

Alberta adopts IHRA definition of antisemitism

On September 23, Alberta became the fifth Canadian province to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism. The announcement was made at Chabad Lubavitch of Alberta Campus in Calgary, hosted by Rabbi Menachem Matusof.

"Remembering the Holocaust is a moral obligation – and antisemitism, like all forms of racism and prejudice, has no place in Alberta," stated (then) Alberta Premier Jason Kenney. "In endorsing this internationally-recognized definition, Alberta is doing its part to make sure we continue to learn from this painful history and promise never to repeat it."

The IHRA working definition of antisemitism provides policymakers, law enforcement, and community leaders with a tool to identify, understand, and combat contemporary forms of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere. IHRA is the consensus definition of antisemitism that best reflects lived experience of Jews today. Developed by IHRA's Committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial, it is grounded in the research of the world's foremost experts on antisemitism and the Holocaust and is supported by the UN, EU, and 30 countries including US and Canada. It has also been adopted by Ontario, British Columbia, Quebec, and New Brunswick.

"The Alberta government's adoption of the IHRA definition of antisemitism is a clear affirmation of our elected officials' recognition of the upsurge in hate targeting Jews and the need to counter this rise," said Shimon Koffler Fogel, President and CEO, Centre for

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Calgary Jewish Film Festival: A virtual feast



The Beth Tzedec Calgary Jewish Film Festival starts on November 5 with a screening of the 2022 Israeli film "America." For your full event programme see pages 9 - 15 in this edition.

Excitement is mounting for the 22 Annual Beth Tzedec Congregation Jewish Film Festival which rolls out virtually from November 5-23. The Festival will once again take place in the comfort of your own homes.

Movie goers are guaranteed to be pleased with the wide range of films selected by Festival Founder and Director Harvey Cyngiser and the dedicated festival committee.

"We've previewed a long list of films this year, leading to intense conversation and some challenging choices," he said. "We ended up with some of the most remarkable feature and documentary films in the history of the festival."

To view the whole festival programme and schedule see the pull-out feature starting on page 9 of this edition of Alberta Jewish News. It's designed to facilitate your viewing pleasure in advance and throughout the event. It should enjoy a spot in your homes for optimal planning!

For more information about the Beth Tzedec Congregation Jewish Film Festival, or to purchase your all-access pass or individual films, go to CalgaryJewishFilmFestival.com.

B'nai Brith Lodge celebrates philanthropy and advocacy

By Maxine Fischbein

In a video address, Ambassador Cohen told the



After a two-year hiatus due to COVID, some 450 B'nai Brith faithful and community, political and business leaders gathered on September 22nd for the 70th Annual B'nai Brith Dinner, paying tribute to honourees Calgary Mayor Jyoti Gondek and US Ambassador to Canada David L. Cohen and Ben Docktor Award of Excellence recipient Max Lipsman.

The atmosphere at Beth Tzedec Synagogue was electric as attendees—many greeting each other for the first time in more than two years—schmoozed while enjoying cocktails, a sumptuous spread of hors d'oeuvres and dinner by Roma Catering, and speeches and presentations stickhandled by celebrity MC Dave Kelly.

While even COVID could not stop the triumphant return of the dinner, it did alter it with some supporters opting to enjoy a recording of the evening's highlights. crowd that he had looked forward to attending in person, but COVID had other plans. Having tested positive for the virus, Cohen regretted that he was unable to attend in person, but assured the crowd that he was feeling well.

After paying tribute to co-honouree Mayor Jyoti Gondek and Ben Docktor Award recipient Max Lipsman, Ambassador Cohen spoke movingly about B'nai Brith Calgary's 105 year history of community service.

"Being recognized by B'nai Brith is particularly relevant today," said the Ambassador. "B'nai Brith's commitment to justice really resonates with me."

In a warm address informed by Jewish values of Tzedakah and Tikkun Olam, Ambassador Cohen spoke with passion about the joint commitment of the United States and Canada to uphold the values of democracy and to repair the world.

"The concept of tikkun olam is particularly relevant

US Ambassador to Canada David L. Cohen

in times like these when there are those who are unnecessarily suffering in the world as a result of a few who wish to cause harm or in defiance of those around the world who are trying to erase people's histories, cultures and traditions," Ambassador

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In addition to their academics, Calgary Jewish Academy students are learning character development - developing a Midot Mindset.

CJA: Developing a Midot Mindset

By Joseph Tappenden

Every year at the CJA, we aim to create meaningful learning experiences for our students while focusing on fostering a sense of community and strengthening our Jewish identity in a nurturing and supportive environment. We do not simply do this with our words but by ensuring that we take action, providing great experiences for our young people. This year, we have turned our focus to *Midot*, which we have adopted within our teaching practices.

What do we mean by *Midot*?

We choose to focus on *Midot* at the CJA as it is a

Hebrew word that translates loosely as character development. As educators, we aim to not only teach knowledge but develop our young people into well-rounded individuals, and the concept of *Midot* can help with this. *Midot* allow us to foster a number of different traits in our students, allowing them to become the best version of themselves.

Which Midot are we deciding to focus on?

While there are many character traits to focus on, this year, we are working towards the following: Courage - What it takes to stand up for what you believe in.

Gratitude - Showing thanks for everything we have. Justice - Standing up for what is right.

Identity - Understanding who you are as a person. Respect - Treating others the way you want to be treated.

Acts of Loving Kindness - Going above and beyond and being charitable.

> Community – Encompassing all our *Midot* to grow and nurture our community.

How are we implementing *Midot* in our practice?

Within the school, every month, we choose a specific *Midah* to focus on, each tied to a different Jewish holiday celebrated throughout the school year. Every classroom is equipped with a visual reference, listing all the *Midot*, with a focus implementing each *Midah* into our lessons, teachings and conversations. This not only raises awareness of the specific focus but is a great example of how these skills can be discussed across a variety of subjects through interdisciplinary learning.

For example, last year when our grade 3 students had been focusing on the *Midah* of gratitude, they used their visual journals to briefly identify what they are grateful for. From there, in Language Arts class, students took their writing skills a bit further, translating their thoughts into finessed written pieces where they structured their work into formal paragraphs. To understand what they have to be thankful for, in Social Studies, students learned about developing countries and compared this to their own lives in Canada, giving them a wider view of the world and an deeper appreciation of what they have. These types of experiences help transform our students into global citizens with a deep commitment to community and social action.

Join us in focusing on Midot

Our school community is made up of more than just our students, with families and our faith also a central component. So why not join us in focusing on your own *Midah*.

For information about Calgary Jewish Academy visit cja.ca.

Joseph Tappenden is Director of Marketing / Advancement at Calgary Jewish Academy.



Plans are in the works for a May 2-11, 2023 Israel tour that is open to adults and ideal for those who





have previously traveled to Israel.

- Explore the ancient past through recent archeological finds -- Enjoy diverse cultures and delicious cuisines -

- Envelop vourself in a vibrant, world-class arts scene -
- Immerse yourself in a spiritually uplifting Shabbat with Rabbi Cantor Russ -





To find out more about this cultural odyssey, contact: Beth Tzedec CEO David Inhaber at 403-998-3283 or JNF Calgary Executive Director, Elliott Steinberg at 403-255-0297 or elliott.steinberg@jnf.ca. The Kesher inclusion group enjoyed a lovely Hot Chocolate in the Sukkah program at the Paperny Family Calgary JCC's community sukkah. Rabbi Cantor Jayne from Calgary Beth Tzedec Congregation led the celebration. Chag Sukkot Sameach





JFED hosting an afternoon with Bonnie Stern & Anna Rupert

By Tammy Vineberg

Food is not only something we enjoy. It can encourage connection, leadership, and the passing of wisdom from generation to generation. When the Jewish Federation of Edmonton (JFED) heard that Bonnie Stern and her daughter, Anna Rupert, were publishing their first cookbook together, we thought a United Jewish Appeal (UJA) event celebrating this release would be a perfect opportunity to showcase these values. This exciting event will take place on Sunday, November 6.

The mother-daughter relationship that Bonnie and Anna have illustrates intergenerational connections perfectly. Their new cookbook, *Don't Worry, Just Cook*, is filled with recipes and stories of connection. Anna grew up in the kitchen learning from her mother, who is a leader in Canadian cooking and foodie circles.

Bonnie is the founder of the Bonnie Stern School of Cooking in Toronto, which she opened and operated from 1973 to 2011. She has studied and taught cooking around the world, hosted three national cooking shows, and for 17 years, wrote a weekly column for the National Post. She has conducted popular workshops for the James Beard Foundation in New York City and leads culinary tours to various delicious destinations. Bonnie is also the creator of a groundbreaking book club in which they invite authors to discuss their work during thematic dinners. She has authored 12 bestselling cookbooks, including Bonnie Stern's Essentials of Home Cooking, which won a coveted International Association of Culinary Professionals award. Bonnie is the recipient of many awards, including the Ontario Hostelry Institute's Gold Award, the Premier's Award, and, in 2021, they inducted Bonnie into the Taste Canada Hall of Fame.

Besides being Bonnie's daughter and sous-chef, Anna is a speech-language pathologist, health and social care manager, researcher, and consultant in Toronto. Anna holds master's degrees in speechlanguage pathology and international health policy from the University of Toronto and the London School of Economics, respectively. Anna's research and consulting has focused on including rehabilitation services (like speech pathology) in global health systems, health system funding and planning, and the relationship between early childhood mental health, childhood trauma, and communication development. This is her first book.

In Don't Worry, Just Cook, Bonnie and Anna help cooks of all experience foster comfort and connection through food. Like all of Bonnie's cookbooks, Don't Worry, Just Cook doesn't simply give instructions to create a dish, it also shares stories, lessons, and kitchen wisdom that will build your cooking technique and confidence in the kitchen.

There are recipes for special dishes like jeweled roasted salmon with herbs and sheet pan chicken with lemon and olives. You can also aim for simplicity and beauty with dishes like ja'ala herb salad with lemon honey dressing and roasted cauliflower steaks with tahini and z'hug.

JFED appreciates the Morris and Rosalind Goodman Family Foundation and the Edmonton Jewish Community Charitable Foundation (EJCCF) for sponsoring Recipes for Connection: An afternoon with Bonnie and Anna. Rosalind Goodman devoted her life to philanthropy and making a difference, believing that her greatest responsibilities were to her family and community and to follow the precepts of "Tikkun Olam" (repairing the world). Rosalind devoted her time daily to philanthropic projects. She was always prepared to join a team and work with her signature approach, that every job was equally important if it contributed to the greater good. Sadly, she lost her struggle to lung cancer. Her daughter, Shawna Goodman Sone, a professional chef and philanthropist in her own right, has been part of several Federation cooking events. Shawna wanted to honour her mother's



Bonnie Stern and her daughter Anna Rupert, will be in Edmonton on Nov. 6 for a special JFED hosted event - "Recipes for Connection."

yartzheit this year by sponsoring this event to inspire the next generation of leaders and philanthropists in Edmonton. Our CEO, Stacey Leavitt-Wright has a close relationship with Shawna, who inspired her early giving and involvement with UJA.

The event committee, led by Chloe Soibelman and Sandy Litman, comprises seasoned volunteers and the next generation of leaders. Some are mother and daughter teams, but we aim this event to inspire and include all people regardless of their gender and age.

The Jewish Federation of Edmonton UJA Fund at EJCCF will benefit from the event's proceeds. This year's theme for the UJA campaign is Now We Go Forward. Recipes for Connection bridges the philanthropic essence of the Goodman family, intergenerational wisdom from Bonnie and Anna, and connecting our Jewish Edmonton.

JFED encourages all generations to attend. Purchase tickets at jewishedmonton.org via our community calendar or consider subscribing to the weekly e-newsletter for event updates.

Tamara Vineberg is Associate Director, Marketing and Communications for the Jewish Federation of Edmonton.

Recipes for Connection: An afternoon with Bonnie Stern and Anna Rupert

Meet Bonnie and her daughter, Anna, and watch them demonstrate recipes from their highly anticipated, new cookbook.

Sunday, November 6 Glendale Golf & Country Club 12410 - 199 Street 2 - 4:30 p.m.





All tickets include a cookbook!

Single ticket \$72 Additional tickets \$54 Students \$54 Table of six \$342 Zoom \$36 Additional cookbooks for sale \$25

Purchase at jewishedmonton.org



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





ewish Calgary – we are an amazing community. For our size, and despite our size, we continue to punch well above our weight. We are active, we are generous, and we are caring. And, make no mistake, we continue to grow in our diversity. While many might want to paint our Jewish community with one brush, we are diverse in our demographics, our political alignment, our financial means, our places of origin, our denominational Jewish practices, our relationships with Israel, our intersectional communities, and in many more ways.

Our diversity is what makes us special and what keeps us thriving. There is so much that each of us can bring to Jewish Calgary and to Calgary at large... if we dare, and if safe and accepting conditions are cultivated to let us do so. If we see one another's differences as strengths as opposed to barriers, we can create exponentially greater impact. My sense is this starts with knowing ourselves, each of us committing to be better – to do better. Only then can we be confident and comfortable engaging with and embracing others.

As I sat in shul on Yom Kippur, I found myself reading and rereading the Al Chet prayer during which we lament and repent for all of our potential (and actual) transgressions. As you likely know, it is a very long list

silly. However, many are very accurate, and others cause one to pause and think. My personal favourite that I noticed this year was "...we have sinned against you by succumbing to confusion." I paused and even giggled at first. Then I gave it some deeper thought. My ultimate takeaway was that claiming ignorance or abstaining from seeking clarity is not an excuse for doing, or not doing something. If we choose to judge someone or something without seeking knowledge, or if we stand idly by while a transgression occurs and say that we did not understand or identify its ramifications, ignorance cannot be claimed as fair reason. It is incumbent upon us as humans, as caring community members, to elevate our thinking and to seek answers and consider varying perspectives. Initiating and maintaining this practice will better enable us to embrace the differences we see in others as strengths and will ensure Jewish Calgary continues to move forward and upward!

As we approach *Sukkot* – one of my favourite *chagim* (holidays) - we look to the metaphor of the the four species: the date palm (lulav), myrtle bough (hadass), willow branch (aravah), and the citron (etrog) which combine to make one of Judaism's most recognizable Adam Silver symbols. Each, on its own, is certainly valuable and CEO, Calgary Jewish Federation

and many of the items seem irrelevant, archaic, or even interesting, but when bound together, the four items create something iconic. So, too, is Jewish Calgary built through combining families and individuals from different backgrounds, with varied religious and cultural observances, resulting in our amazing and resilient community. The lulav and etrog are not complete if even one of the species is missing, and Jewish Calgary is only complete through its breadth of inclusion and diversity.

> In the coming year, I wish for us all to come together like the *lulav* and *etrog*, adding value and combining together to be so much more than our individual parts. Only then can we truly be the amazing community that is my - and our - Jewish Calgary. My Jewish Calgary is diverse. My Jewish Calgary is caring. My Jewish Calgary has infinite potential!

> G'mar Chatima Tova and Chag Sukkot Sameach may we all be inscribed in the Book of Life for a wonderful year ahead!

B'Shalom,

Asin She

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



commemoration of The Night of Broken Glass. Following our virtual presentation, join us for the Calgary Jewish Film Festival screening of RECKONINGS at 7:00PM - a film featuring a group of German and Jewish leaders, under the threat of violence and six years after the Holocaust, who pushed for reparations as a step towards healing.

CALGARY epl.ca The Jewish Federation NOV BEN M. FREI $\left(\right)$ THE ENEMY FROM WITHIN: THE IMPACT OF INTERNALIZED RACISM 2022 7PM | LIVE AT CENTRAL LIBRARY FOR YEARS, JEWS HAVE BEEN GASLIT INTO DENYING THE TRAUMA THAT THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF PERSECUTION HAS LEFT AS ITS LEGACY. JOIN BEN M. FREEMAN, AUTHOR AND HOLOCAUST EDUCATOR, AS WE LEARN HOW TO IDENTIFY INTERNALIZED OPPRESSION, WHY JEWS REPRESENT THE CANARY IN THE COAL MINE, AND HOW TO COMBAT THE SELF-LOATHING AND OPPRESSION THAT WE MUST ALL FACE. THIS PROGRAM SUPPORTED BY The Isadore and Florence Burstyn Memorial Fund for Human Rights & Holocaust Education KSW Calgary Holocaust Education & **Commemoration Endowment Fund Viewpoint Foundation**

> Human Rights and Holocaust Education Fund at the Calgary Public Library Foundation





GO TO JEWISHCALGARY.ORG FOR KRISTALLNACHT VIRTUAL LINK AND REGISTER FOR FREE RECKONINGS FILM SCREENING AT: **BETHTZEDEC.CA/JEWISH-FILM-FESTIVAL**



REGISTER AT CALGARYLIBRARY.CA

Reclaiming our Story: The Pursuit of Jewish Pride is the second installment of world-renowned educator Ben M. Freeman's seminal manifesto of the modern Jewish Pride movement that has revolutionized the Jewish world.



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11 · 6pm · BETH TZEDEC

Join us for an evening with Ben M. Freeman as he educates, inspires, and empowers the younger members of our Jewish community to look inside ourselves -with empathy and without shame- to identify our own experiences with internalized anti-Jewishness so we can reclaim our Jewish stories, ultimately moving from prejudice to pride.

^{\$}36 FOR DINNER AND CONVERSATION WITH BEN OR **54 FOR DINNER, CONVERSATION, AND A SIGNED COPY OF HIS BOOK, RECLAIMING OUR STORY**





On September 18, over 150 people came out to celebrate our community and support the 2022 United Jewish Appeal Campaign at the launch event - My Jewish Calgary Community Celebration: Back in Stride!

With the blow of the shofar, by Darryl Gurevitch, the day kicked off with an uplifting 5km walk led by the Balaban Family. After the walk, even more community members joined in for a fun-filled carnival featuring live music from the talented Heebros and Friends. Todah rabah to everyone who came out and made this day so incredible! Special thanks to our title sponsors, the Balaban Family, as well as our other sponsors: Nitzanim Community Foundation, Safeway Glenmore Landing, Sobeys Bridlewood, 1600 World Bier Haus, Running Room Glenmore Landing, 4Imprint, and Grumans Britannia. Also, thank you to our partner agencies, and our many volunteers, including BBYO - we couldn't have done it without you!



Thanks to you, Calgary has become a leader in Holocaust education throughout Alberta; engaging with thousands of students across the province, leaders and community builders, and those in the broader community. The Annual Holocaust Education Symposium, in-person and virtual classroom presentations with survivors and their descendants, and the Here to Tell: Faces of Holocaust Survivors project, are just a few examples of the many Holocaust education programs and services made possible through your UJA dollars. In addition, your gift directly serves our community by providing community commemorations, such as Yom HaShoah and Kristallnacht; outreach to survivors, and youth/young adult opportunities such as March of the Living. My Jewish Calgary remembers! What does Jewish Calgary mean to you?







EXT GENERA Thanks to you, the next generation of Jewish Calgarians are thriving! Through UJA funding, Calgary has a robust local Hillel chapter on both University of Calgary and Mount Royal University campuses where opportunities for leadership, friendship, cultural connections, and advocacy are being built. Our emerging leaders are being welcomed into the JAC (Jewish Adult Calgary) program for ages 25 to 40, which is also funded through your UJA dollars. Through JAC, participants remain engaged in Jewish life, cement

lifelong friendships, and play a pivotal role in community service and leadership. My Jewish Calgary uplifts the next generation! What does Jewish Calgary mean to you?





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@iewishcalgarv.org In-person: 1607 90 Avenue SW

Pipe Ceremony launches poignant art exhibit at EPL

By Jenna Soroka

Elder-in-Residence Jo-Ann Saddleback from the Saddle Lake Cree First Nation, along with her husband Elder Jerry Saddleback from the Samson Cree Nation, led a Pipe Ceremony at the Edmonton Public Library's Stanley A. Milner Branch on September 29 to mark the opening of *They Didn't Know We Were Seeds* art exhibit by Carol Wylie which can be viewed at EPL until November 25.

The powerful exhibit features a larger than life, moving series of 18 poignantly painted portraits of Residential School and Holocaust survivors. In Wylie's artist statement she explains "through portraits of individual survivors, I hoped to create a silent dialogue between Jewish survivors and Indigenous survivors."

Members of the Jewish community were invited to participate in the Pipe Ceremony, experience a piece of Nehiyaw (Cree) culture, and share a space with members of the Indigenous community in a meaningful way.

Those in attendance included JFED CEO Stacey Leavitt-Wright and Associate Director of Holocaust Education and Community Engagement Jennifer Magalnick, Rabbah Gila Caine, Jewish Family Services Case Management Supervisor Tatiana Kastner, two Holocaust survivors, among others.

Magalnick explained that meaningful engagement in Truth and Reconciliation was the impetus for showcasing the exhibit. "Last fall, in searching for a way to engage as a Jewish community in Truth and Reconciliation, we stumbled upon the breathtaking work of Jewish artist Carol Wylie and her series They didn't know we were seeds," said Jenn. "It features 9 large scale portraits of Holocaust survivors and nine of Residential School survivors. This work seemed to open a portal into how we might, as a community, immerse in this work."

Pipe ceremony participants were seated on cushions in a circle in PIYÊSÎW W SK HIKAN (Thunderbird House) at the EPL's Stanley A. Milner Library, honouring Holocaust survivors and Residential School survivors and opening the exhibit, said Magalnick. "The air was thick with tobacco smoke. Participants were intently silent as they gathered to listen, learn, and honour those who were taken from our communities and those who survived. The pipe carriers, Nôhkom Jo-Ann Saddleback and Mosôm Jerry Saddleback, were surrounded by a mixed group including members of Edmonton's Jewish community, students from the Enoch Cree Nation, rabbis, several Holocaust survivors, and library patrons, and staff."

"The timing of the National Day for Truth and



Elders Jo-Ann Saddleback and Jerry Saddleback led a pipe ceremony at the Stanley Milner Library to launch the "They didn't know we were seeds" portraiture exhibit featuring the art of Carol Wylie. Members of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton event committee were in attendance. The exhibit is on display at EPL until Nov. 25. Photo by Tammy Vineberg.

Reconciliation falling amid the High holidays this year provided both scheduling challenges and a unique opportunity to cogitate," added Magalnick. "Sitting in the room, it felt Bashert, or meant to be, that this significant time in the secular world fell when we are primed for repentance and repair Jewishly."

This moving experience launched the showing of the portraiture series that will hang at the Stanley Milner Library until November 25.

Magalnick had been communicating with Emily Riddle, EPL's Senior Advisor of Indigenous Relations, over the past few months to help guide JFED in their collaboration with EPL for programming to complement Carol Wylie's art exhibit. As part of their discussions, Riddle coordinated a meeting with Nôhkom Saddleback, Jenn and several other volunteer planning group members back in April. The idea of holding a Pipe Ceremony was suggested and came to fruition on a beautiful Fall morning.

There were several protocols and cultural aspects during the Pipe Ceremony that paralleled those in Judaism which brought a deeper richness to the experience for the Jewish attendees. From saying prayers over food before eating to learning about the significance of a specific number in their culture, it was special to witness these similarities. Of course, there were also differences that allowed for many opportunities to listen, learn, and participate. Throughout the ceremony Elders Jo-Ann and Jerry spoke fiercely about their culture, shared personal stories, and weaved light-hearted humour into moments of serious reflection.

From beginning to end, they made everyone feel welcomed and appreciated for their presence. The ceremony evoked various emotions and highlighted the power that compassion and holding space for healing can have in building trust in relationships.

Visit the Stanley A. Milner Library between now and November 25th to experience the compelling portraits of these remarkable 18 survivors captured in Carol Wylie's art exhibit, *They Didn't Know We Were Seeds*.

Additionally, if you or someone you know is a survivor or intergenerational survivor of Residential Schools, Day Schools, the Sixties Scoop, the Millennial Scoop, or the Holocaust, the Edmonton Community Foundation is funding art therapy workshops led by EPL Elder-in-Residence Jo-Ann Saddleback and Jewish Family Services' therapist Heather Frayne on Thursday, November 3 and Sunday November 20, from 1-3 pm. Register today at epl.bibliocommons.com/events/63248a258e04733947ed 912e.

Jenna Soroka is a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter.



Art + Healing Workshop: They didn't know we were seeds

with Edmonton Public Library Elder in Residence Nohkom Jo-Ann Saddleback and Jewish Family Services therapist Heather Frayne

Thursday, October 13, Thursday, November 3, and Sunday, November 20 1 - 3 p.m. Stanley A. Milner Library Free Register at jewishedmonton.org











Jewish News

Next print date is: November 8, 2022 Next Deadline: November 3, 2022 albertajewishnews@gmail.com

Edmonton TTS & School welcome families and community members

By Natalie Soroka

Talmud Torah Early Learning Centre (TTELC) couldn't have asked for a better day to invite families to its Welcome Event 2022 on September 15th. The sun was shining, the weather was warm, and the school tarmac was filled with smiling faces and warm hearts. Families enjoyed delicious food prepared by our educator Michal, and schmoozed with those they knew and those they got to know.

During the event Irene St. Savard, Director of the TTELC, commented how heartwarming it was to see so many parents and children enjoying the gathering. Educators chatted with families as they served the food to hungry adults and children alike. Our older Out of School Care (OSC) children were excited to participate in this event and were very helpful with set up and take down. Thank you to them and those parents and families who also assisted us! It was wonderful to see families connecting in person again, and Irene anticipates more opportunities to connect in the near future.

Another exciting event in our school was Read In Week. According to the Read In Week website (readin.ca) their mission is "to build and enhance both personal and community relationships through literacy and the love of reading." Jessica Holtzman and Lindsey Campbell organized a fun and memorable Read In Week 2022 the first week of October. Annually, parents and community members are invited to read and engage with our students. This year was no exception, and many parents could be seen reading to classes as the students listened intently.

Our students loved asking questions and chatting with our readers. Talmud Torah had a few very special readers this year,

including EPSB Trustee Dawn Hancock, Jewish Federation of Edmonton CEO Stacey Leavitt-Wright, MLA Lorne Dach, and TT Class of '50 alumna Esther Starkman. Esther is the Founder of Read In Week. She initiated Read In Week in the '90s when she was Chair of the Edmonton Public School Board. Esther's Husband, Howard, as well as their three children, are graduates of TT. Our school is lucky to have such amazing families and community members supporting the Talmud Torah Society and School.

Ms. Jessica and Ms. Lindsey culminated Read In Week by thinking outside the box and creating the

TT BOOK-NIC event! On the last day of Read In Week, TT families gathered together in the gym, with blankets and books, to read to each other and their friends. It was a wonderful

expression of TT community spirit and a love of reading. Based on the wonderful



TT students enjoying BOOK-NIC 2022.

Natalie Soroka is the Executive Assistant at Edmonton Talmud Torah Society.



A great way to start the year!

JAHSENA

OF EDMONTON AND NORTHERN ALBERTA

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY IN EDMONTON

Position: Archivist/Administrator

Organization: JAHSENA, the Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta, is the Archives of the Jewish Community of Edmonton. Our Mission is To Preserve the Jewish heritage of the communities of Edmonton and Northern Alberta, through the acquisition, housing, arrangement, description, cataloguing, preservation, conservation and access of collected materials, and to promote interest in the history of these communities and their archives through educational and publication projects.

The Position: The Archivist/Administrator is responsible for overseeing the acquisition, appraisal, processing, preservation and promotion of the holdings of JAHSENA.

Overall Responsibilities: The Archivist/Administrator is responsible for direction of the archives, its volunteers and contract staff. He/she will be required to work closely with the Board to develop programmes and build partnerships with other organizations to reach the larger Jewish and non-Jewish communities.

Specific Responsibilities: Identify, acquire and authenticate records for acquisition; describe and arrange records according to international standards; manage retention and disposition of records; preserve and conserve records for the future; prepare physical and online exhibits; conduct research for patrons and answer reference questions; supervise and collaborate with volunteers, Board Members, professional colleagues and the public. Also, on the administrative side, he/she must conduct the everyday business of the archives, attend Board meetings, oversee the production of the newsletter, work with the Treasurer and Bookkeeper to maintain accounts and pay bills, oversee publication and distribution of the Newsletter, expand membership, maintain the website and catalogues, promote awareness and engage in grant preparation, fundraising and Casino administration.



TT welcomes families back to school with a delicious outdoor event!

Thank You!





Our Rosh Hashanah Flower Fundraiser was a great success!

We truly appreciate the support from





our TT families and friends!!

TODAH RABBAH!

TT Early Learning Centre



Candidate Qualifications: Candidates must have at least an undergraduate degree, preferably with some emphasis in history, museum, library, archives or information studies. Familiarity with archival and library principles. Excellent oral and written communication skills, technological literacy and ability to work with volunteers, Boards and older people is an asset.

Experience and Technical Competencies: Familiarity with working in a non-profit setting, with fundraising, writing and editing, with working in libraries and archives, with the history and culture of the Jewish community, accounting and computer skills.

Compensation: This is a part-time, contract position, approximately 20 hours per week. Salary is commensurate with experience and available on request.

Contact: Please forward your resume, references and covering letter to Gillian Horwitz at jahsena@shaw.ca

B'nai Brith Lodge Cont. from page 1

Cohen said.

"We live in a world today that is need of repair and healing," said Cohen, referencing Russia's "illegal and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine and its butchering of thousands of innocent civilians."

Cohen spoke of the joint efforts by the United States and Canada to support Ukraine and ensure energy security, "...not just for ourselves, but also for democracies around the world, especially our European friends and allies who are most affected by Russia's weaponization of energy."

"I know that we will continue to enjoy collaborative success in repairing the world as a result of our unique bilateral relationship, and we can be comfortable relying on the values of exceptional organizations like B'nai Brith to continue to lead the way," Ambassador Cohen said.

Prior to Ambassador Cohen's remarks, two other heartfelt presentations underscored B'nai Brith's commitment to Tzedakah and community service.

During a brief address, B'nai Brith Lodge #816 President Darren Bondar presented \$10 thousand to the Calgary Food Bank and another \$10 thousand to Jewish Family Service Calgary in support of their Wynne Thal Pantry/Miriam's Well.

In addition to feeding the hungry, proceeds from the B'nai Brith Dinner will be allocated by the Calgary Lodge to other deserving organizations and causes within the Jewish community and the Calgary community at large.

All of the proceeds from the 50/50 Draw and the Silent Auction will go to BBYO (B'nai Brith Youth Organization). BBYO members once again rolled up their sleeves to support the event, running the coat check and selling 50/50 tickets, among other tasks.

BB Canada CEO Michael Mostyn appeared in a video that described the mandate of the national organization, particularly in the areas of advocacy, care and sports.

Mostyn, who attended the dinner together with Abe Silverman, the Edmonton-based BB Canada Manager of Public Affairs for Alberta—then brought live greetings from the national organization. Notably, Mostyn expressed appreciation to Alberta Minister of Justice Tyler Shandro, who was in attendance, for his role in ensuring the provision of kosher food for Jews serving time in Alberta prisons, an issue recently resolved due to lobbying by Chabad Lubavitch of Edmonton, Chabad Alberta and B'nai Brith Canada.

In addition to Minister Shandro and the honourees, other dignitaries attending the dinner included Calgary Glenmore MLA Whitney Issik and City of Calgary Councillor for Ward 9 Gian-Carlo Carra.

A highlight of the evening was a moving tribute by Dr. Eric Babins to his "oldest and dearest friend," Max

Lipsman, who was saluted for his 47 years of service to the community as a Jewish communal professional and a professional volunteer.

"It is virtually impossible to meet a young person in Jewish Calgary who hasn't been influenced by Max," said Babins, citing Lipsman's long list of accomplishments on behalf of organizations including the JCC, Camp BB Riback, the March of the Living and Beth Tzedec Congregation.

"We are lucky to have him committed to us," Babins said.

While Lipsman most often prefers to serve quietly, encouraging others to enjoy the spotlight, he commanded centre stage in a moving address in which he recalled the influence of his late father-in-law Shep Kaplan, of blessed memory, who first introduced Lipsman to Lodge #816.

Lipsman lauded BB Calgary for the financial help they have consistently given to the community's most vulnerable, "... with no strings attached."

Recalling the challenges he faced growing up in Montreal as the child of immigrants and Holocaust survivors—including the bullying he experienced for "being different," Lipsman said that as he grew "older and considerably bigger," he began to defend himself.

"At times that resulted in me getting into trouble,"

said Lipsman who added that organizations like B'nai Brith reached out to help kids like him, setting them on a path of "acceptance and tolerance" by supporting their experiences in residential camps, athletics and the like.

Lipsman connected the dots between the community-building goals of B'nai Brith and the path he eventually forged as a community leader and a fierce advocate for the underdog.

Lipsman shared the award with his wife Rocky—AKA Rochelle Lipsman—and daughters Simmy and Kyla, reserving his concluding comment for his



Calgary B'nai Brith Lodge President Darren Bondar, alongside Dinner Honouree Calgary Mayor Jyoti Gondek, and Ben Docktor Award Of Excellence Recipient Max Lipsman.

chat between MC Dave Kelly and Mayor Jyoti Gondek who reminisced about her first memorable encounters with Ambassador Cohen. Responding to a range of open-ended questions, Gondek spoke to issues of faith, the ways in which her late father inspired her to enter public service, and the challenges and blessings of living with her aging mother.

Sensitive to the needs of seniors, Gondek spoke about how her personal experiences have motivated her to ensure that seniors presenting to City Council are listened to with patience and compassion and taken into consideration when city planning decisions are made.

Gondek did not shy away from questions about controversial issues, including the derailed arena/events centre deal.

"I am hopeful we can carry on with the negotiations at some point," the Mayor said. "Right now we are trying to get partners to the table and it looks pretty good."

Other topics touched on during the Mayor Gondek's chat with Kelly included the fallout after the City of Calgary's climate emergency proclamation.

"The fact that you agree that the climate crisis is real does not mean that you dislike the energy industry," said Mayor Gondek who rued increasing polarization around this and other issues.

"My goal is to demonstrate to the rest of the world and to investors...that we take this seriously, the mayor added.

"We're not starting an energy transition," said Gondek. "We've been having these conversations for a very long time.... We, as a City Council were simply trying to keep up what the sector was already doing."

The Mayor commented on the treatment of women in politics, including the verbal assault on Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland in Fort McMurray, angry protesters outside her own home, and the nowinfamous costume horse's head ominously placed on her property.

Expressing concern that all the women and girls in the room had likely been subjected to "some sort of a challenge that is rooted in her gender," Gondek urged everyone to talk about it and, especially, asked men to support the women and girls in their lives by challenging misogyny.

"When you expect us to be transparent with you, and we are, please understand how hard it was, and please give us the support that we desperately need, because if we don't have honest conversations, we will never get better."

On that note, it is worthy of noting that B'nai Brith, which began as a male fraternity, has in recent years become egalitarian, an evolution reflected in its membership policy, hiring and selection of honourees. "Like B'nai Brith, each of this year's honourees embrace and embody outreach, diversity and the fight against antisemitism and racism," Darren Bonder told AJNews following the dinner. Although the crowd was smaller than the usual 600plus gathering, the efforts of a small but dedicated core of leaders, headed by Bondar and supported by BB Calgary Executive Director Polina Brener and dozens of volunteers, ensured that the return of the annual dinner was a resounding success, netting \$75,000 in support of those who need it most.



Featuring the

Stephen Harper,

Right Hon.

PC CC

Breakfast ^{for} ISrael 2022-

Israel's Place in the Middle East and the World

Date: Monday, November 7, 2022 Time: 7:30-9:00am Location: Beth Tzedec Congregation,

1325 Glenmore Trail SW

Cost: **\$54 per person or \$1000 for a table of 8, including breakfast**

Sponsorship opportunities available

Registration: (ii) jnfcalgary.ca (C) 403-255-0295 Calgary@jnf.ca community.

"Thank you for trusting me in providing what I could, and I hope I made a difference," Lipsman said.

Though the exuberant crowd sometimes gave MC Dave Kelly a run for his money, he managed the podium with humour, keeping the train on its tracks through speeches, silent and live auctions (the animated spotters alone worth the price of admission) and general mayhem.

The final highlight of the evening was a fireside

To find out more about the work of B'nai Brith Calgary Lodge #816 or to join and/or donate, go to bnaibrithcalgary.org.

Maxine Fischbein is a

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter









VIRTUAL AGAIN! | NOVEMBER 5 - 23, 2022 TICKETS AT CALGARYJEWISHFILMFESTIVAL.COM

October, 2022





AMERICA Israel 2022 Director: Ofir Raul Graizer Hebrew with English subtitles 127 minutes

Drama

Eli, a thirtysomething Israeli swimming coach living in America, hasn't been back to his native Israel since he left 10 years ago. But news of his estranged father's death necessitates Eli's return to Tel Aviv, where he decides to reconnect with Yotam, a childhood friend, who now runs a flower shop together with his fiancée Iris. Rekindling their old friendship will set in motion a series of events that will change the lives of all three of them. A story set between a flower shop and an ancient monastery, between a swimming pool and the Mediterranean, between life and death - and somewhere in the middle. Featuring evocative, vibrant cinematography and gracefully restrained performances, this critically acclaimed film is an affecting tale of conflicted identity, redemption, love and the bonds of friendship.

Winner - Best Actress, Jerusalem Int'l FF 2022

Saturday, November 5th starting at 7:00 PM



GROSSMAN

Israel 2021 Director: Adi Arbel Hebrew with English subtitles 54 minutes

Documentary

An intimate portrait of internationally acclaimed Israeli author and outspoken peace



ALL I CAN DO

Israel 2022 Director: Shiri Nevo Fridental Hebrew & Russian with English subtitles 87 minutes

Drama

In this powerful drama, Ania Bukstein (*Game of Thrones, A Quiet Heart*), stars as Reut, a young and ambitious prosecutor whose orderly world is disrupted when she takes over a sexual abuse case – a case based on the sole testimony of Efrat, a rebellious yet fragile victim who lives with her devoted but tempestuous female partner. Reut becomes emotionally involved as she discovers her own vulnerabilities and family secrets, and is committed to getting justice for Efrat, no matter what it costs her professionally and emotionally. As the trial progresses, Reut learns the true nature of strength, love and sisterhood.

Sunday, November 6th starting at 7:00 PM



SUMMER NIGHTS Israel/Switzerland 2021 Director: Ohad Milstein Hebrew, French with English subtitles 53 minutes

activist David Grossman. One of the most prominent and influential voices in modern Israeli literature of this generation, Grossman's writings have been translated into 45 languages and garnered him myriad accolades, including the prestigious Man Booker International Prize. The film follows Grossman up close and takes the viewers on a personal journey into the soul and work of a captivating individual, as he shares honest, private and intimate insights on camera, speaks poignantly about the profound impact that the tragic death of his son Uri in combat has had on him, and exposes the delicate and complex connection between his novels and his personal life.

Nominated - Best Documentary, Israeli Academy Awards 2022

Monday, November 7th starting at 7:00 PM

APERNY FAMI



Presented in collaboration with the Paperny Family JCC's Literary Festival

Documentary

How does the world look through the eyes of a 6-year-old child? Winner of the 2021 Israeli Academy Award for Best Documentary, this aesthetically unique and visually stunning film offers a window into a child's world: his fears, his desires, his way of thinking. It's a journey into the subconscious of an innocent child, as he falls asleep and drifts into the depths of his own mind. Award-winning Israeli director Ohad Milstein films his own son, Alva, as night falls and the two of them engage in bedtime conversations. The father and son, whispering to one another so as not to wake Alva's sister, talk about life, death, and everything in between. The resulting film, with its distinctive cinematic style, is a tender, intimate and poetic reflection on the passage of time, aging, death and the relationship between a father and a son.

Winner – Best Documentary, Israeli Academy Awards 2021 Winner – Best Israeli Film, DocAviv Int'l FF 2021

Tuesday, November 8th starting at 7:00 PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT CALGARYJEWISHFILMFESTIVAL.COM





RECKONINGS

USA 2022 Director: Roberta Grossman English, Geman, Hebrew with English subtitles 74 minutes

Documentary

In the aftermath of the Holocaust, in a hidden castle near the Hague, secret meetings were held to negotiate the unthinkable -- compensation for the survivors of the largest mass genocide in history. Survivors were in urgent need of help, but how could reparations be determined for the unprecedented destruction and suffering of a people? Directed by award-winning filmmaker Roberta Grossman, *Reckonings* chronicles the tense negotiations between Jewish and German leaders. Under constant threat of violence, they forged ahead, knowing the compensation would never be enough but hoping it could at least be an acknowledgement of the genocide and a first step towards healing. Through a captivating mix of dramatic re-enactments and interviews, *Reckonings* brings to life the untold story behind the ground-breaking Luxembourg Agreements of 1952 - the first time in history that individual victims of persecution received material compensation from the perpetrators.

Wednesday, November 9th starting at 7:00 PM

Screening of the film RECKONINGS is open to the entire community at NO CHARGE as part of our community-wide KRISTALLNACHT COMMEMORATION



Proudly co-sponsored by CALGARY JEWISH FEDERATION



LET IT BE MORNING Israel/France 2021 Director: Eran Kolirin Arabic & Hebrew with English subtitles 101 minutes



KARAOKE Israel 2022 Director: Moshe Roser

Director: Moshe Rosenthal Hebrew with English subtitles 100 minutes

Comedy/Drama

Meir and Tova, an upper-middle-class couple in their late 60's, live a comfortable, quiet – if somewhat passionless and routine - life in an upscale apartment complex in a sleepy Tel Aviv suburb. Their world is shaken up when Itzik, a flashy and charismatic bachelor with a fondness for karaoke, moves into the building's penthouse. The couple find themselves drawn to Itzik and his flamboyant lifestyle, and their newfound friendship with him causes a stir in their lives, as long-dormant ambitions and identities are reawakened. Blending moments of humor and pathos, this heartfelt dramedy delights and surprises as it follows Meir and Tova on a journey of mid-life self-discovery, both as individuals and as a couple.

Winner – 4 Israeli Academy Awards 2022 (including Best Actor, Best Actress) Winner – Audience Choice Award & Best Debut Film, Jerusaelm Int'l FF 2022 Nominated – 13 Israeli Academy Awards

Saturday, November 12th starting at 7:00 PM



THE LEVYS OF MONTICELLO USA 2021 Director: Steven Pressman English 72 minutes

Documentary

Drama

Israel's official submission to the 2022 Oscars for Best International Feature Film and winner of seven Israeli Academy Awards, this gently satirical tale centers on Sami, an Arab Israeli telecom executive who lives in Jerusalem. An invitation to his younger brother's wedding brings Sami, his wife and young son back to the small Arab village where he grew up. But after the wedding, as he starts his journey back to the city, he discovers that the Israeli military has imposed a security lock down on the village without warning and has forbidden anyone from leaving. Cut off from the outside world, trapped in an unexpected situation, Sami is forced to face what he has been running away from, to re-evaluate his life choices and to ponder whether his sense of security as an Israeli citizen has been nothing but an illusion.

Winner – 7 Israeli Academy Awards (2021) including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor, Best Actress

Sunday, November 13th starting at 7:00PM

Documentary

Monticello, a US National Historic Landmark and UNESCO World Heritage site, was the long time and cherished home of Thomas Jefferson, one of America's Founding Fathers. When Jefferson died in 1826, he left behind a mountain of personal debt, which forced his heirs to sell his beloved Monticello home and all its possessions. *The Levys of Monticello* tells the astonishing and little-known story of the Levy family, who owned and carefully preserved Monticello for nearly a century – far longer than Jefferson or his descendants. Through the remarkable story of the Levy family, the film also tells a broader story about racism and anti-Semitism that runs throughout the course of American history, right up to the present day, while also addressing the pivotal role that enslaved people played at Monticello.

Monday, November 14th starting at 7:00 PM



JEWISH HISTORICAL Proudly co-sponsored by the Society of JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA SOUTHERN Jay Joffe Memorial Program ALBERTA

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SINGLE TICKETS: \$12 PER FILM | FESTIVAL PASS: \$45 FOR ALL 16 FILMS



THAT ORCHESTRA WITH THE BROKEN INSTRUMENTS

Israel 2021 Director: Yuval Hameiri Hebrew, Arabic and English with English subtitles 79 minutes

Documentary

A broken string, fractured echo chamber, rusting valves. One brilliant conductor, three gifted composers, and 100 musicians meet for four days of rehearsals. They speak different languages. Their instruments are broken. An orchestra of professional and amateur musicians, young and old, prepare, against all odds, for a one-time-only concert in Jerusalem. The film traces the creative process - from collecting the instruments, to workshops, intensive rehearsals, and the night of the performance - and offers us a lyrical and engaging take on what is broken and what is whole, as it chronicles a determined attempt, if only for a moment, to create harmony in a discordant city.

Tuesday, November 15th starting at 7:00 PM

THE DR. RALPH GUREVITCH TIKKUN OLAM SCREENING Proudly sponsored by The Gurevitch Family Endowment Fund



SCHÄCHTEN - A RETRIBUTION

Austria 2021 Director: Thomas Roth German with English subtitles 110 minutes

Drama/Thriller

As a child, Victor witnessed the merciless killings of Jews by Nazis, and lost his mother and little sister in the Mauthausen concentration camp. Now, two decades later, he is a successful businessman living in Vienna, but still carries a burning desire for justice. But in 1960's Austria, where the political and legal systems are still riddled with former Nazis, and large parts of Austrian society are still entangled in the past, the trial of the Nazi war criminal responsible for the murder of his mother and sister fails to secure just punishment and ends in an acquittal. When Victor also loses his grief-ridden father and his girlfriend's family opposes their relationship because of his Jewish identity, Victor begins to lose faith in formal justice and feels he has no choice but to take matters in his own hands...



THE LAST CHAPTER OF A.B. YEHOSHUA

Israel 2021 Director: Yair Qedar Hebrew with English subtitles 55 minutes

Documentary

This captivating documentary offers a loving portrait of A.B. Yehoshua, one of Israel's greatest contemporary writers. At 83 years of age, Yehoshua struggles with widowhood, loneliness, and a serious illness, yet his mind remains agile and his perspective clear. Despite his declining health, he does not for one moment give up his joie de vivre, faces the prospect of death with unflinching honesty, and still embraces his work on a new book. Filmmaker Yair Qedar follows the illustrious and outspoken author as he reflects on his life, his literary work, and on mortality, and shares his perspectives on the Arab-Israeli conflict and his concerns for Israel's future. A rare and fascinating look at one of Israel's most widely read and beloved writers, who just recently passed away.

Nominated – Best Documentary, Jerusalem Int'l FF 2021

Wednesday, November 16th at 7:00 PM



Presented in collaboration with the Paperny Family JCC's Literary Festival



WHERE LIFE BEGINS

Italy/France 2022 Director: Stephane Freiss French & Italian with English subtitles 100 minutes

Drama

This poignant and beautifully rendered drama is set on a farm in the countryside of southern Italy during the autumn harvest season, where a large, extended ultra-Orthodox Jewish family from France comes for a brief stay every year to carry out a sacred mission: harvesting citrons (etrogs) perfect enough to be considered kosher for the upcoming festival of Sukkot. In this pastoral setting, Elio, the farm owner, meets Esther, the rabbi's rebellious 26-year-old daughter. Although Esther feels a strong sense of devotion to her family, she also feels stifled by the constraints and restrictions imposed by her religion, and is contemplating abandoning Orthodox life. Through the bond that slowly develops between the two of them, Esther will understand the importance of freedom and following her own path. And in the same way, thanks to her,

Thursday, November 17th starting at 7:00 PM

Elio will find the peace he has long sought.

Saturday, November 19th starting at 7:00 PM

THE DR. MARTHA COHEN MEMORIAL SCREENING Proudly sponsored by Dr. Martha Cohen Bequest, Beth Tzedec Congregation







ROSE

France 2021 Director: Aurélie Saada French with English subtitles 102 minutes

Drama

Legendary French actress Françoise Fabian stars as a recent widow reawakening to life's possibilities in this heartwarming French drama. The sudden death of her beloved husband leaves Rose feeling lost and uncertain how to navigate life as a widow approaching 80. But her sorrow soon gives way to a deep thirst for life as she embraces new experiences and long-ignored aspirations, realizing that there is still time for her to redefine herself as a woman – much to the surprise of her adult children. Richly textured with both Sephardic and Ashkenazi atmosphere, this life-affirming drama is a tender reminder that it's never too late to seek fulfillment.

Winner – Variety Piazza Grande Award, Locarno Int'l FF2021

Sunday, November 20th starting at 7:00 PM



ON THIS HAPPY NOTE



THE FOURTH WINDOW

Israel 2021 Director: Yair Qedar Hebrew & English with English subtitles 84 minutes

Documentary

Behind the international success story of Amos Oz—the celebrated Israeli writer and intellectual whose works have been translated into 45 languages and who has been held up as a spokesperson and symbol of the Israeli conscience—lurked a tumultuous personal life marked by a double tragedy. When he was 12 years old, his mother committed suicide, and several years before his death, his daughter accused him of being physically and emotionally abusive to her during her childhood, ending all communication with him. Anchored by a series of conversations with Nurit Gertz, his friend and latest biographer, this engaging film weaves a tapestry of biography, literature, and conversations with significant people in his life, as Amos Oz tells his last story.

Nominated – Best Israeli Film, DocAviv Int'l FF 2021

Monday, November 21st starting at 7:00 PM



Presented in collaboration with the Paperny Family JCC's Literary Festival



FIDDLER'S JOURNEY TO THE BIG SCREEN USA 2022 Director: Daniel Raim English

Israel 2021 Director: Tamar Tal Anati Hebrew with English subtitles 67 minutes

Documentary

Anat Gov, one of the most influential playwrights in Israeli theatre, is preparing for her death. She asks Arik Kneller, an artists' agent, to be the executor of her will. Arik struggles to accept the humor and serenity with which she faces her upcoming demise. Anat, consciously accepting her nearing end, wishes to leave a spiritual legacy: there can be a happy ending. Almost a decade after her death, her loved ones try to fill the void left by her words with their own. Through excerpts from her plays and footage of her family and political activism, a new script is written: one in which the line between the play and reality is blurred.

Nominated - Best Documentary, Israeli Academy Awards 2022

Tuesday, November 22nd starting at 7:00 PM

88 minutes

Documentary

The Fall of 2021 marked the 50th anniversary of *Fiddler on the Roof*, the film Pauline Kael of The New Yorker called "the most powerful movie musical ever made". Now, the engrossing and exuberant *Fiddler's Journey to the Big Screen* captures the humor and drama of director Norman Jewison's quest to recreate the lost world of Jewish life in Tsarist Russia and re-envision the beloved stage hit as a wide-screen epic. Oscarnominated filmmaker Daniel Raim puts us in the director's chair and in Jewison's heart and mind, drawing on behind-the-scenes footage and never-before-seen stills, as well as original interviews with Jewison, Topol (Tevye), other members of the cast, and many others involved in the creative process. At its heart, this delightful documentary explores how the experience of making *Fiddler* deepened Jewison as an artist and revived his soul.

Wednesday, November 23rd starting at 7:00 PM

Screening of this film is FREE OF CHARGE

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT CALGARYJEWISHFILMFESTIVAL.COM



We would like to express our deepest thanks to all of the sponsors of the 2022 Beth Tzedec Calgary Jewish Film Festival. It is their generosity, communitymindedness and commitment to Jewish culture that enables us to offer this event to the community.

And we'd like to acknowledge and offer a special thank you to the sponsors of two of the annual highlights of our festival:

The "Dr. Martha Cohen Memorial Screening",

which this year features the poignant drama Where Life Begins, is sponsored annually by the Dr. Martha Cohen bequest to Beth Tzedec Congregation

The "Dr. Ralph Gurevitch Tikkun Olam Screening",

which this year features the inspiring documentary That Orchestra with the Broken Instruments, is sponsored annually by the Gurevitch Family Endowment Fund

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Calgary Jewish Film Festival goes virtual and inclusive: Nov. 5 – 23

By Maxine Fischbein

Get ready for a virtual AND reel good time at the 22nd Annual Beth Tzedec Congregation Jewish Film Festival which takes place November 5 - 23.

Festival Founder and Director Harvey Cyngiser and his committee of 25 had hoped 2022 would mark a return to a full-on in-person experience but, in the end, opted to "err on the side of caution," Cyngiser told AJNews.

"It was the most inclusive choice," said Cyngiser, who personally polled many Film Festival faithful before making the decision to once again go virtual.

"Many of the people I spoke with liked the idea of returning in person but were personally concerned about mixing with hundreds of people indoors at a time when a spike in COVID and seasonal viruses could reasonably be predicted," Cyngiser added, expressing the responsibility he felt to keep those at high risk safe and well-entertained.

While movie fans will no doubt miss the give and take of a real-time in-person gathering, there is much to look forward to this year thanks to a lineup that is stunning in scope and quality.

"We've previewed a long list of films this year, leading to intense conversation and some challenging choices," said Cyngiser. "We ended up with some of the most remarkable feature and documentary films in the history of the festival."

On opening night-Saturday, November 5-the feature film America showcases the considerable talents of Israeli film director Ofir Raul Graizer. This searing story is put in motion when a swimming coach living in America returns to Tel Aviv under stressful circumstances, reconnecting with his childhood friend and his fiancée-portrayed by Ethiopian-Israeli actress Oshrat Ingedashet, whose breathtaking performance earned her the Best Actress Award at the 2022 Jerusalem International Film Festival.

Graizer's first feature film, The Cakemaker, was Israel's submission for an Academy Award in 2019 and it scooped up seven Ophir Awards-the Israeli equivalent to the Oscars-among them Best Picture, Best Director, Best Script and Best Actress. The Cakemaker was well received at the Calgary Jewish Film Festival prior to the COVID lockdown, and America will, no doubt, be a highlight this year.

A total of 16 movies—seven feature films and nine documentaries— will be screened throughout the festival with a 48 hour viewing window for each, allowing viewers flexibility.

Cyngiser has worked hard to keep the Film Festival affordable and had help in that regard. During the pandemic, some sponsors increased their financial support of the festival. Remarkably, their largesse was unsolicited, Cyngiser said.

Thanks in large part to sponsors, a full access pass is \$45 while tickets for individual flicks are \$12. Two films will be offered to Alberta viewers free of charge including Reckonings, which will be presented in collaboration with Calgary Jewish Federation on Wednesday, November 9.

Directed by award-winning filmmaker Roberta Grossman-who has spoken at the Beth Tzedec Congregation Jewish Film Festival in the past-Reckonings provides astonishing insights into the unprecedented negotiations entered into by Jewish and German leaders toward reparations for Holocaust survivors following World War II and the Shoah. The Jewish Film Festival's second gift to Alberta viewers is the November 23 closing night screening of Fiddler's Journey to the Big Screen, an entertaining and insightful documentary by Oscar-nominated filmmaker Daniel Raim that captures "...the humor and drama of director Norman Jewison's quest to recreate the lost world of Jewish life in Tsarist Russia and re-envision the beloved stage hit as a wide-screen epic."

has been success Cyngiser's success in building a film selection committee that is diverse terms in of age, experience, community affiliation and point of view.

"It leads to incredibly well-rounded film festival seasons that are wellreceived by our community and Calgary film lovers in general,' Cyngiser told AJNews.

Riley Zipursky, 15-the

youngest-ever Film Festival committee member-has impressed fellow volunteers with his enthusiasm and deeply thoughtful commentary throughout this year's film selection process.

Zipursky became a devoted Film Festival attendee at the tender age of 10 when his family returned to Calgary after living in Salt Lake City, Utah. When he heard Zipursky was interested in playing a direct role in the festival, Cyngiser was pleased to add him to the volunteer roster.

Zipursky told *AJNews* that he particularly enjoys the opportunity to experience films that do not scream Hollywood.

"It's nice to see the European and Israeli films that you don't get to see too often," Zipursky said.

Film selection discussions are often high-octane.

"It's sort of what you'd expect when you put 20 Jewish people on a Zoom call and ask them to talk about something. There are a lot of opinions," notes Zipursky.

One of his top picks this season is *Grossman*, which focuses on the life and literature of David Grossman, one of Israel's most influential writers and peace activists.

Notably, the documentary is one of three in this year's lineup that shine a spotlight on Israeli authors. Films that will be presented in collaboration with the Paperny Family JCC Literary Festival include The Last Chapter of A. B. Yehoshua and The Fourth Window, which respectively explore the times and works of acclaimed Israeli authors A. B. Yehoshua (who sadly passed away earlier this year) and the late Amos Oz.

Zipursky's favorite feature film, Schächten – A *Retribution*, is an Austrian thriller that sees a young man take justice into his own hands following the acquittal of the Nazi war criminal responsible for the murder of his mother and sister.

Other fabulous films abound at the 22nd Annual Beth Tzedec Congregation Jewish Film Festival. This year's Dr. Martha Cohen Memorial Screening is the highly evocative feature film *Where Life Begins*, about a young ultra-Orthodox woman who learns to chart her own path thanks to an encounter that forever changes her life and that of the unlikely friend she makes during her family's seasonal trip from France to Southern Italy to harvest Etrogim for the Sukkot festival.

in several other 2022

Jewish Film Festival

selections including *Rose*,

Aurélie Saada, which won

Grande Award at the

Festival. The title role is

brilliantly acted by iconic

Françoise Fabian who

portrays an aging Jewish

widow as she journeys

through loss and grief,

ultimately choosing to

live her golden years to

This year's selection for

film

Director

Piazza

Locarno

Film

star

French

Variety

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the

2021

French

the fullest.

International



The Beth Tzedec Jewish Film Festival features a wide range of engaging films. November 13 features a screening of an Israeli / French film "Let It Be Morning."

the Dr. Ralph Gurevitch Tikkun Olam screening, That Orchestra with the Broken Instruments literally tugs at the heartstrings in a celebration of diversity and inclusion as the collective efforts of a conductor, three composers and 100 professional and amateur musicians of various backgrounds and abilities rehearse toward a one-time-only concert in Jerusalem, armed only with broken instruments -a fitting metaphor for life in Israel's capital city.

Film Festival is once again teaming up with the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta to present the 2022 Jay Joffe Memorial Program. This year's selection, The Levys of Monticello, recounts the little-known story about the Levy family, who bought and preserved the home of American founding father Thomas Jefferson for more than a century, while delving into the antisemitism and racism that Jews and enslaved African Americans -who also play a notable role in the history of Jefferson's homeexperienced then and continue to experience today.

Another remarkable documentary is Summer Nights, which won the 2021 Israeli Academy Award for Best Documentary. Director Ohad Milstein captures the wow and wonder of his six-year-old son Alva as they engage in a sweet series of whispered bedtime conversations. "The resulting film, with its distinctive cinematic style, is a tender, intimate and poetic reflection on the passage of time, aging, death and the relationship between a father and a son."

As always, there is something for everyone at the 22nd Annual Beth Tzedec Congregation Jewish Festival, coming soon to your living room!

On November 9, the 7:00pm screening of Reckonings will be preceded by a brief virtual ceremony commemorating Kristallnacht-the Night of Broken Glass—a series of violent pogroms against Jews that took place throughout Germany and Austria on November 9-10, 1938. The link for the Kristallnacht ceremony (which will begin streaming at 6:45pm) will be posted on the Calgary Jewish Federation website, www.jewishcalgary.org. To access the link for the film, go to www.JewishFilmFestival.com.

For more information about the Beth Tzedec Congregation Jewish Film Festival, or to purchase your all-access pass or individual films, go to www.CalgaryJewishFilmFestival.com.

Maxine Fischbein is a

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter.

A captivating and feel-good film, Fiddler's Journey provides humorous and poignant insights into the intersection between Jewison's professional and personal journeys.

The Jewish Film Festival has become one of the community's most popular culture events. A key to its The journey of women toward wholeness is featured



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

Volume 33, Number 10, October 12, 2022

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

albertajewishnews.com

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

Gouvernement du Canada

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Next Deadline: November 3, 2022

Schnitzel Strips with Green Tahini Dip

By Danielle Oron

(The Nosher via JTA) - Chef Danielle Oron suggests this recipe as ideal snack food for the Super Bowl. We think it might also be perfect for watching the Calgary Jewish Film Festival next month. Oron says, "It's a time for snacks, chips, dips, beer and 12-foot subs. I'm usually the one hosting because I love creating a huge spread of finger foods. I set up a buffet in the kitchen and everyone grabs a plate, fills it up and goes to sit in the living room to watch the game. I find that it's so much easier to have finger foods for events like this so no one struggles to eat while sitting on the couch. No need for forks and knives!"

These schnitzel strips have been part of her snack food menu for a few years now and they're always the first thing to disappear, she adds. They are easy to make and can be kept warm in the oven while your guests arrive and snack on the guacamole and chips you have waiting for them.

Note: there will likely be extra green tahini dip left over. You can store this in an airtight container in the fridge.

Schnitzel Strips with Green Tahini Dip Yield: 6 to 8 servings Ingredients For the green tahini dip: 1 clove garlic ½ bunch parsley (about 1 cup) 1 ½ - 2 tbsp lemon juice
½ tsp salt
1 cup tahini
1 ¼ - 1 ½ cups water
For the schnitzel strips:
2 lb boneless, skinless chicken breast, sliced into 1" strips
½ cup flour, 1 tsp mustard powder, ½ tsp salt, ¼ tsp black pepper, 3 eggs, 1 tbsp Dijon mustard
¾ cup breadcrumbs, ¾ cup panko
2 tsp sesame seeds (black, white or a combination of both), ½ tsp sweet Hungarian paprika,

 $^{1\!\!2}$ tsp garlic powder, $^{1\!\!4}$ tsp salt, $^{1\!\!4}$ tsp black pepper Canola oil for frying, Salt

Directions

To make the green tahini, place the garlic clove and parsley in a food processor and pulse until very finely chopped. Alternatively, you can chop them finely by hand. In a large bowl, combine the garlic and parsley mixture with the lemon juice, salt, tahini and water. Whisk together well! It will seize at first, but keep whisking! You may need more water depending on how thin or thick you want your tahini sauce. Taste and adjust seasoning with salt and lemon juice. Set aside.

Pre-heat the oven to 200 degrees to keep the schnitzel warm until ready to serve. Set up a cooling rack on top of a baking sheet.

In 3 separate dishes combine the dredging mixes. In the first container, mix the flour, mustard powder, salt and pepper. In the second, whisk together the eggs and Dijon mustard. In the third, combine the breadcrumbs, panko, sesame seeds, paprika, garlic powder, salt and pepper.

Heat 1/4 inch of oil in a large skillet over mediumlow heat when you're ready to fry the schnitzel. It's recommended to do this in batches. Dredge the first batch of chicken strips in the flour mixture and shake off as much excess flour as possible before moving the



strips to the egg mixture. Allow excess egg to drip off the strips before moving them to the breadcrumb mixture. Press the breadcrumbs into the strips well. Pressing will help the crumbs stick!

Fry the strips for 3 minutes per side until they are golden brown and cooked through. Remove the strips onto the cooling rack and sprinkle with salt. Place the strips in the oven to keep warm while you fry the rest up. Add more oil to the pan between batches if needed.

Serve the strips with the green tahini on the side.

Danielle Oron is a chef, photographer and writer of the blog "I Will Not Eat Oysters," the owner of a milk & cookies bakery in Toronto and now a cookbook author.

This recipe originally appeared on the Nosher, a 70 Faces Media Brand that offers a dazzling array of new and classic Jewish recipes and food news, from Europe to Yemen, from challah to shakshuka and beyond. Check it out at TheNosher.com.

IHRA definition

Cont. from page 1

Israel and Jewish Affairs. "Identifying antisemitism is the first step in recognizing its manifestations, which is key to standing against it. Today, Alberta joins governments across the country to say that enough is enough. Canadians cannot stand by and allow Jewhatred to spread unchecked."

As antisemitic incidents in Canada continue to rise, the need to counter them is urgent. The IHRA definition provides a critical framework to guide officials in addressing this rise in hate and discrimination. Alberta's organized community representatives, including the Jewish Federations of Calgary and Edmonton, CIJA and B'nai Brith Canada have been advocating for the endorsement of the IHRA definition for many years. The adoption of IHRA signals that the Government of Alberta recognizes the struggle faced by the Jewish community and that they stand in solidarity in the fight against Jew-hatred and all forms of hate.

"Today, the Government of Alberta sent a strong message that antisemitism has no place in society," said Stacey Leavitt-Wright, CEO of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton. "To combat antisemitism effectively, it must first be defined. The IHRA definition will help Albertans identify and combat antisemitism in all its forms."

"With antisemitic hate crimes on the rise across the country, fighting antisemitism is a priority – not just for the Jewish community, but for all Albertans and for all Canadians," said Adam Silver, CEO, Calgary Jewish Federation. "IHRA will equip policymakers with a usable tool to address this rise in hate and discrimination. We look forward to working with stakeholders as they apply the IHRA definition to guide education, public policy, anti-racism strategies, and law enforcement hate crime identification frameworks." While details of the rollout and adoption of the IHRA definition in various applications are still being formalized by the government, the community is encouraged that, through IHRA, Jewish-lived experience will now be reflected in the official understanding of antisemitism. "Hatred against any person or group based on race or religion is harmful to all of us." stated Minister of Justice and Solicitor General Tyler Shandro. "Alberta's government is endorsing this definition of antisemitism to let the Jewish community know we stand with them against discrimination and will not



On September 23, Alberta became the fifth Canadian province to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism. The announcement was made during a press conference with (former) Premier Jason Kenney and Justice Minister Tyler Shandro, with leaders of the Alberta Jewish community.

tolerate hate in our communities. I invite all Albertans IHRA."

to speak out against this hatred and help foster a more accepting province."

B'nai Brith Canada also lauded the Government of Alberta for its announcement.

"The adoption of IHRA by Alberta is timely," said Abe Silverman, B'nai Brith Canada's Manager of Public Affairs for Alberta. "Our 2021 Audit of Antisemitic Incidents in Canada recorded 148 incidents of hate aimed at Jews in the province - an increase of 55.8% over 2020. Those numbers included five incidents of violence. The situation needs to be addressed and the IHRA definition will help."

"We're thrilled to see Alberta joining Ontario in formally adopting IHRA. Its importance cannot be underestimated," B'nai Brith Canada CEO Michael Mostyn added. "We thank Premier Jason Kenney and Minister Tyler Shandro for having met with us repeatedly over the last year, leading to today's major announcement. We're also grateful for Rabbi Ari Drelich's support for our efforts to have Alberta adopt Statistics Canada's recently released 2021 report on crime presents a shocking portrait of police-reported hate crimes, nationally.

"Jews comprise only 1.25% of the Canadian population, yet Statistics Canada alerts us that in 2021, they represented 56% of all police-reported hate crimes targeting religious minorities. That is unacceptable," said Marvin Rotrand, B'nai Brith Canada's National Director of its League for Human Rights. "Today, the Alberta Government has reassured the Jewish community that it will not tolerate hate."

The IHRA non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism:

"Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."

Edmonton Beit Midrash hosts 'Community Conversations on Antisemitism'

By Jeremy Appel

Edmonton's Beit Midrash is returning for 2022 with a series of five weekly workshops focusing on different facets of being Jewish in Edmonton starting November 3.

The workshops, which are funded by the Government of Canada, will be facilitated by Jeremiah Levine with the Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton, Jeni Adler and Meital Siva-Jain with Jewish Family Services (JFS), and Rabbah Gila Caine of Edmonton's reform congregation, Temple Beth Ora.

"It's a series of workshops that's been developed by Jewish people, for Jewish people," explained JFS Community Resource Specialist and Intercultural Facilitator Jeni Adler.

While these particular workshops are for members of the Jewish community, the plan is to deliver them to members of other faith and cultural communities in 2023.

Each workshop is intended to build on the material presented in the previous one, but they're also conducted in such a way that they are informative even in isolation from each other.

"If people can only make it to some of them, that's OK. Of course, we would prefer and we recommend that they attend all of them, especially for the community building aspect. And some of the information leads naturally from previous information," Adler said.

The Nov. 3 workshop provides an introduction to "the course and its emphasis on building Jewish community before examining the various 'isms' of hate - antisemitism, of course, as well as sexism, racism and homophobia. "It's not an 'ism' but we'll make it an 'ism'," Adler said of the latter.

All these forms of bigotry "tend to interface with antisemitism," she added.

On Nov. 10, the workshop will expand on this connection between antisemitism and other forms of hate, and how they can potentially be addressed through legislation.

The Nov. 17 session, which Adler will deliver with Levine, deals with the concept of belonging.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, the Jewish Community Centre of Edmonton, and the Edmonton Jewish Community Charitable Foundati

> Will be held on Wednesday, December 7, 2022 Commencing at 7 p.m. Beth Shalom Synagogue

Lower Auditorium 11916 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta For the purpose of: 1. Reviewing the financial results for the fiscal year just ended.

2. Receiving an update on past activity. 3. Elections of slates of Directors for the organizations

Jewish Federation OF EDMONTON

"We want participants to have a good look at their current sense of belonging to the Jewish community and how to deepen it," Adler said.

"We go quite deeply into the meaning of belonging for different people and how people can welcome others into their group, some of the skills involved."

This will involve defining what an inclusive space is, and distinguishing between the concepts of 'fitting in' and 'belonging.'

On Nov. 24, the facilitators will build on the concepts from the Nov. 10 workshop and go more in-depth into the different forms of hate.

"We want to explore our understanding of local types of oppression and how serious they are, so we will be talking about anti-Black hate and anti-Indigenous hate, all at a local, Edmontonian level," Adler said.

The final session on Dec. 1 will deal with how to most effectively respond to antisemitism and racism, with an emphasis on education and stress responses.

"We want to help people build individual comfort and competence in responding to antisemitism, because we find that there's a lot of information about what it is and how prevalent it is, but not a lot on how to respond effectively so that people end up feeling good about themselves and get the message across that they would like to get across," said Adler.

There will also be discussion around trauma, triggers and "learning how to calibrate the threat more realistically, as in, when is it time to run like hell? And when is the time to stand up for yourself or someone else? " she said.

Levine will also discuss how to avoid a "white







Edmonton Beit Midrash is hosting a series of workshops starting Nov. 3. Pictured above Jeni Adler, Beit Midrash co-facilitator and TBO Rabbah Gila Caine.

saviour complex."

Rabbah Gila Caine will speak at the end of each session to tie everything back to spiritual concepts in Judaism

This is the second annual edition of the Edmonton Beit Midrash, which Adler promises will be an even more enlightening experience than its previous iteration.

"It's a much more developed and sophisticated course than what we offered last year," she said.

The workshops each begin at 7 p.m. at Temple Beth

Anyone from the Jewish community is welcome, but you have to register in advance, email meital@jfse.org for details.

Jeremy Appel is a

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter.



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TOPICS:

- Jewish identity
- Otherness and belonging
- **Relationship to the Jewish**

EVENT DETAILS:

Every Thursday from 7-8:30 P.M. Starting November 3

REGISTER NOW



In accordance with the Bylaws of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, the Nominating Committee is giving notice that at the upcoming Annual General Meeting, there will be 5 vacancies to the Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, of which four are for a 3-year term (term expiring 2025) and one is for a 1-year term.

Any Member of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton (any individual 18 years of age or older who made a contribution between September 1, 2021 and August 31, 2022 in the sum of at least \$18, or any one individual 18 years of age or older who made a joint contribution with another person between September 1, 2021 and August 31, 2022 in the sum of at least \$36) who would like to submit their name for consideration by the Nominating Committee to stand for election to the Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton may do so in writing to ceo@edjfed.org on or before October 21, 2022. Additional nominations must be made by three nominating Members and include the signature of the proposed nominee, who must also be a Member. Additional nominations may be made in writing and delivered to the Chief Executive Officer (in person) up to and including November 23, 2022 and must be made by three nom Members and include the signature of the proposed nominee, who must also be a member. Please note that the bylaws do not allow for nominations from the floor. All nominations are as set out above.

Any Member who would like to add any additional business to be conducted at the Annual General Meeting may do so in writing to the Chief Executive Officer up to and including November 23, 2022. Any request must be endorsed by signature of 20 Members.

community

Understanding and responding to racism and antisemitism



For more info, please email Meital Siva-Jain at meital@jfse.org

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Edmonton launches it's 2022 UJA Campaign!



Over 200 people gathered at Fantasyland Conference Centre for the first in-person Edmonton UJA launch in years, to honour Irving and Dianne Kipnes and community leader Valda Levin for their many contributions. Broadway singer Rachel Zatcoff was absolutely delightful!

This Sukkot, Morocco's etrog industry is blossoming

By David I. Klein

(JTA) - A bumper crop of etrogs took a more direct route to Israel this year, thanks to an historic confluence of geopolitics and religious observance.

Once home to the largest Jewish community in the Arab world, Morocco has a long history producing the citrus fruit used by millions of Jews every Sukkot in fact, tradition holds that etrog trees were first planted in the Atlas mountains nearly 2,000 years ago by Jews who found shelter amongst the Berber tribes there after the destruction of the Second Temple in



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Jewish communities around the world import hundreds of thousands of Moroccan etrogs every year: They're more affordable than the Calabrian variety, the Diamante Citron, prized by some Hasidic groups, which can command hundreds of dollars for an unblemished specimen.

But the Israeli market, where the majority of the world's Orthodox Jews live, has a robust etrog industry of its own and strict controls on agricultural imports.

The one time Moroccan etrogs are welcome in Israel is after the shmita year, the seventh year in the Jewish agricultural cycle, where working the soil in the land of Israel is forbidden under Jewish law. While not all Israeli farmers follow the agricultural cycle prescribed by Jewish law, those who produce ritual products such as etrogs must — or else their products would be forbidden to a religious customer base.

The past Jewish year that ended with Rosh Hashanah was a shmita year, meaning that no etrogs were cultivated in Israel for this year's Sukkot festival, which begins Sunday night. Instead, huge numbers of etrogs traveled from Morocco to Israel, as they did seven years ago.

This time, though, their path was eased by a normalization agreement struck by Israel and Morocco two years ago, part of a slew of trade deals between Israel and Arab countries aimed at opening new diplomatic and economic connections. can stand up for each other — so when the Jews cannot work their land, their fellow Muslims can supply what they need during that year, so they can keep their ritual and tradition," Levi said.

This year, Hervey Levy sent his etrogs to Israel direct from Casablanca on Royal Air Maroc, Morocco's national airline. The normalization deal brought passengers the other direction, too, he said — competitors in the etrog trade.

"This year was the first time it was a shmita after the agreements, so we had many people, some newcomers trying to try their luck." Levy said. "The newcomers, they come, they give some high prices without knowing, they didn't know the system to send and pack, but you also had some experienced people who have been here for a long time."

For Levy and the Jews of the Agadir, the period of a few weeks before Rosh Hashanah is always a happy time. A few dozen Jewish merchants would descend on the Berber-speaking villages in the mountains around Agadir, typically invigorating Shabbat services during their visit.

"They all end up at the synagogue so we're quite happy because the synagogue is full during this period," Levy said.

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Authorized Registry Ager "Before the agreement, we always had to sell through a third country," Hervey Levy, a businessman and member of the Agadir Jewish community who operates an etrog farm, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "It could be Turkey, it could be Spain, it could be Italy — it had to transit somewhere."

Several agreements to ease trade between Morocco and Israel after their normalization agreement, part of the Abraham Accords brokered by the United States, have yet to be signed, according to Einat Levi, the former head of economic affairs at Israel's diplomatic mission to Morocco. But she said the trade in etrogs, which as a religious object face different regulations from other agriculture, was evidence of the potential in the countries' relationship.

"It is symbolic because it shows how two religions

This year however, Levy said there were enough traders that they decided to stay together over Shabbat at a hotel in the mountains, where they could walk to the etrog farms.

Fewer than 2,000 Jews remain in Morocco, but Berber-speaking Muslims have long cultivated the fruit in villages high in the Atlas mountains around the beach town of Agadir. Only 40 to 50 Jews remain in the city itself, once home to thousands of Jews as an important trade hub on the route between sub-Saharan Africa and western Europe.

Of them, about a dozen cultivate etrogs. Levy's father planted his family's farm decades ago.

"My father, zichrona livracha, a long time ago took small trees from up in the mountains, in the place where they were first grown here, and began harvesting them in the valley," Levy recalled, using the Hebrew words meaning "may his memory be a blessing."

Continued on page 21

Calgary presents Jewish educator Ben Freeman at CPL: November 10

By Maxine Fischbein

Those community members who attended Ben M. Freeman's virtual talk on January 27, 2021— International Holocaust Remembrance Day encountered a dedicated and articulate proponent of Jewish pride whose personal journey is informed by his Jewishly infused upbringing and his experiences as a gay man who struggled with mental health issues, even attempting suicide prior to embracing LGBTQ+ pride.

A Scottish expat living and working in Hong Kong, Freeman is an educator, author and diversity, equity and inclusion specialist and self-described founder of the "Modern Jewish Pride Movement." He returns to Calgary on Thursday November 10, this time in person at the Central Public Library. Freeman's topic that evening is *The Enemy from Within: The Impact of Internalized Racism*.

Freeman's visit to Calgary coincides with the publication of his second book in a planned trilogy. His acclaimed first book, *Jewish Pride: Rebuilding a People* has now been followed by *Reclaiming Our Story: The Pursuit of Jewish Pride.*

In his exploration of Jew-hate and Jewish pride, Freeman once again reiterates that Jew-hate is a problem that must be tackled by the non-Jewish world. While it is not a Jewish problem per se, it does, pose problems for Jews.

When internalized Jew-hate is coupled with the erosion of Jewish pride, many Jews find themselves unmoored and struggling with identity crises that cause them to alter or edit their identities in doomed efforts to fit into the non-Jewish world, Freeman says.

Some in that world are only too happy to dictate and define what a "good Jew" is, Freeman adds, illustrating that no matter how much Jews bend themselves out of shape to fit in, it is not enough to keep the wolves at bay.

It is time, says Freeman, to stop looking into this "broken mirror of Jewish identity" and to reclaim our right to self-determination as proud Jews and Zionists.

Freeman devotes the first half of *Reclaiming Our Story: The Pursuit of Jewish Pride* to peeling the onion of Jew-hate, exploring its history and theory and the ways it has been absorbed and turned inwards by Jews who often blame themselves or one another rather than striking at the true source of the venom.

"Internalised anti-Jewishness leads to the destruction of Jewish self-esteem and can, in the most extreme circumstances, seriously damage Jewish life," writes Freeman, who adds that it "...leads us to abandon (or at the very least weaken) our commitment to the continuation of Jewish life."

Freeman doubts that Jews are in a position to eradicate Jew-hatred.

"Despite the instinct we have to fight anti-Jewish hate, there is nothing that Jews can do to truly defeat it, that is the work of the non-Jewish world," says Freeman. "All we can (and must) do is fight to reclaim our dignity and to keep it at bay while encouraging the non-Jewish world to set upon its own task."

Faced with the choice between pride or prejudice, "We must choose pride," Freeman says.

The prejudices that inform various external definitions of Jews are tackled by Freeman as are the internalizations by Jews of the inevitable "good Jew" and "bad Jew" characterizations. Thus, for example, anti-Zionist Jews brand Zionist Jews as bad Jews, using their own Judaism as a weapon against their own people. All this, says Freeman "...to prove their worth and emphasise their palatability" in spaces where they more often than not find themselves marginalized due to the very fact of their Jewishness. "Internalized anti-Jewishness (as is the case with all internalised prejudice) is a response to trauma," says Freeman, who adds that the situation is not of our making and must not be used to shame one another. Rather, he encourages readers to approach this issue with empathy.

numerous examples, both historical and current, of the ways Jews lose or bury their Jewish pride through "diminishment," "denial" and "deployment of Jewishness as a weapon."

Sometimes, says Freeman, we change our names in order to fit in.

In the period of the Holy Temple, Hellenist Jewish males sought to blend in by reversing their circumcisions through a painful procedure called an epispasm.

During the 1960s, another mutilation embraced by many Jews was rhinoplasty so that something as plain as the noses on their faces wouldn't give them away.

Freeman also focuses on the difficult balancing act when Jews buy into the notion that "prioritising Jewish experiences somehow puts us at odds with the rest of humanity."

"This is a ridiculous and hateful proposition," Freeman says, likening the dance between specificity and universality to traversing a tightrope.

From historical and current accusations of divided loyalty, to the racialization of Jews and, more recently, stunning assumptions that we are at the top of the pile when it comes to white privilege, Freeman lays out the shape-shifting of Jew-hate across time and distance and shows how the haters deploy token Jews to bolster their own religious or political agendas.

On that point, Freeman notes, "A small number of people can cause a great amount of harm."

Freeman explores the trauma that continues to reverberate in light of the Shoah.

"It led to the realisation by Jews all over the world that no matter how much they acculturate they would not be accepted," Freeman says. "We might think this shocking and frightening realisation may have propelled Jews to proudly proclaim their Jewishness, but in some quarters, particularly in America, it had... the opposite effect."

Midway through the book, Freeman explores how five Jewish individuals have grappled with their own internalized Jew hate and set themselves on a path of healing by embracing Jewish pride.

Freeman urges the organized Jewish community to do a better job of education for community members of all ages and stages—through that lens of Jewish pride—and to provide mental health resources in support of those struggling from the effects of trauma.

"Quality Jewish education is how we develop Jewish anchors, enable Jews to define their own identities and allow Jews to understand that our Jewishness

represents more than murder and tragedy," writes Freeman. It is how we enable Jews to defend ourselves against internalised anti-Jewishness. And it is how we teach the framework of Jewish Pride."

"Jewish pride is a modern Jewish liberation movement," says Freeman, who describes himself as the founder of the modern Jewish pride movement.



Jewish identity," accepting an externally-directed demotion from a people to a religion and then to a culture. Absorbed into the mainstream that boiled down culture starts tasting like thin gruel rather than the banquet of Jewish choices Freeman urges his readers to taste and savour.

While Freeman did not invent Jewish pride, he is indeed providing a beacon to those seeking Jewish anchorage and joy.

Ben M. Freeman will speak at the Calgary Public Library on Monday, November 10 at 7:00pm. Copies of his new book will be available for purchase, and an author book signing will follow Freeman's talk.

The program—part of an ongoing series—is organized by Calgary Jewish Federation in conjunction with CPL and sponsored by the Isadore and Florence Burstyn Memorial Fund for Human Rights and Holocaust Education, the KSW Calgary Holocaust Education and Commemoration Endowment Fund, Viewpoint Foundation, Human Rights and Holocaust Education Fund at the Calgary Public Library Foundation and Beth Tzedec Congregation. Preregistration is required. Seating is limited to 300. Library member registration is at www.calgarylibrary. Non-library members can register by contacting Holocaust and Human Rights: Remembrance and Education Co-Chairs Dahlia Libin and Marnie Bondar at holocaustedu@jewishcalgary.org.

Maxine Fischbein is a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter.





Freeman demonstrates how trauma—including intergenerational and epigenetic trauma—can chip away at our Jewish identities and "manifest in selfblame and self-denigration."

Shedding Jewish anchors to gain acceptance in the non-Jewish world is, according to Freeman, stunningly ineffective in the face of Jew hate. Yet he relates

That is a big claim. Resistance against Jewhate and pride in our heritage, including our indigeneity to Israel, have kept the light of Judaism alive and sustained us throughout our history, as Freeman himself illustrates throughout *Reclaiming* Our Story: The Pursuit of Jewish Pride.

Nonetheless, as Freeman cogently argues, Jewish pride has been eroded over time as Jews gazed at distorted versions of themselves in that "broken mirror of

YEG exhibit honours Holocaust Survivors and Residential School Survivors

By Regan Treewater-Lipes

Saskatchewan-based artist Carol Wylie's portrait exhibition They Didn't Know We Were Seeds will be on display at the Stanley A. Milner Library in Edmonton till November 25.

"In April of 2016 I attended the Saskatoon Holocaust Memorial service," explains Wylie. "As survivor Nate Leipciger spoke of his horrifying experiences in a Nazi death camp, and his ongoing efforts to educate and shed light on these atrocities, I was struck anew by the extent of abuse a human being can endure at the hand of another."

This experience planted the seed, so to speak, for Wylie's eighteen largescale portraits currently on display in downtown Edmonton.

"Portraiture is the methodology through which I can offer the strongest statement," adds the artist.

Wylie, who has always been primarily drawn to portraiture as her creative medium, explores the concepts of trauma and understanding through the faces of those with lived experiences of horror. She states that: "Separating families, cutting hair, taking away names and assigning numbers were oppressive methods of dehumanizing and othering."

One Holocaust survivor who posed for Wylie, Robert Walsman, suggested following a sitting that she contact a friend of his who went through the Residential School System. She began to see how she could silently give voice to the memories of those who had the Canadian Residential School System inflicted upon them in addition to Holocaust victims. "Interestingly, both groups of survivors have connected around strategies of survival and healing.'

Wylie's original project grew to include more faces, and different stories. She elegantly explains: "A welldone portrait has the potential to be a unique record of the subject's experience, offering the opportunity for a form of engagement with that person even in their absence. Through portraits of individual survivors, I hoped to create a silent dialogue between Jewish survivors and Indigenous survivors."

On October 6, a public event was held at the Stanley A. Milner Library to

showcase Wylie's exhibition and give community members an opportunity to hear from the artist herself about the vision and process that went into the threeyear project.

"Empathy is understanding the pain and joy of others as equal to our own, leveling us within a shared human experience," explains Wylie. "This project explores memory, trauma, shared pain, and the strength of the human spirit, as well as an enduring hope that in truly hearing one another's stories and accepting deep in our bones that we are the same, humanity will someday be characterized more by its compassion than its capacity for cruelty."

Organized by The Jewish Federation of Edmonton, in collaboration with the Edmonton Public Library, the event was also supported by the Isadore and Florence Burstyn Memorial Fund and the KSW Calgary Holocaust Education and Commemoration Endowment Fund. One day following Yom Kippur, a sizeable group of Edmontonians from various communities gathered in the EPL's Muttart Theatre. In addition to hearing from the creator of *They Didn't* Know We Were Seeds; audience members were able to listen to the experiences of PhD candidate and Indigenous community leader Terry Cardinal.

Cardinal, joined by her daughters and sister in the



audience, shared ideas from herscholarly research with attendees in addition to talking about her ongoing work respectfully searching for unmarked graves at the site of the former Blue Quills Residential School. Cardinal candidly explained that both her father and grandfather had been prisoners of the Canadian residential school system. Cardinal, who speaks Cree, but admittedly not fluently, also explained what it is like to reclaim her



'They didn't know we were seeds" is on exhibit at the Stanley Milner Library in Edmonton until November 25. Photo by Tammy Vineberg.

traditional language and cultural identity in the midst of generational trauma.

Wylie and Cardinal then took the stage together for a discussion of the commonalities between their work. Themes of healing and the preservation of truth were at the forefront of the conversation, and both women emphasized the importance of mutual understanding. Having gotten to know eight of her nine Residential School subjects very well, Wylie was careful to try to give these individuals voice without betraying the more intimate pain of those in her paintings. Wylie's compassion for her subjects clearly comes from a place of gained knowledge and understanding.

Prayers for healing were given by members of the Indigenous and Jewish communities. The emphasis of discussions seemed to be predominantly focused on Canada's ongoing work for truth and reconciliation in supporting those who went through the Residential School system. Wylie's work presents the perfect catalyst for larger societal examinations of trauma and healing throughout diverse communities.

"The connection between Holocaust and Residential School Survivors that had emerged for me, as a settler in Saskatchewan with its notorious history of Residential Schools, were the impetus behind including portraits of Residential School survivors in this project," stated Wylie.

A reception followed the formal talks given by Wylie and Cardinal, giving community members a unique opportunity to engage with both speakers. For those who missed the event, they will still be able to visit Wylie's impressive exhibition of portraits - nine Holocaust survivors, and nine Residential Schools victims. Their stories are etched on each of their faces, and visitors will be struck by the sensation that after gazing at each image they have developed a connection with each individual.

"As numbers of Holocaust Survivors dwindle, and in anticipation of the same eventual loss of first-hand accounts from Residential School survivors, these portraits will remain as echoes of individual strength and courage," concluded Wylie.

Regan Treewater-Lipes is a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter.

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Memorial Tributes



In Memory of Francis (Faigel) Libin April 13, 1929

– Sept. 3, 2022

It is in loving memory and sadness we announce that Fran Libin passed away on September 3rd, 2022. She is survived by

In Memory of Dmitry Alman

April 14, 1930 - February 24, 2022

By Zhanna Alman

I was very fortunate to live my life in the same city as my parents. Even as a child, I found it very interesting to hear my father's stories. He was truly a charismatic storyteller.

My dad was born in 1930 in a small Ukrainian town of Belaya Tserkov. In 1941 he, his mother and his 3-year-old brother evacuated to Siberia, while his father was at the front fighting. My grandmother died in my dad's arms from starvation in 1944 and my father went through so much adversity trying to survive with his little brother.

After the war, he settled in Kiev. He finished 6 years of school that the war had interrupted in just 2 years. He loved to learn and he had a passion for studying. two sisters Jenny Belzberg, Dorothy McDonald and three children, Brian, Karen and Neil, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, having been pre-deceased by her beloved husband of 70 years, Morton Lionel Libin

Fran was a woman of consequence. She and Mort were inseparable from the day they met. They developed a business together, traveled together, played tennis and golf and raised their kids in solid Jewish education. Fran was always the focus point for the neighborhood kids; she drove them to the local lakes and country club then entertained them at home, welcoming all. She served in many organizations and worked with the Jewish Community Golden Age Club in Edmonton as a volunteer for years. She was president of both the Talmud Torah Women's Auxiliary

and the Beth Shalom Sisterhood.

In later life they moved to California after Mort had been innocently but severely injured in a vehicle accident. From that point on she nurtured Mort every day of his life. Still, she found time to work at the family furniture business and volunteer at the Scripps Institute and became the contact point for all her family and acquaintances—always entertaining. She organized bridge games at High Country Clubhouse in Encinitas. She kept in touch with her family and friends on a weekly basis, always remembering birthdays and special occasions.

Fran was such a presence that the void she leaves will be hard to fill. She will be missed but not forgotten.

He graduated from the Kiev State University with distinction and successfully completed his masters by the age of 25. In spite of having a great job and a decent life in Kiev he always thought first about what the future held for his two daughters. He immigrated to Edmonton with his wife and children at the age of 50, learned English, got a government job and opened a petrography business on the side.

In spite of all the hardships that my dad endured in his younger years, he maintained a most positive attitude towards life. He enjoyed his grandchildren tremendously, taught them how to swim, skate, and do math, and he spent every winter vacation with them. He was a walking encyclopaedia on history and politics and he loved gathering information on Jewish history and prominent leaders and presenting it as lectures at the Jewish Senior Citizens Centre in Edmonton. His passion for learning never waned and he enjoyed teaching and also helping new immigrants with taxes, translations etc.

To the last day of his life he had a smile on his face

for around \$15, and the "Gimels," less than \$10.

explained, while 40% are Bets and the rest Gimel. In total, Levy said that after a year's worth of labor and all the expenses, his farm saw only around \$30,000 in profits.

Along with the lulay, a bound sheaf of branches, the etrog is an essential ritual object used during Sukkot; Jewish law requires adherents to wave the items during the holiday. The high demand for etrogs meant that the newly eliminated stopoff on their journey between Morocco and Israel was never the main obstacle to their import.

grandchildren.

"The customs are very tough to accept etrogim from outside of Israel," Levy said, "except for during the shmita year."

and enjoyed his kids, grandkids and great grandkids.

We all miss you dad. Hopefully your fantastic brain

and positivity will live on in the generations to come.

Dmitry Alman z"I and two of his great-

Though the synagogue in Agadir may not have been full this year, etrog shipments were. About 600,000 etrogs were exported from Morocco, Levy estimated — 10% more than in a typical year, with a larger-thanusual portion headed for Israel but also to Jews around the globe.

"Even Brazil, Singapore, wherever there is a small community," Levy said.



MORTOCO Cont. from page 18

Levy's father was far from a simple farmer. An industrialist and entrepreneur, he was the president of the Jewish community in Agadir, and a member of the Moroccan parliament, but for him, growing etrogs was a labor of love.

Though they exported the fruits for sale abroad, for the Moroccan Jewish community, he offered his crop for free.

His father died last year, but Levy, whose full time job is as a business consultant, made sure the orchard wouldn't go fallow this year.

Levy's family farm boasts around 400 trees and produced around 9,000 fruits this year, and another Jewish run farm in Agadir is at least double the size, he said. In comparison, the average village orchards in the mountains have only between 60 to 100

"There are lots of Muslim owners but they have smaller lands," Levy explained.

Still, no one is getting rich off the trade. While the finest quality of etrog, rated "Aleph-Aleph" on the Israeli scale, may sell for more than \$80 in Morocco and more abroad, the lesser "Bet" quality etrogim only go



Barely 5% of the crop are Aleph quality, Levy



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

-The Talmud



Jewish thinkers have long been puzzled by the rabbis' choice of the book of Kohelet [Ecclesiastes] as the designated reading for the Sabbath that falls during Sukkot. Many regard the book as a bleak meditation on the meaningless of life, an idea that is hardly consistent with the character of Sukkot as the quintessential "season of our rejoicing."

I personally have never subscribed to that pessimistic reading of Kohelet. Quite the contrary, I feel that its main message is that we should—if only temporarily—stop taking ourselves too seriously. We are urged to enjoy a break from our striving to eradicate all the world's imperfections, and recognize that individuals may not immediately resolve all of society's inequities, let alone overcome the limitations of human mortality. Kohelet recommends that we ought to take a few spiritual health days to forget our existential angst and appreciate the delights of the present moment. And what better setting for such contentment than the serenity of a sukkah!

Jewish tradition ascribes the book of Kohelet (as well as the Song of Songs and the book of Proverbs) to King Solomon, about whom the Bible says that "he was wiser than all men." There is a virtual consensus that Kohelet was the product of Solomon's old age, when it is normal "to utter words of vanity" (or perhaps: "cynicism").

In the second chapter of Kohelet, the author recounts his futile quest to find satisfaction in physical and material diversions. His list of acquisitions includes the obscure Hebrew words "shiddah and shiddot," for which the Talmud cites two main explanations. One refers to the king's mastery over male and female demons ("shedim" and "shedot"); whereas a tradition stemming from the land of Israel derives it from an Aramaic cognate that normally designates a box or chest. Rashi interpreted it as "a coach for ladies or princes."

Rabbi Joseph Hayyim of Baghdad, renowned as the "Ben Ish Hai" (1835–1909), found this explanation unsatisfying. In a marginal addition to his commentary on the Talmud, he expressed amazement: "does this really encapsulate the wisdom of King Solomon—that he could construct a coach?!" We might have been more legitimately impressed by the king's ability to subjugate demons to do his bidding; that indeed would attest to extraordinary wisdom. But why take such pride in building a vehicle, even one suitable for nobility or for ladies?

In another of his commentaries, the Ben Ish Hai related an intriguing question that had been addressed to him by an unnamed interlocutor: if King Solomon was really so smart, why couldn't he have invented all the technological wonders that we enjoy in modern (nineteenth-century) times? As an example he mentions the "chemin de fer" (railroad train). How is it conceivable that the great King Solomon would not have devised a locomotive engine?

In response to that challenge, the Ben Ish Hai concluded that the wise monarch had indeed invented a demon-fast railroad train (powered, presumably, by a steam engine) for exclusive use by his queen (perhaps all of his thousand wives and concubines) and himself—Rashi's "ladies and princes"; and that the ancient rabbis were aware of this technological milestone. That however begs the question: why did the locomotive have to be re-invented many centuries later?

The answer, he declared, epitomizes the difference between true wisdom and mere technological knowhow. A wise person will realize that with great power comes great responsibility, and some scientific discoveries are best kept under wraps because of their potential for damage and destruction. Thus Solomon, foreseeing that the nations of the world might put them to pernicious use-and even direct them against the Jewish people—concealed them.

The Israeli Torah scholar Rabbi Isaac Zilberstein cited the Ben Ish Hai's discussion in connection with a practical problem in Jewish religious law. A certain person (evidently an Israeli) had been involved in numerous traffic accidents; and out of frustration over the harm caused by reckless drivers, he rashly swore an oath never again to ride in one of those newfangled vehicles. The person now regretted the oath and was seeking grounds to annul it. Rabbi Zilberstein observed

Of vanities and vehicles

that if automobiles are not an innovation of the last century and a half, but already existed in the days of King Solomon, then the oath was based on a mistaken premise, and accordingly was not technically binding.

In a similar vein, the Ben Ish Hai interpreted a statement in the Talmud about David's nemesis Doeg the Edomite whom the rabbis depicted as an erudite scholar who "mastered three hundred laws involving a container that hovers in the air," as they relate to arcane issues of ritual purity or travel on the sabbath.

The Baghdadi sage stressed that this was no mere instance of fanciful talmudical speculation, but that the ancients might well have mastered the technology of aviation, which was subsequently lost until modern European scientists rediscovered it. He referred in Arabic to "markab al-hawa" (airships), and it would appear that he had in mind balloons rather than airplanes.

A passage in the Talmud tells of a fire that once "fell" in the courtyard of Joseph ben Simai on Shabbat. The Ben Ish Hai took note of this unusual Hebrew mode of expressing a fire's outbreak. He found in this phraseology an allusion to the use of a lightning rod to draw down the incendiary force of thunderbolts. (The scientific basis of lightning rods is widely credited to Benjamin Franklin.)

In recent years, many in the ultra-orthodox camp have asserted that the great Torah scholars of the past, along with their expertise in religious law, must have been gifted with quasi-supernatural scientific and technological expertise. (Some of those claims are reminiscent of the Cold War Soviet propaganda that took credit for the invention of radio, television, lightbulbs, airplanes and anaesthetics.)

The persistence of such opinions effectively corroborates the wise Kohelet's repeated observations that "there is nothing new under the sun."

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

Calgary Jewish community launches the 2022 UJA Campaign



With a blact of the chofer followed by a community well, and a factive corrival, the Calgary, Jawich community Jourshad their 2022 11/A

with a blast of the shotar, followed by a community walk and a festive carnival, the Calgary Jewish community launched their 2022 UJA campaign - Back in Stride! (Facebook photos)



This month's update from Edmonton Talmud Torah School



Read In Week is an annual event throughout schools in early October and Edmonton Talmud Torah School eagerly participates each year. Along with parents, special guests were Dawn Hancock, EPSB Trustee Ward E, Esther Starkman, Chair/ Founder of Read In Week for Edmonton Public Schools, Stacey Leavitt Wright, CEO of Jewish Federation of Edmonton and MLA Lorne Dach. This year our teachers organized a Book-Nic, where families gathered in the gym to read to each other. For information about Talmud Torah Society contact Natalie at 780-481-3377.

Wishing the entire community Shana Tova and Sukkot Best wishes for a wonderful year to the whole peace, good health, and happiness Sameach to all our readers community. Shana Tova UMetukah in this New Year and advertisers. from Dr. Sam E Eva Weisz from Nora & Lawríe from Alberta Jewish News Lyman and family



The Ancillary Judaic Program (AJP) at Talmud Torah thanks the Jewish community of Edmonton and the Alberta Jewish News for partnering in the Rosh Hashanah greetings in last month's Edmonton edition. Shana Tova to the whole community.

All of the Jewish NHL players to watch this season

By Evelyn Frick

(JTA) — October is a busy month for North American sports fans. The MLB playoffs get underway, the NBA season begins, the NFL season kicks into high gear and both the women's and men's pro soccer leagues start their postseasons, too.

Front and centre for many is the start of the NHL season. The first puck drops on Friday, ironically in Prague, in a match between the Nashville Predators and the San Jose Sharks. (The first stateside games start on Tuesday night.)

Another phenomenon that hasn't been widely covered — outside of our roundup least year — is the league's currently high number of Jewish hockey players. The same remains true of this upcoming season — here's who to watch.

Zach Hyman Edmonton Oilers, forward

After playing with the Toronto Maple Leafs for six years, forward Zach Hyman signed with the Edmonton Oilers last summer and never looked back. The left winger had a stellar 2021-2022 season, recording a career-high 27 goals and 54 points in 76 games — which included 11 goals and 16 points in 16 playoff games.

Of all the Jewish players in the NHL, Hyman is perhaps the most vocal about being connected to his faith and roots. He wears No. 18 for a reason. "I'm Jewish, and in Judaism, 18 is a lucky number; it's chai, which means 'life' in Hebrew," he told The Athletic last year.

Hyman comes from a Jewish family in Toronto and attended school at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto. In 2013, he represented Canada at the Maccabiah Games in Israel, where he won a gold medal.

Last Hanukkah, Zach lit a giant menorah with the Edmonton Jewish community and told The Athletic in February that he finds it important to speak up against antisemitism.

Fans watched Zach Hyman's first game on October 13, when the Oilers took on Quinn Hughes' Vancouver Canucks at home (see below).

Jack Hughes New Jersey Devils, center

All did not go according to plan last season for the No. 1 pick of the 2019 NHL Draft. After multiple goals in the season's first game, including an overtime gamewinner, Hughes dislocated his shoulder in the next match and was off the ice for six weeks. Then in April, an MCL injury ended his sophomore season early with 13 games left. "I haven't done a ton in this league just yet," Hughes told The Hockey News in August.

And yet, there are plenty of reasons to be hopeful that the rising star will reach his superstar potential. In just 49 games played last season, he still managed an impressive 26 goals and 56 points (goals plus assists). He and new linemates Alexander Holtz and Ondrej Palat have such an instant chemistry that they're already nicknamed H20 (Hughes-Holtz-Ondrej).

Another exciting nugget: there's the possibility that Jack's younger brother Luke could join him on the Devils next season. Luke was selected fourth overall by the Devils last year, and while he's playing out his sophomore season at the University of Michigan, he has already shown himself to be a rising force in the NCAA and on the world stage as a member of the 2022 U.S. team at the international junior championship.

While it's unclear how the brothers identify these



Jack Hughes, Quinn Hughes, Zach Hyman and Adam Fox. (Getty Images via JTA)

Last season, oldest brother Quinn Hughes set a Canucks franchise record for defensemen with a whopping 68 points. Though only eight of those points were goals, Quinn has solidified himself as a premiere playmaker.

His only goal: to take more scoring chances on the ice. "I want to score more, have more shots on net and create more," Hughes told press. "I think it's a mentality and trying to rip it and put it through the net."

Quinn Hughes' first game came on October 13, as the Vancouver Canucks took on the Edmonton Oilers in Edmonton.

Adam Fox New York Rangers, defenseman

While Adam Fox wasn't the best defenseman in the NHL in 2022, the 2021 Norris Trophy winner still had a pretty darn good 2021-2022 season. The New York Rangers D-man scored 11 goals and racked up 74 points over the course of 78 games, including five goals and 23 points in the playoffs.

So far in the preseason, Fox has worn an "A" on his jersey (signifying him as an alternate captain), sparking speculation that he could be in the mix for elevated leadership this season.

Originally from Jericho, New York, Fox grew up in Long Island's Jewish community, where he attended the nearby Jericho Jewish Center, a Conservative synagogue. He had a hockey-themed bar mitzvah.

"There are a lot Jewish residents on Long Island, so it's cool for me to represent that community," Fox told JTA last year. "And, you know, there's not many Jewish athletes. So to be one of the few and have people who come from where I come from look up to me... I think it's definitely pretty special."

Fans watched Adam Fox's first game on Tuesday October 11, when the New York Rangers took on the Tampa Bay Lightning at Madison Square Garden.

Jason Zucker Pittsburgh Penguins, forward

In the words of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Jason Zucker — who has a Hebrew tattoo on his left forearm — had a "nightmare" 2021-2022 season with the Penguins. He seemed to reaggravate a core injury that had required surgery in 2017; by December he was sitting out of practices and games. He had another surgery in early 2022 and came back in March only to miss a few more games after he took a hit to the boards.

After a summer of rest and rehab, it looks like Zucker might have his redemption arc. On Sept. 25, he helped the Penguins open their preseason by snagging a game winning goal against the Columbus Blue Jackets, looking fast and healthy on the ice. home on Oct. 13.

Jakob Chychrun Arizona Coyotes, defenseman

A good way to measure a player's talent and value is by who lines up to trade for him when he wants out of the team he's on. Since Chychrun made clear last month that he wants to be traded from the Coyotes to a playoff contender, several teams have shown interest in the 24-year-old former first round draft pick whose stock is still on the rise.

And he clearly wants to win.

"Careers are so short, the time flies by, and I'm in my seventh year in the NHL. It's just crazy," he said. "I don't want these years to keep going by and be 10, 12 years in and not had a real good chance at not only the playoffs, but winning the Stanley Cup."

Born to a Jewish mother and Catholic father, Chychrun told NHL.com that he grew up celebrating Hanukkah and Christmas.

Mark Friedman Pittsburgh Penguins, defenseman

After years of fighting for playing time, 2022 could be Mark Friedman's breakout season. Some of his younger roster rivals seemed to have better shots at a final starting defenseman spot (even though Friedman is only 26) until stumbling this preseason. After playing in only 16 games through his first three NHL seasons, Friedman played in 26 last year and saw some playing time in the playoffs, too.

"I've had to fight for (ice time) my whole life," he told Pittsburgh Hockey Now. "It's nothing new. So now I'm ready for the challenge."

The Toronto native who loves his bubbe's cooking grew up attending Hebrew school in his early grade school years.

"It's nice being in a family that's Jewish," Friedman told the Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle last year. "It's different from most of the hockey world. You don't see too many Jews playing hockey, especially in the NHL. It's definitely cool when guys ask about it."

Honorable Mentions:

Center Luke Kunin was traded from the Nashville Predators to the San Jose Sharks in July. He played in all 82 games for Nashville last year, scoring 13 goals.

From 2009-2021, defenseman Jason Demers bounced around to several different teams. However, this year has been looking up; in January, Demers was selected to play for Team Canada at the Beijing Olympics and is currently signed to a professional tryout with the Edmonton Oilers. As of publication, there's no word as to whether he'll make the final team alongside Zach Hyman. Forward Nate Thompson, who played for the Flyers last year and converted to Judaism before marrying his now ex-wife, is currently an unrestricted free agent who was just released from a professional tryout with the Los Angeles Kings. Thompson told the Alaska Sports Report that he intends to sign with the Kings' American Hockey League affiliate, The Ontario Reign, in hopes of still being signed to an NHL team.

days, Jack and Luke (and older brother Quinn, see below) were born to a Jewish mother and a Catholic father. While their upbringing was mostly secular, the Hughes family celebrated Passover and Jack had a bar mitzvah.

Jack Hughes' first game of the NHL regular season came on Oct. 13, when the Devils took on the Philadelphia Flyers in Philly.

Quinn Hughes Vancouver Canucks, defenseman

Is it possible to discuss one of the Hughes brothers without discussing them all? Absolutely not.

https://twitter.com/penguins/status/1574126714287972353

Though Zucker never had a bar mitzvah, he still engages in Jewish traditions and holidays. "I would do virtual menorah lighting with my family back while I was out of town playing juniors or college," he explained to the Penguins website.

Fans watched Jason Zucker's first game when the Pittsburgh Penguins took on the Arizona Coyotes at

