

U of A Jewish Studies Week: Nov. 14 and 15

Jewish Studies Week at the University of Alberta in Edmonton is presenting two exceptional lectures – an in-person event on November 14 with guest speaker Melanie Carina Schmoll and a zoom webinar featuring Justin Cammy at the annual Toby and Saul Reichert Holocaust Lecture on November 15.

On Monday, November 14 at 2 pm MST Research Fellow Melanie Carina Schmoll, PhD. will present a lecture on “Learning from the past? Holocaust Education and its impact on antisemitism.” The in-person lecture will cover important global information and relate it to what is happening here in Alberta. It will take place at the Senate Chamber, in Arts & Convocation Hall.

Intolerance and anti-Semitism have not died out in the world, and current numbers of antisemitic incidents are worrying. For some, teaching the Holocaust is about nothing less than learning from history and to prevent genocides. Holocaust Education mostly takes place in state schools, since they serve as society’s central location for memory and learning. But are Albertan teachers and educators prepared enough to carry the burden?

Melanie Carina Schmoll, PhD, is research fellow at Finkler Institute of Holocaust Research, Bar Ilan University, Israel, editor and author. She is a Historian and Political Scientist. Dr. Schmoll received her doctorate from the University of Hamburg, Germany. She holds a MA’s and BA’s degree in the fields of Political Science, History and Philosophy. Her main research focuses on Israel, specifically security issues and Holocaust Education.

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JNF Breakfast for Israel: Bagels, Blintzes and Harper



JNF Calgary Executive Director Elliott Steinberg, with JNF Canada President Beth Price, Former Prime Minister Stephen Harper and former Alberta Premier Jason Kenney.

By David Sklar

On a chilly -17 below Monday morning, supporters and members of JNF Canada Calgary were treated to a breakfast at the Beth Tzedec Congregation to hear former Prime Minister Stephen Harper discuss Israel’s place in the Middle East and the World.

In attendance were Jewish community members as well as politicians such as current Alberta Justice Minister, Tyler Shandro. “For me, I have been alarmed by the rise in hate speech related to the Jewish community. Since the Anti-Defamation League started keeping statistics, I think 2021 has seen the largest growth in anti-Semitic incidents in Canada.

Shandro also spoke about his time working with the Jewish community to help implement the IHRA

(International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance) definition of anti-Semitism. “I just spoke yesterday at B’nai Brith...(concerning our government’s adoption of IHRA). We were discussing how our work has set it in motion for other provinces like Manitoba. I’m trying to have schools divisions and municipalities implement it as well.”

Steve Gardiner, a member of the community, was interested to hear what Harper might have to say about current events in Israel. “I’m not sure what’s going on with our current federal administration. I don’t trust them (our federal government) and I think they will do anything that they deem to their advantage, which might include something we don’t want to happen to Israel. I knew nothing was going to happen to Israel under his (Harper’s) watch.”

Continued on page 7

Join AJNews on our Chanukah greeting subscription drive

Alberta Jewish News is pleased to provide community Chanukah greetings once again in our December edition where individual members of the Calgary and Edmonton Jewish communities wish each other and the entire community a Chanukah Sameach and show their appreciation for having a local community newspaper mailed to their homes each month.

This Chanukah we are on a subscription drive and we’re hoping to have the participation of as many of our readers as possible. If you receive the newspaper and you enjoy receiving it – please consider buying a greeting. The cost can be as small as \$36 or \$72 or \$180. You can buy for one holiday or you can reserve for three including Pesach and Rosh Hashana.

There are multiple ways to order a greeting; the easiest is to go online to our website albertajewishnews.com/greetings and fill out the order form. You can also contact the office by email to albertajewishnews@gmail.com or call us at 780-421-7966.

We have a variety of greetings you can choose from and you can personalize it with the names of your family members. This is one of our most popular features; we love getting to know all of our readers, and we’re hoping you will make it the best ever.

This year, to show our appreciation for everyone who participates, we are having a draw for tickets to Broadway Across Canada’s production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. The show is playing first in Edmonton, at the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium and then in Calgary at the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium.

Fiddler on the Roof is fantastic! It’s been called a “life affirming production. A wonderful cast and a lavish orchestra tell this heartwarming story of fathers and daughters, husbands and wives, and the timeless traditions that define faith and family.”

Featuring the Broadway classics “Tradition,” “If I Were a Rich Man,” “Sunrise, Sunset,” “Matchmaker, Matchmaker” and “To Life,” *Fiddler on the Roof* will



introduce a new generation to this uplifting celebration that raises its cup to joy! To love! To life!

And this is one way that we at *Alberta Jewish News* can say Todah Robah to you.

Help us make this a very Chanukah Sameach, order your greeting today.



Mazel Tov to both the CJA Junior Girls & Boys Volleyball teams on capturing Gold in the C.I.S.A.A. League Championship. (Photos supplied).

From generation to generation: CJA Grandparents & Grandpals Day

By Calgary Jewish Academy Staff

After three years without public gatherings, celebrations, or ceremonies, on October 28, 2022, we welcomed over 250 visitors into our building for Grandparents & Grandpals day. On a morning like no other, students had the unique opportunity to walk the hallways with their guests and show them what life is like at the CJA. Some of our guests drove from their homes in Calgary and others flew in from out of province, all to experience this very special day with their loved ones.

To start the morning our grade 4 class led the entire school and all guests in a communal Shabbat service, followed by *Kiddush*. A special *Shehechyanu* was recited to mark the meaningful occasion where Jewish

traditions and customs were shared from generation to generation. Following the Shabbat service, everyone partook in a number of activities throughout the school. Students and their guests made their own Havdallah spice medley, shared stories with our partners at PJ Library and designed a handprint mosaic. The school was bursting at the seams with joy as our students got to share a morning with their loved ones.

Building meaningful relationships with the people we love takes spending time together. It takes reaching across generational gaps, and weaving memories from shared experiences.

To the grands and greats surrounding us: we appreciate you.



Creating a handprint mosaic on Grandparents and Grandpals Day at CJA.

B’nai Brith advocacy leads to removal of antisemitic video on YouTube

(EDMONTON) – Following a B’nai Brith Canada investigation and removal request, YouTube has taken down a Polish-language video featuring antisemitic conspiracy theories about the ongoing war in Ukraine from an Edmonton-based conspiracy theorist.

“We are pleased with this development,” said Michael Mostyn, Chief Executive Officer of B’nai Brith Canada. “Needless to say, antisemitic conspiracy theories are dangerous to Jews in Canada and around the world. After providing YouTube with the relevant materials, we are reassured to see this video removed. There is no place on the internet for conspiratorial material that incites hatred against any group of people.”

In the video, Polskie Radio host Bogdan Konikowski of Edmonton made a bizarre claim — that Jews orchestrated the conflict in Ukraine with the intention

of removing the native Ukrainian population to build a “Celestial Jerusalem” in the ruins.

YouTube previously acted against Konikowski and removed his original channel because of similarly zany antisemitic content. The Polish-language host has since created two new channels on the platform. B’nai Brith is continuing to work with YouTube to attempt to correct this issue.

“This interaction between B’nai Brith and YouTube is a significant development in non-profits working with technology companies to fight online hate,” Mostyn said. “We look forward to developing this relationship further.”

“We encourage internet users to report online hate to social-media platforms and directly to B’nai Brith with our mobile app, available in both official languages, on Apple and Android devices.”



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With heartfelt thanks
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Your generosity
and thoughtfulness
are most appreciated.
May we all enjoy
happy times
and good health
in the future.

Harriet Libin



Next print date is
Dec. 6, 2022
Next Deadline: Dec. 2, 2022

‘Vessel of Souls’ stands tall at Alberta Legislature

By Regan Treewater-Lipes

Located on the Alberta Legislature grounds, slightly removed from the concentration of other monuments and statues, stands a solitary metal challis. Upon closer inspection one sees that it is a kiddish cup, a ‘Vessel of Souls’ – surrounded by barbed wire, with a series of prominent cracks. This formidable, yet contemplative structure, stands as Alberta’s commitment to remembering those lost during the Holocaust.

The understated grandeur of the memorial is enough to stop passersby in their tracks, and the haunting inscription on one panel is enough to ignite deeper reflection as viewers emotionally engage with the captivating image: “They were poets who never wrote; artists who never dreamed; teachers who never taught, students who never learned; sons and daughters who never became fathers and mothers.”

Artist Susan Owen Kagan, well known within the Edmonton Jewish community, and an established presence in the Alberta art world, is the visionary behind the monument which was completed in 2003. Most of the creative process took place in Kagan’s studio, although it is difficult to imagine the memorial occupying a space other than the Alberta Legislature.

“In 2002 I was commissioned by the Edmonton Jewish Federation to design and build a memorial to the victims of the Holocaust. It was a challenging task, as I was asked to create a meaningful and lasting work of art which also conformed physically and aesthetically to the strict building codes of the Alberta Legislature, the memorial’s permanent site.”

In the almost twenty years since it was unveiled, Kagan’s contribution to local Holocaust awareness and memory preservation has become an integral part of the Edmonton Jewish community, and Alberta Legislature skyline. In a recent phone interview with Susan Owen Kagan, the artist explained that the intent of the memorial is to emphasize community.

“On the occasions that I am at the site and talking about the work, sometimes people will stop to ask questions,” she explained. “The piece is meant to elicit an emotional response rather than an intellectual one initially.”

Kagan lives a life immersed in art and its creation. She attended the Banff School of Fine Arts, earned a BFA with honours from the University of Alberta where she focused her talent on exploring sculpture as her medium of expression. Kagan quite personally understands the depths and nuances of facilitating increased Holocaust awareness and historical literacy. Her own father came to Canada as a young Jewish refugee from Nazi Germany.

When she was first approached for the project, Kagan had been exploring the theme of a communal vessel. This would ultimately serve as a catalyst to inspire what now stands as a local guardian of memory.

“It depicts a prayer cup, icon of spiritual unity and ancient traditions, bearing the weight of a massive genocide. Through this communal vessel, I had endeavored to symbolize the importance of social responsibility. The cup is fractured, entwined with steel strands and elements reminiscent of barbed wire, chain and railroad ties. Beneath this onslaught, it stands strong, supported by a granite base engraved with poems and quotes of hope, faith and community.”

Recently, Beth Shalom Synagogue hosted a tour of the memorial in conversation with Susan Owen Kagan on October 2. It was a valuable opportunity for community members to gain greater insight into a piece of local Jewish identity. In Kagan’s words:

“Ideally, people feel connected by the image of the vessel.”

Kagan’s original designs included three curved walls to display the names of local survivors, and those they lost, along with three benches to complete a circle around the central kiddush cup.

“There were reasons at the time that these components were kiboshed,” Kagan explained. “But the site was specifically chosen with the entire installation in mind.” Knowing this certainly gives patrons a sense of Kagan’s larger vision, and an idea for potential future development.

The monument facilitates quiet consideration. One inscription reads: “When you stand here be silent, when you leave, be not silent.” Kagan’s piece is a valuable part of Jewish Edmonton. It is a permanent reminder of all who were lost, the devastation suffered, and a traumatic legacy that endures. It provides visitors a place to contemplate and reflect, but moves them so that they can never again be silent.

Regan Treewater-Lipes is a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter



‘Vessel of Souls’ by Susan Owen Kagan.

B"H



This Chanukah and in light of this year Shnas Hakahel.

With joy and gratitude to Hashem
we take great pleasure in inviting you to join us
in celebrating the marriage of our two miracles.

Neson Achishalom
and
Avigail Rose

Monday, the second of Teves, 5783
December 26, 2022

Kabbolas Ponim Reception at 2:30pm,
Chupah at 3:30pm. Dinner following Chupah.

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when shared with family and friends.*



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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is excited to share our story of growth.

Members and general public are welcome!

Doors open at 6:30 pm; refreshments provided.

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Wednesday, November 30, 2022
7 pm - 8:30 pm
Beth Shalom Synagogue 11916 Jasper Ave

JFSE
EDMONTON



Staff and students at Calgary's Halpern Akiva Academy are really enjoying the new Kevutzot Ratzon activities that combine STEAM learning with Jewish values plus a bit of friendly competition. Pictured above: Becoming bucket-fillers, making beautiful decorations for the HAA Sukkah and the Talking Hat organizer. (Photos supplied).

Changing Seasons at Halpern Akiva Academy

By Ms. Lovell and Morah Rassin

“It has always been enjoyable working at Halpern Akiva Academy (HAA), but I was very excited to be asked for my input in the new school initiative called ‘Kevutzot Ratzon,’” said Ms. Kelsey Lovell, Director of Inclusive Education.

“The program has already helped students of each grade connect with each other. It has given the older students the opportunity to role model and develop leadership skills,” reflected Morah Nechama Rassin, the school’s program director, and the main organizer behind the initiative. “Under Rabbi Nachum Aaron Kutnowski’s guidance, we’ve planned fun and educational opportunities for students to work together through play-based learning. These programs implement both STEAM components and relevant values from the Torah, while including a bit of healthy competition.”

Through these monthly assemblies that are scheduled around Rosh Chodesh - the Jewish new month, the school hopes to foster greater school spirit. One of the students excitedly shared, “We really look forward to these assemblies and are excited when we are together in our teams.”

The first Kevutzot Ratzon assembly began with a teaching from a Mishna in Pirkei Avot which focused on the attributes given to four animals; each corresponding to the four groups that make up the Kevutzot Ratzon teams. The Mishna speaks about being bold as a tiger, light as an eagle, swift as a

deer, and strong as a lion. Kevutzot Ratzon was formed to help students “embody” one of these animals. The students were divided into their team houses by a talking “Sorting Hat”. After being sorted, the students experienced their first Kevutzot Ratzon program, with a Rosh Hashanah-themed Jeopardy. The kids were able to exhibit all the amazing Torah learning in a fun and engaging way.

In the second Kevutzot Ratzon assembly, students had a blast fulfilling the verse in the Torah which states: “This is my G-d, and I will beautify Him” - which the Rabbis explain means striving to perform Mitzvot in a beautiful way (Menachot 27a). The students did a great job making beautiful decorations for the HAA school Sukkah. The youngest students worked together with their teachers to make colourful paper chains, while older students collaborated to create innovative decorations from recycled materials.

These decorations were made with the assistance of Ms. Filewich, grade 1,3, and 4 general studies teacher; supplying the recycled materials. These Sukkah decorations were quite the example of ingenuity, implementing both Judaic and General studies learning, as a cross-curricular program. Students were



Students of the Halpern Akiva Academy excitedly participating in Kevutzot Ratzon activities. (Photos supplied)

tasked in working as a cohesive group, being creative in making something both functional and beautiful, as well as utilizing a theme of the holiday in the decoration itself.

Rabbi Kutnowski remarked, “We were all incredibly impressed at the innovation and skill each participant used, and the HAA Sukkah looked amazing.”

The most recent Kevutzot Ratzon assembly for Rosh Chodesh Marcheshvan focused on the seasonal changes and mental health awareness, centered around the prayers for the rain for Eretz Yisrael, while implementing a focus on being a “bucket-filler”. Ultimately, this encouraged students to act positively, reaffirming the importance of extending kindness to yourself and others. Students raced to be a bucket-filler, and help provide raindrops for the land to grow its special Shivat HaMinim - the seven special grains and fruits of the land of Israel.

“The Kevutzot Ratzon initiative has been such a wonderful opportunity for our students and staff to work together towards a common goal. Our Judaic and General Studies staff have done an amazing job working together to build a well-rounded, and very fun, program. I can’t wait to see what amazing things they come up with next.” said Mrs. Cameron, Principal of HAA.

Thank You

Calgary's 70th annual B'nai Brith dinner welcomed over 450 guests to the Beth Tzedec Synagogue and online on Thursday, September 22nd, 2022 in the spirit of philanthropy and generosity to benefit a number of worthy organizations in both the Jewish and greater local community.

The evening was a tremendous success and would not have been possible without all of our volunteers, sponsors, advertisers, prize and auction donors, dinner patrons and individual donors.

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JNF Canada Project update from Edmonton

By Jay Cairns

(AJNews) - I'd like to start 5783 off by inviting conversations about the importance of supporting the people and land of Israel and how Jewish National Fund Canada can help you make your mark in Israel by dedicating a meaningful project of your choice.

Let's start with why Israel needs your support - because as strong as Israel is and the incredible strides that she has made in the last 75 years, the reality is that there are vulnerable populations that need our help. Creating a tangible connection between you, your family, a loved one (alive or deceased) and Israel, is a special goal to have and one I encourage everyone to put on their bucket list.

Why? Because giving tzedakah (charity) is an incredibly selfless act, that involves giving your hard-earned money to something that you will not directly

benefit from. We are part of an international collective family of Jewish people who, at the end of the day want the same result - to be able to live securely and freely (as a Jewish person), with hopes and dreams of a bright future with those that share the same dream.

JNF Canada works with a variety of organizations throughout Israel, connecting Jewish and non-Jewish Canadians with projects that are meaningful to them and fulfills your philanthropic goals. From environmental issues such as trees and climate change to social infrastructure projects that help vulnerable populations such as youth and the elderly, JNF provides a wide range of donor-directed giving opportunities that are building Israel's future in a profound way, providing naming rights that connect you, your family and/or a loved one with Israel in perpetuity.

I am so proud to be a part of the JNF Canada team, it is truly an honour that donors entrust me to see their chosen projects to fruition and this remains my commitment to the supporters of JNF Edmonton. There are a lot of exciting projects that JNF is building all over Israel and together we can act as the agents for change for the better, in a country and for a people we can all call home and family.

The Jewish people are unique in that we are constantly challenged with our right to exist, no other



people need to remind the world of that on a consistent basis. I want to suggest that we can do that by building Israel's future through investing in the infrastructure that clearly states that we are here and here to stay.

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on page 13

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND OF CANADA

Builders Circle

MAKE YOUR MARK IN ISRAEL

The Builders Circle is a great opportunity for you and your family to support a specific JNF project and 'Make Your Mark' in Israel, while having wonderful impact on the people and the land.

The perfect tribute | Commemorate a loved one, honour a relative or dear friend, or start a new legacy with your family.

JNF is unique | Dozens of projects to choose from, all over Israel, built on decades of trusted partnerships and relationships.

Tailored for you | Our JNF team will find a project that's meaningful for your family. Gift levels range from \$6,000+.

Join forces with other committed donors, Builders, who are making a difference in Israel!

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What is Edmonton Talmud Torah School Council?

By: Christina Reboh

Talmud Torah School Council (TTSC) is a volunteer parent advisory group that works with school Principal and staff to support the operations and learning at Talmud Torah School (TT). Our focus is to enrich each student’s learning and experience by advising, listening, engaging, and participating. TTSC, in its present form, was established September 22, 2020, according to the Education Act under the direct guidance of the Alberta School Council Association (ASCA). For over a century, the TTS Parents’ Auxiliary (PA) and, before that the Mothers’ Auxiliary (MA), fulfilled the important role of enriching student experiences at Talmud Torah. Thanks to the PA’s and MA’s years of work and dedication, the TTSC has the ground work to carry on the vision of positively impacting and enriching student learning and experiences at TT.

The TTSC membership includes all Talmud Torah School and Talmud Torah Early Learning Centre (TTELC) parents. For the 2022-23 school year, the executive members are: Christina Reboh, Chair; Marni Kondor and Ken Lister, Co-Vice Chairs; Secretary, Jamie Mozeson. The TTSC also consists of our Principal, Darin Johnson, teachers and staff. As well, other partners and supporters (School Board Trustee Dawn Hancock, Talmud Torah Society, ASCA, Jewish Federation of Edmonton, etc.) with an invested interest in TT collaborate and work with the TT School Council.

Talmud Torah School Council’s primary focus is to create parental engagement and advise the principal on school matters. It also provides a venue for parents to represent the wishes of the broader community (collective voice) on the education of students; a means for meaningful parental involvement in decisions that impact student learning, the school and its operations; advises and supports the Principal regarding the operations of the school; supports the teachers and school, as needed with supplies, volunteers, and new projects.

Enrichment projects that the TTSC currently supports are: student agendas, schoolwide weekly Shabbat, Café Ivrit, June Fitness Challenge, recess supplies, end of year class celebrations, and staff appreciation. We work closely with teachers and help bring extra curriculum projects to life, such as the Grade 6 winter planters that are a fun way to end the Science unit on Trees and the Grade 1s and 4s spring planters to enrich the Science unit on agriculture. Another teacher create concept: Café Ivrit is a student-community project that helps students build their Hebrew speaking skills by having a conversation (and a warm beverage) with Hebrew speakers.

Many hands make light work and the *only* way the TT School Council can execute these enrichment projects and continue to support student learning is with the many volunteers who offer their time, energy, expertise, and passion, as well as generous participation in our many fundraisers. The TTSC is not a fundraising body, therefore can only run small fundraisers (i.e. no casinos or capital campaigns) whose funds are for use in the same school year. Our year-round fundraising initiatives include: Shabbat sponsorship, Fundscrip gift cards, Spirt Wear, Gift of Reading book program for the library, and birthday treats. Our annual fundraising initiatives include: post-high holiday and Passover bottle drives, yearbooks, Passover flowers, gardening supplies, TT wall calendars, and school supplies.



Maintaining the planters in front of the school is one of the many projects funded by the Talmud Torah School Council. (Photo supplied)

beyond the classroom. For example, the TTSC has an executive representative on the TT Society Board. This ensures that both organizations, while they have different mandates and focuses, are always working in tandem. It’s an invaluable partnership and ensures the continued growth of the Talmud Torah. Further, the TTSC chair engages with our Trustee and meets with other school council chairs throughout the year, to gain a better understanding of what is happening at the division level and to learn what other councils are doing. At times, the TTSC conducts parent surveys or discussions on topics, as requested, from the Alberta School Council Association. Most notably, the TTSC has expressed support for Holocaust Education to be included in the new Alberta Curriculum and is currently in talks with Edmonton Public Schools Transportation to revise TT’s bus service route.

Our 2022-23 Executive Committee has hit the ground running to make sure the programs and initiatives we run result in an enriching and impactful year for our students. With our annual programs running smoothly, this year we are working on a few new projects! We are excited to host Trickster Theatre in February, for a one-week drama residency that will culminate with an evening performance of a custom written play about Jewish values. As well, we are

While most of TTSC’s work focuses on the students and staff within the school year, we have opportunities to dig deeper and have a voice in matters that extended

Continued on page 11

December 7, 2022

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Beth Shalom Synagogue
11916 Jasper Avenue
7 p.m.
In-person only


Powered by United Jewish Appeal



Edmonton JCC

WITH GUEST SPEAKER

YARON DECKEL

Current Jewish Agency for Israel representative for UJA Toronto, Former Israeli journalist, TV host, and political analyst

Israel in a time of a turbulent Middle East



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 Foundation

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 the Jewish Federation of Edmonton and Jewish Community Centre of Edmonton.

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.

On behalf of the Nominations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, the following is Notice of the slate of nominations of Directors:

1 year term- Ellery Lew

Four 3-year terms - Lisa Miller, Joel Allen, Teddy Braun, Sarah Troster

Please proceed to www.jewishedmonton.org/agm for more information, including:

1. Who is considered a member and who is entitled to vote.

2. How to add additional business



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Maxine Fischbein and AJNews win CEMA award for Journalistic Excellence



Maxine Fischbein

The Canadian Ethnic Media Association is presenting its 44th Annual Awards for Journalistic Excellence webcast on Thursday, November 17, 2022, at 7 p.m. ET and *Alberta Jewish News* reporter Maxine Fischbein is receiving one of the top honours.

Buoyed by the success of the last two year's virtual production of its prestigious awards, CEMA returns this year with its third online presentation, bigger and better than ever!

This claim is easily validated by the record number of submissions received this year, and the high caliber of content and production of the many entries competing across nine categories. It was a massive task for the jury to determine the winners.

The winners in each category will be announced at the event but *Alberta Jewish News* is proud to announce that Local Journalism Initiative Reporter Maxine Fischbein has been awarded first place in the category of Community Engagement for her coverage of the 'Here to Tell: Faces of Holocaust Survivors' exhibit in Calgary.

"I am thrilled to announce that *Alberta Jewish News'* nomination of Maxine Fischbein for her coverage of the Here to Tell project, has been awarded first place in the category of Community Engagement," stated CEMA chair Madeline Ziniak.

Here to Tell is a commemorative and educational photography and multimedia exhibit (with an accompanying book) that features both living and deceased Holocaust survivors who have a connection to the City of Calgary. The exhibit sheds light on each of the survivors' Shoah (Hebrew word for the Holocaust) experiences, while also providing a glimpse into their lives lived post-war.

Alberta Jewish News reporter Maxine Fischbein's coverage of and contribution to the exhibit from its inception forward was monumental, educational, and inspirational. She lent her expertise to every aspect of the project and her writing skill, compassion and commitment to community elevated the project.

"We are proud to have a reporter of Maxine's caliber associated with *Alberta Jewish News*," said Publisher Deborah Shatz. "Her exceptional character and her commitment to community make this award in the Community Engagement category all the more meaningful."

"A heartfelt mazel tov to Maxine Fischbein on her achievement and first-place award in the Community Engagement category at the Canadian Ethnic Media

Association Journalism Awards of Excellence this year," stated Marnie Bondar and Dahlia Libin, co-chairs of the Calgary Jewish Federation Human Rights & Holocaust Education Department.

"Having had the absolute privilege to work alongside Maxine on the *Here to Tell*, we could not think of anyone more deserving of this honour. Maxine brought tremendous talent, compassion and hard work to *Here to Tell: Faces of Holocaust Survivors*, and was instrumental in the project's success, given her integral role as the lead writer and the senior editor. She worked tirelessly with the survivors, and their families, to illuminate each of their Shoah experiences, and so gently and thoughtfully documented the years of trauma and anguish, as well as their lives lived post war.

"Maxine approached this challenging task with grace and commitment, donating all of her services to the project, and never asking for any special recognition of her boundless contributions.

"We are deeply grateful to Maxine for all her hard work and talent in helping us share the stories and experiences of Holocaust survivors. Our community is indebted to you Maxine."

The Canadian Ethnic Media Awards show, including a video of Maxine's acceptance remarks will be webcast on November 17 at www.canadianethnicmedia.com.

JNF *Cont. from page 1*

Jennifer Eiserman, a member of the Reform Synagogue, B'nai Tikvah, was concerned about the recent Israeli election, which brought Netanyahu back to power after 18 months in opposition. "I will be very interested to hear what he has to say about that political landscape and how we might approach our support for Israel."

Moderating the event was former premier Jason Kenney, who cheekily offered his reason for attending. "At 7:30 am on a Monday after a time change, it wasn't Harper, it was the bagel and blintzes that brought me."

Kenney recalled his early days in politics, spanning 25 years. "You know, when I first got into politics I didn't have strong opinions about Israel or close connections to the community. I ended up getting deeply informed about the Middle East conflict. Understanding the historical indigenous presence of the Jewish people in the Holy Land became a central issue in my political vocation." As Harper was introduced, Kenney offered one more joke where he stated as the morning's moderator he has been "moderate all along" to a round of applause.

Harper teased about visiting the Hula Valley Bird Sanctuary in Israel named after him as well as the ill-fated plans to rename the YYC airport to the Stephen J. Harper Airport. He discussed his business ventures in Saudi Arabia, meeting with MBS (Mohammed Ben Salman) and how that country was undergoing, in his words, the "most rapid social change in human history."

(Editor's note: MBS has been widely criticized for a severe crackdown on critics and it was concluded by the CIA that he had ordered the grisly 2018 "capture or kill" murder of Washington Post correspondent and critic Jamal Khashoggi, which the prince has denied.)

"The extremely popular crown prince has turned the country around socially...turning it into a new Dubai," said Harper. Referring to their private discussions, Harper said that MBS had told him, "Yes, we (Saudi) worked with you (the West) against terrorism, but we tolerated extremism. Under my (MBS) government, we won't tolerate it. If you (Saudis) are not teaching a moderate brand of Islam, we will put you in a reeducation camp, and if you are not re-educated, you will be put in prison."

The Abraham Accords were a major topic of discussion, where while El-Al is no longer flying to Canada, they are now making daily flights to Dubai. Harper stated that he thought the Accords were, "the most positive thing that has happened to the human race in the last five years. I believe Mohamed bin Zayed of the UAE, Netanyahu, and Trump should have received the Nobel Prize for Peace." Harper also believes peace between Saudi Arabia and Israel will come but only after the death of the King. "I think it is a done deal."

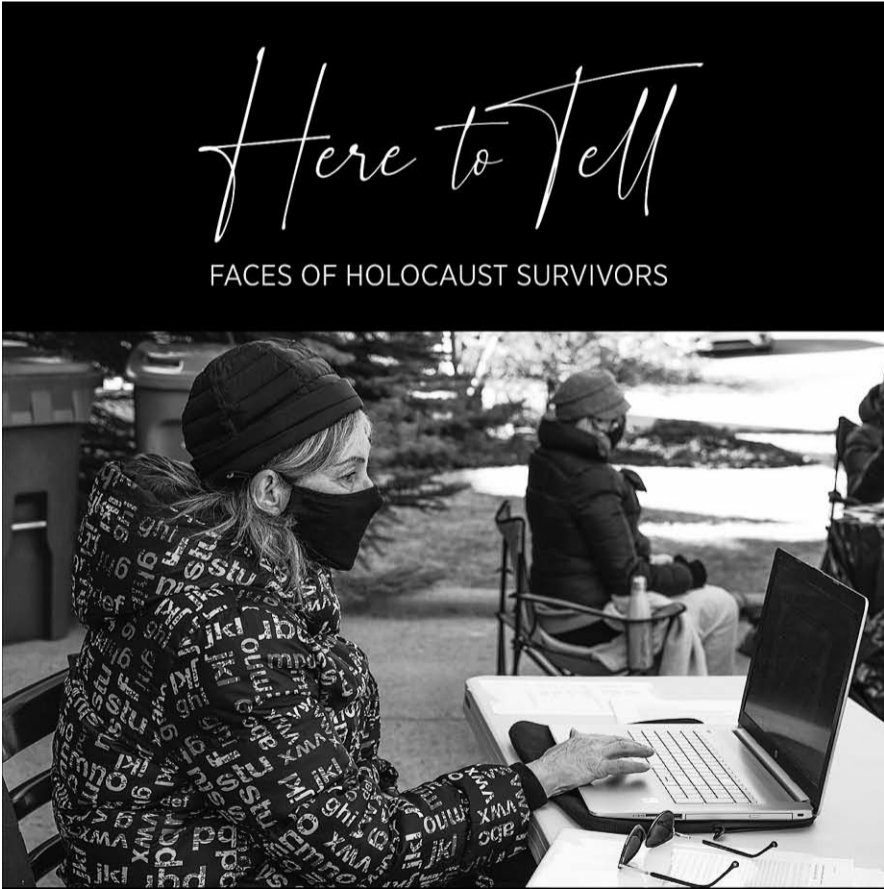
He gave his assessment of the current Israeli election. "I was not surprised Bibi came back. He is the smartest and best educated of all the international leaders I've met. Now, Bibi and his faction, with some pretty far-right parties have a clear majority...but we support Israel's right to exist whether the government is on the right, centre or left. But anyone who wants proportional representation in Canada, please look to Israel to see why you don't want it."

The issue of the war in Ukraine came up as he described Putin as a "James Bond-type villain whom I would never accept a drink from." Harper suggested the West had failed to stand by its allies in the past. The invasion of Ukraine "should never have happened in the first place. If we had done what George W. Bush and I had wanted, we would have admitted (Ukraine) to NATO. You stand by

countries that are threatened to avoid war. You deter through strength. We forgot that lesson. Let's make sure the West doesn't forget to do that same thing vis a vis China with Taiwan and Iran with Israel.

As for questions brought up by Kenney surrounding Poilievre's tone and tenor flirting with the alt-right in his leadership campaign, Harper had no qualms. Poilievre "is giving a channel for people to vent about how they are being treated. Will conspiracists jump onboard? Absolutely. But in time they leave."

David Sklar is an LJI Reporter.



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A MESSAGE FROM ADAM SILVER



I wrote in my last *Pomegranate* message about the wonderful diversity of Jewish Calgary, and of the fulsomeness and beauty it brings to our community. I compared this diversity to the *lulav* and *etrog*, the four species, and noted that we are comprised of people with different backgrounds who live in diverse households, and who often live and breathe their Judaism differently than one another. Yet, somehow, when we come together as one, and put our differences aside or, even better, when we truly listen to each other and have dialogue, we are an exponentially more authentic and stronger community.


As I write this message, I am preparing to attend our amazing Coast-to-Coast Partnership (CTC-P2G) meetings in *Etzba Hagalil* (the Galilee Panhandle). This is a unique partnership with six cities across Canada and five municipalities in the north of Israel. In total, eleven distinct groups coming together as one to form our Coast-to-Coast Partnership2Gether (CTC-P2G). This is like no other Israel 'twinning' in the world in that each municipality including Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Halifax and Atlantic Canada, Kiryat Shemona, Metulla, Yesod Hama'ala, Galil Elion, and Mevo'ot Hahermon is key to the partnership, and the relationships are not simply bilateral.

Furthermore, the partnership is constructed and motivated to support the region as a whole. Therefore, redundancies of programs or infrastructure are limited, offerings are maximized and scaled (i.e. mental health initiatives, special curricula, etc.), and through *gesher chai* (living bridge) programming across the ocean between communities, authentic relationships are cultivated and cemented. Of course, there are opportunities to support capital and program projects in specific parts of the region, and many of the partners do so directly. But the focus of the core budget of the partnership and the broader thinking of the CTC-P2G committee, is to bolster the region as a whole. What is good for one is good for all, even though it might look different for how each partner and their citizens and other stakeholders experience it.

The bulk of those involved in the partnership, both Canadian and Israeli, have not only learned much more about one another's way of Jewish life, but also have forged lifelong friendships, even becoming *mishpacha* (family). It has been over three years since we last met face to face, but I know it will be like no time has passed at all. We will certainly commit to hard and meaningful work – building up a region with great needs, scarce resources, and significant diversity in its population. We will also definitely hug and smile and laugh, knowing that no challenge of time or distance can alter the care, love, and hope we have for our partners and friends in *Etzba Hagalil*, nor can it distract us from the work to be done.

It seems to me, though, that the true strength of the partnership is that it is a labour of love shared by people who care deeply. They care about one another, about the region, and about Israel. What could be more motivating and more satisfying? Please consider joining us in our efforts – you will be welcomed with open arms.

B'Shalom,


Adam Silver
CEO, Calgary Jewish Federation

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

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JEWISH BOOK FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

1:30PM • PAPERNY FAMILY JCC

The Little Gate Crasher: The Life and Photos of Mace Bugen





Celebrate IDPD 2022 with Gabrielle Kaplan-Mayer – mom, inclusion advocate, author, and educator. Join us for an entertaining and profound presentation about Gabrielle's great-uncle Mace Bugen, through his journey as a first-generation Jewish-American kid in working-class Philipsburg, NJ to becoming the first celebrity selfie artist – way ahead of his time!

3:30PM • PAPERNY FAMILY JCC

Disability, Autism, Mental Health, Neurodiversity and Parenting: A Mindfulness Approach

Sharing her experience as a mother, inclusion advocate, author, and educator, Gabrielle Kaplan-Mayer will affirm how mindfulness will bring more wellness to you and your loved ones, and enrich your relationships.

Q&A and refreshments to follow each event.
More info: Karina Szulc • karinas@jewishcalgary.org • 403-444-3158



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Edmonton Shine a Light Mosaic launches City Tour

By Jenna Soroka

The Edmonton Jewish Community is ‘shining a light’ on antisemitism and educating the community at large about their lived experiences.

Shine A Light is an international “purpose-driven convening platform for organizations, companies, institutions and individuals to unite in shining a light on antisemitism in all its modern forms.”

Last year, the Jewish Federation of Edmonton (JFED) brought the antisemitism awareness campaign to the city of Edmonton with the help of a grant from the Jewish Federations of North America. Members and friends of the Edmonton Jewish community had the opportunity to contribute to a mosaic art project coordinated by JFED.

The project involved painting words or an image on a mosaic tile to express how they have been impacted by Jewish hatred in their life. Once all the tiles were collected, artist Lewis Lavoie created a mosaic that formed a chanukiah, emphasizing the importance of illuminating the harm of antisemitism in our own and global community.

On November 2, 2022, the Shine A Light tour of the mosaic artwork was launched at the Alberta Legislature Building where it will be displayed for the month of November, facilitated by the Speaker’s Office. Members of Alberta’s NDP and United Conservative Party of Alberta attended the kick-off event, with members of the Jewish community. Stacey Leavitt-Wright, CEO of JFED, expressed how she hopes the art display will create a greater awareness of the unique aspects of antisemitism as well as the impact it has on the local Edmonton Jewish community.

The art piece will be featured at Edmonton Beth Israel Family Shul in December before it makes its way to Edmonton City Hall in January.

Stacey expressed that she is looking forward to the increased exposure the mosaic will have by being exhibited in a range of locations throughout the city. A guestbook will be present at each location for people to comment about their impressions of the art and offer their reactions to antisemitism. At Wednesday’s event, attendees began to fill the guestbook, including The Minister of Technology and Innovation, writing “thank you for sharing this art and this message! So important to get this out in our community.”

Children, teenagers, parents, and elders in the community all contributed to the mosaic tiles and, when looking at the individual tiles that make up the beautiful mosaic, you see themes of fear, isolation, sadness, as well as love, resilience, and compassion. “The Jewish lived experience of our own community here in Edmonton [will] be reflected in peoples understanding of antisemitism,” Stacey remarked in her opening speech at the Alberta Legislature event.

In the 21st century, social media can be an added challenged to the fight against antisemitism, acting as a breeding ground for discriminatory rhetoric and bolstering hate groups. Fortunately, education is a



powerful combatant against forms of hate, and Jewish Federation of Edmonton will be developing more educational resources to go along with this art display with the hope that people take time to further educate themselves on this important issue.

Jared Paull, President and Head Producer at Reel Mensch Studio, in collaboration with the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, put together a meaningful featurette to showcase the process and impact of the project. You can view this video and an interactive virtual exhibit of the mosaic artwork on the Federation’s website, jewishedmonton.org under Featured Events: Shine a Light on Antisemitism mosaic art project.

If you get the opportunity, visit the Alberta Legislature Building this month to experience and acknowledge in-person the impact antisemitism has on the Edmonton Jewish community and beyond.

Jenna Soroka is a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter.

Former U of A President Myer Horowitz remembered as a leader

By Bev Betkowski

(Folio.ca) – Myer Horowitz, who served as the University of Alberta’s ninth president from 1979-89, has passed away at the age of 89.

Horowitz will be remembered for his leadership, his scholarly work devoted to teacher education and his personal touch on the campus he served.

“Myer Horowitz’s passing is a loss that reverberates

across Canada,” says U of A president Bill Flanagan. “He was an influential and dedicated educator and an exemplary academic. The University of Alberta is grateful for his visionary leadership and deep commitment to build a better and more just world. He inspired those he met and left an enduring legacy of what was possible.

“On behalf of the University of Alberta community, I send my condolences to his family and many friends. We have lost a remarkable man.”

One of his goals as a new president, Horowitz reflected in 2015, was to introduce himself to the university’s community.

“The main purpose was, even though a lot of people knew me because I filled other administrative positions at the U of A, was to help people see what makes me tick both as a human being and as a professional, and provide some insight into how I would handle the presidency.”

One of his habits was to send handwritten notes, which endeared him to staff and students, according to the U of A history book, *I Was There*.

“He knew the institution inside and out and is fondly remembered by hundreds of staff and students as the president with a personal touch,” wrote author Ellen Schoeck. “No one who received a handwritten note from him has forgotten it.”

Continued on page 15



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-The Talmud

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Jewish Studies Week

Cont. from page 1

Dr. Schmoll speaks frequently in the US, Canada and Israel. Over the course of her career, she held the position as lecturer at the University of Hamburg and the University of the Federal Armed Forces in Hamburg, Germany and Adjunct Associate Professor at Werklund School of Education, University of Calgary, Canada.

Her talks cover topics like: antisemitism, Holocaust Education, education policy and tools as well as aspects of remembrance and memory. Dr. Schmoll develops educational material for teachers and educators on various topics. She works as an author, editor, advisor, expert and reviewer on school textbooks, online learning platforms and encyclopedias.

The Annual Toby & Saul Reichert Holocaust Lecture with keynote speaker Justin Cammy, will take place via live zoom webinar on Tuesday, November 15 at 5 pm MST. The topic will be “From the Vilna Ghetto to Nuremberg: Yiddish Poetry and Witnessing.” A question and answer session will follow the lecture.

Why was the only memoir of the world’s most famous Yiddish poet written out of collective memory until very recently? And what can we learn about the beginning of Holocaust history through a memoir first written in Moscow in 1944? In this talk, 2022 Canadian Jewish Literary Award recipient Justin Cammy introduces us to the literary and political challenges of translating Sutzkever’s *From the Vilna Ghetto* as he guides us back into a time and place where Yiddish defined and interpreted the world.

Justin Cammy is a literary and cultural historian

with research and teaching interests in Yiddish literature, Eastern European Jewish cultural history, and contemporary Israel. He is chair of both the Program in World Literatures and the Program in Jewish Studies, director of the Translation Studies Concentration, faculty co-director of STRIDE (Student Research in Departments), and Secretary to the Faculty. He also is a long-time member and advisor in the Programs in Middle Eastern Studies and Russian and East European Studies.

Cammy’s publications range from essays on Yiddish literary history to scholarly translations of historical texts to introductions to new editions of works by Yiddish writers and memoirists. He is a leading authority on the writers of the interwar literary group Yung-Vilne (Young Vilna). His critical edition of Abraham Sutzkever’s *From the Vilna Ghetto to Nuremberg* won the 2022 Canadian Jewish Literary Award and was a finalist of the 2021 National Jewish Book Award.

Cammy has served as resident research fellow at the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan (winter 2020), translation fellow at the Yiddish Book Center (2018), resident research fellow at the International Institute for



Melanie Carina Schmoll and Justin Cammy

Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem (2014), and Mellon Senior Scholar on the Holocaust and visiting professor of English at UCLA (2009). He is a longtime faculty member of the Steiner Yiddish summer program at the Yiddish Book Center and the Naomi Praver Kadar International Yiddish summer program at Tel Aviv University (for which he also has served as on-site director since 2019).

Cammy is an associate editor of *Prooftexts: A Journal of Jewish Literary History* and sits on the academic advisory boards of both the Jonah Goldrich Institute for Yiddish Language, Literature and Culture at Tel Aviv University (where he was a senior fellow in 2013-14, 2018-22) and the Institute for Holocaust, Genocide and Memory Studies at UMass-Amherst.

To register for the Toby & Saul Reichert Holocaust Lecture visit ualberta.ca/wirth-institute.

Talmud Torah

Cont. from page 6

working on launching a Hot Lunch Program and hoping to support some new student clubs, such as a media club that will teach students about graphic design, video editing, and photography.


The first year of TTSC was a year of learning and establishment (i.e. lots of paperwork), year two we had our feet in place and started testing new ideas, and year three is gearing up to be our most engaging and

meaningful year yet! The TTSC would like to express sincere gratitude to: our leadership: Principal Johnson and the TT Staff, for your creativity and support; to the TT Society board of directors for ensuring our organizations complement each other; to the students for sharing your ideas and energy; and to the parents who make it all possible! TTSC is proud that every TT/ELC parent is a member of the council and there is something to fit each parents’ interests, skills, and time. We have one of the most engaged School Councils

in the city; between Council Meetings, small commitment committees, project specific volunteer needs, or helping pickup/deliver supplies, our village really comes together to keep the TTSC robust!

To share your ideas or get involved with the Talmud Torah School Council, please connect with us at talmudtorahschoolcouncil@partner.epsb.ca.

Christina Reboh has been Chair of the Edmonton Talmud Torah School Council from 2020 to present.



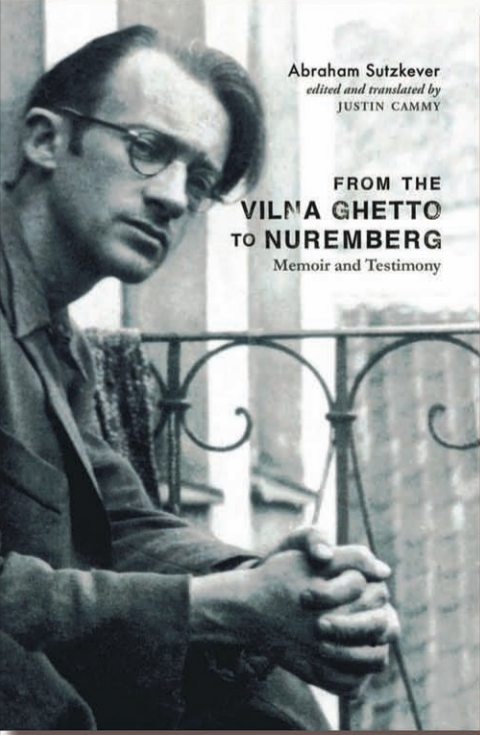
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From the Vilna Ghetto to Nuremberg:

Yiddish Poetry and Witnessing




Abraham Sutzkever
edited and translated by
JUSTIN CAMMY

FROM THE
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Memoir and Testimony

Tuesday,
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Live Zoom Webinar
and Q&A



Justin Cammy is Professor of Jewish Studies and of World Literatures at Smith College.


For more details, visit:
ualberta.ca/wirth-institute/jsw

Part of
Jewish Studies Week 2022

Learning from the Past

Holocaust Education


and its Impact on Antisemitism



Monday, November 14 @ 2:00 pm MST

Senate Chamber, Arts & Convocation Hall

Melanie Carina Schmoll is research fellow at Finkler Institute of Holocaust Research, Bar Ilan University, Israel, editor and author. She is a Historian and Political Scientist. Dr. Schmoll received her doctorate from the University of Hamburg, Germany. She holds a MA’s and BA’s degree in the fields of Political Science, History and Philosophy. Her main research focuses on Israel, specifically security issues and Holocaust Education.



For more details, visit:
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Holocaust Education in Alberta this month

By Maxine Fischbein, LJI Reporter

November is Holocaust Education month and there are lots of initiatives taking place in the province. Both Calgary and Edmonton have impactful Kristallnacht programs on November 9. Following the programs, the Calgary Jewish Film Festival is screening *Reckonings* at 7 pm – 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. The entire Alberta community is welcome to register for a free screening of this film as part of the community-wide Kristallnacht commemoration. Visit CalgaryJewishFilmFestival.com to register.

Between November 21 and November 25, Calgary Jewish Federation will once again present a virtual Holocaust Education Symposium open to high school students and teachers throughout Alberta. As of September 28, 1,500 students had already been registered.

Offered at no charge, this year’s virtual symposium includes a brief presentation by a university professor, the documentary: *Path to Nazi Genocide*, and a presentation by survivor Bronia Cyngiser and her grandchildren. Students will be able to participate in a virtual question and answer period with Mrs. Cyngiser’s daughter, Francie Cyngiser, following the presentation.

The relatively recent addition of a fall symposium extends the reach of the 38-year-old annual Holocaust Education Symposium which is organized by the Holocaust and Human Rights: Remembrance and Education department of the Calgary Jewish Federation in cooperation with Mount Royal University, the Calgary Board of Education and the Calgary Catholic School District. For more information, go jewishcalgary.org and click on Federation programs and then on Holocaust and Human Rights Remembrance and Education.

In other news, Holocaust and Human Rights: Remembrance and Education Co-Chairs Dahlia Libin

and Marnie Bondar recently announced that all Shoah Foundation testimonies provided by Calgary Holocaust survivors have been digitally recorded in an initiative that spanned two years.

The original recordings had been housed at the Montreal Holocaust Museum. Now they have been repatriated and can be viewed on the Calgary Jewish Federation website at www.jewishcalgary.org. Individuals wishing to access the Shoah Foundation testimonies are asked to contact Libin and Bondar at holocaustedu@jewishcalgary.org.

If you missed *Here to Tell: Faces of Holocaust Survivors* when the exhibit premiered at the Glenbow at the Edison, or if you wish to further explore the images and stories of Calgary-connected Holocaust survivors, you will have the opportunity to see a curated portion of the exhibit and the *Here to Tell* documentary at the Central Library during regular hours throughout the month of January 2023. Tours are currently being arranged for school groups. For more information, go to jewishcalgary.org.

Calgary Jewish Film Festival runs until Nov. 23

By Maxine Fischbein, LJI Reporter

The 22nd Annual Beth Tzedec Congregation Jewish Film Festival began on November 5 and is receiving rave reviews. The festival continues virtually with a wide range of eclectic and engaging films until November 23.

Festival Founder and Director Harvey Cyngiser and his committee of 25 have provided a selection of 16 remarkable films - seven features and nine documentaries – that are screening throughout the festival with a 48-hour viewing window for each film, allowing viewers flexibility.

Cyngiser has worked hard to keep the Film Festival affordable and thanks in large part to dedicated sponsors, a full access pass is \$45 while tickets for individual films are \$12.

On November 14, the 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 home - experienced then and continue to experience today.

On November 15, Dr. Ralph Gurevitch’s 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.

On November 17, *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.

Screening on November 19, this year’s Dr. Martha Cohen Memorial film is the highly evocative feature titled *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 Sukkot.

The journey of women toward wholeness is featured in several other 2022 Jewish Film Festival selections including *Rose* by French Director Aurélie Saada, (screening on November 20) which won the Variety Piazza Grande Award at the 2021 Locarno International Film Festival. The title role is brilliantly acted by iconic French film star Françoise Fabian who portrays an aging Jewish widow as she journeys through loss and grief, ultimately choosing to live her golden years to the fullest.

On November 21, *On This Happy Note* is screening.

It’s an acclaimed documentary that chronicles influential Israeli playwright Anat Gov’s acceptance of her own death.


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* (on November 16) and *The Fourth Window* (on November 21) 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.

On November 23, final night of the festival, the Calgary Jewish Film Festival is providing a gift to Alberta viewers with a complimentary 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.”

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


As always, there is something for everyone at the Calgary Jewish Festival; it continues until Nov. 23!

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.



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

Next Deadline: December 2, 2022

Shirley Rabinovitch of Calgary will be turning 100 years young on November 5, 2022.

Shirley has been a lifelong volunteer and honorary member of the Chevra Kadisha women's auxiliary. A special project is being developed at the Chevra to honour Shirley, marking her milestone birthday.

Friends who wish to send greetings to Shirley Rabinovitch can make donations payable to:

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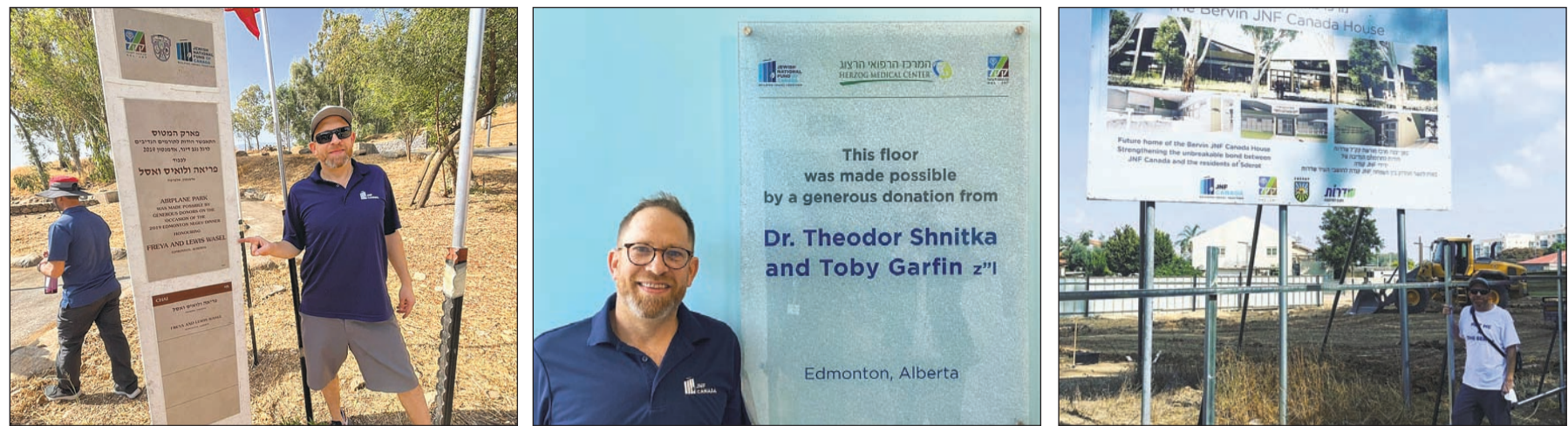


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JNF Edmonton Executive Director Jay Cairns visited several projects in Israel that were supported by members of the Edmonton community including Freya & Lew Wasel, Dr. Theodore Shnitka & Toby Garfin and Odette & Jacob Masliyah. (Photos supplied).

JNF Canada *Cont. from page 5*

We can forge a future for ourselves, design and determine our own destiny, and that is an extremely positive message that needs space in the world.

JNF Canada is your one-stop shop that offers you an integral/key role in building a vibrant Israel for today and for generations to come. Please feel free to call or email me to set up a meeting to discuss anything and everything JNF and/or Israel. It would be my honour and pleasure to act as your personal concierge for change.

Pirkei Avot: "You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it." (2:21)

JNF Canada recently completed several projects that were funded by Edmonton, I would like to share in the excitement after having recently attended these amazing project dedications on the ground in Israel.

The Max Glassman Mental Health Hospital in Jerusalem:

Theodor Shnitka & Toby Garfin z"l left an extremely generous estate gift in 2014 that funded the second floor of the newly built Glassman mental health hospital in Jerusalem. I am extremely proud to have been a part of this enormous project that is servicing people from every walk of life in Israel who are struggling with mental illness and specifically PTSD. Mental health issues are on the rise everywhere in the world and Israel is taking a leading role in addressing the issues and sharing best practices with countries around the world who are facing similar issues.

Airplane Park in the Galilee:

Freya and Lewis Wasel, 2019 JNF Edmonton honourees wanted to make a difference in the north of Israel by creating green spaces along the Ayun River. Airplane Park spans over 17 acres and converted an abandoned airplane strip into an area that families and tourists could gather for celebrations, go for a dip in the fresh naturally running water or relax in the shade. The park services several communities in the region and has quickly become a favourite stop for many people travelling in the Etz B'hagalil region. The JNF Edmonton family has already begun party planning for a celebration that is scheduled for the summer of 2023. Stay tuned for more on this good news story!

The Bervin JNF Canada House in Sderot:

The project that 2020 JNF Edmonton Negev Gala honourees Odette & Jacob Masliyah chose suffered

unforeseen challenges due to COVID and unfortunately caused a delay, however this multi million-shekel project that has the support from donors across Canada is well underway with a clear path to completion sometime in 2024. The Bervin House is the first of its kind, a completely fortified educational facility in Sderot, an extremely important project that aims to strengthen the periphery and specifically the Gaza envelope. The mayor of Sderot, Mr. Alon Davidi is an outstanding leader and our partnership with the community of Sderot is greatly appreciated. If you are ever in Israel please let me know and we can arrange for a meaningful visit of many projects that JNF Canada has built.

The Gayle Tallman sport & recreation park in the Northern Galilee.

JNF Edmonton honoured my mentor and beloved retired Jewish professional Gayle Tallman in 2021 and I'm very happy to report to all donors that this project was recently completed in a timely fashion during the COVID crisis and continues to be a source of joy for the Kibbutz and surrounding communities. Jewish Edmonton has developed important relationships through the hard work of the Jewish Federation P2G program, I encourage anyone who is travelling through the North of Israel to visit the communities in and around Kfar Blum.

Hassadna Music Conservatory Scholarships:

Catherine Miller & Len Dolgoy invested in an endowment fund that has created scholarship opportunities for at risk youth all over Israel, who come to Jerusalem to participate and study with cohorts and professional teachers that guide and perform with these students. The program is available to students from all walks of life and has produced some of the finest musicians, moulding and shaping their musicianship from beginner to virtuoso using an integrated performance-based approach that has produced students who have moved on to world class symphonies.

Jerusalem Hills Rehabilitation & Reafforestation:

With the support of a number of donors who wish to remain anonymous, JNF Edmonton became a key player in the rehabilitation of the Jerusalem Hills Forest that was badly damaged by a fire that raged through the Judean hills in the spring of 2018. Many of the surrounding communities were threatened by this fire and the remediation and rehabilitation that was required to clear and eventually replant has been

extensive. The foresters who are working to protect the homes, hospital, memorial sites and important infrastructure in the area are using new techniques that will ensure that this type of fire cannot cause that kind of damage on a go foreword.

Jay Cairns is Executive Director of the JNF Edmonton and can be reached at jay.cairns@jnf.ca or at 780-481-7881, jnf.ca. He notes that mission support is also available for anyone travelling to Israel.

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to Talisa and Zac Antflick on their new addition!
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The Gayle Tallman sport and recreation park in the Northern Galilee.

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from the

Sources

by Eliezer Segal

Napoleonic Codes

I recently reread Tolstoy’s *War and Peace*.

When reading literary classics, I am often searching for a Jewish angle that I can share with my esteemed readers. In the present instance, that angle turned up about midway through the novel. The hapless hero Pierre Bezukhov was attracted to the Freemasons who injected a strong dose of spirituality into his hitherto meaningless life. One of his new Masonic companions introduced him to a fascinating exposition of a verse in the New Testament Book of Revelation [=Apocalypse]—arguably the best-known passage in that esoteric text. The cryptic verse declares: “let anyone with understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a person. Its number is six hundred and sixty-six.” A bit farther down it continues, “The beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months.”

Bezukhov’s informant equated Revelation’s haughty blasphemer with Europe’s current evil aggressor, Napoleon Bonaparte. For that purpose, he applied the technique of numerology— assigning a numerical value to each letter of the alphabet and calculating the sums of words or phrases. And behold, Napoleon’s name added up to 666!

Well, not exactly. Napoleon’s name only totals 216. But if you insert his French title “L’Empereur,” then you will reach the desired sum. Furthermore, not only do the French words “quarante-deux” add up to 666, but Napoleon’s age in 1812 was 42 years. Indisputable proof that the Corsican’s reign would end during that year—especially if you conveniently forget that the scriptural forty-two referred to months, not years.

The next step was to employ the same technique to discover who would be Napoleon’s vanquisher. Permutations of the name of Tsar Alexander (in French) did not yield the desired result. But what about Pierre’s own name? This required a bit of tweaking, such as the use of a non-standard spelling [Besuhof instead of Bezukhov], the insertion of a national identifier [Russe] and an incorrectly elided definite article [“l” instead of “le”]—and voila!: “L’ russe Besuhof” equalled 666. “This discovery excited him. How, or by what means, he was connected

with the great event foretold in the Apocalypse he did not know, but he did not doubt that connection for a moment.”

Actually, the entire basis for 666 being the “number of the Beast” might be altogether mistaken. Although this reading was preferred by church authorities in the fourth century, some of the oldest traditions and texts attest to a reading “616,” which is reinforced by discoveries of ancient papyrus manuscripts.

The method employed by Count Bezukhov and his Masonic informants is familiar from Jewish tradition as “gematria,” a hermeneutic technique that was occasionally applied in the Talmud and Midrash to the interpretation of biblical texts. An incorrect popular perception, particularly among Christians who dabble in the occult, associates gematria with Kabbalah. It is therefore understandable that it should attract Freemasons, who cultivate an exotic mathematically based cosmology. Nevertheless, I have not found evidence of an extensive Masonic predilection for gematria.

Back in the 1990s a fashionable theory of “Bible codes” claimed that the Torah contains a statistically significant number of meaningful word patterns that emerge from letters that are equally distant from each other. Interestingly, the scholars who debunked this theory did so by eliciting similar results from a Hebrew translation of... *War and Peace*.

As we can learn from TV evangelists, there exists an unquenchable market for identifications of the 666 Antichrist with whatever adversary one wishes to vilify at the moment. Most historians identify Revelation’s original target as the nefarious Roman emperor Nero whose name and title, transliterated into Hebrew (albeit with a bit of orthographic creativity), can add up to 666.

An eighth-century commentator on Revelation, Beatus of Liébana, even imagined that Nero will reappear in the future to spite the Jews! “Because the Jews crucified Christ and expect Nero the Antichrist in the place of Christ—therefore G-d will send this one resurrected as king worthy of those worthy of him, and as a Christ such as the Jews deserve.”

Napoleon’s initial victories generated heated debates

among Jewish leaders about his likely impact on religious and communal life. Proponents of liberalism and enlightenment were gratified by the emperor’s determination to demolish the ghetto walls and extend civil rights to Jews in his dominions; however many traditionalists preferred Tsarist tyranny and oppression, because they feared that Judaism could not withstand the threats of freedom, affluence and assimilation.

In Hasidic circles, there were teachers who justified their respective political positions from their readings of biblical texts. In classic Jewish eschatology, the redemption is preceded by a cataclysmic battle described by Ezekiel as the “war of Gog and Magog”; and some of Hasidism’s dominant figures were convinced that the present conflict fit that prototype. Some of them strove to hasten the messiah’s advent by praying for l’Empereur to triumph against the Tsar, even if this should demand a heavy toll of suffering and bloodshed.

Rabbi Israel Hapstein, “the Preacher of Koznitz,” expounded the biblical expression “*nabbol tibbol*” (“Thou wilt surely wear away”) as a pun alluding to Napoleon’s collapse: “*Napol[-eon] tippol*.” A similar expression occurs in Esther, when Haman is advised not to antagonize Mordecai because: “thou shalt surely fall before him.”

At any rate, by the end of Tolstoy’s novel, Pierre Bezukhov has rejected the apocalyptic outlook implicit in the Masonic exegesis: “The idea that had previously occurred to him of the cabalistic significance of his name in connection with Bonaparte’s more than once vaguely presented itself. But the idea that he, L’russe Besuhof, was destined to set a limit to the power of the Beast was as yet, only one of the fancies that often passed through his mind and left no trace behind.”

If we may paraphrase Einstein, Count Bezukhov had come to realize that G-d does not play Scrabble with history or international politics.

From the Sources by Eliezer Segal
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West Coast rugby player studying in Tel Aviv University with Masa

Submitted by Masa Canada

Born in the UK, from the ages of six through thirteen, Jack Scher grew up in the South of France, far away from a Jewish community. After moving to Vancouver, Jack attended Saint Georges, and received an athletic scholarship to play rugby. Following high school, Jack followed a traditional British path by taking a Gap year and went on to play rugby in New Zealand. While there, he went on a Canadian delegation Birthright trip to Israel. It was a distinct moment on his university Birthright trip that he recalls, “that was the first time I saw in my own eyes the soldiers and Yad Vashem, and it was also the first time where thirty other Jews from Canada surrounded me. To meet young Jews from Vancouver, Montreal, and Toronto; it was unbelievable.”

It was then that he knew he wanted to return to Israel and live like a local. Last year he was in his final year of his BA at the University of British Columbia. He had shortlisted top schools for master’s programs in England, Canada, and America. Until one day, his father, a board member at Schara Tzedek read about Masa opportunities in a synagogue e-blast. Upon hearing about Masa Israel Journey, a joint initiative of the Israeli government and the Jewish Agency and a global leader in cultivating Jewish connectedness through long-term, immersive programs in Israel, the rugby player soon found himself registered to study abroad in Tel Aviv University.

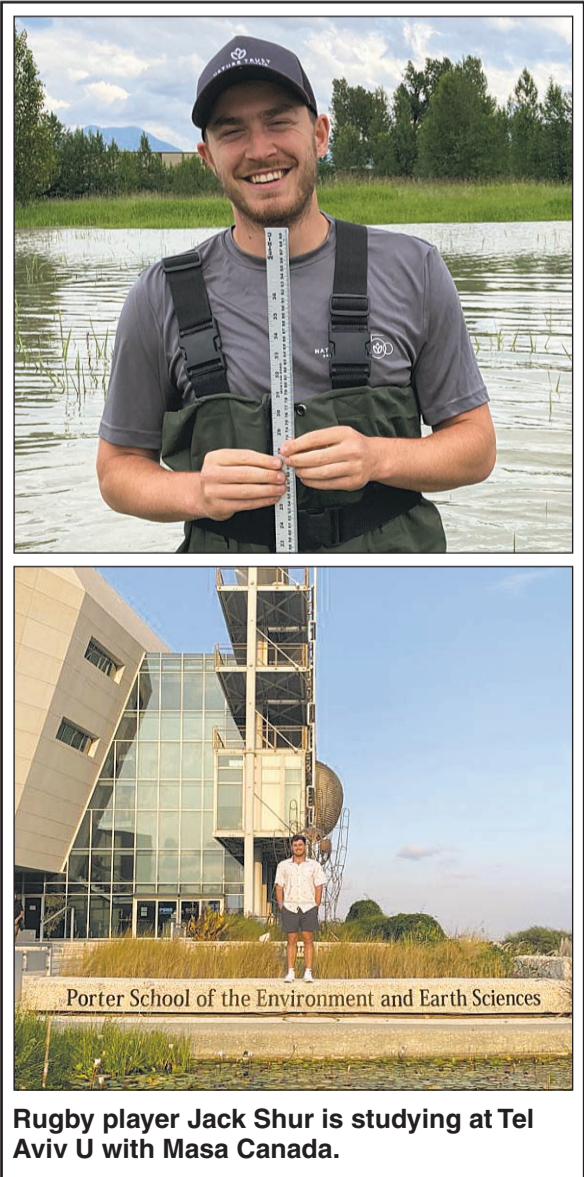
Jack’s story is a unique one - traveling from country

to country. However, his Masa Israel Journey is one of thousands: a risk of a new opportunity to grow both personally and professionally while connecting to Jewish identity and Israel. In the short time that Jack has been in Israel, he is connected to a community and already feels like he belongs. "I'm not just studying. Through Masa, I get to attend social events and see Israel in a real way. I am living here like a local."

“The Porter School is where I have my environmental studies, and the building is a world-class building in terms of sustainability. They call it a working lab. It is the first building that is LEED certified in Israel. The entrance to the building is facing west, the wind comes off the sea and goes through the building. The shape is cool, the air comes in where the building is wider, and then the air spins and goes up, the building thins as it goes up, which means that the building does not require air conditioning or light because of the windows. All the pipes are facing the sun, and get heated that way, and that is how the building receives heat as well. There is a rooftop garden and patio.”

Jack’s passion for sustainable living, coupled with the opportunity to connect to Israel and his Jewish identity is an experience that is unmatched.

The message Jack wants to impart on the Western Canadian community is this: take the risk, inquire about your options; immerse yourself into Israel with Masa! Masa offers a range of programs lasting a few months to a year, volunteering, studying, career development and teaching. Follow @masacanada for a weekly dose of what life is like on the ground in Israel for Canadians!



This month's update from Edmonton Talmud Torah School



It has been a busy month at Talmud Torah School. Many times throughout the year our Grade 6 students get to practice their leadership skills. One of the ways is to get together with their Kindergarten buddies, be it at recess or during class time. In these pictures, the Grade 6 students enjoy reading to their kindergarten buddies during Hebrew library time. For information about Talmud Torah Society contact Natalie at 780-481-3377.

Horowitz *Cont. from page 10*

Born in Montreal in 1932, Horowitz took his teacher’s training at McGill University and eventually earned a master’s degree in education from the U of A in 1959, followed by a PhD in education from Stanford University in 1965. Horowitz then taught as a professor and became assistant dean in the Faculty of Education at McGill University, before accepting a position of chair of the Department of Elementary Education in the U of A Faculty of Education in 1969.

The first president to rise through the full ranks of the university, Horowitz also served as dean of the Faculty of Education from 1972 to 1975 and vice-president (academic) from 1975 to 1979 before becoming president.

In his role as president, Horowitz led the U of A through many years of tight provincial budgets, while managing to still develop the campus. During his time as president, the U of A partnered with the city and the province to bring the World University Games to campus in 1983, scoring the university international prominence and leaving a legacy of improved and new facilities, including one of the most distinctive, the Butterdome. The SUB Theatre, opened in 1967 within the Students’ Union Building, was renamed the Myer Horowitz Theatre in 1989 to honour the outgoing president.

Throughout his academic career and as a scholar,

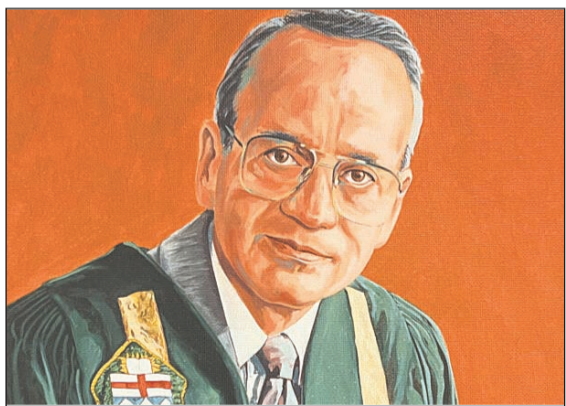
Horowitz was deeply committed to teacher education. He was involved with programs, practices and policies around teacher education and during his tenure as president, he continued to teach a doctoral seminar.

“Myer was a visionary, and his leadership and passion for education has left a lasting legacy,” says Jennifer Tupper, dean of the Faculty of Education. “I was blessed to have many conversations with Myer over the last three years and will deeply miss his wise counsel and friendship.”

Horowitz broke ground as a master’s student at the U of A by focusing his thesis on education supports for mentally disabled children, along the way becoming a lifelong ally of Winnifred Stewart, an Alberta advocate who pioneered educational rights for disabled youth and their families.

In 1991, Horowitz was instrumental in establishing the faculty’s Centre for Research for Teacher Education and Development (CRTED), which is supported by the Myer Horowitz Endowment Fund. The fund also supports the Horowitz Teacher Education Postdoctoral Fellowship, allowing post-doctoral fellows from around the world to participate in CRTED research projects. In 1994, with his support, the Faculty of Education established the Horowitz Institute to promote professional development, focusing on policy issues in education.

He remained involved in the CRTED’s ongoing work



Myer Horowitz has passed away at the age of 89. (Photo: Faculty of Education)

until as recently as this summer, participating in monthly research issues sessions and adjudicating the 2021 winner of the Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation in Teacher Education in the Faculty of Education, an award supported by his namesake endowment fund.

Horowitz received an honorary doctor of laws degree from the U of A in 1990, and was named an officer of the Order of Canada in the same year.

This article was originally published in the University of Alberta publication Folio.ca.



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Vegan Challah

By Izzy Darby

(The Noshers via JTA) — One of the first Jewish foods I remember eating is challah. I associate challah with mingling at bar and bat mitzvahs, a glass of grape juice in hand and a chunk of bread in the other, calculating how many times I could reasonably duck into the temple bathroom without looking suspicious.

I wanted to hide from the awkwardness of being 13 and the fact that temple never felt comfortable to me. My mom is Jewish and my dad is not, so my relationship with Judaism has always been rooted more in my stomach and attempts to find a religious identity than anything concerning actual religious observance. The challah was delicious.

When I was a bit past bar mitzvah age, I attended a Passover seder with relatives on my mom’s side. It was a large group of friends and family, and we passed a dozen dishes around several tables pushed together -- one was not large enough to fit all of us. I was transfixed by the elaborate food traditions: the brisket, the matzah ball soup, the seder plate. We read stories, sang songs, and ate and ate and ate. I learned that one of the wonderful things about Judaism and its many traditions rooted in food is its ability to bring people together.

I stopped eating meat, dairy and eggs about seven years ago, and can attest that eating a vegan diet creates a different but similar discomfort I remember feeling as a preteen. If you decide to follow this diet, you will be everyone’s least favorite friend when it comes to picking a place to have dinner, and you basically need to become accustomed to packing your own Thanksgiving meal. One of the reasons I write a vegan blog is to share recipes and stories to bridge that gap between those people choose to eat less meat (or dairy or eggs) and those who eat the meat and dairy and eggs.

When I started following a vegan diet, I was pleased

to learn that most bread is naturally vegan — challah, of course, is one of the exceptions. After going years without challah, I decided to try my hand at a loaf like the ones I remember so well. I found the fluffiness was difficult to replicate. The first time I tried, I didn’t give the yeast enough time to rise and the challah ended up dense and doorstep-like. After a few more attempts it turned out pretty great.

Ingredients:

3-3¼ cups unbleached all-purpose flour, ¼ cup sugar
1 envelope instant yeast (about 2¼ teaspoons)
1¼ teaspoon salt, 4 tablespoons vegetable oil or refined coconut, melted (Note: If using coconut oil, it’s important to use refined for a mild flavor.)
½ cup plus 1 tablespoon warm water
1 tablespoon maple syrup or agave nectar
1 teaspoon poppy seeds or sesame seeds (optional)

Directions:

Whisk together 3 cups of flour, sugar, yeast, and salt in medium bowl.

Mix together melted coconut oil and 1/2 cup of water in the bowl of a standing mixer with dough hook attached. Add the flour/yeast mixture to the wet mixture slowly. Knead at low speed until a dough ball forms, roughly 5 minutes. Add the remaining 1/4 cup flour a bit at a time. The goal is to add just enough to prevent the dough from sticking to the sides of the bowl. Whisk liquid sweetener (maple syrup or agave) with 1 tablespoon of water and set aside.

Oil a large bowl lightly with coconut oil. Transfer the dough to the bowl, rolling the dough around gently to coat it with oil. Cover with plastic wrap and let rise in warm place until doubled in size, 1 1/2-2 hours. Gently press dough to deflate, cover with plastic wrap, and let rise until doubled in size again, another 45-60 minutes.

Lightly grease a large baking sheet and set aside.

Lightly flour a counter surface and transfer the dough to the floured surface. Divide dough into 2 pieces, one roughly half the size of the other. Divide both the large and small piece into 3 equal pieces (you will have 3 large sub-pieces and 3 small sub-pieces).



Roll each piece into a roughly 16-inch snake. Line up the 3 large snakes of dough side by side and pinch them together at one end. Lay the left-side snake over the center one. Take the right-side snake and lay it over the center one. Repeat until pieces of dough are entirely braided, then pinch those ends together. Place the braid on the prepared baking sheet.

Take the 3 smaller pieces of dough and repeat the process of rolling into snakes and braiding. Brush a bit of the maple-water mixture on top of the large braid and place the small braid on top of the larger braid. Loosely drape a piece of plastic wrap over the top and let rise in warm place for 30 minutes.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Brush the loaf with the maple-water mixture and place in the oven. Bake for 30 to 40 minutes, until golden brown on top. Cool loaf completely and serve with desired spreads.

Izzy Darby is a vegan food blogger at www.veganizzm.com, where she strives to make plant-based eating approachable and fun.

This piece was published originally on *The Noshers*, a 70 Faces Media property. The Noshers food blog 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 www.TheNoshers.com.

About Carol Wylie’s portrait exhibit at EPL

By Regan Treewater-Lipes

Many Edmontonians may already be acquainted with the locally-based production *The Well-Endowed Podcast* supported by the Edmonton Community Foundation, and affiliated with the Alberta Podcast Network. Those who have not yet tuned in should check out their recent episode, “Parallels” which featured an extensive interview with Canadian-Jewish artist Carol Wylie. Wylie’s exhibition of eighteen large-scale portraits, *They Didn’t Know We Were Seeds*, is on display at the Stanley A. Milner Library in Downtown Edmonton till November 25. The show examines trauma and its impact on the physical and spiritual self, through the portraits of nine Holocaust survivors, and nine victims of the Canadian Residential School System.

The Well-Endowed Podcast featured *They Didn’t Know We Were Seeds* to showcase a series of art therapy workshops being held at the Stanley A. Milner Library with financial support from the Edmonton Community Foundation. Lisa Pruden, the Executive Assistant to the CEO of the Edmonton Community Foundation, introduces listeners to a voice that is well known within the Jewish community, that of Jenna Soroka. Soroka, who has been an active contributor to community building within Jewish Edmonton for most of her young life, is also a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter with the *Alberta Jewish News*. Most recently, she served on the planning and organizing team that helped bring Wylie’s exhibition to Edmonton. Through collaboration between Jewish Family Services, the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, and the Edmonton Public Library’s Indigenous Services team, Wylie’s works have resonated impactfully with many Edmontonians, across diverse demographics.

On the recording Pruden comments: “Jenna was on the committee that helped plan the programming and events around this exhibition. She had mentioned to me that she was the youngest person on the committee at twenty-five-years-old. Like so many of us listening she is part of the next generation to carry her learnings forward... Jenna recognized a parallel between the Holocaust and residential schools, that there is often a gap between what is taught in schools.

That is, what is understood by people outside of the community versus the lived experiences of those within the community.”

To mark the opening of the exhibit, Dr. Jo-Ann Saddleback, the Elder in Residence for the Edmonton Public Library, and her husband Elder Jerry Saddleback, presided over a pipe ceremony with members of the Indigenous and Jewish communities present. Soroka was in attendance and lovingly describes the experience as a “warm hug of humanity that was compassion driven. I felt grateful to be a part of it. It was very special to witness and participate in. It created a lot of context to come out and then see the art and take it in at full capacity.”

The art therapy workshops are being facilitated by Heather Frayne from Jewish Family Services. Frayne is a registered social worker with an MA in Expressive Art Therapy. Frayne envisions the workshops as an opportunity to “reflect and respond through art making” following visits with Wylie’s eighteen portraits.

Frayne elaborates in the recording stating that: “The art making piece will be to create masks. So, reflecting on your inner face and outer face. What is the mask that we show to the world, and how do we carry our stories in our face?... Art is a beautiful catharsis, but also a container.”

The Edmonton Public Library’s Senior Advisor of Indigenous Relations, Emily Riddle hopes to “work to centre Indigenous knowledge, world views, and languages, and recognize that Edmonton has always been a gathering place for lots of different people, and public libraries are gathering places for lots of different people too, so we can bring people from different cultures and backgrounds together.”

The second half of the podcast is Pruden’s interview with Saskatoon-based artist Carol Wylie. They discuss Wylie’s exhibition, but more importantly, what went into the larger creative process.

“I was raised Jewish, but not in a religious family... it was more part of a historical and ethnic connection. So, I always connected with being a Jew in that way, but not so much religiously. I’m not a religious person, I’m a spiritual person... I am surrounded by people who are like me in terms of being White settlers... I am not Indigenous to this land, but other people are,”

Wylie states in the interview.

She explains to Pruden that she lived in rural Saskatchewan for many years, and there was only one other Jewish person in town other than her own family. She then reveals that this other Jewish resident later became a subject for one of the portraits included in the exhibition. She reflects poignantly about language and not being able to speak Yiddish, commenting: “I never learned it, and I feel that there’s a loss in that...When you are a member of the diaspora, its sort of different, you have that expectation that your language may not be front and center but when you are in your home land, but you don’t have your language I can imagine its like a tenfold experience of loss.”

To contrast the immense loss suffered by the subjects of her portraits, Wylie endeavored to capture their lived experiences, positive and negative, through portraiture. She had always wanted the exhibit to feature eighteen works to emphasize chai – life. What has resulted proved to be moving for both for the artist and her subjects as they sat together sharing stories, or sometimes sitting in silence as Wylie sketched.

She reiterates in her interview sentiments that she vocalized during a public speaking engagement on October 6, that these are not her stories to share, but that the experiences of her subjects are indelibly physicalized as a part of their faces and come out in the portraits themselves.

Welcoming Carol Wylie’s work to Edmonton has resulted in significant community engagement and sparked a great deal of positive exchange. The resulting art therapy workshops are a testament to the public’s desire to further internalize the concepts and themes presented by *They Didn’t Know We Were Seeds* in a lasting and meaningful way. Those who have not yet visited the exhibit should most definitely brave the cold temperatures to do so, and then sit down to listen to Pruden’s interviews to hear about the seeds that are now growing.

Regan Treewater-Lipes is a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter.