



# ALBERTA

# Jewish News

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April 18, 2023

## Edmonton Jewish Film Festival: May 7-18

By Tammy Vineberg

The Edmonton Jewish Film Festival (EJFF) is back for its 27th year and has some surprises in store for its audiences. It's thrilled to announce the lineup, highlighting a diverse and dynamic range of films that celebrate Jewish culture, history, and identity. The 11-day hybrid festival will take place in-person at the Edmonton Public Library's Stanley A. Milner branch and online from Sunday, May 7 to Thursday, May 18. Audiences will have a choice of eight feature films and five short films that offer the best in Jewish cinema, with engaging dramas and documentaries from Israel, France, Austria, and the U.S.

Local talent will be featured as the Young at Heart choir from the Jewish Senior Citizens' Centre will be performing on the festival's opening day. Choir members will be on stage at the Stanley A. Milner downtown branch at 2:45 p.m., before the screening of *Rose*. Other festival bonuses include restaurant promotions and a dessert reception. Stay tuned for details on these feature additions to making your festival experience more enjoyable.

Festival committee members selected several films where stories of brave and resilient women are highlighted. One of these films is *Rose*, which stars legendary French actor Francoise Fabian as an elderly widow who finds an unexpected new life after losing her husband. *Cinema Sabaya* tells the story of eight women, Jewish and Arab, who are involved in a video workshop that forces them to challenge their beliefs. *On This Happy Note* documents the life of Anat Gov, one of Israel's most influential playwrights.

Another strong festival theme is telling Israeli

## Team Shilling wins Calgary JHL Season!



Once again the Calgary Jewish Hockey Season has come to a close and Team Shilling has won the coveted bragging rights as this year's champions. Yasher Koach to captain Richard Shilling, his team and everyone who participated this year.

stories. Five of the eight feature films are from Israel, fitting with the upcoming celebration of the country's 75th birthday.

As the Edmonton Jewish community gathers for this anniversary, festival committee chair Sam Koplowicz is excited to have people back in person to watch four of the films. "Online availability was vital during the past few years of enforced isolation, and will no doubt continue in some form due to popular demand. But it can't replace the communal aspect of gathering in a theatre to share an experience in real time with an audience," says Sam.

One of the films to experience in-person is *Karaoke*, awarded best film by the Israeli Film Academy and nominated for Best International Narrative Feature at the Tribeca Film Festival. It is a story of an ordinary middle-aged couple in Tel Aviv, whose lives change when a handsome, charismatic playboy moves into their building. Director Moshe Rosenthal will join, virtually, for a Q and A, following the 7 p.m. film. This opening night will also feature remarks by Senator Paula Simons and the presentation of the Earl

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## Northside Mitsubishi Eclipse wins EJHL My Son Stanley's Cup



The Edmonton Jewish Hockey League has crowned Northside Mitsubishi Eclipse as the 2023 Champs winning My Son Stanley's Cup in the finals. Yasher Koach to captain Dylan Muscat, his teammates and everyone who participated this year.

# What you need to know about cancer

By Maxine Fischbein

Sandy Kogut has always been fastidious about breast self-examination. She traces her early awareness to television commercials aired in her native New York when she was about 10 years old. To this day she recalls the image of a woman standing in her shower with her back to the camera as she checked her breasts for signs of tumors.

Kogut knew that this was something she could not discuss with her mother. In those days, many spoke of “the C word” in hushed tones, avoiding open conversation.

Fast forward to the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic when Kogut, who had lived in Montreal and then settled in Calgary, marked her 64th birthday with her monthly breast check. To her surprise, she discovered a lump.

Kogut and Calgary-based medical geneticist Dr. Carey Johnson spoke to members of the Jewish community on March 23 as the Calgary Jewish Federation, Calgary JCC and Beth Tzedec Congregation presented *It's all in the Genes: BRCA, Breast Cancer and You*, a free program held at the JCC.

The importance of such programs cannot be overstated, because one in 40 Ashkenazi Jews - including those without a cancer history - carries a mutation of the BRCA gene. By contrast, only one in 400 is similarly affected in the general community.

Dr. Johnson earned his medical degree at the University of Calgary and did his post-doctoral training at the Stephen Spielberg Research Centre and Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles.

Kogut's cancer was not caused by a BRCA mutation, but she is passionate about educating the Jewish public about those risks and spreading the word about Sharsheret, the American-based Jewish breast cancer organization that has supported her throughout her cancer journey.

Johnson shared good news about advances made in genetic testing and cancer research, leading to the increased possibility of early detection and targeted treatment options. “We understood, even in the 60s and 70s, that there were families that were really hit by breast and ovary and, for men, pancreas and prostate cancers, but we didn't have really an understanding of why this was happening,” he said.

During the 80s and 90s, researchers from Michigan, Los Angeles, St. Louis and Seattle got together and studied a bunch of families, Johnson said, adding that in 1995 the discovery of BRCA 1 and BRCA 2 mutations was announced.

“Right off the bat we discovered that [mutations in] these genes were more common in the Jewish population,” noted Johnson.

Community testing took place in Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver between 2000 and 2005, Johnson said. As a result, individuals and families with the mutation were identified.

During the following decade, researchers discovered 28 additional genetic mutations responsible for inherited cancers, noted Johnson. “A few of those are more common in the Jewish population, but most aren't. Most are at a frequency that is the same as in the non-Jewish population,” he added.

In 2015, broad testing became available, but the price tag was \$5,000 per test. Six months later it was around \$300.

Qualification for a publicly-funded blood test in Alberta hinges on specific criteria including diagnosis of breast cancer in a woman before the age of 35; diagnoses of breast cancer in two women in the same family prior to the age of 50; ovarian cancer in the family; and male breast cancer in the family.

“We have the most restrictive testing criteria, I think, in the world,” Johnson said, alluding to political and economic reasons. “Fortunately... private testing is becoming incredibly easy,” and the simple but very accurate saliva test currently costs \$317.00.

Some 30 genes are tested in the current panel, Johnson said, with each gene tested 800 times.

Results are typically returned in about four weeks. When individuals are discovered to have the BRCA 1 or BRCA 2 mutation, it is necessary to “...curate follow-up for that patient,” Johnson said.



Sandy Kogut and Dr. Carey Johnson at the "It's all in the Genes: BCRA, Breast Cancer and You" event held at Beth Tzedec last month. (Photo by Danielle Braitman, Calgary Jewish Federation.)

A woman between the ages of 25 and 90 with a BRCA 1 mutation has an 80 percent risk of developing breast and a 40 percent risk of developing ovary cancer, said Johnson, adding that breast cancers can occur as early as age 20 while the vast majority of ovarian cancers occur after the age of 35.

Nearly all ovarian cancers start in the fallopian tubes, the connection between the ovaries and the uterus, Johnson said. Removal of the fallopian tubes is recommended to women between the ages of 30 and 50 who have tested positive for the BRCA mutation. Breast cancer is a different story, he says. Fortunately, MRI screening is accurate and can identify cancers “in the sub-centimetre size.”

“The idea that a double mastectomy is the only option for people with BRCA mutations is not 2023,”

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SARAH KEMPLER was an Intelligence Corps officer when she was injured in a Jerusalem truck-ramping in 2017.



AMIT GINAT was injured in a Hezbollah ambush during the Second Lebanon War (2006).



NADAV YAISH, a fighter in the Duvdevan elite unit between 2010 and 2016, was injured during classified operational activity.



OFIR ANIDGAR was wounded while serving as a commander in Operation Protective Edge (2014).



LIRAN HADAD was wounded in the Gaza Strip in 2004 while serving in the Givati Brigade.

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# חברה קדישא ד'עדמאנטאן

## Edmonton Chevra Kadisha

To All Members of the Jewish Community  
 “Once in a lifetime event!!”

### New cemetery opening and Consecration June 4th, 2023 14710 - 156 Street, Edmonton

The Edmonton Chevra Kadisha is 116 years old this year.  
 We will be opening and consecrating our  
**New Cemetery on Sunday June 4th, 2023\*** from **11 am to 2 pm**  
 with a rain out date of **Sunday June 11th.**

This is a major event for our community *and*  
*we do not want to leave anyone out.*



The Chevra Kadisha  
 will be **hosting an open house**  
 for the entire community  
 on **Wednesday May 3rd**  
**from 6-8 pm**  
 at the **downtown chapel**  
 to answer any questions  
 and to feature  
 photos of the new grounds  
 that are now ready for burials.

**12313 - 105 Avenue**

There will be more details to follow  
 outlining the program that will be  
 held on the day of June 4th.  
 So, in the meantime, circle these  
 two dates on your calendars.

\*weather dependant

## March of the Living marks 80th anniversary of Warsaw Ghetto uprising

The annual March of the Living took place April 18 from Auschwitz I to Auschwitz-Birkenau, marking Israel's national Holocaust Memorial Day. The March of the Living – taking place for the 35th year – was led by 40 Holocaust Survivors, alongside more than 13,000 participants from 25 countries around the world, including students from both Calgary and Edmonton Jewish communities.

The theme of this year's March was "Honouring Jewish Heroism in the Holocaust" marking the 80th anniversary of the heroic Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. The uprising lasted four weeks and has become a symbol of Jewish courage and heroism during the Holocaust. Addressing the ceremony at Auschwitz-Birkenau was Italian President Sergio Mattarella, as well as Israel's

Minister of Education, Yoav Kisch. Minister Kisch spoke of how his grandfather had fought, and fallen in battle against the Nazis as the highest ranking Jewish servicemen in the British army in WWII. He pledged that Israel would continue to fight antisemitism and hold dear the memory of the victims of the Holocaust.

Among the 40 survivors leading the March was Warsaw-born Holocaust Survivor, Halina Birenbaum, who was a child during the uprising and was hidden in a bunker until the Nazis liquidated the Ghetto. She was deported to Majdanek and later to Auschwitz. She was accompanied by grandchildren of Jewish resistance fighters: Eyal Zuckerman, granddaughter

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March of the Living 2023. (Photo by Yossi Zelig).

## Jews most targeted religious group for police-reported hate crimes

By Jeremy Appel, LJI Reporter

Statistics Canada has released its hate crime data for 2021, which shows an increase in police-reported incidents from 2020, but not as steep as the spike from 2019 to 2020, with Judaism as the religious group whose members are most likely to report their targeting.

Overall, however, reported hate crimes have increased 72 percent from 2019 to 2021. This consists of a 36 percent increase from 2019 to 2020 and a 27 percent increase from 2020 to 2021.

There were 3,360 reported hate crimes in 2021, compared to 2,646 in 2020 and 1,051 in 2019.

"The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated experiences of discrimination in Canada—including hate crimes—

and underscored an increase in discourse around issues of systemic discrimination," the report notes.

The bulk of hate incidents reported in 2021 targeted people by race or ethnicity, with 1,723 reports of 3,360, representing 51 percent. This was followed by religion, under which Jewish people are categorized, with 884 reported incidents, representing 26 percent.

Of these 884 reported incidents, 487, or 55 percent, targeted Jewish people. There were 155 reported incidents of anti-Catholic hate, representing 17.5 percent of the total targeting religion and 144 reported incidents of Islamophobic hate, or 16 percent.

From 2020 to 2021, hate crimes against Jewish people increased by 47 percent, compared to 71 percent against Muslims and 260 percent against Catholics.

The report notes the limitations of relying on police-reported data in getting a full picture of the prevalence

of hate crimes.

"There are many factors that can impact the likelihood that a given crime is reported to the police and subsequently reflected in police-reported statistics. General awareness among the community and the expertise of local police, and the relationship between a given community and the police, can play a role in how or if a crime is reported," the report says.

This is a particularly important consideration with regard to anti-Indigenous hate crimes, which represent two percent of the total and 4.4 percent of racially-motivated hate crimes, with 77 reported incidents.

Hate incidents based on sexual orientation also saw a significant increase to 13 percent of total reported incidents in 2021 from 10 percent in 2020. These figures don't include hate crimes against transgender people, which aren't tracked.

All provinces and territories, except for Yukon, saw an increase in police-reported hate crimes in 2021.

The report measures prevalence of reported hate crimes as a measurement per 100,000 people for the sake of comparison.

Alberta's rate went from 4.7 in 2019 to 6.6 in 2020 and 7.6 in 2021, which is lower than the federal numbers of 5.2 in 2019, 7 in 2020 and 8.8 in 2021.

According to the report, from 2018 to 2021, almost 70 percent of hate crimes went unsolved.

Those who were charged with hate crimes are 86 percent male with a median age of 33. However, 17 percent of those charged were from the age of 12 to 17.

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# Fashion Blooms in Calgary on May 4

Are you looking for an unforgettable night of fashion, music, and entertainment? Look no further than CHW's third annual Fashion Blooms event!

Get ready to experience the immersive world of FASHION, mingle with young professionals, walk the red carpet, and discover the latest trends in fashion, food and design in Calgary on Thursday May 4 at 7 pm at Gibson Fine Art.

We're taking Fashion Blooms to a whole new level this year, and we want you to be a part of it.

Join us for a night of unforgettable memories and fun, all in support of a great cause.

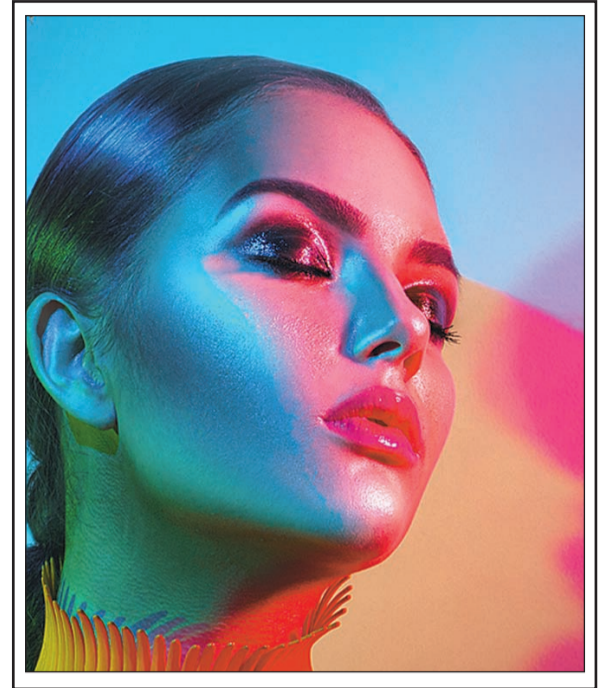
Don't miss out - get your tickets now and let's show everyone that CHW is more than just your Bubbie's charity!

Now in its third year, CHW has entered a new era, engaging the next generation of supporters. Join us for an evening of the latest trends in fashion, bid on

spectacular auction items, and be surrounded by engaging visuals and entertainment. Cap the evening off as the room transforms into an after-party. Dress code is cocktail attire.

FASHION BLOOMS proceeds will support CHW Neri Bloomfield Academy of Design (NBA) in Haifa, Israel. Funds raised will benefit scholarships for at-risk students to provide advancements in education while also providing innovative equipment to enhance the future of the Israeli fashion industry. NBA awards academic degrees in a wide variety of creative fields, including graphic design, architecture, and fashion. This institution is building academic excellence and becoming a major influencer and innovator in the world of design. A highly respected institution of higher learning, the pluralistic student body includes Arab, Druze, Ethiopian, Jewish, and Christian students who learn together with peaceful coexistence.

Visit [fashionblooms.ca](http://fashionblooms.ca) to register and a tax receipt will be provided for the maximum amount allowable by law following the event. Can't attend but want to support the cause? Make a donation in lieu of attendance at [fashionblooms.ca](http://fashionblooms.ca).



# Living out loud with cancer

By Maxine Fischbein, LJI Reporter

When Sandy Kogut moved to Calgary some seven years ago, she was in good health with no family history of breast cancer. Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, as the health care system responded to that threat, her routine mammogram was cancelled. Fortunately for her, Kogut found her own lump.

At first, her doctor did not think it was cancer, but she sent Kogut for imaging. The technician that did her MRI began to cry when she spoke with Kogut after the test. "You're a very nice lady, and I think you have breast cancer," Kogut recalled her saying.

At first, Kogut was in shock. Then she began talking about it. "I really feel these are things you need to discuss with your family. It is not something you can hide or be ashamed of.... It's something you need to share."

A biopsy confirmed Kogut's cancer. Because it had not been detected early enough, it had spread to her lymph nodes. She had a long road ahead of her that included surgery, chemotherapy and radiation.

Kogut, who is once again sporting a full head of hair, sings the praises of the Tom Baker Cancer Centre. "It's amazing that I just happened to move here," she said, adding that physician friends in Montreal told her she would be treated "like a queen" at the Tom Baker. "During COVID, nothing was cancelled. I found the lump at the end of October. By December 6 I was in surgery and had a lumpectomy," Kogut said.

Blessed by a great surgeon and oncologist, Kogut reserves the lion's share of her praise for the oncological nurses "that got me through my chemo."

A young cancer survivor who had reached out to Kogut told her to break out her "clubbing clothes" for chemo. Her clubbing days long over, Kogut opted instead for her Elmo costume and other cheerful attire from her days as a children's singer "It was fun," recalled Kogut. "The nurses were waiting to see what I'd wear next. It lightened my load."

Kogut chose to spend her many hours in chemo reading and napping while her husband supported her by doing all the errands, cooking meals and "keeping the family going."

She has this advice for others facing a cancer diagnosis: "You should bring somebody to your first appointment. You're not really paying attention to all the details. Bringing someone or recording it on your phone is vital."

Kogut underwent six rounds of chemotherapy and 21 radiation treatments. Because they knew she loves music, the radiation technicians offered to play some during her treatment. Kogut chose Motown, though she was warned against moving to the groove.

Kogut said that while they may exist, she was unable to find much in the way of local support services for cancer patients. One Calgary organization offered to find her a breast buddy. "I said yes, that would be amazing, because I had no one I could call," recalled Kogut. The woman who reached out to her called her only once.

Family living in New York encouraged Kogut to

*Continued on page 17*

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## B'nai Brith hosts IHRA Symposium in Edmonton

On March 23, B'nai Brith Canada hosted the second roundtable in its International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Defining Antisemitism Symposium Series.

The second roundtable took place in Edmonton. B'nai Brith launched its series in Vancouver, earlier in the month. These events aim to promote the importance of adopting the IHRA's definition of antisemitism across as many government agencies, jurisdictions and organizations as possible.

The B'nai Brith IHRA Symposium Series is made possible in part with the support of the Government of Canada, through the Community Support, Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Initiatives Program. The symposium series allows community members and stakeholders to come together and discuss anti-hate strategies across Canada. Michael Mostyn, Executive Director of B'nai Brith Canada, Abe Silverman, Director of Alberta Public Affairs, and dozens of local community leaders concerned about antisemitism in Alberta and elsewhere were present at the IHRA symposium in Edmonton.

"Antisemitism and hatred have no place in Canada or anywhere else," said the Ahmed Hussien, Minister of Housing, Diversity and Inclusion. "We will continue to work with Jewish communities and organizations such as B'nai Brith Canada to improve understanding of antisemitism and to counter hate and systemic discrimination in all its forms."

At the symposium, B'nai Brith leaders shared with attendees the history of antisemitism, the ability of the IHRA definition to combat and identify hate, and practical applications of the definition. Participants were encouraged to ask questions, make

recommendations and work together to find constructive solutions.

Other B'nai Brith symposia will be held in the weeks and months to come across Canada.

The B'nai Brith League for Human Rights stated that antisemitic incidents have declined in some jurisdictions that have adopted the IHRA definition.

The IHRA definition, the democratic culmination of the collaboration of eminent scholars over many years, is the world's leading definition of antisemitism. It is a pragmatic and flexible "working" definition, rather than a rigid formula. For national purposes, it should be viewed as a practical tool that institutions can use to fulfill their mandate with respect to antisemitism in Canada.

"We are pleased to have hosted our IHRA symposium in Alberta, as it provided us with a critical opportunity to engage in regional dialogue, grounded in the latest research, on practical tools to effectively combat antisemitism," said Mostyn. "We appreciate the Government of Canada's support for this project and see it as a great example of nonprofits and



**Abe Silverman addresses the B'nai Brith IHRA Roundtable Symposium in Edmonton. (Photo supplied).**

governments working together for positive change." "Last week, the Alberta Legislative Assembly passed a motion, introduced by MLA Richard Gotfried, to endorse the IHRA's definition of anti-Semitism, calling for its implementation following the province's formal adoption last fall. We were very pleased to bring our symposium to Alberta's capital at this opportune time, and hope it will contribute to the positive momentum that is building in the province."

**REGISTRATION AND HIRING IS NOW OPEN FOR SUMMER OF 2023**

**Family Camp: June 22 - 26**  
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**First Session: July 9 - 30**  
**Second Session: August 2 - 21**  
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# May 7 – 18: A hybrid EJFF screens in YEG and at home

Attention film lovers: The 27th annual Edmonton Jewish Film Festival, a signature program of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton takes place from May 7 to May 18 - in person and virtually. Four films and related events are at Edmonton Public Library, Stanley Milner branch. (7 Sir Winston Churchill Square). In addition, four films, a Q&A and several shorts are available online. Although EJFF films and events are offered free of charge, donations are greatly appreciated and can be made when you register. For a full list of feature films, events and shorts and to book tickets, visit [jewishedmonton.org](http://jewishedmonton.org).

Two films will be screened at Metro Cinema, at Garneau Theatre in Edmonton (8712 109 St.), presented by EJFF partner, NorthwestFest. Tickets can be purchased on the NorthwestFest website.

**May 7: 2:45 pm Stanley Milner Library**

**Rose (2021)**

107 min, French

Rose is the story of a 78-year-old woman who has just lost her beloved husband. When her grief gives way to a powerful impulse to live her life, making her realize that she can still redefine herself as a woman, the whole balance of the family is upset.

**May 7: 7 pm Stanley Milner Library**  
**Director Moshe Rosenthal will join, virtually, for a Q&A, following the film.**

**Karaoke (2022)**

100 min, Hebrew

Karaoke is the bittersweet story of an ordinary middle-class couple in the suburbs of Tel Aviv who live a relatively bored existence—he's quiet, she's a thwarted free spirit—until their lives are upended by a charismatic playboy named Itzik (played by Israeli star Lior Ashkenazi) who moves into the building's penthouse.

**May 8 & May 9: 10 am online**

**Exodus 91 (2023)**

90 minutes: Amharic, English, Hebrew

Israeli diplomat Asher Naim travels to Ethiopia to act as negotiator for the release of 15,000 Ethiopian Jews, hoping to save them from a country plagued by famine and civil war. This seemingly altruistic mission, however, is thrown into doubt and skepticism when Naim begins to suspect the rescue mission might be a publicity stunt for his home country.

**May 10: 4 pm Metro Cinema at the Garneau**

**Only in Theatres (2022)**

94 min, United States, English

Laemmle Theaters, the beloved art house cinema chain in Los Angeles has an astonishing legacy, with ties to the origins of Hollywood. This is a story about a third generation family business and their determination to survive.

**May 10: 7 pm Metro Cinema at the Garneau**

**The Conspiracy (2022)**

92 min, French, English

It's an insidious, centuries-old conspiracy theory that continues to rear its ugly head today: that Jews have a secret international plot to control the world. How do such preposterous ideas get started, and why do they flourish? Filmmaker Maxim Pozdorovkin orchestrates bold, striking animation and exceptionally talented voice artists (including Liev Schreiber and Jason Alexander) to walk us through almost 250 years of antisemitic ideology.

**May 11 & May 12, 10 am online**

**May 12: Reel Q and A online with Schachten director Thomas Roth.**

**Schachten (2022)**

105 min, German.

In the late 1960s, when a young Jewish businessman witnesses the failed prosecution of a Nazi concentration camp commandant who tortured his parents, he resolves to take the law into his own hands.

**May 14: 10 am Streaming online**

**Cinema Sabaya (2021)**

91 min, Arabic, Hebrew

Eight women, Arab and Jewish, take part in a video workshop hosted by Rona, a young filmmaker. With each camera take, the group dynamic forces the women to challenge their beliefs as they get to know one other.

**May 15: 7 pm Stanley Milner Library**

**Upheaval: The Journey of Menachem Begin (2020)**

87 minutes, Arabic, Hebrew, English

Imprisoned by the Soviets. Orphaned by the Holocaust. Elected Prime Minister. Crowned peacemaker by the Nobel Prize Committee. Haunted by the Lebanon War. Menachem Begin was a pillar of the State of Israel and a tireless fighter for the Jewish people. He was, at the same time, a controversial leader. His life is a nuanced and complicated canvas that tells the story of key events in the history of modern Israel and its relationship to its Middle East neighbours. *Upheaval* features evocative imagery, rarely seen archival materials, and revealing interviews with those who knew him.

**May 16 & 17: 10 am online**

**On This Happy Note (2021)**

65 min, Israel

Anat Gov, one of the most influential playwrights in Israeli theatre, consciously accepting her nearing end, wishes to leave a spiritual legacy. Almost a decade after her death, her loved ones try to fill the void left by her words with their own. Through excerpts from her plays and footage of her family and political world, a new script is written: one in which the line between the play and reality is blurred.



The award winning Israeli film *Karaoke* screens at Stanley Milner Library on May 7 opening night of the 2023 EJFF.

**May 18: 7 pm Stanley Milner Library**

**Farewell Mister Haffmann (2022)**

115 min, French, German

Paris 1942. François Mercier is an ordinary man who only aspires to start a family with the woman he loves, Blanche. He is also the employee of a talented jeweler, Mr. Haffmann. But faced with the German occupation, the two men will have no other choice but to conclude an agreement whose consequences, over the months, will upset the fate of our three characters.

THE 27TH ANNUAL

# EDMONTON JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

MAY 7 - 18, 2023

**FREE TICKETS**

[JEWISHEDMONTON.ORG](http://JEWISHEDMONTON.ORG)

2023 SCHEDULE

Sunday May 7	Monday May 8	Tuesday May 9
<p><i>ROSE</i> 2:45 p.m.</p> <p><i>KARAOKE</i> 7 p.m. <i>In-person at the EPL Milner Branch</i></p>	<p><i>EXODUS 91</i> <i>Virtual</i></p>	<p><i>EXODUS 91</i> <i>Virtual</i></p>
Wednesday May 10	Thursday May 11	Friday May 12
<p><i>ONLY IN THEATRES</i> 4 p.m. <i>THE CONSPIRACY</i> 7 p.m. <i>Partner event with NorthwestFest at Metro Cinema</i></p>	<p><i>SCHÄCHTEN</i> <i>Virtual</i></p>	<p><i>SCHÄCHTEN</i> <i>Virtual</i></p>
Sunday May 14	Monday May 15	Tuesday May 16
<p><i>CINEMA SABAYA</i> <i>Virtual</i></p>	<p><i>UPHEAVAL: The Journey of Menachem Begin</i> 7 p.m. <i>In-person at the EPL Milner Branch</i></p>	<p><i>ON THIS HAPPY NOTE</i> <i>Virtual</i></p>
Wednesday May 17	Thursday May 18	
<p><i>ON THIS HAPPY NOTE</i> <i>Virtual</i></p>	<p><i>FAREWELL MR HAFFMANN</i> 7 p.m. <i>In-person at the EPL Milner Branch</i></p>	

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# Vertigo Theatre welcomes Jack Grinhaus

By David Sklar, LJI Reporter

I caught up with Jack Grinhaus, the new artistic director of *Vertigo Theatre*, on his way to the "Jewish Safeway" in Calgary, stocking up on last-minute Passover necessities. With less than 24 hours to go before Elijah showed up at the Seder, Grinhaus was cutting it close. "I'll take whatever is left!" he said, laughingly.

Grinhaus has been working as an actor, director and teacher for the past 20 years and joining Vertigo Theatre is the next big step in his career. He spent five years as artistic director of *Theatre Northwest* in Prince George, B.C. and before that, 17 years as co-artistic director of *Bound to Create Theatre* in Toronto, where he is originally from.

"My first big role was Haman Harasha (*Wicked Haman*) in a Purim play at the Associated Hebrew School. It was really exciting because it immediately helped me develop an identity. And then, as an adolescent, one of the biggest plays I performed in was, *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*. The director wrapped the entire stage in barbed wire because it takes place in Terezin Concentration Camp. It was intense and scary because (when I put on) the makeup I saw in the mirror the gauntness (of my character). I told myself, this was another way of attracting me to works that spoke to important issues, but still were entertaining and with well drawn out characters. These were ways for us to share our stories."

A lot of Jewish parents might be a bit leery of their children going into the arts. Grinhaus said his tough Israeli father's first response was, "What the hell is not-for-profit?" Since both his parents were strong

businesspeople, it might have taken some convincing. But they were very proud of him from the get-go because, according to his father, "it is the toughest business that exists," especially in Canada, where most artists are just trying to survive. Unlike, the U.S. and maybe Quebec, Canada doesn't have a star system, so many people are trying to carve out their own place. "But," said Grinhaus, "even though they were concerned, they knew I had the chutzpah to go out there and do it."

Grinhaus continued to act for 20 years, moving to New York before returning to Canada to start a theatre company with his now wife, Lauren Brotman. "Lauren and I felt we weren't seeing certain types of works that we were interested in, with important stories that were not being spoken of enough in society." Having grandparents survive the Holocaust led Grinhaus to focus on social issues as well as giving space to disenfranchised voices. "We wanted to create this idea that we were, *Bound to Create*" and thus a new theatre was born.

For some, relocating to Calgary might take some getting used to, but the way Grinhaus looks at it is, "If Toronto is supposed to be New York and Vancouver is L.A., Calgary is kind of like Chicago. It has this really enriched theatre community: the quality of talent, the openness, and the kindness." For Grinhaus, Calgary is almost the perfect Goldilocks of a not-too-big but not-so-small city living. "I'm still getting used to the amount of driving but at least we get a lot more sun here."

One other big change for Grinhaus is the smaller Jewish population compared to out east. But again, he isn't concerned. "Being Jewish is a core part of who I am even if I'm not that much of a practicing Jew." For him, Judaism is more cultural than religious from his family traditions to his pride in the resiliency of the community. "There is something very exciting about Jews and Judaism that I connect with and continue to fight for. We celebrate life and remember that it has a preciousness to it."

Grinhaus also has advice for anyone who is thinking about getting involved in the art scene.



Jack Grinhaus is the artistic director at Vertigo Theatre in Calgary. (Photo supplied).

"Never compare yourself to other people. The death in this business is a comparison. Recognize the little wins along the way because they can get you to that next step. Build your community, build your contacts, find the people you want to work with and hang around them. Do something for your art every single day, even if it's going to an art gallery or watching a movie. Inspire yourself so that when you starve as an artist, which isn't about food, by the way, it's about missing the ability to do your art. That's what will serve you in the end. And make sure you're not waiting by the phone for someone to give you an opportunity, but you're out there trying to make your own opportunities."

By the time he got to Safeway, to see what was left on the shelves; he wanted to invite the community to see what Vertigo is up to. "It's really an exciting place where we do plays of intrigue, mystery, suspense and thrillers. It's a great place to go if you love the idea of chasing a story and figuring things out with really fast-paced thrills and kills. I would love it if people came and checked out one show just to test it out. I assure you, you will have a great time."

You can check out their 2023/2024 season at <https://www.vertigotheatre.com/>

## EJFF *Cont. from page 1*

Parker Award for Jewish Film.

EJFF goes out on a high note, on May 18 at 7 p.m. with *Farewell Mister Haffmann*, a tense and powerful French drama set in occupied Paris, about a Jewish jeweler who strikes a fateful deal with his non-Jewish assistant. With superb performances by Daniel Auteuil, Gilles Lellouche and Sara Giraudeau. A dessert reception will follow the film.

"We are thrilled to present this year's lineup, which


includes a mix of thought-provoking documentaries and engaging dramas. These films represent the best of Jewish cinema and offer something for everyone, whether you're a film enthusiast or simply interested in exploring Jewish culture," said Festival Director, Susan Schiffman. "Our goal is to showcase the diversity of Jewish culture and history, while also creating a space for dialogue and discussion around the themes and issues raised by our films."

The festival is presented by the Jewish Federation of Edmonton with support from major sponsors, the Edmonton Community Foundation, and the

Edmonton Public Library. Generous support is also provided by dozens of companies, non-profit organizations and individuals throughout Edmonton. Funds raised through EJFF support festival delivery as well as Partnership2Gether, the Federation's capacity-building partnership in Israel's Northern Galilee region. All films and events are free.

See the full schedule and film synopses on page 7. Tickets are now available at [jewishedmonton.org](http://jewishedmonton.org).

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



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Strengthening Communities

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Enriching Lives,  
Strengthening Communities



# Shared Society in Jerusalem

By Dina Wachtel and Nomi Yeshua

Shared living in Jerusalem takes many forms and, even during periods of unrest and tension, shared living continues for many people in the city. In the shared public spaces of Jerusalem, you will find Arabs and Jews and many others. They share the same spaces but they rarely have meaningful interactions and they often don't even share the same language for communication.

The challenge of building bridges, trust and communication between such diverse population groups has been one of the mandates of the Jerusalem Foundation since its establishment. For many years, we created new community centers, cultural venues and parks and schools for all neighborhoods across the city, working to ensure that equal access to services and leisure could be achieved.

The Jerusalem Foundation supports programs for learning Arabic in Jewish schools and Hebrew in Arabic speaking schools, assisting Jewish and Arab women in creating art together, in increasing their skills and employment opportunities, in finding ways for Jewish and Arab children to learn together, to play together, to understand what they have in common and not what makes them different.

Jerusalem is home to the Hebrew University which like the city, encompasses students from a mosaic of religions, languages, ethnicities, cultures, and socio-economic backgrounds. The University leadership understands that this rich diversity is a precondition for academic excellence, critical examination, intellectual stimulation, and the cultivation of the next generation of Israeli and regional leaders. Over the past decade, The Hebrew University has devoted considerable efforts and resources to social and academic inclusion, as well as support of traditionally underrepresented populations.

The Israeli public elementary and high school system is separated for Arab and Jewish youth, as well as for religious and secular Jews and many places of residence are homogenous. Campuses, therefore, have great potential for shaping students' perceptions and



**On April 16, CJA students in Grade 9 departed for their class trip to Israel. As the culmination of their Jewish education, students get the opportunity to explore several themes in order to help form personal and meaningful connections to the land of Israel. You can follow their journey by visiting the news section at: <https://www.cja.ab.ca>**

views regarding fairness, diversity, and inclusion. Indeed, a positive campus experience will motivate university graduates from all groups in society to work alongside those from other groups in the workforce and to function as agents of change in their communities.

There are many challenges to shared living in Jerusalem, yet both the Jerusalem Foundation and Hebrew University believe that the diversity of Jerusalem is the city's greatest asset and creates the resilience and strength needed to face all challenges for living together.

The Jerusalem Business Development Center (known in Hebrew by the acronym MATI) founded by the Jerusalem Foundation in 1991 to strengthen and develop small businesses and entrepreneurship in the city makes a direct contribution to shared living. The center focuses on the city's weakest economic populations: new immigrants, the ultra-Orthodox, east Jerusalem residents. Each year, MATI Jerusalem helps thousands of entrepreneurs and business owners create or expand businesses in the city, thus aiding in the creation of thousands of new jobs and advancing the city's overall economic development.

A joint project of Hebrew U and the Asper Innovation Centre, together with the Jerusalem Foundation and the Jerusalem Business Development Centre (MATI) sponsored micro-loans for women in

East Jerusalem and actually led to the establishment of a full time MATI Centre in East Jerusalem.

The Hebrew University established the Al-Bashair Program for Excellence in East Jerusalem, with the Jerusalem Municipality as a leadership program for excelling students at Hebrew U from East Jerusalem. They attend a two-year program which includes leadership skills, internships, tours, career support. Al-Bashair for High-schools: aims to prepare excellent high-school students (grades 10-12) for higher education.

On May 9th, the Jerusalem Foundation of Canada and Canadian Friends of Hebrew University will bring the women leaders from MATI to Calgary to tell their story and through them, the story of Jerusalem.

Michal Shaul Vulej, Deputy CEO and Reham Abu Snineh, East Jerusalem Manager, will speak about their experiences in east and west Jerusalem and working to help empower and support under-served communities in work force development and business opportunities. Their visit is sponsored by The Asper Foundation.

*For more information on specific events contact:  
Dina Wachtel, CFHU [calgary@cfhu.org](mailto:calgary@cfhu.org)  
Nomi Yeshua, JFC [nomiy@jfflm.org](mailto:nomiy@jfflm.org)*

**Shared Society in Jerusalem** how we live together

The Jerusalem Foundation in partnership with the Canadian Friends of Hebrew University presents a conversation about shared living in Jerusalem sponsored by The Asper Foundation.

From MATI, the Jerusalem Business Development Center, Michal Shaul Vulej, Deputy CEO and Reham Abu Snineh, East Jerusalem Manager, will speak about their experiences and working to help empower and support under-served communities in work force development and business opportunities.

**Join us on May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**  
**Calgary JCC**

For more information contact:  
**Nomi Yeshua**, Executive Director  
Jerusalem Foundation of Canada  
[nomiy@jerusalemfoundation.ca](mailto:nomiy@jerusalemfoundation.ca)

**Dina Wachtel**, Executive Director  
Canadian Friends of Hebrew University  
[dwachtel@cfhu.org](mailto:dwachtel@cfhu.org)

[www.jerusalemfoundation.org](http://www.jerusalemfoundation.org) | [www.cfhu.org](http://www.cfhu.org)

# Something to *Kvell* about

By Natalie Soroka, TT Society

When I was growing up there were certain Yiddish words that were used frequently by my mom and grandma. One of those words was *kvell*, to burst with pride over something. My grandma would often say, "I'm kvelling right now!" when I would do something that made her particularly proud. As a parent of two daughters, I often internally kvell at what my children have done or achieved, but I won't actually use the word, kvell.

Nevertheless, a lot of us have experienced our Bubbes and Zaides using this wonderful Yiddish word, with its rich history, that is oftentimes the only word that can truly express something that an English word cannot.

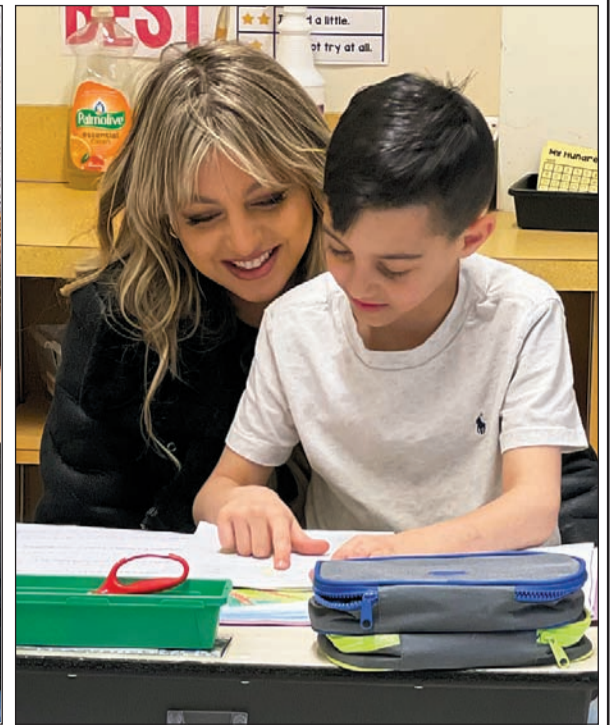
Well, Edmonton Talmud Torah Society's board of directors has something to kvell about!

In the section titled Academic Achievement from our new brochure, *Creating Brighter Minds Through Education, Community & Culture*, there are statistics we are kvelling about! For Talmud Torah students in Grades 1-6, ninety-one and a half percent (91.5%) were **READING** at or above grade level, based on teacher-reported results from Edmonton Public Schools Annual Education Results Report for the 2021-22 school year. The average from other EPSB schools was 67.4%. *We are kvelling, but certainly not surprised!*

Talmud Torah School offers a unique and valuable academic experience. In addition to embracing Jewish traditions, culture and language, TT looks beyond basic academics. To help each student meet their full potential, our faculty consistently challenge students to bring about individual strengths. As a result, each child is prepared to succeed in life, regardless of the path they choose. Our integrated approach to learning is backed by strong academic outcomes. These outcomes showcase the strength of our teaching practices and environment.

For Talmud Torah students in Grades 1-6, just under ninety-one percent (90.8%) were **WRITING** at or above grade level, based on the Highest Level of Achievement Test (HLAT) from Edmonton Public Schools Annual Education Results Report for the 2021-22 school year. The average of other EPSB schools was 68%. *Some more kvelling!*

Our Grade 6 Provincial Achievement Test (PAT) results for the 2021-22 school year are equally



**Talmud Torah School recently held its annual Celebration of Learning. Families were invited to attend so that students had the opportunity to share, celebrate and take ownership of their learning.**

impressive. Fifty percent (50%) of our students demonstrated a standard of excellence in **MATHEMATICS**, while thirty-seven percent (37%) demonstrated a standard of excellence in **ENGLISH!**

At Talmud Torah School we are continually exceeding the standards of education. Talmud Torah Society's board of directors are in the unique position of partnering with our school's principal in a variety of essential ways. Over the past several years, the board has approved allocating a portion of families' required fees to fund literacy specialists. Here at TT education goes above and beyond the public-school curriculum. Our comprehensive and integrated approach to learning blends public secular academics with Judaic studies. Our students benefit from a bilingual setting. Communication in both Hebrew and English provides a rich learning environment and inspires a strong connection to Jewish culture. As a result of our unique approach to learning, each TT student strives to achieve their personal best. Most importantly, this approach creates a community of students who embody the values, traditions and ethics of the Jewish people.

Students at Talmud Torah benefit from diverse and experienced faculty. Coming from all walks of life and backgrounds, and the high standards set by Edmonton Public Schools, means our teachers have the depth and breadth necessary to

foster intellectual, spiritual and moral growth. Our students are given the opportunity to learn through experience and instruction. Our faculty members encourage students to question and analyze information, in order to inspire independent and informed thought.

*We are kvelling, how about you?*



## Linda Marsha Horwitz OBM


Linda Marsha Horwitz passed away suddenly on her 75th birthday. Linda was a dear wife, bubbie, mom, daughter, sister and friend.

Linda leaves behind her loving husband of 56 years, Marvin, for whom Linda cherished most. Linda also leaves behind her blessed children - Alissia and Michael Oshry, Cecil and Erin Horwitz, Danielle and Jason Uretsky, and her adored grandchildren, Jacob, Isabel, Iyla, and Arlo.

Linda will forever be our bubbie.

In lieu of flowers if you would like please make a donation to the Cross Cancer Institute, Heart and Stroke Foundation or the Misericordia Covenant Foundation.





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

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

**Next Deadline: May 12, 2023**





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# Edmonton JNF Negev Gala honours Dr. Stan and Rosemary Kitay

By Howard Starkman

Esther and I were surprised yet delighted to be asked to serve as Honorary Chairs for this year's JNF Edmonton Negev Gala scheduled for June 25, 2023.

Our Honourees, Dr. Stan and Rosemary Kitay are stellar members of both the General and the Jewish Communities in Edmonton. Their commitment in coin and leadership, as volunteers working for the betterment of Edmonton and to enhance our community's relationship with Israel is worthy of recognition and praise. Kol Ha Kovod, Kudos to the Jewish National Fund (JNF) for selecting this incredible, dynamic duo for this significant honour.

It is singularly satisfying for us, especially for Esther, an educator and advocate of lifelong learning to have the Kitays' select as their Gala Project, the creation of a sheltered children's educational activity centre in the Eshkol region; a safe gathering space providing parents and children with sanctuary when their homes and communities are all too frequently assaulted by deadly in coming missiles. A shelter which facilitates comfort, learning and safety when the region is in peril, merits our financial contribution and support.

On a personal note, it has been 20 years since Esther and I were Negev Dinner Honourees. In 2003, Israel's astronaut, Ilan Ramon, of Blessed Memory, was thrilling the world with his comments from space urging us all to plant trees on planet earth, traditionally an ongoing JNF reforestation project. This, and other incredible contributions to Israel, through the aegis of JNF, has continued over the decades.

The multitude of projects sponsored by past

Negev Gala Honourees shines a bright light on the effective partnership between a myriad of contributors and JNF to enhance the lives of Israelis and the State itself.

The list of past honourees set out in your program merits your approbation and applause. It is fitting that this year's honourees be added to that distinguished list.

The JNF Negev Gala provides an opportunity for each of us to encourage the attendance and participation of all Edmontonians to showcase Israel and to acknowledge the significant contribution of Israel to the world in technology, the advancement of science, the arts and culture.

Surviving and thriving for 75 years, 2023 marks the 75th anniversary of the State of Israel. This jewel of the Middle East is anchored by a rich history and faces the future with confidence. A resilient democracy, Israel wrestles internationally with complicated issues that often perplex and strain Israel-diaspora relationship.

In an article by Gail Adellson – Marcovitz, president of Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) dated March 15, 2023 which we quote and endorse, she wrote: "As in any extended family, Jews represent a spectrum of views and beliefs, and we are each entitled to express our perspective. But we must do so respectfully, ensuring those who object to the very existence of a Jewish state cannot leverage our criticism to distort the reality of Israel's thriving democracy or of our united stance against all seeking Israel's destruction."

Let Edmonton celebrate the miracle of Israel on this 75th anniversary by joining with JNF and with this year's JNF Gala Honourees, Dr. Stan and



Esther and Howard Starkman are the honorary co-chairs of the 2023 Edmonton Negev Gala.

Rosemary Kitay by attending the Negev Gala and contributing as best we can to the project chosen by Edmonton's 2023 Negev Gala Honourees, Rosemary and Dr. Stan Kitay.

Howard and Esther Starkman are Honorary Co-chairs of the 2023 JNF Edmonton Negev Gala which will be held on June 25 in the Beth Israel Ballroom. Entertainment will feature comedian and author of Israel 201 Joel Chasnoff. Sponsorship opportunities and tickets are available at [edmontonjnf.ca](http://edmontonjnf.ca).

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**Yom Huledet  
Sameach Yisrael**

from  
Dalia, Allan, Tammy  
and Mark Wolinsky

**Happy 75th  
Birthday  
from the Slawsky  
Family**

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND OF EDMONTON  
**NEGEV GALA** HONOURING **ROSEMARY & STAN KITAY**  
SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2023

BETH ISRAEL - 131 WOLF WILLOW ROAD  
DOORS - 6PM • DINNER 6:30PM • PROGRAMME - 8PM • COCKTAIL ATTIRE

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

FEATURING COMEDIAN & AUTHOR OF ISRAEL 201  
**JOEL CHASNOFF**

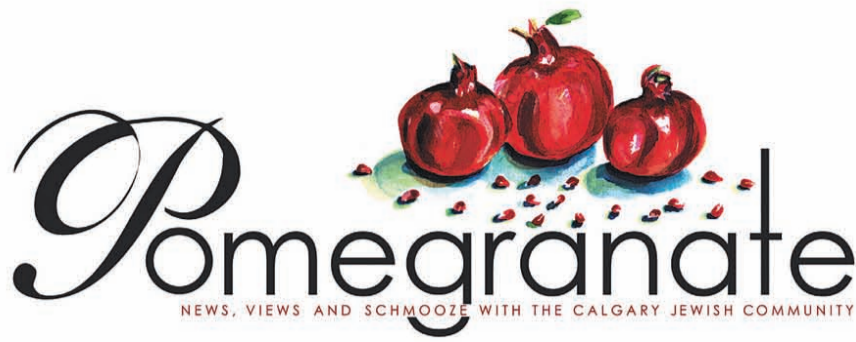
Honourary Co-chairs:  
**Esther & Howard Starkman**

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community calendar

Want to know what's going on in Jewish Calgary? Check out the Community Calendar at [jewishcalgary.org](http://jewishcalgary.org)

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



[jewishcalgary.org](http://jewishcalgary.org)



A MESSAGE FROM ADAM SILVER

At the time of composing this message, my family has just finished *Pesach*, followed by the usual returning of our kitchen back to *chametz* and year-round status. Even with the diligent and intentional efforts its preparations and cleanup require, *Pesach* is one of my family's favourite *chagim* (holidays). Perhaps, it's BECAUSE of that very work and intentional focus that we appreciate the time together and the distinctiveness of the holiday's menu, history, and customs, from the *seders* on the first two nights right through the end of the eighth day. Each year, during our *seders*, we reflect on two things that, to me, are especially relevant this year.

The first is our retelling of the story of the Exodus from Egypt. We recall the full story year after year, ensuring everyone at the *seider* not only understands the story, but engages with the experience as if we, too, were there. Our focus while using the *Haggadah* as our guide is on the multi-generational nature of the story (each generation has experienced stories of challenge, oppression, and redemption), and on the diversity of those who might be around our *seider* tables. From modern additions to the *seider* plate to highlight other injustices and marginalized peoples, to items that signal that all are welcome, we establish modern connections to our legacy exodus story. Reflecting

on the four children, as an example, we also identify different personalities, or different components of our own personalities, that might determine how we experience the *seider*. In one *Haggadah*, my family read a piece about four daughters, which highlighted values and aspirations in carrying forward all that we learn in the story of our journey to freedom from Pharaoh. Given the state of the world, and the complexity of our own community, to me these messages remain extremely relevant.

The second item that stands out to me each and every year –and this year in particular– is our singing of "L'shanah Ha'baah B'Yerushalyim – Next Year in Jerusalem!" During most years, I experience this as a fun moment, and a dream of visiting Israel with my family in the near future. However, this year, I found myself deeply reflecting on our incredible homeland, the many challenges Israel is experiencing at this time, and the divisiveness there and in the diaspora that continues to be cause for concern. Political and religious disagreement, ideological polarization and lack of cohesion, acts of terror, and growing military tension all threaten to harm our beloved Israel. Again, this part of the *seider* resonated strongly for me this year.

As we approach *Yom Hazikaron* and *Yom Haatzmaut* (perhaps by the time this message is read, they will have

already passed), we must note and celebrate that for 75 years Israel has overcome pressures and experiences like no other country, forging a Jewish State built on innovation, resilience, faith, and Peoplehood. Israel has also become a beacon of hope for Jews –and many non-Jews– around the world, driven by a moral compass of compassion, care, and *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). Now is not a time to give up on Israel. It is not a time to seed division in our diaspora communities. It is not a time to provide ammunition to those who would do ill to our homeland and our brothers and sisters there.

Now is the time to remember the miracle of the Exodus from Egypt and our ancestors' journey to *Eretz Israel*. It is the time to celebrate 75 years of Israel's statehood, and to remember the priceless sacrifices made by so many to establish, maintain, and protect our homeland. And it is the time to come together to actualize what we recite each *seider* – "L'shanah Ha'baah B'Yerushalyim – Next year in Jerusalem!"

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.

JEWISH CALGARY CAME TOGETHER TO COMMEMORATE AND CELEBRATE ISRAEL'S 75 YEARS OF STATEHOOD

**YOM HAZIKARON ISRAEL'S REMEMBRANCE DAY**  
MONDAY, APRIL 24 | 7-8PM | PAPERNY FAMILY JCC

JOIN US FOR A HEARTFELT CEREMONY HONOURING FALLEN ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES (IDF) SOLDIERS AND VICTIMS OF TERROR

PAPERNY FAMILY JCC CALGARY | temple b'nai tikvah a reform Jewish community | POWERED BY CALGARY JEWISH FEDERATION

**ADVOCACY ABROAD:**  
Highlights from CIJA's Board Mission to the UAE and Israel

SUNDAY, APRIL 30  
7:00 - 8:30PM  
PAPERNY FAMILY JCC

Connect with current events and join us for a presentation and community conversation with CIJA board member and past-president of Calgary Jewish Federation, **JARED SHORE** and **CHRISTINA ELLERBECK**.

This event is in-person only. Please scan QR code to register for free or go to [jewishcalgary.org](http://jewishcalgary.org).

Calgary Jewish Federation

**Yom Haatzmaut**  
**75 Israel**  
ישראל

TUESDAY, APRIL 25 • 5:30PM

CELEBRATE ISRAEL'S 75TH BIRTHDAY WITH A SPECIAL COMMUNITY CELEBRATION AT THE PAPERNY FAMILY JCC

KIDS ACTIVITIES AND CRAFTS | ENJOY LIVE ISRAELI MUSIC WITH HEEBSTER | CASH BAR | FREE ISRAELI STYLE FOOD

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21  
7:00 - 8:30PM  
PAPERNY FAMILY JCC

**AGM AND COMMUNITY SHEM TOV AWARDS**

**THIS IS MY JEWISH CALGARY**

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

# LIFE & LEGACY<sup>®</sup> HONOUR ROLL



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## \$18.35 million

ESTIMATED VALUE AS OF MARCH 31, 2023

Jewish Calgary has now completed four years of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation's (HGF) LIFE & LEGACY program. Legacy giving supports our community and ensures donors' values, experiences, and priorities are passed on from generation to generation.

We are proud to have been accepted into LIFE & LEGACY PLUS. Over the next four years, we will continue to bring our community closer together and promote a more unified and sustainable vision for the future of Jewish Calgary.

### AS OF MARCH 31, 2023, THESE MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY HAVE MADE A PROMISE TO ENSURE THE FUTURE OF JEWISH CALGARY

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| Anonymous (38)<br><b>Alice<sup>z</sup> &amp; Jacob (Jack) Adler</b><br>Batyah Yisach Aguinaldo<br>Dan Balaban & Family<br><b>Michael Balaban</b><br>Judith & Christopher Baron-Bown<br>Gerry Barron<br><b>Cathy Basskin</b><br><b>Sharon Batshaw</b><br><b>Debbie &amp; Steve<sup>z</sup> Baylin</b><br><b>Ben Zion Be'eri</b><br><b>Jenny Belzberg</b><br><b>Rebecca Berlin</b><br><b>Marni Besser</b><br><b>Judy &amp; Ron Bing</b><br>Rachel & Jerrad Blanchard<br><b>Melissa &amp; Dan Blitt</b><br><b>Renee &amp; Milton Bogoch</b><br><b>Amy Bondar</b><br><b>Marnie &amp; Darren Bondar</b><br><b>Val &amp; Lou Bracey</b><br><b>Annie Brodsky<sup>z</sup></b><br><b>Judy Shapiro &amp; Richard Bronstein</b><br>Sandy & Dr. Stuart Brown<br>Jackie & David Busheikin<br><b>The Charbonneau Family</b><br>Judy Chetner<br><b>Michael Tavel Clarke</b><br><b>Gertrude Cohos</b><br><b>Kim &amp; Peter Cohos</b><br>Marty Cole<br><b>Bonnie Kaplan &amp; Richard Conte</b><br>Debbie & Cam Cousins<br>Batyah Rivkah Cristobal<br><b>Alana &amp; Shane Devlin &amp; family</b><br><b>Abigail Draper</b><br><b>Nadine &amp; David Drexler</b><br><b>Tracey Rumig &amp; Steve Eichler</b><br><b>Jennifer Eiserman</b><br><b>Ayala Roudstein &amp; Marc Ereshefsky</b><br>Jeff Faber<br><b>Carol Feldman</b><br>Cindy, Sam, Rebekah & Josh Feldman<br><b>Joy Feldman</b><br><b>Max Feldman</b><br><b>Stephanie Feldman</b> | Barry Finkelman<br><b>Maxine &amp; Milt Fischbein</b><br><b>Jana &amp; Bryant Frydberg</b><br><b>Evan Gelman</b><br>Sarah & Ben Ginzberg<br><b>Halley &amp; Bruce Girvitz</b><br><b>Peta Glezerson</b><br><b>Dr. Caron &amp; Rabbi Mark Glickman</b><br><b>Yael &amp; Rabbi Chaim Greenwald</b><br>Dr. Benjamin Grintuch<br><b>Cheryl &amp; Jason Gurevitch</b><br><b>Sheila &amp; Dr. Ralph Gurevitch</b><br><b>Debbie &amp; Nelson Halpern</b><br><b>Malka &amp; Rabbi Binyomin Halpern</b><br>Jackie & Hayim Hamburger<br><b>Annette Hanson</b><br>Candice Hanson<br><b>Lucille Hanson<sup>z</sup></b><br><b>Elaine &amp; Jerry Hashman</b><br>Sara Hastings-Simon<br><b>Vivian &amp; Benjamin Herman</b><br><b>Josh Hesslein</b><br><b>Roz Mendelson &amp; David Hodgins</b><br><b>Sidney Horovitz</b><br>Josh Inhaber<br><b>Susan &amp; David Inhaber</b><br><b>Betsy Jameson</b><br>Rabbi Cantor Russell Jayne<br><b>Barbara Joffe</b><br><b>Naomi Johansen</b><br>Sharla Stoffman & Malcolm Jubinville<br><b>Megan Macfarland &amp; Tibor Kaldor</b><br>Irena Karshenbaum<br><b>William Katz</b><br><b>Rabbi Rick Kline</b><br>Anna Lourie Kostousov<br><b>Barb &amp; Ron Krell</b><br><b>Gail &amp; Mel Ksienski</b><br>Malka & Stan Labell<br>Eddy Lang<br><b>Tamar Zenith &amp; Blair Laven</b><br><b>Carolyn &amp; Bruce Libin</b><br><b>Harriet &amp; Philip Libin</b><br><b>Susan Light</b><br><b>Caroline &amp; Alex Linetsky</b> | <b>Sandra &amp; Harold Lipton</b><br><b>Steven Lipton</b><br><b>Monica &amp; Gustavo Lis</b><br><b>The Lister Family</b><br><b>Sheryl Livergant</b><br><b>Margie Sills-Maerov &amp; Adam Maerov</b><br><b>Ellen Magidson</b><br>Amalia & Mark Mandel<br><b>Sharon Marcus</b><br><b>Sahbra Markus</b><br>Sheila & David Martin<br>Ralph Maybaum<br>Daniel Merson<br>Leah Moldofsky<br>Deborah Yedlin & Martin Molyneaux<br><b>Lila &amp; Jacques<sup>z</sup> Mydlarski</b><br><b>Elaine &amp; Stuart Myron</b><br><b>Kimberly &amp; Richard Nagan</b><br><b>Donna &amp; Jack Newton</b><br>Claude Oppenheim<br>Robyn & Joe Oppenheim<br><b>Roslyn &amp; Daniel Oppenheim</b><br><b>Beth &amp; Rob Ordman</b><br>Shifra & Yehuda Ortega<br><b>Joshua Orzech</b><br><b>Alex Osten</b><br><b>Ashley Runka Owens &amp; Dustin Owens</b><br>Lisa Welikovitch & Mark Paidra<br><b>Jane Paterson</b><br><b>Hindy &amp; Izak Paul</b><br><b>Lorne Pearl</b><br><b>Rick Phillips</b><br><b>Ron Plucer</b><br><b>Susan &amp; Myron Podlog</b><br><b>Cynthia &amp; David Prasow</b><br><b>Saul Prince</b><br><b>Debora Prussick</b><br><b>Dr. Earl Raber</b><br><b>Eugene Ragolsky</b><br>Gayla & Brian Rogers<br><b>Susan Rose</b><br><b>Irene &amp; Dr. Stuart Ross</b><br>Jane & Phil Rotman<br>Pnina & Mark Rubensohn<br>Harry Sanders | <b>Brenda &amp; Garry Sapoznikow</b><br><b>Kathy &amp; Norman Schachar</b><br><b>Family Legacy Fund</b><br><b>Agnes Romer Segal &amp; Eliezer Segal</b><br><b>Marina &amp; Yannai Segal</b><br><b>Kimberly Rothenberg &amp; Leonard Seidman</b><br>Dorothy Hanson & Sheldon Shagal<br>Debbie Shaikin<br><b>The Shaikin Family</b><br><b>Daniel Shapiro</b><br><b>Betty Sherwood</b><br><b>Cheryl Baron &amp; Robert Shiell</b><br><b>The Shilling Family</b><br><b>Deborah Shnay</b><br><b>Cheryl &amp; Morley Shore</b><br><b>Christina Ellerbeck &amp; Jared Shore</b><br><b>Judith Shriar</b><br><b>Laura Shuler</b><br><b>Sandy Shuler</b><br><b>Esther Allman Silberg &amp; Gary Silberg</b><br><b>Deborah &amp; Adam Silver</b><br><b>Jemmie &amp; Neil Silver</b><br><b>Jennifer &amp; David Silver</b><br>Rebecca Silverberg<br>David Sklar<br>Jerry Snukal<br>Lorraine Spector<br>Becky & Brad Spier<br><b>Sondra &amp; Joe Spier</b><br><b>Tina &amp; Larry Stanleigh</b><br><b>Beth &amp; Craig Steinberg</b><br><b>Diana Kalef &amp; Elliott Steinberg</b><br><b>Helen<sup>z</sup> &amp; Mark Swartz</b><br><b>Ida &amp; Sam Switzer</b><br><b>Michele Doctoroff &amp; Ted Switzer</b><br>Sasha & Ruben Switzer<br><b>Shauna Switzer</b><br><b>Darlene Switzer-Foster</b><br><b>Mira &amp; Joseph Tappenden</b><br><b>Loredana Della Vedova</b><br><b>Nadine &amp; Hartley Waldman</b><br>Sandra Morton Weizman<br>Shelley Werner<br><b>Linda &amp; Gary Wolf</b><br><b>Helen &amp; Leonard Zenith</b><br><b>Susan Klassen &amp; Jonathan Zyto</b> |
|---|---|--|--|

Bold indicates LOI has been formalized

 LOI received <b>57</b> % formalized <b>68</b>	 LOI received <b>50</b> % formalized <b>82</b>	 LOI received <b>41</b> % formalized <b>71</b>	 LOI received <b>73</b> % formalized <b>81</b>	 LOI received <b>50</b> % formalized <b>74</b>	 LOI received <b>48</b> % formalized <b>69</b>	 LOI received <b>73</b> % formalized <b>78</b>	 LOI received <b>54</b> % formalized <b>74</b>	 LOI received <b>67</b> % formalized <b>73</b>	 LOI received <b>71</b> % formalized <b>75</b>
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For more information on how you can ensure our Jewish tomorrows today, contact Director of Development, Diana Kalef at [dkalef@jewishcalgary.org](mailto:dkalef@jewishcalgary.org) 403-444-3154.

## Memorial Tribute

### In Memory of Yvelle Simon Bradley, z”l

October 3, 1963 - March 13, 2023

It is with deep sorrow that the family announces the passing of Yvelle Simone Bradley, z”l, on 13th March 2023, age 59. Yvelle was born in Georgia, USA, the only child of Victor & Betty Bradley (nee Kesselman). They moved to Calgary in 1977 - driving from Montreal with their goldfish and plants!

A devoted daughter, gifted artist, silversmith, gardener and vintage fashionista, Yvelle spread warmth and smiles wherever she went. A free spirit who challenged us with her non-conformist ideas and idealistic demands, she made us examine our own prejudices and priorities. She was as unique as the

artifacts she collected - an effort to protect them from the unappreciative eye.

Yvelle was pre-deceased by her father (2004) and mother (2011), but with the help of her family, she fulfilled an ardent desire to travel to the UK and meet up with her long-lost, half-sister, Lyn, and bathed in the warmth of a big family surrounding her. Alas, it was on this trip home that Yvelle discovered the cancer she would valiantly battle for years. It kept knocking her down but, raging with her indomitable joie de vivre, she kept getting up. If death said, “You’re out-numbered 100-1,” Yvelle said, “You’d better get more men.”

Her bright, brave spirit soldiered on. Undeniably she had black days, but she never gave up. Yvelle faced death with her sword in her hand and, above all, with her undeniable panache. It was a privilege to know her. She will be greatly missed by her cousins, Jonathan



and Terry Borchard, Mitch Birne, David, Howard and Jeremy Bradley, Mark Walpole, her extended family and many friends.

In closing, the family wishes to thank Dr. Falk and all the staff at the Father Lacombe Providence Care Centre who so lovingly cared for Yvelle.

## Canadian jurists oppose proposed changes to Israel’s legal system

By Ariel Katz

(Toronto) – A statement was issued on February 9, 2023 by a number of Canadian law professors and jurists criticizing the proposed transformation of Israel’s legal system. It was written by University of Toronto Faculty of Law professors emeritas Lorraine Weinrib and Ernest Weinrib and includes signatures of legal academics and practitioners from the Alberta Jewish community as well as that of former federal Minister of Justice and Attorney General Irwin Cotler. The statement appears below.

The undersigned are Canadian law professors and jurists. We write out of concern that recent proposals to transform Israel’s legal system will weaken democratic governance, undermine the rule of law, jeopardize the independence of the judiciary, impair the protection of human rights, and diminish the international respect currently accorded to Israeli legal institutions.

In the aftermath of the Holocaust and the other atrocities of the Second World War, the great project of legal reform throughout the world has been the establishment of systems of rights that protect human dignity. These systems exemplify the definitive legal repudiation of those (and similar) horrific events. Canadian and Israeli jurists have been partners in this project at the judicial, professional, and academic levels for decades. The transformation sponsored by the Israeli government would constitute a retrograde step that endangers the legal structure for protecting human dignity in Israel.

The lesson of the twentieth century in Europe and elsewhere is that democracy is more than electoral choice at periodic intervals. Democracy also presupposes a set of enduring legal norms and institutional arrangements that enshrine the rule of law, protect fundamental rights, and safeguard the freedom and dignity of all who are subject to official power. Strong and independent courts are integral to

the democratic functioning of modern diverse societies.

The proposed changes undermine these norms and their institutional frameworks. They undercut the independence of the judiciary by (i) giving the executive effective control over the process of appointing judges, (ii) severely restricting the power of the Supreme Court to determine the constitutionality of statutes, and (iii) empowering the governing coalition to override the invalidation of laws that infringe rights. They also weaken the rule of law by putting the hitherto independent legal advisor of each ministry under the control of its minister and by authorizing ministers to disregard their advisors’ legal advice. Moreover, they abridge the protection against arbitrary administrative action by limiting the norm against unreasonable decision-making by public authorities.

Particularly at risk is the functioning of the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty, the crown jewel of Israeli law. This Basic Law protects rights to dignity, property, privacy, life and bodily integrity, personal liberty, and freedom of movement to and from Israel. It also forms the jurisprudential basis for the right to equality, to self-expression, to marriage and parenthood, to freedom of conscience, to freedom

*Continued on page 15*

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& Jed Gaines

# Popular Montreal bagel fundraiser returns to Edmonton

B'nai Brith Youth Organization - Northwest (BBYO NWC) is excited to announce a unique fundraising initiative that will bring the taste of Montreal's famous St-Viateur bagels back to Edmonton for a second time. Beginning April 16, 2023, BBYO will be selling fresh St-Viateur bagels to Edmonton residents as part of its ongoing efforts to support local youth programming and leadership initiatives.

St-Viateur bagels are hand-rolled, wood-fired, and made with all-natural ingredients. They are a staple of Montreal's food scene and have been featured in publications such as *The New York Times* and *Bon Appétit*. BBYO is partnering with St-Viateur Bagel to bring this beloved Canadian treat to Edmonton while raising funds for a worthy cause.

"Our partnership with St-Viateur Bagel is an exciting way for us to bring a taste of Montreal to Edmonton while supporting our mission to empower Jewish teens," said Tammy Vineberg, chair of the BBYO Bagels for Breakfast fundraiser. "Not only will our supporters get to enjoy some of the best bagels in the country, but they'll also be supporting BBYO's efforts to empower Jewish teens in Edmonton to become leaders and make a positive impact on their communities."

The St-Viateur bagels will be available for purchase online, with options for poppy seed and sesame seed as well as lox from Sgambaro's, an Edmonton-based seafood business. Orders close on Monday, May 22 and CargoJet is generously sponsoring the overnight shipping of the fresh bagels on Wednesday, June 14.

"We're excited to partner again with BBYO to bring the taste of Montreal to Edmonton," said Nicolo Piazza, manager of business development for St-Viateur Bagel. "Our bagels are made with love and tradition, and we're thrilled to share them with a wider audience while also supporting a great cause."

All proceeds from the St-Viateur bagel fundraiser will go directly to supporting BBYO's programs and initiatives in Edmonton, which include leadership training, community service projects, and social events for Jewish teens.

To place an order for St-Viateur Bagels, visit [bbyo-bagels.myshopify.com](http://bbyo-bagels.myshopify.com). A dozen bagels cost \$21.95, with shipping included. The goal is to sell 1,440 dozen or 17,280 bagels. This was a record achieved for the 2021 fundraiser.

For more information about the BBYO Bagels for Breakfast fundraiser, contact Tammy Vineberg at [montrealbagelfairy@gmail.com](mailto:montrealbagelfairy@gmail.com).

## EJHL family fun



Northside Mitsubishi Eclipse had a cheering section at the EJHL finals!

About BBYO: BBYO is the leading pluralistic Jewish teen movement aspiring to involve more Jewish teens in more meaningful Jewish experiences. For 95 years, BBYO has provided exceptional identity enrichment and leadership development experiences for hundreds of thousands of Jewish teens. BBYO has a presence in more than 80 communities in 15 countries across North America, South America, Europe, Israel, and Australia and is open to all Jewish teens in grades 8-12.

## Canadian jurists

Cont. from page 14

regarding religion, to education, to healthcare, and to a dignified human existence. The government's proposals portend a future for Israel in which these rights lack effective judicial protection.

Given the exceptional concentration of political power in the Israeli system, any one of the government's proposals would be disturbing. Taken together they render government decisions effectively unassailable, regardless of their content.

Anyone subject to or affected by Israeli law would be exposed to the danger of abusive exercises of power by a government no longer accountable for violations of the most basic legal rights and principles. Israeli society would be deprived of the benefits of a reasoned and transparent judicial process that adjudicates in specific circumstances and upon established facts. Israel's international standing would be diminished by the perception that its Supreme Court had become the creature and extension of partisan politics.

Proponents of these changes point to Canada and other democracies to argue that the proposed changes are commonplace. This argument is disingenuous.

Israel's system of government differs from that of other democracies, like Canada's, in its exceptional concentration of political power. Other democracies have a suite of mechanisms that distribute or moderate the exercise of political power. Examples of these mechanisms are: (1) a formalized constitution that the regular legislative process cannot change; (2) a comprehensive bill of rights that protects the dignity, liberty and equality of all by judicially enforcing a wide range of political, legal, social, and human rights; (3)

the possibility of recourse to a transnational court of human rights to review government action; (4) an electoral process based on geographic constituencies, thereby inducing political parties to appeal to citizens generally rather than merely to the identity or beliefs of their core supporters; (5) bicameral legislatures that allow an upper house to deliberate upon the legislative proposals emanating from the elected representatives of the lower house; (6) a federal structure that divides power between local and national levels of government. These mechanisms disperse or limit political power and provide safeguards against its intemperate exercise.

In contrast, in Israel the prime minister and his coalition partners in the cabinet wield concentrated

political power through their control of the legislature. The only constraint on the exercise of political power is the Supreme Court's role in upholding the rule of law, interpreting the Basic Laws, and applying the fundamental concepts of legal ordering. In adjudicating the extraordinarily difficult controversies that have come before it, the Supreme Court of Israel has established itself as one of the world's most respected judicial institutions.

Any legal system, including Israel's, can be improved. But if reform is to be legitimate, it cannot take the form of the partisan and hurried enactment of massive institutional changes that endanger human rights, undermine judicial independence, and compromise the rule of law.

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# Learning Career and Technology Foundations at HAA

In recent years, there has been a growing focus in the world of education on providing students with more opportunities to explore their interests and potential career paths, and Halpern Akiva Academy is no exception.

This initiative was first launched with the Career and Technology Foundations (CTF) course in 2021 by Mrs. Caitlyn Cameron, Principal of Halpern Akiva Academy. When asked why this was such an important initiative to institute into the school Mrs. Cameron replied, "I felt it was very important to give our students bright beginnings and expose them to a variety of possible shining futures."

The school's commitment to providing these opportunities is rooted in the belief that exposing students to a diverse range of subjects and activities helps to foster creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. It also allows students to discover new passions and interests, and to build confidence and resilience by overcoming challenges and working collaboratively with their peers.

In the case of the career and technology foundations course, after being surveyed, students had the chance to delve into three different areas this year: forensic science, woodworking, and art and design. Each trimester offered a unique focus, and students were able to explore their interests in a hands-on way.

Forensic science, led by Mrs. Cameron, gave students an introduction to the world of crime scene investigation and forensic analysis. They learned about collecting and analyzing evidence, as well as the techniques used in fingerprint and DNA analysis. The students were engaged and excited to put their newfound knowledge to the test, and they gained a deeper appreciation for the scientific process.

Woodworking, led by Rabbi Nachum Aaron Kutnowski, Head of Judaic Studies, gave students a chance to get creative with their hands and design and build their own planters. They learned about the different types of wood and tools used in woodworking, as well as the importance of measuring and planning. This course not only taught students practical skills, but also helped to instill a sense of pride and accomplishment as they saw their designs come to life.

"I thought it was really cool to get hands-on experience of woodworking tools in a safe environment. It was also really amazing seeing the process through from the beginning and designing phase until the finished product," Sara Bella Kostousov shared.

Two other junior high girls stated, "There was a lot of teamwork in making our design come to fruition,



HAA students proudly pose with the planters that they built during their woodworking classes. (Photos supplied).



and everyone was able to contribute. We really learned a lot."

Lastly, the art and design portion, which will be overseen by Ms. Kelsey Lovell, Director of Inclusive Education, will offer students a chance to explore their artistic side and experiment with different mediums and techniques. They will have the opportunity to express themselves creatively and develop their own unique styles.

Overall, the career and technology foundations course has been a resounding success at Halpern Akiva Academy. Students have been enthusiastic about the chance to explore different subjects and build new skills, and they have gained a deeper appreciation for the power of learning by doing. With initiatives like this, the school is helping to shape the next generation of creative thinkers and problem solvers.



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# CHW launches new social impact investment fund

Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW) has completed its first round of social impact investing in Israel, as part of the inaugural CHW Journey 4 Impact trip of a lifetime. CHW is proud to be the first organization to launch a social impact investing fund in Israel through a gender lens strategy.

CHW is committed to a gender-lens impact investment strategy, to focus on equality and informed investment decisions impacting numerous social issues comprising gender disparities, social mobility, and economic opportunities for women; all closely aligned with UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

“CHW’s investment strategy ensures empowerment and investment for women entrepreneurs to promote socially conscious businesses that impact Israeli society to improve lives. Each investment not only empowers the start-up community but supports a sustainable future for the next generation of small businesses/SMEs in Israel,” said Lisa Colt-Kotler, CHW CEO.

At the culmination of the Journey 4 Impact trip, participating investors evolved into the judges at the hybrid launch. The event was live-streamed in Canada and evaluated a pre-vetted selection of three women-led, social enterprises, including Relyon.AI, Social Space TLV, and Tech19.

The core objective was to enable women entrepreneurs to launch socially conscious businesses that generate impact in Israel, provide employment for at-risk women, and provide education about gender-based violence. The entrepreneurs secured critical capital from CHW investors through a pool of impact investment funds. After an intense deliberation, the

team of judges awarded \$180,000 CAD to Tech19 and \$120,000 CAD to Social Space TLV. Relyon.AI will receive mentorship, business consultations, and networking opportunities through CHW.

Social Space TLV is a social innovation and education hub that sparks discussion around human trafficking and gender-based violence. Social Space TLV, established in 2019 on the former site of the Pussycat strip club, now engages over 60,000 visitors a year on site through its educational programs. Social Space TLV supports the conversion of abandoned buildings across Israel to create environments to encourage discussion, debriefing sessions and numerous educational experiences.

Tech-19 is a member of Group 19, a business model that combines diversity, stability, professionalism and profitability to offer employment solutions for Israeli women in marginal communities. Tech-19 has been established to provide quality high tech employment opportunities, training and skills development for women in the peripheral town of Yerucham. Lisa Stadelbauer, Ambassador of Canada to Israel, who attended the launch event, reflects on this new initiative.

“I am proud to participate in CHW’s new initiative, Social Impact Investing through a Gender Lens,” said Stadelbauer. “Canada is so committed to enhancing the role of women in the economy and there is a Trade and Gender chapter in the updated Canada-Israeli Free Trade Agreement. CHW’s work with women and girls in Israel and at home is incredibly important. With this new initiative, many worthy projects will now receive a CHW investment to help them grow as



they help others.”

CHW will be tracking the impact and all investors will receive annual information about the impact these organizations have made in Israel. CHW’s investment will continue to have impact year after year, empowering women, growing employment opportunities, and creating a sustainable future for the next generation of entrepreneurs and social enterprises in Israel.

Join CHW October 23-30, 2023 in Israel for the second annual Journey 4 Impact and experience amazing challenges with a purpose, create social impact and economic independence for women entrepreneurs, and be the change to create a sustainable tomorrow.

To participate and learn more about Journey 4 Impact 2023, visit [chw.ca/journey-4-impact](http://chw.ca/journey-4-impact).

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

Source: Canadian Hadassah-WIZO.

## Living out loud

Cont. from page 5

contact Sharsheret, a US-based Jewish organization that provides support services to women with breast and ovary cancers and their families. “They were a lifeline for me,” recalled Kogut, who was provided access to a geneticist, a social worker who continues to check in on her once a week, and a breast buddy.

A relative newcomer to Calgary, Kogut had, until then, felt alone. Though her family was there for her, they were limited in their ability to help, having never experienced what she was going through.

Kogut says Sharsheret was able to tell her what she needed to hear, “...that I would be okay, that this was going to pass, that I’d get through it.” She began paying the kindness forward even as she was in treatment, contacting Calgary synagogues to organize Zoom programs featuring Sharsheret educators.

Devoted to LOL - which she defines as “living out loud” - Kogut plans to continue sharing the message far and wide and reaching out to support other women battling cancer.

Kogut knows that knowledge is power. Since her diagnosis, she has reached out to everyone she can

think of to encourage breast self-examination and genetic testing. Recalling a friend whose father had died many years ago due to breast cancer, she reached out to the woman to urge her to be tested. She too tested positive for a cancer that may have otherwise remained undetected until it was too late.

Referring to a well-known Talmudic statement, Kogut said, “If you save one person’s life, you save a world.”

Kogut is devoted to saving worlds by living out loud, sharing life-saving information and even mailing chemo caps to women who let her know they are in need of them.

To date, she has distributed at least 100 in Calgary and beyond.

“It takes a community to help a cancer patient,” Kogut says, urging others

not to let community members with cancer feel invisible, to reach out with acts of loving kindness.

“You can do something,” she concluded. “Just don’t do nothing.”



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## Cancer *Cont. from page 2*

Johnson said, adding that often women between the ages of 20 and 50 who have the BRCA mutation choose to do MRI on a yearly basis. Some decide they don't want any more screening and choose mastectomy instead.

Johnson says his office contacts thousands of women every year to organize MRIs. "When we phone them, we are reminding them of their risk.... The psychiatric impact of us telling them about the risk every year, it's tough to overestimate that," he added.

It is different for the woman who has completed her double-mastectomy at age 55, Johnson said. "When we phone, she doesn't even remember who we are... That's maybe a tribute to reasonable care."

BRCA mutations can pass from both women and men to their children. Men are more often silent carriers.

"If you look at a brother and sister who have BRCA 2, that woman has about a 60 or 70 percent likelihood of developing breast cancer during her life. She has about a 20 percent chance of getting ovary cancer during her life, most of it after age 50. But her brother with the same gene, his pancreatic cancer risk is about 10 percent. His breast cancer risk is about 10 percent, and his prostate cancer risk is about 25 percent."

"We see thousands of prostate cancers. We see many, many pancreatic cancers, and for BRCA 2, the risk for breast cancer for those men is about seven percent. So, one in 14 men with BRCA 2 will get breast cancer," Johnson said.

The good news is that prostate, pancreas and breast cancers are "...sensitive to biologic therapies."

Oncologists' arsenals include PARP inhibitors and immunotherapy, said Johnson, adding that it is therefore vital for individuals to be tested so that they can qualify for the best possible treatments for them.

According to Johnson, women are the best allies in the fight against cancer. "In our office, we identify the women in the family who are the pain in the ass," he quipped. "They are the ones who are going to force testing."

Testing, adds Johnson, "helps to sort out a family's story."

The index patient - the first member in a family discovered to have a BRCA gene - is "like a ripple in a pond," he said. "We can protect those people with the [mutation] and we can provide relief for those people who don't have it."

Genetic testing is accurate, enabling doctors to make accurate predictions and patients to reap the benefits of treatments that are "life-changing for many families," Johnson said.

He strongly recommends testing for families within the Jewish community that have a cancer history.

"We have 30-year data on people who have been followed up," he explained. "The chances of dying are far less than for those in the general population. So, you go from a cancer risk that is very, very high to a death risk that is very, very low."

Johnson said those wishing to be tested should do so in a clinical setting.

"There are about 84,000 potential mutations. 23andMe tests three. So, a 23andMe test does not tell you about your breast, ovary, colon or anything else. You need a medical grade, proper test to give you those answers," Johnson said.

He urges those who tested early for the BRCA mutations to retest. "Our BRCA testing 20 years ago did about 80 percent of BRCA 1, 80 percent of BRCA 2, but did not do the other 28 genes."

With the genetic puzzle pieces in place, individuals with the mutations are far more likely to access effective treatment. "Immunotherapy, for those cancers that are sensitive, is miraculous," Johnson said. "Part of what we do is test the cancers... If a cancer carries DNA markers, then we can predict [it] will be sensitive to immunotherapy."

"Cancers are successful in our bodies because they hide.... Your body should kill it because it's foreign, but a cancer is smarter than that, so it covers itself with a cloak, and your body just passes it by."

"Immunotherapy does two things," added Johnson. "It takes that cloak off of the cancer, so it presents that cancer to your immune system... It allows your immune system to keep a memory of the cancer. So, it's both a treatment and a vaccination against your own cancer."

### Did you know?

Both men and women can carry BRCA mutations. Each parent with the mutation has a 50 percent chance of passing it on to their biological children.

Ashkenazi Jews are also disproportionately affected by genetic mutations that can cause other life-altering diseases including Tay Sachs, Gaucher disease, Canavan disease, Cystic Fibrosis and Familial Dysautonomia.

Over time, the expansion and contraction of the Ashkenazi population, due to factors including geographical and social isolation, led to the concentration of some genetic mutations and the absence of others.

Sephardic Jews may also have an elevated risk of inheriting mutations predisposing them to diseases including breast and ovarian cancers.

For more information about breast and ovarian cancers, BRCA 1 and BRCA 2, and the support services provided free of charge to women and their families, go to <https://sharsheret.org/>

*Maxine Fischbein is an LJI Reporter.*

## Passover at Talmud Torah



Passover themed art, songs and enrichment permeated Talmud Torah School and the TT early learning centre prior to the start of the holiday. Everyone is back now and refreshed from the holiday.

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# Reconciling support and concern for Israel



Ellery Lew

By Ellery Lew

Last month, I traveled with a group of committed pro-Israel advocates from the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs board (CIJA) and other Canadian Federations to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Israel. CIJA hosted and organized the trip in celebration of the recent

Abraham Accords. I attended as a representative from Edmonton's Federation. One of my personal motivations for going on this trip was to try to reconcile my firm support for the existence and welfare of the State of Israel with concerns I had about it.

My parents were born before the creation of the State of Israel. Their generation, as well as their parents', accepted Israel without reservation. To them, the State's existence was nothing less than a modern miracle.

My children and their cohort are less inclined to accept Israel as it is. They are concerned about it. The primary concern is Israel's relationship with and treatment of the Palestinians. Also, of concern are minority and religious rights, women's rights, and the increasingly divisive political rhetoric. While these concerns are legitimate, they are also frequently mischaracterized in public discourse—in particular, the conflict with the Palestinians.

My generation straddles the two. Some share these concerns while others are puzzled by them. Many are concerned about a trend to a weakening of support for Israel in the North American Jewish community as the torch is passed on to the next generation.

This trip helped to clarify my view on these tensions.

I believe that one can reconcile unreserved support for Israel's welfare and right to exist with concerns about these issues without betraying one's priorities and values. To do so one must adjust one's expectations.

Western society experienced dramatic social change starting in the 1950s. Canadian Jews were raised during these changes, and we are proud of our country's social progress. However, this change has led to unreasonable expectations about change in the rest of the world. We were taught that anything is possible, that we can change the world; but we were not prepared for failure or taught patience. When the

world fails to meet expectations, as it often does, this leads to frustration, disillusion, and disengagement.

Israel is a particularly poignant example of this. Tension and conflict in the region often lead to violence. We are bombarded with negative news and images. It is a seemingly endless cycle. It is natural to embrace simplistic explanations and it is easy to view the Israelis and Palestinians through the black-and-white lens of a bully and an underdog.

The issue is complicated by the fact that there is so much false and harmful information about Israel and its treatment of the Palestinians. Israel's public detractors are vocal and abundant. Israel is wrongly labelled an apartheid state and is subjected to a disproportionate level of international criticism and scrutiny. It is repeatedly condemned by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly and criticized by human rights organizations. Social media has become an efficient and effective tool for misinformation and disinformation. Simultaneously (and not coincidentally) there has been a rise in antisemitism worldwide. North American and Diaspora Jewish communities are increasingly targets of antisemitic threats, vitriol, and attacks. Young Jews are feeling vulnerable. Being proudly Jewish and advocating for Israel feels increasingly difficult.

Israel is complicated. Some of its problems are typical and shared by many countries while others are unique. Nearly all of them are exaggerated both by Israelis themselves, a cultural trait, and by the international community—a mix of antisemitism and Israel obsession.

However, Israel and the region are not static. They are changing, though at times the pace seems too slow.

It is unreasonable to measure Israel by the standards of Europe or North America. Israel's history, both ancient and current, is unique. Few people understand this, and sadly, fewer seem to care. Current conditions in Israel are not comparable to any other country.

Gaza, a narrow strip of land in the southwest, is ruled by Hamas, an ideological, religiously orthodox, authoritarian, terrorist organization. The West Bank (actually located to the East) is a semi-failed state lacking effective governmental control. Both regions are heavily armed. Palestinian children have been taught hateful and violent rhetoric in school, including the vilification of Jews and Israelis. Attempts are being made to discontinue this practice, but current Palestinian teens and young adults are the product of these lessons. The families of Palestinians who commit terrorist attacks receive compensation that is often tied to the number of people killed. The Palestinian Authority in the West Bank has a policy of non-cooperation with Israel which contributes to continued poverty and lack of basic services in the West Bank. Paradoxically, Hamas has been known to cooperate with Israel, at least on supply of basic services.

There is intervention by outside state and non-state actors in both territories, who supply arms and funds, and lend support for or encourage violence against Jews and Israelis. These include Turkey, Iran, Hezbollah, and smaller local jihadist groups. Some funds are used legitimately for local services, while some are used for arms, tunnels to infiltrate Israel, and missiles.

There have been genuine attempts at resolution between Israel and the Palestinians, though with limited success. These include the Oslo Accords in 1993 and 1995, and the complete unilateral Israeli disengagement from Gaza in 2005.

Israelis appear to have given up hope of a resolution with the Palestinians in the short term, and it is hard to blame them for this. Israel has made many good faith attempts at peace—evidenced not only by historical attempts, but also by its success in achieving peaceful resolutions with many Arab countries. The list now includes Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, UAE, Sudan and Bahrain. Israel also recently negotiated a maritime agreement with Lebanon, despite being in a formal state of war with it. Time and again, Israel has demonstrated a willingness to talk to its Arab neighbours and compromise for peace.

Currently, in the Palestinian Territories, poverty and ideology promote violent terrorist acts, which lead to violent responses. An increase in autonomous armed groups is leading to increasingly violent confrontations with Israel's army or police. In East Jerusalem, hundreds of buildings and homes have been constructed without building permits, causing them to be deemed illegal. If a resident of an illegal house commits a violent terrorist act, the house may be ordered to be demolished, a strategy intended to counter the financial incentives given to families of terrorists.

The situation is not hopeless, but it is extremely challenging (the UN representative Tor Wennesland repeatedly referred to it as "superbly challenging").

The Abraham Accords is a peace treaty which includes Israel, UAE, Morocco, Bahrain and Sudan. During my visit to the UAE, I witnessed its genuine commitment to tolerance and coexistence between the three Abrahamic faiths: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. We met with the UAE Minister of State for Tolerance and Coexistence and many other Emiratis, and it appeared to me that they were sincerely committed to this principle. For example, the UAE recently opened an interfaith site on which they built a synagogue, Catholic church and mosque, side by side. Significantly, this project was started prior to the Abraham Accords. The Emiratis view Israelis as being culturally more similar to them than Westerners. They refer to Jews and Emiratis as "people of the desert".

This Accord shows that positive change is

*Continued on page 20*

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# Canadian Jews welcome decision to delay Israeli Judicial Reform Bill

On March 27, in Jerusalem, Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, announced that the controversial judicial reform legislation would be postponed, allowing for more time for dialogue on the proposals and a negotiated consensus.

This announcement follows weeks of protests across the nation and around the globe, which, today, led to an unprecedented general strike involving shutdowns of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange and Ben-Gurion Airport. In Canada, the Israeli Embassy in Ottawa and Israel's Consular offices in Toronto and Montreal followed the civil servants labour union's instructions to close all missions abroad.

In response to Netanyahu's postponement, Shimon Koffler Fogel, President and CEO of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, issued the following statement:

"The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs welcomes today's decision from Prime Minister Netanyahu to delay the government's judicial reform legislation. For those of us in the Diaspora, today's decision is evidence that our faith in the strength of Israel's democratic system is well placed. This is an example of a truly effective democracy in action.

"Over the past several weeks, hundreds of thousands of Israelis have exercised the most cherished of democratic rights by peacefully protesting

a governmental decision for which there is yet no consensus. We're encouraged that the reaction of the Israeli government not only shows a willingness to listen to the voices of the people but, more importantly, also proves that the power – as it should – remains with the citizens of the country. And, to the extent that our own intervention with Israel's political leadership on behalf of our community is concerned, we are gratified that Canadian Jews have been heard, and factored into the decision announced today.

"While calling a country with wide-spread public displays of dissent a "vibrant democracy" may sound counterintuitive, it's those very protests that make Israel a healthy and productive democracy – one in which peaceful objection is heard, and one in which change is possible. It is our hope that the decision to suspend the judicial reform proposal will allow Israel time to build towards a broad consensus.



Leaders from Na'amat Alberta and Canada attended a recent Solidarity Conference in Israel.

"The government's decision must be met with a good faith effort on the part of the opposition parties, engaging in a constructive dialogue and ensuring people feel part of the policy process. Israel was founded on the principle of inclusion and must reaffirm those values at every opportunity. While there may not be uniformity around every decision, Canadian Jews must express unity around the existence of Israel and her contributions to the world, and acknowledge healthy debate is part of a continually evolving and growing democracy."

## Reconciling *Cont. from page 19*

happening. It sets the conditions for more Arab countries to normalize relations with Israel. UAE seems determined to lead in this direction. The two countries (UAE and Israel) have quickly embraced each other. A huge number of Israelis have travelled to UAE since the Accords and are being welcomed. Trade between the countries is growing exponentially. Engagement between the countries is growing quickly at all levels.

Israel is a robust democracy, but democracy is being challenged all over the world, including in Israel. I have confidence Israel will find its balance. Israel is a maturing country. Its economy is flourishing. Its political and legal systems are undergoing change. Change may be painful but is necessary. Israel's improved relations with other Arab states will ultimately create conditions which will hopefully lead to a peaceful resolution with the Palestinians. It may take time, but I believe it will happen.

In the meantime, we have a choice. We can support

Israel on its path to change, or we can join with the chorus of its detractors who aggressively advocate for its delegitimization or even its demise. If we support Israel, we have an opportunity to contribute to its improvement. On our trip we met with eight members of the Knesset, including David Rothman, who is responsible for leading the judicial reforms, Amichai Chikli, Minister of Diaspora Affairs and Eli Cohen, Minister of Foreign Affairs. We engaged in discussion, and sometimes we challenged them. The fact that all of these Knesset members, including influential ministers, took the time to meet with us is evidence to me that, on some level, Israelis care about the opinions of Diaspora Jewry. I am under no illusion that we changed the world, or Israel, through one visit, but I am hopeful that we may have contributed to that change in some way.

There is a concerning lack of room in public discourse for middle ground when it comes to Israel. All public criticism is ammunition for its opponents. Its critics are many, its supporters precious few. We cannot abandon Israel in its time of need, which seems to be all too often. We must continue to support it and continue to hope and advocate for positive change. Change is unpredictable and frustratingly slow, but it can also occur unexpectedly. So many are trying to influence change to Israel's detriment. We must try to counter that.

Israel's issues are complicated, but they are not hopeless. Quite the contrary. Everything about Israel's survival and success is hopeful. Many of the people I met, both in the UAE and Israel, have reinforced that view. In my wildest fantasies, I never expected to be part of a delegation of Canadian Jews being welcomed into a Sheikh's palace in Abu Dhabi and treated as an honoured guest; or to visit an interfaith centre in an Arab country where Jews, Christians and Muslims are welcomed; and then to eat dinner at a kosher restaurant. If those things are possible, anything is possible.

*Ellery Lew is a past president of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton.*

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# Israel at 75: Rally around what's right and celebrate the remarkable

By Doug Seserman

Many supporters of Israel in the U.S. and around the world are asking themselves: How should we celebrate the modern state's milestone 75th anniversary, especially this year in a time of historic controversy?

The truth is that at a moment like this, celebrating Israel is more important than ever.

Indeed, the days when people supported Israel "just because" are mostly behind us. For Zionism to survive and for Israel to thrive, we need a fresh, compelling rallying cry to mobilize a new generation around a vision for 21st-Century Zionism.

Amid today's heated discourse about what's wrong when it comes to Israel, celebrating the Jewish State doesn't have anything to do with avoiding controversies. Those issues must still be discussed robustly. Rather, this new approach centers on rallying around what's right, and celebrating the remarkable aspects of Israel.

Take, for instance, Israel's contributions to achieving the medical breakthroughs that will help humanity live longer and live healthier. A new study from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU) researchers sheds light on this longevity-oriented thinking. The study found that nearly 20% of those who use statins — the most commonly used medication in lowering blood cholesterol, prescribed to tens of millions in the West like myself — develop muscle symptoms called "statin myopathy" that include weakness and pain. Now, the same research team is seeking collaboration with the pharmaceutical industry to push forward standardized production and licensing of a medication that would treat statin myopathy.

Therein lies Israel's hallmark of ingenuity. Israeli researchers helped us discover a problem that we didn't even know we had — in fact, one that arose from a drug we took to solve a different problem — and then in the context of the same study, they're already seeking the solution to the newly discovered problem.

This is precisely the kind of breakthrough innovation that defines Israel at this month's milestone anniversary. At its core, the start-up nation

of Israel isn't simply about the next unicorn company. It's about a future where Israel is living up to the nation's promise of being a "Migdal Or"— a beacon of light to the world by helping to solve some of humanity's greatest challenges.

Envisioning Israel's future also harkens back to the modern state's roots — namely, the pioneering spirit of David Ben-Gurion, Israel's founder and first Prime Minister. Ben-Gurion was a visionary who essentially saw the future amid his quest to effect change in the present. He foresaw that Israelis could thrive in the arid desert environment of Negev. Today, Israel's success story in that southern region presents a replicable model for not only inhabiting but thriving in desert environments worldwide.

With this sentiment in mind, Americans for Ben-Gurion University (A4BGU), a community of like-minded individuals that supports the university bearing Ben-Gurion's name and raises awareness around his legacy more broadly, is celebrating Israel's 75th anniversary this month by amplifying the modern scientific technologies that will be shaping the future of Israel and the world.

On April 23, A4BGU's third annual signature virtual experience, "Celebrating the Remarkable," will spotlight the medical science innovations and other breakthroughs that embody David Ben-Gurion's pioneering spirit.

Celebrating the Remarkable 3 participants will discover the cutting-edge work of BGU's Prof. Galit Katarivas Levy, whose research focuses on the development of biomedical materials using different 3D printing technologies, and whose lab is involved in developing an implant for controlled release of a chemotherapy drug treating brain cancer. They'll also learn about Dr. Moshe Elkebets, whose laboratory focuses primarily on performing translational experiments on targeted therapeutics and immunotherapy for gynecologic and head and neck cancers.

The fact that the event will be hosted by Dr. Mike Varshavski (aka "Dr. Mike"), a board-certified family



Over 40 volunteers from the Calgary Jewish community came together to pack 150 food hampers for Ukrainian refugees for Good Deeds Day - in partnership with CJF, Calgary JCC and BBYO.

medical physician and social media influencer who has amassed more than 20 million followers across digital platforms, acknowledges the importance of coming together to envision Israel's future. With his gift for identifying and exposing medical misinformation, and making complex subjects more understandable, Dr. Mike meets younger generations where they are. American Jewish organizations can stand to take a page from that playbook as we begin to imagine an Israel over the next 75 years when it turns 150.

Through advancing 3D printing, AI, and other emerging technologies, Israel plays its natural role as a pioneer — creating knowledge and sharing it with the world for all of humanity.

As we look to the future, let's carry with us the spirit of David Ben-Gurion, the visionary who set us on this path to begin with. And especially in this time of controversy, let's celebrate in a way that's consistent with both our Jewish and human values. Let's rally around what's right — by celebrating the remarkable that is Israel.

Doug Seserman is the CEO of Americans for Ben-Gurion University.

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## Calgary Jewish Academy hosts two Pesach seders

By Joseph Tappenden, CJA

For the first time since 2019, the Calgary Jewish Academy hosted both our school wide model Passover seder and preschool seder. Both events were vibrant and joyous, with students and teachers prepared with the energy and ruach to mark the occasion. The gym was decorated with colorful Passover-themed decorations, the air was filled with the aroma of fresh flowers, and the tables were adorned with traditional seder plates, complete with all the necessary elements, from the bitter herbs to the symbolic shank bone.

As the students made their way through the order of the event, they sang traditional Passover songs, including *Mah Nishtana*, *Dayenu*, *Chad Gadya*, which added to the festive atmosphere. The Grade 9 students, in particular, were impressive in their leadership of the Seder, confidently leading their peers through each step of the ceremony.

The meal that followed was a highlight of the event, with the delicious smell of Matzah pizza wafting through the gym. Students eagerly tucked into their slices, savoring the unique taste of the unleavened bread, while the chocolate Matzah provided a sweet ending to the meal.

In the preschool Seder, the young students were a delight to watch as they enthusiastically participated by asking questions, sharing stories, and singing songs all while learning about the significance of Passover. Those that were in attendance certainly felt a lot of nachas watching CJA's youngest students show off their learning.

Overall, the Passover celebration at CJA was a wonderful example of the school's commitment to creating a vibrant and inclusive Jewish community. It was a time to come together, celebrate traditions, and build lasting memories.

## March of the Living

Cont. from page 4

of ŻOB commanders Zivia Lubetkin and Yitzhak (Antek) Zuckerman; and Nir Yaari, grandson of a resistance fighter, Bela Hazan Yaari.

Addressing the ceremony at Auschwitz-Birkenau, the President of Italy, Sergio Mattarella, said, "Dear survivors, dear youth. We are here today to remember and pay tribute to the millions of victims of the bloodthirsty Nazi regime, whose atrocious crimes against humanity were enabled by the complicity of European fascist rulers, who handed over their own

fellow citizens to their torturers. Such crimes shall never be forgotten nor forgiven."

He stressed, "Today is Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. Remembering is a part of our commitment. It is proof that, against the standard-bearers of oblivion, memory wins. To state how proud we are when we strive to be "human beings," to reaffirm "never again".

Dr. Shmuel Rosenman, International March of the Living Chair and CEO addressed the ceremony, and said, "The late Elie Wiesel reminded us many times, of this important truth: When you listen to a witness, you become a witness. Since that first March took place in

1988, we have brought back with us to Auschwitz hundreds of survivors – who have created hundreds of thousands of dedicated young witnesses. This new young generation of witnesses have committed to be the bearers of the survivors' memories – to transmit the torch of memory to their own children."

He added, "Each time we return to Poland, each time a Holocaust survivor shares his or her story of survival, we are performing an act of modern day resistance, and proclaiming this same powerful reality: Hatred did not win."

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from the **Sources**  
by Eliezer Segal

**Making the  
desert bloom**

Perhaps some of my readers will be observing “Bloomsday” on June 16. This is the date on which the events of James Joyce’s novel *Ulysses* take place. The book recounts the banal doings of its hero, Mr. Leopold Bloom, as he goes about his business and diversions in various locations in Dublin on that day in the year 1904.

As his name might suggest, Bloom was of Jewish lineage, though he had converted to Christianity no fewer than three times. Nevertheless, his acquaintances all regarded him as a Jew, for better or for worse, as did he himself. At any rate, the novel is packed with references to Jewish culture and history, much of it mashed up and tossed about in the author’s experimental stream-of-consciousness style. The Judaic references in *Ulysses* are not confined to the Bible or ancient Hebrew texts. For example, it occasionally alludes to links between biblical Moses and his later namesakes Maimonides, Mendelssohn and Montefiore.

I find it remarkable that *Ulysses* contains several mentions of the Zionist movement which was still in its infancy in 1904, barely seven years after the first Zionist Congress in Basel. One particular instance took the form of a leaflet that Bloom picked up early in the narrative. It promoted a project called “Agendath Netaim,” which offered an opportunity to invest in a model farm at Kinnereth on the lakeshore of Tiberias.” He begins reading the advertisement in a very non-kosher butcher shop run by one Dlugacz, presumably a Jew, as he is awaiting his breakfast order of pork kidney; and he retains it throughout the day. The newspaper cutting is mentioned more than a dozen times in the novel.

Anybody familiar with Hebrew will recognize “Agendath” as a corruption of “*agudath*,” = “association.” Although it can be easily explained as a copyist’s error, the sort we would now blame on a computer’s auto-correct function, Joyce scholars devoted much energy and erudition to determining whether to ascribe it to Joyce himself—either as a mistake or as an intentional pun of the kind that permeates his writing—or to the typesetters.

In the advertisement, the contact address was given as “*Bliebtreustrasse 34, Berlin.*” In reality, however,

that enterprise was established in 1905 (a year later than the date of the story), and the office at that address would not exist until 1907 or 1908 at the earliest. In 1910, the company was officially registered with the Turkish authorities, and its mandate was outlined in a Hebrew pamphlet published in Constantinople in 1910.

By 1912 the newly erected building in Berlin housed several offices devoted to selling real estate in Palestine, including the “Tiberias Land and Plantation Corporation, Ltd.” The various enterprises promoted by these corporations, whether marketed as financial investments or as opportunities for personal fulfilment, strove to persuade potential investors to purchase lands from the Turkish government with prospects of lush farms, sanatoriums (presumably built upon the famous hot springs of Tiberias) and orchards brimming with olives, oranges, almonds and citrons. The mission of Agudat Netaim was to lay the groundwork for economically viable agricultural settlements that would then be sold at a profit to potential immigrants. Several prominent Zionist leaders were counted among the directors and investors in Agudat Netaim, which continued to function for several decades. Joyce would have known something about projects of that sort from a collection of essays on Zionist theory and practice published in 1916, of which he owned a copy.

As a sensitive and knowledgeable intellectual living amidst the complexities of modern European society, we hardly need to seek special justifications for Joyce’s choice of a “wandering Jew” in Dublin as a contemporary exemplar of the Ulysses of classical myth. His fascination with the Jewish question was cultivated during the central period of his life that he spent teaching English in Trieste. Trieste then belonged to the Hapsburg (Austro-Hungarian) empire, and was a major cultural hub with a cosmopolitan Jewish populace. Joyce’s social circle included several close Jewish friends and students.

Nonetheless, it is widely held that there was another, more immediate motive underlying his decision to focus his story on a Jewish hero. Ireland at the time was, after all, undergoing tensions that were very similar to those of the Jews. Although—in contrast to

the Jews—most Irish folk were dwelling on their native soil, they also experienced a history of religious and cultural persecution.

In one of his associative rants, Bloom fantasized about the interwoven histories of the two peoples, their languages and literatures, a theme that he traced back to the division into languages as described in the biblical myth of the tower of Babel. In this extraordinary passage, he made reference to “the presence of guttural sounds, diacritic aspirations, epenthetic and servile letters in both languages.” He surveyed the kindred literatures of the two peoples, “comprising the works of rabbis and culdees, Torah, Talmud (Mischna and Ghemara), Massor, Pentateuch, Book of the Dun Cow, Book of Ballymote, Garland of Howth, Book of Kells.” Each nation dreamed of ultimate “restoration in Chanah David of Zion and the possibility of Irish political autonomy or devolution.”


Joyce went on to declare: “What anthem did Bloom chant partially in anticipation of that multiple, ethnically irreducible consummation?”

“Kolod balejwaw pnimah  
“Nefesch, jehudi, homijah.”

The familiar Zionist anthem “HaTikvah [= the hope]”, which had been composed in 1878 and officially adopted in 1903, was thus known in June 1904 to Leopold Bloom (at least its opening lines), and to Joyce by 1920. It speaks of the dispersed nation’s enduring hope “to be a free nation in our land, / The land of Zion and Jerusalem.”

As it happened, the song that would be adopted in 1926 as the anthem of free Ireland expresses uncannily similar sentiments, proclaiming that “Some have come from a land beyond the wave, / Sworn to be free, no more our ancient sireland, / Shall shelter the despot or the slave.”

*‘From the Sources’ by Eliezer Segal  
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Am Yisrael Chai  
from  
Steve Eichler,  
Tracey Rumig,  
Oscar & Alanis

**Happy 75th Birthday  
- Am Yisrael Chai**  
from Joe and Robyn Oppenheim



Peace, Joy and  
Love to Israel



from Stan &  
Carey Smith and family

Peace, Joy and Love to Israel



from Eva &  
Gordan Hoffman  
and family




Yom Huledet Sameach Yisrael  
from Charlene and Gerry Molotsky

L’Chaim Israel -  
for another 75 and beyond!

Peace, Joy and Love to Israel

from  
Arlein Hoffman Chetner  
and family



Peace, Joy and  
Love to Israel

from  
Rabbi Cantor Russell G. Jayne  
& Russ Janiger




Yom Huledet Sameach Yisrael  
from Ruth Dvorkin & family

# Serving shakshuka and labne ice cream for Yom Ha'atzmaut

By Shannon Sarna

(The Noshier via JTA) – This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the independent, modern state of Israel – a great occasion for a party. I think we can all agree that shakshuka is probably one of the greatest dishes ever created. It's easy, simple and you can usually make it from stuff you already have in the house: canned tomatoes, spices and eggs. You can add vegetables like roasted eggplant, fresh (or frozen) spinach or cheese like feta or goat cheese.

It's also versatile in terms of size: You can make a small portion or a much larger one.

Shakshuka for a crowd is ideal for brunch entertaining. Serve it up with some hummus, chopped Israeli salad and fresh pita or other good bread for dipping. B'tayavon!

**Ingredients:**

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 large onion
- 4 garlic cloves
- 1 12-ounce jar roasted red peppers, drained and chopped (can also use freshly roasted peppers, skin removed and chopped)
- 2 28-ounce cans diced tomatoes
- 1 tablespoon paprika
- 2 teaspoons cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon caraway seeds
- salt and pepper to taste
- 6-8 eggs
- 2-4 ounces feta cheese
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
- pita or fresh bread for serving

**Directions:**

Preheat oven to 375 F. Grease a 9-by-11 Pyrex dish.

Add oil to a large saute pan (pan should be a little on the deeper side) over medium heat. Add onion and cook for 4-5 minutes, until soft and translucent. Add garlic and cook 1 minute. Add roasted bell pepper and spices and continue to cook for 3-4 minutes, until fragrant.

Scrape mixture into greased Pyrex dish. Add the 2 cans of diced tomatoes and mix.

Place in oven for 30-35 minutes, until sauce has thickened slightly and tomatoes are cooked.

Carefully remove pan from oven. Using a tablespoon, create 6-8 wells in the tomato sauce. Crack eggs and gently place in each well.

Place pan back into oven for 3-5 minutes, or until whites have just set and egg yolks are still runny. (Or to your liking).

Remove from oven. Sprinkle with feta cheese (optional) and fresh parsley. Serve hot with fresh pita or bread.

**Serve labne for dessert**

Labne lovers rejoice - you can now enjoy your favorite yogurt dip as a dessert. If you love tangy, tart frozen yogurt, you are going to love this easy frozen dessert topped with tahini, silan (date honey), regular honey and/or crumbled halvah.

This labne ice cream is incredibly simple to make, but you will need an ice cream machine to make this recipe. If you don't want to invest in a vanilla bean for this project (they can be pricey), just substitute with 2 teaspoons of good quality, pure vanilla extract.

**Ingredients:**

- 16 oz labne (can use homemade or store-bought)
- 1 cup heavy cream

- seeds of 1 vanilla bean OR 2 tsp good quality pure vanilla extract
- 2/3 cup honey
- tahini, silan, honey and crumbled halvah toppings (optional)

**Directions:**

Make sure to chill the bowl of your ice cream maker overnight.

In a large bowl whisk together the labne, heavy cream, honey and seeds of vanilla bean (or pure vanilla extract).

Place in ice cream maker according to machine direction and allow to churn 20-25 minutes.

Remove ice cream from machine and place in a container. Cover top of ice cream with plastic wrap.

Freeze for a few hours or overnight.

Serve with drizzled tahini, silan (date honey),

regular honey or crumbled halvah if desired.

*Shannon Sarna is the editor of The Noshier.*

*The Noshier 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 TheNoshier.com.*



Shakshuka (Photo The Noshier)



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