by your gifts to Federation's annual UJA Campaign.



WAYS TO GIVE

Many programs, services, and community amenities are made possible because of generous donors like YOU!

Make a difference in **YOUR COMMUNITY** by giving in one of the following ways:

Online: jewishcalgary.org

Phone: 403-444-3157

Email: lwolf@jewishcalgary.org

In-person: 1607 90 Avenue SW

PARTNER AGENCIES



COMMUNITY CELEBRATION BACK IN STRIDE!

IN SUPPORT OF THE
2022 United Jewish Appeal Campaign

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

10:00AM TO 2:00PM

WALK: 10:00AM START

CARNIVAL: 11:30AM START

Come together to celebrate our community and all that OUR Jewish Calgary has to offer!

Starting from the **Paperny Family JCC**, join us on a **5K walk or run** along the reservoir and through Eagle Ridge.

Then meet us back at the JCC field for a fun-filled carnival with food, vendors, games, live-music with *Heebros & Friends* playing 21C Israeli rock, and more!

Visit jewishcalgary.org to start a *stride* team, donate, and learn more

For event inquiries and volunteer opportunities email **Danielle Braitman** at dbraitman@jewishcalgary.org

For fundraising and sponsorship inquiries email **Amy Glassman-Boiko** at aglassmanboiko@jewishcalgary.org

UJA 2022 CASE FOR GIVING

IS COMING SOON SO
CHECK YOUR MAILBOX!

Team Alberta competes at JCC Maccabi Games

By Jenna Soroka

This year, after a 2-year hiatus due to Covid-19, the JCC Maccabi Games was hosted by the Lawrence Family JCC on the Jacobs Family Campus in San Diego, California from July 31 to August 5. Team Alberta included five delegates from Edmonton and three from Calgary. With support from Zach Hyman's foundation, the Hyman Family Foundation, the trip was made more affordable for families to participate.

The JCC Maccabi Games is an Olympic-style sporting competition held each summer in North America and it's the second largest organized sports program for Jewish teenagers in the world.

Marit Abrams, Delegation Head, traveled with the eight Jewish teens from the Alberta delegation to the week-long games in San Diego. The JCC Maccabi Games includes a variety of sports for teens to compete in. Team Alberta sent athletes to compete in hockey, basketball and swimming. "They were a really good group of boys...really enthusiastic," Marit said.

In addition to cheering the athletes on at each event and communicating with their families back home, Marit was also involved in the planning process. It was a great experience overall and she'd love to lead it again, even with the amount of work that went into getting the Alberta delegation to compete this year. Marit expressed her appreciation for the support from parents and the community throughout the process. She shared that, outside of supporting the athletes, a personal highlight from the experience was having the opportunity to meet other Jewish adults who were helping make the events a success.

Hayden Pertman, one of the teens from Edmonton, represented Team Alberta for hockey alongside several other Team Alberta athletes. He grew up playing hockey and was excited to compete in his first JCC Maccabi Games. Even though the competition was tough, he said that "meeting all these new people was probably the best part," adding that he was able to connect with many of them on social media afterwards. He also recalled a memorable moment from the opening ceremonies that left a lasting impression on him. During an impassioned speech by Bill Goldberg, former NFL defensive tackle and current professional wrestler, Goldberg expressed that he had never been prouder to be involved in an event, than at these JCC Maccabi Games.

One of Team Alberta's athletes from Calgary, Jordan Horwitz, is heading into grade 12 this fall. He participated in the hockey event at the JCC Maccabi Games for a second time. In 2019, he went to Detroit to compete as well, but described that this time he "felt



Delegation Head Marit Abrams poses with the 8 teen athletes who represented Team Alberta at the JCC Maccabi Games in San Diego this summer. Photo supplied.

like a leader on the hockey team." He enjoyed the Games immensely and wished they could have been longer; a feeling he recalled from 2019 as well. This was Jordan's last opportunity to play in the Games since next year he will exceed the age limit of 16; however, he said that it ended on a high note. The team Jordan played on included a mix of athletes from Ft. Lauderdale, Pittsburgh, and Orange County. In their winning game, he scored six goals for the team. A highlight for Jordan was jersey swapping with one kid from Philadelphia where they traded hockey jerseys.

When asked what he would tell kids who are on the fence about going to the Games, Jordan said "just go. It's so much fun." He added that you get to connect with new Jewish kids from all over the world.

Aiden Kislik, another athlete from Calgary, competed in 3x3 basketball in his first JCC Maccabi Games. Aiden had been playing basketball for 4-5 years and, with encouragement from friends, family, and teachers, decided to participate in this year's event. His team may have lost to the eventual champions, but he described the entire Games as "a big fun experience." Aiden echoed the other athlete's sentiments when he expressed how meeting other Jewish athletes his age from around the globe and playing the same sport was one of the best parts during his time in San Diego. His family was also able to come cheer him on which he said made it more enjoyable.

In addition to the sports component of the Games,

there were a variety of activities held throughout the week that the teens participated in. These activities included a JCC Cares program which has the teens volunteering within the host's community, teen programming staffed by Israeli counselors (Shlichim) and volunteers from the host community, host family nights where they spent time with their billet families, and more. Aiden gave a special shout out to the billets and shared how nice they were and that "everyone was super interested to meet us."

In 2023, JCC Maccabi Games is going to Israel and Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Stacey Leavitt-Wright, Jewish Federation of Edmonton CEO, is looking forward to next year's Games. She expressed that JFED has applied for spots in Israel and Ft. Lauderdale, and she is hoping they can bring a delegation to both games. Keep your eyes peeled for more information!

On Sunday, September 11 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm, the Jewish Federation of Edmonton is holding an info night at Talmud Torah School to showcase programs for youth in grades 7-12, including JCC Maccabi, BBYO, March of the Living, and many other community programs. If you are interested, please contact info@edjfed.org.

Mazel tov to all the athletes!

Jenna Soroka is a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter.

Edmonton Jewish Community Charitable Foundation and Edmonton Community Foundation



Working together to create permanent ongoing support for the causes important to you.

Talk to us about what you would like to accomplish for your community. We can show you how easy it is to create a legacy of caring.



"As my father planted before I was born, so do I plant for those who will come after me."


The Talmud



 ejccfoundation@gmail.com

 donorservices@ecfoundation.org

 780.487.0585 Ext. 203

 780.426.0015

INFO NIGHT

Are you a Grade 7-12 student or parent who wants to learn about getting involved in upcoming Jewish programming in Edmonton?

This info night is your one-stop-shop!

Sunday, September 11
7 - 8:30 p.m.
Talmud Torah School

To register: jewishedmonton.org




Edmonton Kasher Friendship Circle offers support and kindness

By Regan Treewater-Lipes

The long-term ramifications of two-years and counting spent under vacillating levels of social isolation will only begin to be known in the time to come. What is already evident is that the COVID-era continues to be one of great loss, and in its wake, no one has been left untouched.

Rebbetzin Rifka Drelich, who has lived in Edmonton with her family since 1992, has seen firsthand how the Edmonton Jewish community found new ways to support its members despite the obvious limitations imposed by social distancing, but she has also been acutely aware that despite these efforts, many continue to suffer.

“This space we are in right now is an effort to support people when they need it most,” she said in a recent interview at the Kasher Friendship Circle headquarters in the southwest of Edmonton.

Rebbetzin Drelich explained that she was approached by a community member who wishes to remain anonymous, after their family suffered the tremendous loss of one of their loved ones by suicide. This person felt compelled to explore ways to promote the mental, physical, and spiritual wellbeing of those within the community during times of significant need.

“Kasher Friendship Circle was formed in 2021 - born of a cry to action following tragedy,” she said.

Many people have seen the Kasher Friendship Circle’s name when perusing the *Alberta Jewish News*, but don’t yet have a clear sense of what the group’s focus and activities are. Well, if there is a need, then the team at Kasher Friendship Circle is ready!

“Kasher Friendship Circle is a part of Wits Yeshiva of Canada and is a non-profit organization that follows the Shulchan Oruch Harav and the Baal Shem Tov’s teachings,” explained the Rebbetzin. “Our motto is that the Kasher Friendship Circle feeds the body and nurtures the soul, and we service all demographics and abilities within the Jewish community, but we are also a valuable resource that can assist the general public as well.”

Guided by Jewish principle of *olam chesed yiboneh* – a world built on kindness, the Kasher Friendship Circle hopes to give comfort and support to those within the Edmonton Jewish community and throughout Alberta, but the organization’s mission welcomes all those who seek help. For example, they deliver baskets of dry-food goods bi-monthly to seniors living alone, and others in need. The Rebbetzin elaborated that newcomers to Canada, refugees from Ukraine for instance, are also welcome to request services from the Kasher Friendship Circle. “Not all the people we support are Jewish, but all the food that we pack in the dry-food baskets is completely kosher.”

As their name suggests, ‘friendship’ is at the core of everything the organization stands for. “If COVID has taught us anything, it is how damaging feelings of loneliness and isolation can be,” offered the Rebbetzin thoughtfully.

Currently studying psychology through distance education at Thompson River University, Rebbetzin Drelich has seen the healing value of simple friendship. “We don’t provide professional counselling here, although we can connect people with resources, but we’ve seen that people often just need a sense of togetherness and another person to talk to.”

At the moment, the Kasher Friendship Circle does not have an open-door policy, but those seeking a space to connect meaningfully in a social capacity are highly encouraged to contact the Rebbetzin and arrange a time to stop by the group’s bright and colourful Southside location. They host regular luncheons for volunteers, she noted. On the day of the Rebbetzin’s interview, there was even musical entertainment.

On July 26, the Kasher Friendship Circle held an exciting raffle for a grand prize of two round-trip tickets to Israel. Fundraisers of this kind go a long way in facilitating the extensive activities of the organization. “What we do here, and the services we provide, complement what is already available in the community,” explained Rebbetzin Drelich. “It’s important that the resources are made available.”

The Kasher Friendship Circle has a board of directors made up of a 51% female majority. “We have a guiding principle to empower and educate. Part of what we do is work with the strengths of those that come to us.”

With the assistance of government grants to promote student employment, the Kasher Friendship Circle has been able to take on a summer team full of youthful energy. “We are committed to giving training opportunities and work experience to a diverse demographic of students of all abilities,” explained the Rebbetzin. “We try to show youth, seniors, and everyone in-between that they have something valuable to offer. If someone is handy with construction then they can help with everyday maintenance and repairs,” she said, gesturing to some recently hung shelves. “We had a volunteer who was marvelous with sewing. She would teach small groups how to use sewing machines,” she concluded, pointing to a lovely collection of pieces adorning a nearby wall.

Pioneered by Rebbetzin Drelich, the Kasher Friendship Circle will be releasing the first in a series of children’s heritage books this September. “The Torah is the blueprint for our organization. We aim to address twenty-first century issues with a Jewish approach. There is a necessity for education about the beauty of Jewish heritage and culture for our children.”

To this end, Kasher Friendship Circle is dedicated to facilitating the observance of Jewish traditions in addition to adding the educational component.



Find kindness at Edmonton Kasher Friendship Circle. Call 587-917-3434.

The Rebbetzin and her team maintain a room full of donated new and gently used Judaica items. “We have all sorts of books here. This one is for bar mitzvah studies,” she said holding up a thick volume. “We have a bit of everything, and if people need something then we can provide it to them.”

The organization seeks to meet the needs of the community wherever necessary. “Our logo,” explained the Rebbetzin, gesturing to an elaborate winged image on the wall, “comes from the scriptural verse ‘ufaratzta nakedma tzoforma banegdbo,’ from north, south, east, and west. We aspire to always be in a state of growth. The upright flame is to symbolize and remember that our lives are dynamic and ever evolving – each breath can bring inspiration to further promote kindness around us. The colours symbolize the diversity of our world and the mosaic of people within it.”

So, to add greater clarity to what the Kasher Friendship Circle of Edmonton is all about, it is a place of sanctuary and empowerment. The organization provides Albertans with support through friendship and community guided by Jewish principles. The Kasher Friendship Circle is planning to engage guest speakers, seminars, and enriching workshops. For those who still have questions, Rebbetzin Drelich is always ready to chat about the great work being pursued at the Kasher Friendship Circle. And for those who may know of someone in need of a friendly place to seek support, the Rebbetzin and her team are always ready to welcome new and old faces.

Regan Treewater-Lipes is a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter.



Dust off your dancing shoes and get ready for a feast of food, friends, and fun!

Saturday, September 10, 2022

Blatchford Field Air Hangar, Fort Edmonton Park

BUY TICKETS OR A TABLE!

harvestmoondinneranddance.eventbrite.ca | 780-496-6977

Proceeds support the Fort Edmonton Foundation

supportfortedmonton.com



Honouring forgotten heroes

By Maxine Fischbein

The Jewish community can take much comfort in knowing that we have some formidable non-Jewish friends and allies. Two spoke at a private gathering at the Calgary home of Helmi and Ron Switzer on Sunday, August 14. One of them, prominent Calgary businessman Alfred Balm, lives right across the street with his wife Phyllis in one of Calgary's most remarkable - and remarked upon - homes. The other, Jan-Willem van Lieshout, hails from Amersfoort, Netherlands where he has made it his mission to memorialize the Jews and Dutch Partisans murdered by the Nazis during World War II. In a riveting talk, van Lieshout, accompanied by his wife Jannèt, spoke about the history of the Dutch Jewish community, the Second World War, and his volunteer work on behalf of the Memorial Stones Foundation of Amersfoort.

In 1992, German artist Gunter Demnig launched a remembrance project that quickly spread through Germany and a host of other European nations. The concept was the creation of Stolpersteine - stumbling stones - that would be set in the public spaces adjacent to the last homes of Jews who were later dispossessed, perishing at the hands of the Nazis and their collaborators. Each stone includes the name, date of birth and fate of one of the 6,000,000 Jews murdered during the Shoah. Some 70,000 of the handmade stones have since appeared throughout many European countries.

While the Foundation in Amersfoort - formerly chaired by van Lieshout - wished to memorialize the murdered in a similar way, they chose to do so independently so that the posthumous honour could also be extended to non-Jewish resistance members. On van Lieshout's watch, 430 stones were set in Amersfoort - 370 of them honouring the memories of Jews and 60 devoted to the memory of non-Jews who refused to be bystanders.

Van Lieshout - who made his living in commercial real estate - is proud that the efforts of the Memorial Stones Foundation of Amersfoort are volunteer driven

and not for profit. Of course, that means that fundraising is necessary. That's where Alfred Balm entered the picture.

Balm, the founder and former chair of the multinational company Emergo Group, experienced adversity as a young child. During World War II, he and his family, who lived in Amersfoort, suffered numerous privations including starvation. They were liberated by Canadian soldiers, specifically members of the Calgary Highlander Regiment.

According to the *Calgary Herald* (May 2, 2020) Balm never forgot the sacrifices of his liberators, generously extending financial support to surviving veterans, among other worthwhile causes. At the Switzer gathering, Balm recalled that while he was attending an event at the Military Museums of Calgary, he learned of the memorial project in Amersfoort. He contacted van Lieshout to offer his and his wife Phyllis's support, eventually providing 75 percent of the initial costs to produce the memorial stones.

It is Balm's intention to promote the project elsewhere in the Netherlands where van Lieshout says some 80 towns, cities and villages have already launched memorial stone projects.

"Initiatives like this need to be repeated. Where we can assist in this effort we certainly will," Balm said.

Van Lieshout's talk included a brief re-enactment of a typical memorial stone ceremony. Each stone is covered by sand which is then swept away to reveal the name and the details carved in the granite block. A flower and small stone (in the Jewish tradition) are set on the memorial and Kaddish is recited, though gathering a minyan in the dwindling



(Left to Right) Ron Switzer, Jan-Willem and Jannèt van Lieshout, Phyllis and Alfred Balm, Fanny Wedro, Rabbi Russell Jayne and Helmi Switzer.

Jewish community of Amersfoort is a challenge.

Good prevails in the Dutch city (pop. 160,000) where the mayor, the Rabbi and Memorial Stone Foundation volunteers come together to honour the dead in a place whose citizens once lived in the grim shadow of the concentration camp sharing Amersfoort's name. There, some 37,000 people were held between 1941 and 1945, with most subsequently transported to death camps in Poland, including Auschwitz and Sobibor.

Volunteers like Jan-Willem van Lieshout continue to share the stories of those named on the Stolpersteine, often speaking at schools and other community-based organizations.

"Let's not forget their names," said Alfred Balm, who is pleased that this project "goes further," delving into the lives and legacies of those who cannot speak for themselves and emphasizing their contributions to society and - poignantly - the incalculable human potential obliterated by hate during World War II.

Why does Van Lieshout do what he does?

"My wife will confirm this," he says. "I cannot accept injustice."

Maxine Fischbein is a
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter.

Book shows *Cont. from page 10*

the book will be in a respected properly curated collection rather than sold into the hands of neo-Nazis."

Most Canadians remain unaware that such a book even exists, and few will ever see it. "This book is not out on public display," Senator Simons said reassuringly. "There are layers of isolation. It is not something for the general public. But it is there for

academics and researchers. This way it is not regarded as a fetish object," she explained further.

"This is a book that is a part of our Canadian history, not just our Jewish history."

Senator Simons went on to comment that she fears for "historical illiteracy" and that the book can do much to silence Holocaust denial "dressed up as academic free speech."

"I've tried to do my part to educate people about the book and what it says of the reality and ambition of the Holocaust," said Senator Simons.

Indeed, she has continued to speak about her own experience prolifically in hopes that those listening will not just file away the knowledge that such a document exists but reflect on what kind of societal mentality made the commissioning of such a publication possible.

"We say 'never again' when we speak of the Holocaust, and this book reminds us that we need constant vigilance. Hate can happen everywhere if the ground is prepared for it."

The book is an important contribution to the Canadian consciousness, despite its venomous origins. For Jews with longer North American lineages, the realization that the names and locations of their own family members might be housed in this book is a stinging and painful reminder that the Holocaust was not isolated to Europe. For those who survived the horror and decimation orchestrated by the perpetrators of The Final Solution, the book has the potential to play an important role in preserving history and safeguarding the factual education of generations to come.

Within the global Jewish consciousness, the Holocaust is never far away. For that reason, the impact that this book may have for non-Jewish Canadians is also quite significant. Ultimately, the existence of this volume, and what is contained within it, is haunting, but does much to emphasize the importance of maintaining dignity and fair treatment for all.

"If I am not for myself, then who will be for me? And being only for myself, what am I?" (Hillel).

Regan Treewater-Lipes is a
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter.



Reveralicious

August 1st to November 30th

At Revera, every day is fresh, fun, and fulfilling. With plenty of options to choose from and a community of friends to share them with, you can live your best life, everyday!

Chateau Renoir
9229 16 St SW, Calgary
403-255-2105

reveraliving.com/bookavisit

revera
Retirement Living

Come try
our seasonal
menu and

enjoy a
meal on us!

Call to
reserve your
seat today.

*Some terms and conditions apply. To receive a copy, contact Chateau Renoir

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

(403) 441-2097
asinger@wilcraft.com
www.wilcraft.com



650, 211 - 11 Avenue SW, Calgary, AB, T2R 0C6

WILSON LAYCRAFT

Beth Tzedec *Cont. from page 5*

“In describing BTZ Pods to folks, I often joke that it is an initiative that can take us into the 18th century, not the 21st! It’s a tongue-in-cheek way to say that this initiative is meant to bring back what we have lost in the modern world: strong community-based relationships,” says Potasznik.

Pod members may choose to communicate via WhatsApp, organize shared celebrations or events, provide one another with recommendations, or lend a hand with food or errands when others in the group experience loss or illness. The possibilities are endless; it will be up to each group to develop its goals based on common geography and shared interests.

“In addition to the daily, weekly, and monthly events we hold at the synagogue, the relationships built through small, day-to-day interactions outside of our building allow congregants to receive that double-sided feeling of support and responsibility that so defines what it means to be part of a community,” Potasznik adds.

Among his other duties, Ari Cohen is collaborating with Potasznik and providing coverage during his leave. Like Potasznik, Cohen has a passion for ensuring that Beth Tzedec moves its mission beyond synagogue doors.

“I’m looking forward to making the Shul and Judaism part of the answer to issues that Beth Tzedec congregants and members of the Jewish community face in life and in school so we can be the best versions of ourselves,” says Cohen.

Toward that end, Cohen has been working on Shul School 2.0, a program that takes kids “beyond the four walls of the conventional Shul School classroom.” Thus, he intends to redeploy the previously mentioned sukkot as activity centres for art, puppetry and interactive storytelling focused on bible stories.

“The entire curriculum is devoted to helping each student explore how they “fit into the Jewish story,” says Cohen who plans to expose kids to the breadth of Jewish denominational experience. This will be accomplished through play-based learning emphasizing Jewish history, holidays and traditions, Hebrew, and blessings and prayers.

During the three-year program, Shul School students will drill down on what it means to be Jewish. That will include “a focused look at the natural fit of the Jewish holidays,” a lens through which students develop an understanding of Jewish indigeneity in Israel and their relationship to the land and its people. They will explore “how to craft a Jewish life” through “experiential insights into Jewish values.”

Cohen is devoted to attracting kids who do not attend Jewish day schools as well as those who do, expanding the social networks of kids and young families. Following the first hour-and-a-half of the Sunday Shul School program, Beth Tzedec will open its doors to young congregants and members of the community at large for *Sunday Arts and Sports Ulpans*. The program puts arts and sports at the centre of fun and immersive Jewish experiences.

Cohen wants to enrich the adult experience at Beth Tzedec too. For starters, throughout the Jewish month of Elul, congregants and community members are invited to participate in an early morning yoga program that aims to promote the development of physical and spiritual flexibility and strength.

“The emphasis is self-care,” says Cohen, adding that the words of our sage Hillel inspired the program’s title: *If I am not for me then who will be – Yoga*.

The early-morning program (details TBA) will run Monday through Friday between August 29 and September 23. While it is intended for adults, children are welcome. There is no charge, but donations will be gratefully accepted.

Rabbi Jayne has chosen the *Psalm for the Season of Repentance - Psalm 27* - as the focus for guided meditations that will be an important spiritual element of the program.

“In the days leading up to the High Holidays, introspection and self-improvement are top of mind,” Cohen says. “Focusing on sustainable self-care can lead to a sweeter New Year.”

Like Cohen, the Beth Tzedec leadership team has been reimagining many aspects of Synagogue life. Toward that end, some Shul staff members have been redeployed and others recently hired.

Rabbi Jayne, who previously served for eight years as Cantor, earned his *Smicha* (Rabbinical ordination) from the Pluralistic Rabbinical Seminary in January 2022 and recently signed a new five-year contract as Congregational Rabbi.

He is thrilled to once again share the bimah with a colleague following the recent appointment of Rabbi Ilana Krygier Lapides as part-time Assistant Rabbi. Having earned her *Smicha* from the Jewish Spiritual Leaders Institute, she is the first woman to serve as clergy in the history of the congregation and is believed to be the first born and bred Calgarian to serve in a permanent position as clergy in a local Synagogue.

Rabbi Ilana’s previous teaching role in the Beth Tzedec B’nai Mitzvah program will be expanded as she becomes involved in one-on-one lessons with students during the six months prior to their becoming Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

She will work closely with Ari Cohen in the delivery of education programs and will assist Rabbi Russell Jayne with pastoral, lifecycle and bimah duties. Beth Tzedec members can look forward to hearing Rabbi Ilana leading family services during the High Holidays and delivering the sermon in the main service on the second day of Rosh Hashanah.

“We will tag team on other things, working together as rabbinical colleagues, studying together and supporting one another,” said Rabbi Jayne who added that Rabbi Ilana will play an ongoing role on other Shul fronts such as teaching Keruv (conversion) classes and delivering Divrei Torah.

Rabbi Ilana continues to serve as Community Chaplain on an as-needed basis, providing pastoral care for those transitioning in hospital or hospice and tending to community members struggling with grief. A woman with many kippot, she will also continue her



Beth Tzedec Education Director Ari Cohen

own private rabbinical practice, tending to those individuals and families “...who don’t feel they fit under the umbrella of affiliated Judaism,” on a case by case basis.

“Primarily, I am an ambassador of Beth Tzedec,” she told *AJNews*, adding that it is a role she is very pleased to assume.

“Beth Tzedec has changed over the past years. The tent is much wider than most people think it is. It is a conservative Synagogue but this is not your Bubbie’s Beth Tzedec. There is new stuff going on,” Rabbi Ilana said.

“Beth Tzedec is taking the needs of the next generation seriously, and we understand what the congregation must do to remain relevant. Women’s voices must be, and are, an equal part of the conversation,” said Rabbi Jayne.

Women have always served on the front lines of the administrative and operations teams at Beth Tzedec, where there have been recent and notable changes.

Jennifer Girvitz, who has served the congregation in various capacities over the past decade, has been named Executive Assistant to Rabbi Jayne. She will continue to coordinate Synagogue and lifecycle events.

Jennifer Preece, a graduate of the 2022 Keruv class, has joined the front-line administrative team.

David Inhaber, who previously served Beth Tzedec as treasurer, two-term president and interim CEO was recently appointed CEO after an extensive search that yielded an impressive short list of candidates, says Congregational President Lorne Pearl.

“There has been a lot of action at Beth Tzedec,” said Inhaber. “I am most excited about all the new things our clergy, professional staff and key volunteers are working on to get members of the Synagogue and community re-engaged in person at Beth Tzedec after close to three years of COVID.”

Amen to that!

For more information contact info@bethtzedec.ca or 403-255-8688.

Maxine Fischbein in an LJI Reporter.

local artists | exclusive collection | original pieces



WG

Wakina Gallery

original indigenous art
 paintings • illustrations • carvings
 call 780-237-1556 for discounting
www.wakinagallery.com






from the

Sources

by Eliezer Segal

Looks who's not talking

As we've been learning from the January 6th Investigating Committee, it has become fashionable to "take the Fifth."

The legal principle that persons cannot be compelled to incriminate themselves first entered English common law (according to the prevalent theory) in 1637 at the trial of one John Lilburn, accused of importing heretical books. The defendant was initially convicted for his refusal to take an oath or to reply to questions about his religious opinions whose answers would compromise his legal position. However, Parliament subsequently reversed that verdict, concluding that it constituted a violation of Lilburn's liberty. This likely reflected a more general antipathy to the intrusive oaths and tortures that were being employed in the sectarian disputes of those days.

Although freedom from self-incrimination is often expressed in an impressive Latin maxim "Nemo tenetur seipsum prodere" (no one is required to incriminate himself), it is not attested in ancient or medieval European sources. Lilburn adduced scriptural support from Jesus's refusal to confess to the seditious statements that were attributed to him at his interrogation. (Perhaps Lilburn assumed that the trial was conducted according to Jewish norms).

The American Fifth Amendment of 1791 states similarly that "no person shall be compelled in any case to be a witness against himself." It is a privilege granted to witnesses or defendants if they choose to make use of it. In many instances, as we have seen at the January 6th hearings, a decision to "take the fifth" is stigmatized as tantamount to an admission of guilt.

In talmudic jurisprudence, the rule that a person cannot incriminate himself is attributed to the fourth-

century Babylonian teacher Rava. It was derived from the premise that close relatives may not testify about each other because they lack objectivity. This assumption was combined with the observation that "a person is his own closest relative."

The earliest rabbinic discussions appear to accept the rule as normative and do not try to ground it in biblical prooftexts or other authoritative traditions. In cases where the rule is applicable, it is not subject to the choice of the witness or defendant, but rather the court itself is expected to disregard any self-incriminating testimony. Consequently, invoking it does not imply an admission of guilt.

The Talmud invokes the rule principally when assessing the acceptability of witnesses. Normally, a person who has committed a crime or religious transgression, especially one that calls into question their ability to resist bribes or physical threats, would be disqualified from serving as a witness. However, if the only evidence for the witness's ineligibility stems from his own confession, then the rule forbidding self-incrimination kicks in and his testimony is accepted by the court. According to the prevalent view, even where the confession incriminates another person, it will be accepted with regard to that other person, but not to the witness himself.

Talmudic law applies this rule to sins that involve capital or corporal punishment, but not to monetary claims or civil litigation. In the sixteenth century, Rabbi David Ibn Abi Zimra explained the religious distinction between those two legal domains: although people exercise full ownership over property, this is not true for our lives and bodies, which ultimately belong to the Almighty. Therefore, humans are not authorized to forfeit their lives or the integrity of their bodies by subjecting them to judicial execution or flogging; however, the court can accept an admission of a debt or other financial obligation. Indeed, a talmudic maxim declares that "an admission by a litigant is equivalent to the testimony of a hundred witnesses."

Maimonides understood that the prohibition against a Jewish court's imposing capital or corporal punishment based on a confession is a categorical decree of the Torah. True, he was aware that the Bible contains examples involving Joshua and David that seem to contradict this rule; but he dismissed these as rare exceptions that were necessitated by political exigencies. Under normal circumstances, however, a

Jewish court should not punish or disqualify a person if the only proof of guilt is their confession.

Notwithstanding its status as a divine decree, Maimonides proposed his own psychological explanation for why we should not grant credence to confessions: "This might be a mentally disturbed individual, one of those who suffer from suicidal depression, who jab swords into their bellies or leap from rooftops. It is possible that this person is one of those wretches, and is now confessing to a crime he did not commit in hope of incurring a death sentence."

In some respects this diagnosis recalls Maimonides' description of his own prolonged bout with debilitating depression following the death of his beloved brother David in a shipwreck.

There have been attempts to argue that the seventeenth-century English jurists who adopted this proposition did in fact learn it from Jewish sources. Advocates of this theory note that the study of Hebrew language and rabbinic literature achieved considerable popularity at that time among "Christian Hebraists" who found those Jewish texts useful for explicating the New Testament—but were not prepared to openly reveal their reliance on the Talmud.

But times change. In the 1996 verdict of the American Supreme Court that mandated the requirement of "Miranda warnings," Chief Justice Earl Warren argued for the antiquity of its underlying principle by citing Maimonides as evidence that "Thirteenth century commentators found an analogue to the privilege grounded in the Bible. 'To sum up the matter, the principle that no man is to be declared guilty on his own admission is a divine decree.'"

Overlooking the fact that Maimonides' Mishneh Torah belongs to the twelfth century, it is still puzzling how Justice Warren was employing the Jewish precedents. Even if we allow that his "divine decree" comment reflects Maimonides' view, not his own, it is still perplexing why the learned jurist, consistently committed to separation of church and state, felt obliged to cite the Bible as a source.

I choose to refrain from answering that question.

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

**REACHING
7 MILLION
CANADIAN READERS
WEEKLY**



Diversity is our Strength!



**NATIONAL ETHNIC PRESS &
MEDIA COUNCIL OF CANADA**

**Conceil national de la presse et
des medias ethniques du Canada**

CANADA'S OTHER VOICES



Welcoming

**RABBI
NISAN
ANDREWS**

as our new spiritual
leader in 5783



You Matter: Coping with Caregiver Stress and Avoiding Burnout

By Samantha Norberg, JFSC

While caring for family members is not a new phenomenon, the pandemic has added another layer of stress for already stretched caregivers. Caregiving can be rewarding but can also pose challenges and have significant impacts on family and relationship dynamics.

We often seek to eliminate stress in our lives, but not all stress is bad. From an evolutionary perspective, the fight or flight response to stress is a protective mechanism against harm and has short term advantages. Short term stress can keep us productive and can be accompanied by the urgency to complete important tasks. When we aim to fully eliminate stress in our lives, this unrealistic goal blurs the line between helpful and unhelpful responses, and when we ultimately fail to eliminate our stress, we have yet another thing to be stressed about. Prolonged stress can have serious adverse effects on our bodies and our emotional well being and hampers our ability to cope.

Caregivers report higher levels of long term stress compared to people who are not caregivers, and stress is even higher among carers of persons living with dementia. *Caregiver stress* is used to describe a set of symptoms including declining physical and mental health, a lack of energy (which can include sleeplessness), and a withdrawal from social interactions. Unaddressed, *caregiver stress* can

increase the risk of *caregiver burnout*, a physical, emotional, and mental exhaustion from the stress and burden of caregiving.

Stress regulation is often more attainable than elimination. Often the first step, is to recognize our signs of stress and its sources. Symptoms of stress can include an upset stomach, muscle tension, restlessness, increased irritability, unhealthy eating, and constant thoughts about stressors. Recognizing our signs of stress helps us recognize when it is time to slow down and figure out its source. When working with my caregiver clients, one of the most helpful questions I ask is *'what is most stressful about caregiving right now?'* The answer often leads caregivers and their families to supports that will help them to cope.

Experiencing difficult emotions, like grief and anger, is normal throughout the caregiver journey, however this can increase vulnerability to stressors and their impacts. A similar approach can be taken to cope with difficult emotions: acknowledge what you are feeling, become familiar with your physical, emotional, and psychological signs, and seek out the source. You may need to practice being comfortable in the discomfort. We can not eliminate how we feel, there are no good or bad emotions. All emotions, like stress, have a function, though we can release the control we believe our emotions have on us. Create moments for yourself, the caregiver, that brings you healing and energy. You are allowed to feel good even when you feel bad.

I would like to reinforce that there are many



supports in the community for caregivers. JFSC's Caregiver Support Program provides free social work services to carers of seniors (55+) with chronic illness and/or (dis)ability, including age-related concerns. Caregivers can access individual counselling, group sessions, education, and access to resources in the areas of aging and memory, dementia (such as Alzheimer's Disease), chronic illness, coping and self-care strategies, grief and loss, and resiliency.

JFSC is a non-denominational, accredited, non-profit social service agency dedicated to enriching lives and strengthening communities since 1961. We provide inclusive and accessible programs and services for individuals and families across their life spans, based on the values of compassion, social justice and improving the world.

For more information on coping with caregiver stress and avoiding burnout, contact Samantha at samanthan@jfsc.org or call 403-692-6392. For more information on JFSC's programs and services go to www.jfsc.org.

Canadian Jews were most-targeted religious minority for police-reported hate crimes last year

Statistics Canada has released police-reported hate crime data for 2021 revealing, once again, that hate crimes targeting the Black and Jewish populations remained the most common reported to police.

"We are deeply concerned that incidents of hate crime rose yet again in Canada in 2021," said Shimon Koffler Fogel, President and CEO of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA). "This disturbing trend clearly proves the need for proactive measures to stop the rising hate targeting diverse Canadians based on their identity."

Overall, hate crimes targeting religious groups increased 67 percent from 2020, breaking an encouraging three-year downturn. Incidents targeting the Jewish community grew dramatically by 47 percent since 2020, and cumulatively 59 percent over the last two years. Statistically, this reflects 1.3 in a

thousand mem-bers of Canada's Jewish community reporting having been the target of a hate crime in 2021.

According to Statistics Canada, only Black Canadians, who make up about 3.5% of the country's population, reported more hate crimes.

There are approximately 380,000 Jews in Canada, representing only one percent of the population, yet members of the Jewish community were victims of 14 percent of all reported hate crime in 2021.

"Statistically, Canadian Jews were more than 10 times more likely than any other Canadian religious minority to report being the target of a hate crime. This is alarming," said Fogel.

Continued on page 20



Somerville Memorials
LTD.
Serving Calgary and the surrounding area since 1993

Lorne Tucker
Business: (403) 265-0780
Residence: (403) 251-9344
Fax: (403) 269-5181
Email: lornetucker@shaw.ca

Visit our showroom at:
7134R Fisher Street. S.E.
Calgary, Alberta T2H 0W5
www.somervillememorials.com



GRUMANS DELICATESSEN
MOSTLY TRADITIONAL • SINCE 2005

SERVING ALL YOUR DELI FAVOURITES

DINE-IN, TAKEOUT & CATERING

OUR HIGH HOLIDAY MENU IS NOW AVAILABLE.

CALL OR EMAIL US TO PLACE YOUR ORDER.

GRUMANS BRITANNIA: 5103 ELBOW DR SW (403) 452-6561
www.grumansbritannia.ca britannia@grumans.ca



ב"ה

Kehilat Shalom

High Holiday Services 2022 - 5783

Services In-Person with

Rabbi Leonard Cohen

PLEASE RESERVE EARLY

Erev Rosh Hashanah	Sun - Sept. 25, 2022 7:15 pm - 8:30 pm
Rosh Hashanah Day 1	Mon - Sept. 26, 2022 9:30 am - 1:30 pm
Tashlich (at Heritage Park)	Mon - Sept. 26, 2022 4:30 pm - 5:15 pm
Rosh Hashanah Day 2	Tues - Sept. 27, 2022 9:30 am - 1:30 pm
Erev Yom Kippur Kol Nidre	Tues - Oct. 04, 2022 6:45 pm - 9:15 pm
Yom Kippur Morning	Wed - Oct. 05, 2022 9:30 am - 2:00 pm
Yom Kippur Minch/Ne'ila	Wed - Oct. 05, 2022 5:30 am - 7:55 pm

Children's Program each morning 10:00 am

Masks will be available at the door

High Holidays - 1 yr membership included

Adults \$660 - Family \$1250

Children Under 18 free

For Membership assistance contact Sam Fishman:

Phone: 403-613-1848 Services will be held at

E-mail: info@ksocalgary.org Calgary JCC

Web: www.ksocalgary.org 1607- 90 Ave SW

Reform congregants hear perspective on Palestinian human rights work

By Jeremy Appel

Both Reform congregations in Alberta co-hosted a July 27 virtual event with an Edmonton-based Jewish linguist who spent time volunteering in the occupied West Bank to protect Palestinian residents from extremist Jewish settlers near Hebron.

Asher Kirchner, who is a professor at the University of Alberta, delivered his presentation on Jewish advocacy for Palestinian human rights to congregants of Calgary's Temple B'nai Tikvah and Edmonton's Temple Beth Ora followed by a Dvar Torah from Beth Ora Rabbi Gila Caine.

Earlier this year, Kirchner spent three months in the South Hebron Hills with an organization called Hineinu, which is an offshoot of the Center for Jewish Nonviolence.

Kirchner and his Hineinu peers, which included five American Jews and a non-Jewish exchange student who became interested in human rights work in Israel-Palestine, escorted Palestinian children from the village of Tuba to school in the town of Tuwane. The road from Tuba to Tuwane passes through the Jewish settlement outpost of Havat Maon.

"Since its establishment in the late-1990s, settlers there — grown men — began attacking these school kids. International observers began accompanying the kids to protect them, and they were attacked too, some of them seriously injured," Kirchner explained.

Throughout his powerpoint presentation, Kirchner provided video footage to back up his claims of settler violence against Palestinian civilians, as well as international and Israeli volunteers, including those from Hineinu.

In addition to accompanying children to school, Hineinu accompanies Palestinian shepherds as they lead their goats and sheep out to pasture.

"Some days were peaceful, but often increasingly, as winter gave way to spring, these shepherds would get harassed or even attacked by settlers. Sometimes the settlers stole sheep, sometimes they injured the

sheep, or sometimes they tried to chase the shepherds off their [own] land. Sometimes settlers cut down olive trees. Often settlers would graze their own flocks on Palestinian land," Kirchner said.

Since the early-2000s, the Israeli government has ordered the army to prevent settler violence against Palestinians, but Kirchner said this simply isn't a priority for them. Sometimes the soldiers arrive late, or not at all.

"Not once did they arrest a settler," he said. "If the authorities intervened at all, it was in the form of an order for both sides to leave the area and go home, striking a pose of neutrality, even though the Palestinians were on their own private land."

He also discussed the routine demolition of villagers' homes by Israeli authorities who don't recognize the Palestinian villages, including the impending eviction of more than 1,000 Palestinians from the district of Masafer Yatta to create a firing zone for the Israeli military, which the Union of Reform Judaism in the U.S. has called on President Joe Biden to prevent. "But our Canadian Reform Jewish institutions have thus far remained silent, as far as I'm aware," Kirchner added.

For Kirchner, the highlight of his time in the West Bank was a joint Iftar dinner and Pesach seder the volunteers arranged with their Palestinian hosts, with Kirchner making matzo ball soup and "conversations weaving back and forth between English, Arabic and Hebrew."

"Peace between Jews and Palestinians already exists," he said. "I saw it with my own eyes. It's present in the relationships of deep trust and solidarity that have been forged between Palestinian and Jewish activists. If the powers that be would just sit back and make space for these nonviolent activists to do



University of Alberta professor Asher Kirchner spent three months in the South Hebron Hills with the Hineinu organization, an offshoot of the Center for Jewish Nonviolence. (Hineinu photo)

their work, I believe they could lead the rest of Israeli and Palestinian society into peace and security for everybody."

In her remarks after Kirchner's presentation, Rabbi Caine, who was born and raised in Jerusalem, said she didn't want to rebut Kirchner but to present a supplemental perspective rooted in Mishnah teachings.

"If this is really about our concern as Jews for the actions of our people, then we each need to be very clear about the perimeters within which we're working. Are we really speaking here from within as part of our people? Are we really going down into our roots as we do this work?" Caine said, adding that any solution to the conflict must be one that is amenable to Israelis, as well as Palestinians.

Caine urged Jews who advocate for Palestinian human rights to engage with Israeli groups who are working towards the same goals. Not taking Israeli perspectives into account is a form of "cultural colonialism or missionary work," said Caine.

"I know that on one level we as a people will be held accountable to Palestinians whose lives are continuously disrupted and turned to misery by an occupation of their homes. But on another level, we're going to be held accountable by future generations of our own people if we cut ourselves off from the nation," she said.

Jeremy Appel is a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter.

Hate crimes *Cont. from page 19*

"This report should be a call to action for all Canadians to stand against antisemitism and all forms of hate. Like the Jewish community, many racialized and minority communities experienced a spike in hate

crime last year, further underscoring the need for concerted efforts to stop this worrying trend.

"We are grateful that police services across the country take these incidents seriously, but more needs to be done to protect vulnerable communities. This includes greater support for security and safety at community institutions such as houses of worship; Equity, Diversity and Inclusion education that includes training on antisemitism; and a national strategy to target online hate and radicalization.

"Although Canada remains one of the best countries in the world in

which to be Jewish, or any other minority for that matter, these numbers should concern all Canadians. One hate crime is one too many."

Canada's official tally showed the same trend as tallies of antisemitic incidents in other countries last year. The Netherlands, France and the United Kingdom all reported increased incidents of antisemitism, while the Anti-Defamation League, a nonprofit in the United States, said it recorded more antisemitic incidents last year than at any time since it began tracking incidents in 1979.

Statistics Canada cautioned in its crime report that "fluctuations in the number of reported incidents may be attributable to a true change in the volume of hate crimes, but they might also reflect changes in reporting by the public because of increased community outreach by police or heightened sensitivity after high-profile events."

L'Shanah Tova Umetukah

to Calgary's Jewish Community
from Rabbi Mark Glickman
and the Board of Trustees



Email: office@bnaitikvah.ca
for details about our
High Holiday Services

TEMPLE B'NAI TIKVAH
www.bnaitikvah.ca
(403) 252-1654

900 - 47 AVENUE SW CALGARY AB T2S 3C8



**Wish your family and friends a Shana Tova
with a greeting in Alberta Jewish News**

We have three sizes to choose from:
\$36.00, \$72.00 and \$180.00

Book your greeting today by email to
albertajewishnews@gmail.com
or calgary@albertajewishnews.com

For information call 780-421-7966

Israeli restaurant chain opens first Canadian location in YEG

By Jeremy Appel

Israeli vegetarian restaurant chain Vish, which has locations in New Jersey and Florida, has opened its first Canadian location in Edmonton, serving customers an array of dishes centred around hummus.

Zvika Eshet, the restaurant's general manager, arrived in Edmonton just over a year ago with the goal of establishing a franchise of Israeli hummus.

"Edmonton has a lot of advantages," Eshet explained, citing low taxes, high quality education and higher incomes, as well as its general atmosphere and mentality.

Through his research, he realized that some major Canadian restaurant chains began in Edmonton — Earl's Kitchen and Bar, Boston Pizza and Booster Juice, to name a few.

Eshet, who is from the small village of Bnei Zion — located between Netanya and Tel Aviv — planned to move to Edmonton a couple years ago, but then the pandemic forced him to take some time to adjust his business plan.

Vish fills a necessary niche, Eshet added. "I realized there was nothing like it in Edmonton," he said.

The hummus offered at Vish is far from your typical refrigerated store-bought hummus. "We are the only ones serving hummus that is grinded by order and served warm," he said. "Many people in Israel and other places make fresh hummus everyday, but they keep it in the fridge."

It's also not a side dish or dip — it's your main course at Vish, served with a topping of your choice. "You can also have it as a sandwich in a pita pocket," Eshet said.

"Everyone in the Edmonton community is talking about VISH," said Debbie after enjoying lunch at the new Edmonton restaurant. "They are either looking forward to trying it or have already tried it and loved it."

All of the food was fresh and delicious and the atmosphere was relaxed and comfortable.

"Once we started eating we immediately felt transported — the hummus was delicious. The sweet potato fries were a treat- crispy on the outside and soft on the very inside."

"The falafel sandwich was great — with the pita open

and stuffed — Israeli style," she added.

"The falafel too was just the way you'd want it — crispy on the outside and soft on the inside. It was super fresh — bright green on the inside — seasoned to perfection. Our waiter was affable and asked us if we wanted coffee or dessert after the meal and we said no, planning to head back to work. Then we caught sight of the coffee — it was turkish coffee and the dessert was chocolate halva. Of course we stayed and wow — we melted into our chairs and relaxed for a schmooze — what a great way to end a perfect lunch."

The real star of the meal was the hummus, she added. "The hummus was warm and creamy and melt in your mouth tasty. It was seasoned to perfection. We are used to seeing hummus as a side dish here in Edmonton so it was interesting to see it on the menu as the main course."

Eshet took this approach from Vish's mother company Hummus Eliyahu, which has about 70 locations across Israel. Outside Israel, the company operates under the Vish brand, with locations in Hollywood, Florida, Tenafly, New Jersey, and now Edmonton.

"There's more in the pipeline," Eshet said. "There were actually two ready to go in Kiev just before the war started, so the locations are just standing ready to open."

Prior to his move across the globe, Eshet owned a nightclub for 20 years, through which he opened a beach bar, which had more of a cafe or restaurant feel. One of his business partners in this venture was the CEO of Hummus Eliyahu, who offered him the opportunity to help expand his hummus empire.

Alon Shochat, the restaurant's manager, moved to Edmonton six years ago from Jerusalem when he got the opportunity to work at a vegetarian restaurant. He had a vegan and vegetarian catering business back in Israel, so this experience made working at Vish an ideal opportunity for Shochat.

"When I heard about Zvika's project I was very thrilled for the opportunity to bring something to Edmonton and to Canada that is from our homeland," he said.

Shochat said it's tough to name his favourite dish. "I can eat hummus everyday, I can't get tired of it," he



Zvika Eshet and Alon Shochat at VISH Israeli Vegetarian Restaurant in Edmonton.

said. But if he had to choose one, it would be the mushroom-topped hummus.

He's also a big fan of the chopped salad, which is made with cucumbers, tomatoes, red onions, various nuts, freshly-squeezed lemon, olive oil and parsley. "When I was growing up, we would make this type of salad at home and it's something you don't really see here," Shochat said.

Vish imports its main ingredients from Israel, which are all kosher, but the Edmonton Jewish community isn't large enough to justify their food being officially kosher-certified, Eshet said.

"But we will be happy to serve everyone," he said.

Vish is located at 10326 124 Street in Edmonton.

Jeremy Appel is a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter.

\$1000

RECRUITMENT INCENTIVE K-6

Our school enrollment is growing.
Let's work together to continue this growth. Recruit a new student to qualify for \$1000!*

OFFER ENDS SEPT 30, 2022

*CONDITIONS APPLY - Email nataliesoroka@talmudtorahsociety.com

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

Barristers & Solicitors

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

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

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

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

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.

Volume 33, Number 8, August 17, 2022

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: September 8, 2022

Like us at / Alberta Jewish News

Edmonton Jewish Seniors Centre is attracting younger seniors

By Regan Treewater-Lipes

As the Edmonton Jewish community gradually establishes its 'new normal' many are trading in their Zoom activities for face-to-face human engagement. Downtown at the Jewish Senior Citizens' Center (JDIC) it has been an active summer. People have begun to gather, reconnect, and socialize again.

"At the height of COVID our administration was still very busy working from home. We coordinated Zoom events and ongoing food programming. Now back in-person, twice a week we have lunches, we also arrange outings, mah-jong and scrabble events, fitness and yoga classes, lectures, and much more – we make sure there's a lot going on," explained Luba Allan during a recent interview with *Alberta Jewish News*. "We are organizing a trip to the Rosebud Theatre at the moment."

The centre is not wasting any time re-engaging with its membership. "We are working on getting people together. A lot of people are still not ready to be back after COVID. Every year we invite lectures by academics and professionals on a diverse array of subjects – we are trying to get people to come out again," said Inna Sukonnik. "It's good to get new blood and fresh ideas into the membership."

Just as in pre-COVID times people from the community can purchase frozen soup from the JDIC's kosher dairy kitchen to warm up and enjoy at home. At the height of pandemic isolation, Sukonnik delivered soup to people with mobility problems, - right to their homes. Now, although frozen soup is still available for purchase, organizers hope to encourage more in-person attendance.

As Executive Director Svetlana Pavlenko explained, most people at the JDIC are fully vaccinated. "We try to maintain an environment that welcomes everyone and where everyone can feel comfortable," she said.

Things at the JDIC are once again a buzz of activity. On July 26 the kitchen volunteers prepared a large meal for the regular twice weekly luncheon, but with the extra special consideration that the event was a celebration of all that month's birthdays.

"We always do something special for our members' birthdays," explained Allan. "We have birthday cake

and try to make sure there's some sort of musical performance."

On that day, attendees were joined by pianist Emma Oskin who regaled the crowd with some classic favourites, and the opportunity to sing along. The mood was jubilant as Pavlenko and Sukonnik joined Oskin in singing the iconic Russian-language Soviet-era song, "Katyusha" while people enjoyed their lunch, tea, coffee, and cake. This was of course followed by a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday" sung in English, Hebrew, and Russian.

Although the JDIC is known as a seniors' centre, Pavlenko and her dedicated team want Edmontonians to know that there is a youthful 55+ vibe breathing new energy into their programming. "We have always had ongoing programming like exercise classes twice a week, choir, our 'Learning in Retirement' educational series, and of course the lunches," she explained. "But we are putting a lot of time and thought into planning intellectually stimulating events like lectures and discussion panels."

Many of these programs are available in digital formats as well as in-person, giving people alternatives should they wish. "Some of our speakers are more comfortable than others with the simultaneous online and live delivery," she elaborated.

On September 13, the JDIC will welcome Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, the Honourable Selma Lakhani, to join them and speak to their group. "The speakers we invite are extremely interesting," explained Pavlenko proudly. "They are very diverse, and we think people from throughout the community will be interested."

There are significant efforts being made by program organizers to promote inter-cultural awareness and understanding. "We are emphasizing cultural cooperation and inviting speakers that can give us greater perspective on this," she added.

Since the easing of restrictions, the JDIC has brought many new volunteers into its ranks. "A lot of people have been looking for ways to get back into the community," said Allan enthusiastically. One such new volunteer is Susan Baram. "It's a wonderful way to meet people in the community. There are excellent programs and it's great to be a part of it. It keeps me active. It's a nice way to keep things from becoming



Emma Oskin at the Edmonton JDIC.

stagnant. If I can help in any way, I'm happy to do it," she explained enthusiastically.

"Over the last two years the centre has been closed so there wasn't much to be done, but I've been volunteering since May," she concluded. Like Baram, JDIC board member Gord Bushewsky has become a very active participant.

"My father used to be very involved here, and it's meaningful to me to be able to contribute," he explained. "Right now, I'm here twice a week, but perhaps in the future it will be more," he concluded with a warm smile.

Annual membership at JDIC is only \$30. They are highly motivated to engage new attendees, so for those who may still need to renew their membership, the JDIC is holding a special draw – sign up a friend and be entered to win two tickets for six meals, two tickets for six exercise classes, or two tickets to the annual Chanukkah extravaganza!

Things have most definitely kicked back into gear, and with the JDIC's focus on revitalization there is more than ever being done to appeal to a younger demographic of seniors.

"There is something for everyone," according to Pavlenko, and there has never been a better time to get involved. Those with piqued interest are encouraged to contact the JDIC and check out all they have to offer.

Regan Treewater-Lipes is an LJI Reporter.

The particular Jewish meaning of my hamsa collection

By Andrew Silow-Carroll

(JTA) — I tend to get to Israel every two or three years, and every time I come home with a hamsa. The latest, which I picked up in May (along with a case of COVID — another story) is a lovely teal ceramic design

from a workshop in the Golan Heights. We have a wall of these hand-shaped amulets in our house — less for good luck or spiritual karma than to advertise our

connection to Israel.

But to advertise what, exactly? The hamsa's Jewish roots are slightly tenuous, or at least secondhand. The "hand of Fatima" is a Muslim symbol, perhaps pagan before that, and possibly Christian. According to one interpretation, the five fingers are meant to represent the five pillars of Islam (faith, fasting, pilgrimage, prayer and tithing). Like a number of folk customs, it was absorbed into Sephardic Jewish culture in the lands where Jews and Muslims lived and worked side by side, and where it came to suggest the hand of God, or a talisman used to ward off the Evil Eye. I have hamsas with an eye motif worked into the palm of the hand, others with fish designs — Jewish

symbols of both fertility and luck.

What they don't have are overtly "Jewish" symbols: I avoid the ones with stars of David or menorah decorations. To some degree that's my rebellion against Jewish kitsch — the gaudy, insistent aesthetic I associate with old-fashioned synagogue Judaica shops and well-meaning bar and bat mitzvah presents. I think it is also virtue-signaling on my part: The hamsa says I support the multicultural Israel that includes Jews and Arabs, Ashkenazim and Sephardim. "Cool" Jews like me don't display exclusionary tchotchkes studded with Jewish stars or hang

Continued on page 23

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

ALBERTA
Jewish News

Next print date is September 14, 2022

Next deadline is September 9, 2022

Book your *Rosh Hashanah*
greetings at

albertajewishnews.com/greetings

or email albertajewishnews@gmail.com

BBB SAVE ON ROOFING.ca VISA

**EDMONTON'S
PREMIER ROOFERS**

Re-Roofing
Licensed - 5M Liability
WCB - Free Estimates - Seniors Discounts

780-257-6526

This month's update from Edmonton Talmud Torah School



The summer season has been a busy one at Talmud Torah with the children attending the Talmud Torah Early Learning Centre "hard at work" playing and learning. Talmud Torah's enrollment is on the rise and to keep the momentum going the Society is on a recruitment drive. They are offering a \$1000 signing bonus for people who bring in a new student between now and September 30,2022 - for Kindergarten to Grade 6. Some conditions apply. For information contact nataliesoroka@talmudtorahsociety.com.

Jewish meaning

Cont. from page 22

paintings of bearded dancing Hasids. (I mean, I have lots of Judaica with both — we just don't put them on the top shelf.)

It's the same sort of insidery, too-cool-for-shul aesthetic that I have long associated with the Wissotzky Magic Tea Chest. I am guessing you have seen this or even have one: It's a wooden box filled with tea sachets from Wissotzky, the Tel Aviv-based company that has roots in tsarist Russia. Before it was widely available on Amazon, the tea box was a popular souvenir for repeat travelers to Israel.

At one point I started calling it the "first post-modern Israeli souvenir": Instead of celebrating Zionism or Judaism, the box's decorations feature imagery from the Indian subcontinent. The writing is Hebrew but the message is international. Maybe first-timers bring home olive-wood camels and gaudy mezuzahs shaped like the Jerusalem skyline. Old hands like me know that a box of supermarket tea, like that delicately filigreed hamsa, says the "real Israel."

I know that's putting a lot on a souvenir, and sometimes a hamsa is just a hamsa. But there is a

whole field of scholarship that examines the deep meanings of everyday objects. Jenna Weissman Joselit, the doyenne of Jewish material culture, writes about how even Mordecai Kaplan, the influential 20th-century rabbi "not generally known for his interest in the material side of Jewish life," counseled Jews to fill their homes with Jewish signifiers.

"Jewish appointments were intended to convey a moral statement that went far beyond the physical: Manifestations of group identity, they served as constant reminders of ideals and practices," Joselit writes in her study of Jewish consumerism, "The Wonders of America."

Besides, others are going to attach moral statements to your bric-a-brac that you may not even have intended. Search "hamsa" and one of the first things Google delivers is the question, "Is it disrespectful to wear a hamsa?" The answer comes from a jewelry seller, who advises, "it can be culturally insensitive to wear it without knowing what the symbol means." Insensitive to whom is not clear, although presumably there are Jews and Muslims who object to seeing the symbol dangling from the wrists or necks of celebrities who are neither. At the very least, as one Mizrahi Jew has written, Ashkenazi Jews who embrace the hamsa as a symbol of Jewish or Zionist pride should be aware of and acknowledge its distinct meaning for Jews from

the Middle East and North Africa.

I don't think there was anything culturally insensitive about the artists who recently carved an elaborate hamsa into the sands at California's Newport Beach. Or the Jewish environmental activist who places a clay hamsa along the shore of San Francisco Bay as an "offering to the water."

I prefer to think of the hamsa as a wonderfully ecumenical symbol. The hand is a blank canvas on which artists can project their own meanings, and the wearer their own statements. My statement is a little smug ("You won't catch me with a dancing rabbi on the wall") but also extremely hopeful: The open hand celebrates Israel's unlikely blend of cultures and faiths, even as it wards off those who refuse to accommodate coexistence.

What's your most meaningful or interesting Jewish object? What does it say about your "ideals and practices"? Send pics and your thoughts to me at asc@jewishweek.org and I'll try to feature them in a future column.

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of JTA or its parent company, 70 Faces Media.



Let us spread the word for you...

ALBERTA JEWISH NEWS reaches your target audience!

To advertise your business or event contact Dan 780-421-7966 or email albertajewishnews@shaw.ca



How I Keep My Bubbe's Memory Alive During the High Holidays

By Stacey Zisook Robinson

(Kveller via JTA) -- As a kid, I didn't live a particularly Jewish life. We were sent to Hebrew school on Tuesdays and Thursdays and got dropped off at Sunday school. We fidgeted through services occasionally — usually because we were attending a bar mitzvah or it was High Holidays season. I went to Saturday morning services pretty regularly the year prior to my own bat mitzvah — only because it was a requirement. My parents were under no such requirements, so their weekends were filled with other things.

They got their Judaism through osmosis, I guess — the act of taking us to temple, their proximity to the building, hearing us practice a prayer or a chant. That was Jewish enough for them.

Don't get me wrong, they took great pride in their Judaism. Not only did they occasionally drop into a service on Shabbat, they never missed attending High Holidays services, enjoyed lox and bagels on Sunday mornings at the local deli (and the much less kosher ribs on Sunday nights), followed all the "famous" Jews who made it into the news for good (ya!) or ill (oy!), and observed all the holidays (that they knew of), and by "observe" I mean mom cooked a huge meal and the extended family came to feast.

The beginning of every holiday meant soup. Chicken soup, replete with lokshen (noodles), knaidlach (matzah balls, the harder the better), kreplach (think "Jewish ravioli" and you'll be close). Even those occasional Friday nights when, for no discernible reason, mom got it into her head to "do Shabbat," dinner started with chicken soup. And while her mother would make the noodles from scratch, along with the kreplach and knaidlach, mom was happy to start with the package variety of everything but kreplach.

My mother visited her mother often. We lived in the south suburbs of Chicago; Bubbe was on the north side, our version of the shtetls of Poland and Russia,

though made up of high rises and gorgeous lake views. Still, Tevye would have fit right in after a day or two. Every so often, her pilgrimage had a specific mission: replenish the kreplach supply. She stored them in the freezer until needed. I would come across the bag every so often as I searched for something else and I would seriously think of taking — just one! — to eat, but in the days before microwaves, I couldn't come up with a way to do it quickly and, more important, stealthily.

As my grandmother aged, though the quality never diminished, the amount of kreplach did. It was difficult for her to chop the meat by hand, in her wooden bowl and with an ancient blade.

Somewhere my mother has that recipe for kreplach, as dictated by my Bubbe. There's even a video of her, my mother, sister-in-law and niece learning the art of kreplach-making. Mom also has the recipes for brisket and chopped liver and challah and roasted chicken and kishke and every other food that has come to mean holiday and feast and family and love. Most are kept in her head. I told her years and years ago that she never needed to buy me another present, that for any birthday or holiday, all she needed to do was write down one of the recipes. She swears she's doing this, but I'm not holding my breath.

I know — I could look up the recipe for anything I would ever want to cook on the interwebs. But those recipes don't taste the same as the ones from my mother, who got them from her mother, who got them from her mother, who got them from that long line of ancestors going back into almost forever ago.

When I make my soup — as I did last year for Rosh Hashanah — I think back to my Bubbe, whom I called the first time I made her soup. Add some salt, she said. How much? Enough. You'll taste it. But it's water, Bubbe!! You'll know. An exasperated sigh. Add the carrots after you've skimmed off the dreck that floats to the top. Dreck? Ew. Don't forget the dill! How much dill? Enough. You'll know. Oy. I was beginning to sense a pattern here. Finally: And five minutes before it's



done ... Wait. What? How will I know when it's done? You'll know.

I feel my grandmother with me whenever I make her soup. I feel her mother, and hers, and all of them — that long line of them back to forever ago. My kitchen is crowded with their presence, in the steam and the scent and the bubbling pot that holds so much more than soup.

I got lost in that thought as I stirred and skimmed that day. My 17-year-old came into the kitchen.

"Soup!" he said. I nodded. "You know, you have to write that recipe down for me before I go away to school next year." I nod again, mostly because I couldn't talk in that minute. "Is it done yet?"

How will I know if it's done?

I'll know.

(Stacey Zisook Robinson has been published in several magazines and anthologies. She is the author of the book, "Dancing in the Palm of God's Hand." She blogs at <http://staceyzrobinson.blogspot.com>.)



Happy Rosh Hashanah!

Best wishes this Jewish New Year

Safeway
Glenmore Landing
1600 90 Ave SW
Calgary AB, T2V 5A8

SAFeway 