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# Joyous paintings on Season Finale of Art and Scroll: April 16

By Shelley Werner

The beautiful art on the cover of this month's *Alberta Jewish News* is by author, artist, scholar and maggidah (spiritual storyteller) Shoshannah Brombacher, from Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

"Art makes the world within visible. My art is a tribute to music and to our heritage, especially the Chassidic world," says the artist. "The Kotzker Rebbe once listened to a storyteller in the street talking about the Baal Shem Tov and stated, 'He told what he wanted and I heard what I needed.' That is art."

The works of Shoshannah Brombacher bring alive the intense emotions and intergenerational memories of our identities. The impact of art on the spiritual interpretation of a Jewish tradition cannot be underestimated. Her colour palette gives life to the exuberant shapes and forms that dance their way across her paintings. To see the art is to touch our collective soul that reaches back through time to modern day.

Brombacher holds a Ph.D. from Leyden University (Holland) in medieval Hebrew poetry of the seventeenth century Sephardic Community of Amsterdam and has contributed to projects about Jewish manuscripts, books, and tombstone inscriptions. She taught, researched and studied in Leyden, Amsterdam (the Ets Haim Library and HetJoods Historisch Museum), Jerusalem, at the Free University of Berlin, and NewYork.

Her hearing loss forced her to leave the academic

world and dedicate herself to art and writing. She organized courses for adults and children and currently lives in Berlin, where she dedicates her time to art, writing, lecturing, and telling Chassidic stories. She states: "For me, family and art are inseparable parts of my Jewish life. My academic background brings deeper meaning to my art, understanding of life and devotion to HaShem."

The teachings of the Chassidic Masters fascinated her since she discovered them in her father's study long ago. Her paintings are a tribute to the Chassidic way of life spreading light in a dark world while enriching our hearts and minds. Her themes include Jewish lore and legends, travels (the Venice murals), social justice (poetry of Nazim Hikmet Ran, OWS), classical music (Beethoven series), poetry in many languages, and custom art for special occasions, like weddings, kaddish and bar/bat mitzvah.

Brombacher has participated in, curated and organized international art exhibitions and won several awards and grants for her work which is in museums, (private) collections and institutions in all five continents.

She is currently the vice-president of the American Guild of Judaic Art, and contributes regularly to other magazines, blogs or calendars.

She has authored and illustrated several books and articles including *Meetings with Remarkable Souls* (E. Klein, illustr. S. Brombacher), *Letters of Light* (A. L. Raskin, illustr. S. Brombacher), and *When the Shouting Began* (S. Sher, illustr. S. Brombacher). Brombacher designed calendars, posters, book and CD cover-art for synagogues, institutions, and has created posters for museums, films, the Yiddish Rep Theater (New York), Occupy Wall Street and others. Exhibitions include Liberaal Joodse Gemeente, The Hague, The Netherlands (solo), University of Leyden, The Netherlands, and Rova haYehudit, Jerusalem (solo).

Her work is an homage to classical music, poetry, Jewish and Chassidic stories, and traveling. Her love for people and memories of eras gone but not forgotten, cities where she lived and worked, like Amsterdam, Berlin, Jerusalem, New York, or visited, like Prague and Sicily create the main ingredients of her art.

Like the water of the canals of her native Amsterdam, Rembrandt's city, the deeper you look into her paintings, the more you see. "A reflection of a reflection...look, what you see is not what you see. My art contains texts and letters, lets writing come alive, and reflects my deep connection with the Dutch 17th century Masters, German



Shoshannah Brombacher's painting "The Seder Plate" is on the cover of this month's *Alberta Jewish News*. Pictured above: "Miriam Dancing."



Artist Shoshannah Brombacher

expressionism, Russian art and medieval miniatures."


Shoshannah has created many art works for Pesach, wrote a complete Haggadah, series of the 15 Steps, Chad Gadya, Echad mee Yodea, in black and white or in color, painted the seder, and more. Pesach means to jump, like the angel of death jumped over the houses of the Jewish slaves in Egypt. In the painting the Chassid jumps for joy over the liberation.

Shoshannah Brombacher will be the featured guest on Wednesday April 16, 2025, 7:00 pm MDT on Art and Scroll Studio, a live zoom series that celebrates the makers and creators of Judaic art. She will share her incredible journey highlighting her inspiration and motivation for lighting the fire of spiritual intension in her work.


To view a short preview of her artistic journey, visit <https://bit.ly/ShoshannahBrombacherPreview>

For tickets for this virtual and free program visit <https://bit.ly/ShoshannahBrombacherTickets>


Shelley Werner is the host of Art and Scroll Studio zoom series that celebrates the makers and creators of Judaica Art.



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# Belzberg family welcomes Israeli Scholar to U of C

By Maxine Fischbein

The appointment of historian Dr. Ofer Idels as Associate Fellow in the Dr. Jenny and Hy Belzberg Israeli Scholar Program is the most recent highlight in decades of Israel studies and academic exchange initiatives at the University of Calgary. (See feature story in the Feb. edition of *AJNews*).

Among other notable contributions to the U of C — including their significant role in securing the Mordechai Richler papers for the University — Jenny Belzberg and her late husband Hy, of blessed memory, supported various Israel studies programs for decades, sometimes in partnership with other community philanthropists and organizations including the Kahanoff Foundation.

In 1985, an endowment gift by the Belzbergs helped to fund an Ottawa-based Canada-Israel Exchange Program that arranged for scholars from Israel to come to Canadian universities and vice versa.

Later, an Israel Studies Program was established at the U of C when Notre Dame Professor Allan Dowty served as the first Kahanoff Chair of Israel Studies between 2003 and 2006. This initiative was funded in large part by a grant from the Kahanoff Foundation and was also generously supported by the Belzbergs.

When the decision was made to start a full Israel Studies Program at the U of C, Israeli scholar Shlomit Keren was hired as associate professor of history and director of Israel studies. She was succeeded by Professor David Tal in 2009.

Although the Kahanoff Foundation wound down their initiative a few years later, Israeli academics continued to come and go.

Following Hy Belzberg’s passing in 2017, Jenny entered into discussions with the U of C toward a second Belzberg endowment that would — together with their original endowment — fund a permanent program. It was born in 2020 with the appointment of Dr. Angy Cohen as the inaugural scholar.

For decades, various Israel Studies initiatives were overseen by Dr. David Bercuson, who played an

instrumental role in launching the Belzberg Program.

Bercuson has served at the U of C for an astonishing 55 years, making him the longest-serving professor currently working in the History Department. In addition to his many other accomplishments as a professor, speaker and author, Bercuson — whose main foci include military and political history — served as Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies from 1989 through 1996.

Today, the Dr. Jenny and Hy Belzberg Israeli Scholar Program is administered by the Dean’s Office, Faculty of Arts, Bercuson told *AJNews*, adding that this is “precisely where it should reside.”

Bercuson says it is his impression that the faculty received numerous applications for the two-year postdoctoral associate position Ofer Idels now holds.

“Lots of interesting things happen [in Israel] that don’t have anything to do with political stuff as we know it. That was a major reason in the first place to have this program, so I think the selection of Ofer is a brilliant one,” Bercuson said, adding that he is looking forward to spending time with Idels.

“I’ve been really pleased with the academics we have attracted,” said Jenny Belzberg, who hosted an intimate gathering at the Calgary Golf and Country Club on January 16 to welcome Idels. Attendees included representatives from the U of C Faculty of Arts and the Calgary Jewish community and members of the Belzberg family including Jenny’s Toronto-based grandson Bram, his wife and their two children.

At 97, Belzberg — still going strong — says it is time to share the program with a new generation and she is thrilled that Bram is now involved.

Jenny Belzberg is also moved by the support of the Faculty of Arts, which she described as deeply committed to the program.

“The say it is a unique program,” Belzberg told *AJNews*. “This is very important to them.”

“We try to also share it with the Jewish community,” said Belzberg, who hopes that local Jewish organizations will invite Idels to speak with their members.



U of C Israeli Scholar Ofer Idels.

Community members can take much comfort in the fact that Jewish scholars are helping to educate U of C students at a time when antizionism, antisemitism and misinformation about Israel and the Middle East abound on university campuses.

While details are not yet finalized, Idels is gearing up for a course on Modern Israeli History in the fall of 2025. David Bercuson looks forward to reprising an undergraduate course on Modern Jewish History he had previously taught. Watch [www.ucalgary.ca](http://www.ucalgary.ca) for further information.

*Maxine Fischbein is a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter.*



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# Chag Pesach sameach!

From everyone at the Calgary Police Service, we wish peace, blessings and a joyous Passover spent with your loved ones.





# Calgary sees healthy turnout for women’s health event

By Holly Shifrah

Since 1911, March 8 has been observed by millions internationally as International Women’s Day (IWD). The first IWD was marked by labour and suffrage protests, issues which remained an important focus for many of the holiday’s early decades. Since the United Nations officially recognized and began promoting IWD in 1977, it has evolved into a day to focus on any number of women’s issues. This year, Jamie Keltz, the Emerging Gen Coordinator for the Calgary Jewish Federation, and Yanina Rabinovich, the Arts and Culture Manager for the Calgary Jewish Community Centre (JCC) utilized the occasion to highlight women’s health issues with an educational event, ElevateHER, featuring presentations from: Amy Bondar, nutritional therapist and mind-body eating coach; Corinne Langford, physiotherapist and pelvic floor specialist; and Debra Carnat MSW, yoga and meditation practitioner. The event, which was held at the Calgary JCC, kicked off with Havdalah, followed by presentations on healthy eating and pelvic floor health, and was capped off with a guided meditation session. Participants were seated at beautifully set tables filled with hors d’oeuvres, fruit, desserts, and wine; details that elevated what could have been a simple lecture event into a gathering that felt more like a girls’ night out.

There was a nice crowd of women in attendance representing all sorts of ages and life stages. When asked if the turnout was as expected Jamie Keltz said, “We were really happy with the turnout! Our goal was to keep the event intimate to foster connection and allow participants to engage directly with the speakers. It ended up being the perfect ‘Goldilocks’ size—just right.” That goal was certainly achieved as evidenced by the attendees willingness to not only engage in friendly conversations with each

other, but also to enthusiastically ask questions of the speakers.

Keltz and Rabinovich both expressed excitement for organizing more women’s health events moving forward. Says Keltz on the topic, “We received fantastic feedback from attendees, and there seems to be a genuine interest in continuing the conversation.” This is good news for Jewish women in Calgary, and women throughout the city and province. As Keltz pointed out, women’s health is “a topic that isn’t often at the forefront of community conversations.” The negative consequences of that reality are especially apparent when it comes to pelvic floor health, one of the evening’s topics. According to the Alberta Women’s Health Foundation (AWHF), around 23% of women are affected by pelvic floor disorders. But because of taboos surrounding discussing pelvic floor issues, many women don’t know what’s normal (a problem Corinne Langford emphasized in her presentation). The AWHF, in their report “Surveying the Silence” based on the results of a survey of over 2,200 Albertans, says that “many individuals do not seek help due to the taboo and stigmatizing nature” of pelvic floor disorders. This is particularly troubling given that most women who do receive treatment find treatment effective. That means any number of women are suffering unnecessarily as a direct result of discomfort talking openly about pelvic floor health. So events like ElevateHER not only shine a light on under-discussed topics for the



ElevateHER was held at the JCC this month featuring informative presentations on a variety of topics related to women's health.

direct participants, but may help shift the needle on what’s culturally acceptable to talk about generally; a change which can only be to the benefit of women throughout our communities.

Keltz and Rabinovich both expressed a sense of gratitude for the success of the event, with Keltz commenting specifically on the “enthusiasm and support from the community.” One hopes that sense of gratitude is returned not merely by the attendees for an enjoyable and educational evening; nor just by the presenters for the opportunity to share their wisdom with an enthusiastic audience; but also by women throughout the community who will surely benefit from the impact that destigmatizing and highlighting women’s health issues will have. Keltz and Rabinovich truly made the most of IWD by organizing an event designed to have a lasting positive impact on the women they serve, an impact that is sure to ripple outward.

Holly Shifrah is a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter.

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# What to watch this Pesach

Holly Shifrah, LJI Reporter

There’s a dearth of movies and television centred on Jewish holidays, but when it comes to Jewish holiday viewing, Pesach may have the most abundant choices. Below you’ll find a list of options for various ages. Watch all seven over the course of the holiday or pick and choose one or two. There’s something for everybody, from old Hollywood cinephiles, to theatre kids (of all ages), to history nerds. Chag sameach!

### 1. The Ten Commandments

This 1956 Paramount Pictures classic starring Charlton Heston as Moses can only be described as epic. The nearly four hour run time isn’t for very young or impatient audiences, but remains a beloved family watching experience with good reason. It was nominated for seven Academy Awards, winning the Oscar for Best Special Effects (even if those effects may fail to impress contemporary audiences). This dramatization of the Exodus story was partially filmed on location in Egypt.

**Where to watch?** Purchase or rent from AppleTV or Prime Video, or check your local cable listings to see if it’s being aired during Passover (as it often is).

**What’s it rated?** G, Common Sense Media rating: 9+. Grown-ups may want to have age-appropriate conversations with kids about outdated depictions of gender and race; but DeMille’s The Ten Commandments holds up well compared to many movies of its time.

**Runtime:** 3 hours 51 minutes

### 2. A Rugrats Passover

Millennial parents especially will enjoy watching this one with their younger kids. This short episode from the 90s Nickelodeon cartoon, Rugrats, is a playful retelling of Exodus as it might be perceived by toddlers. More than that, it’s a humorous look at how various family and friends experience a seder. It is suffused with charming Yiddishkeit that is as warming as a bowl of matzah ball soup.

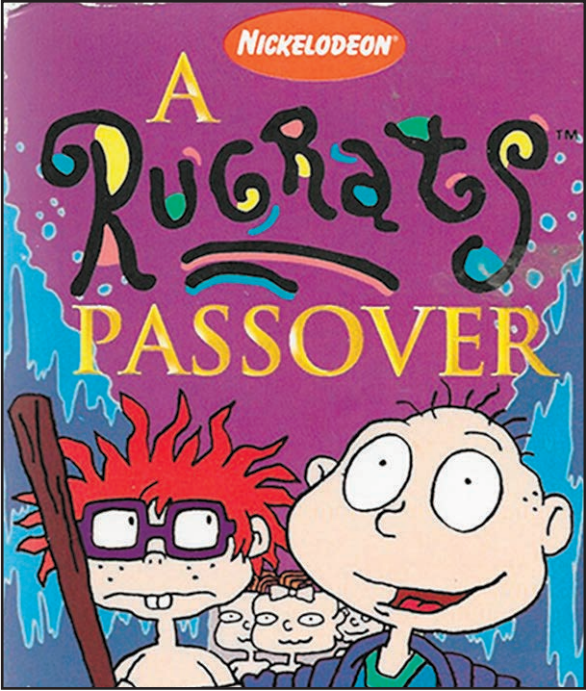
**Where to watch?** Purchase this season 3, episode 23 episode on AppleTV or stream it on Paramount+.

**What’s it rated?** G, Common Sense Media: 6+.

**Runtime:** 23 minutes

### 3. The Prince of Egypt

This star-studded, animated musical was released by DreamWorks in 1998. It features a score by award winning Jewish composer, Hans Zimmer. The equally accomplished Jewish composer and lyricist Stephen Schwartz (of Wicked fame) provided the songs; including “When You Believe,” which won the Oscar for Best Original Song. The Prince of Egypt is a uniquely beautiful visual experience featuring over 900 hand-painted backgrounds in a period when



studios started abandoning hand-drawn animation for entirely CGI production. Decades after its release, Jessica Toomer, writing for Syfy, called it “the greatest animated movie of all time.” Between the incredible cast, gorgeous art, and chill-inducing music, this is a movie the whole family will love and want to watch annually.

**Where to watch?** Purchase or rent on AppleTV, Cineplex, Prime Video, or the Microsoft Store.

**What’s it rated?** PG, Common Sense Media: 8+.

**Runtime:** 1 hour 39 minutes

### 4. The Prince of Egypt

Yes, you read that right. The Prince of Egypt indeed fills two slots in this list. In 2015 Stephen Schwartz and Philip LaZebnik began adapting the beloved family film for the stage. The show had its West End debut in 2020. It featured 18 new songs, including songs which fleshing out the female characters in the narrative as well as the Moses’s beautiful ballad Footprints on the Sand. In 2023 a professional recording of the West End production was made available for digital purchase or rental.

**Where to watch?** Purchase or rent from AppleTV or stream with a PrimeVideo account.

**What’s it rated?** Not Rated, but probably best for 10+. Younger kids will likely prefer the original.

**Runtime:** 2 hours 24 minutes

### 5. Moses

This 1995 Emmy-nominated Miniseries by TNT was part of The Bible Collection, which included ten stories from the Hebrew Bible (and seven from the Christian Gospels), starting in 1993 with Abraham. Moses was fifth in the series and is the most accurate adaption of the Biblical account of Moses on this list, perhaps ever. It covers Moses’ life from birth to death without shying away from details often left out (like Moses being slow of speech). The cast includes acting

heavyweights Sir David Suchet and Sir Christopher Lee, with Sir Ben Kingsley in the titular role.

**Where to watch?** The Madain Project has the full movie on its YouTube channel, or you can purchase DVDs of the The Bible Collection on Amazon or eBay.

**What’s it rated?** Not rated but probably better for 10+.

**Runtime:** 3 hours 2 minutes

### 6. Streit’s: Matzo and the American Dream

This 2016 documentary from director Michael Levine takes an in-depth look at the famous family business, whose matzah factory opened in Manhattan’s Lower East Side in 1925. What better way to spend part of your matzah-eating week than watching how it’s made? The documentary also investigates how life has changed in the Lower East Side, and the company’s fate as it tries to maintain close-knit employee relationships while facing the pressures of gentrification.

**Where to watch?** Kanopy (free for Calgary or Edmonton Public Library Card holders)

**What’s it rated?** TV-PG

**Runtime:** 1 hour 23 minutes

### 7. Lost Treasures of the Bible: Mysteries of the Exodus

This episode, from the 2024 National Geographic series which investigates Biblical archeology, spends much time focusing on a dig site uncovering Pi-Ramesses. It provides a fascinating, up-close look at archeological techniques used in this effort. It’s a secular, scientific look at what evidence is already available and what may yet be uncovered that may align with the scholarly theory that the Exodus story is neither completely historical nor completely mythological, but is a “mythologized history.” History nerds comfortable with a less precisely literal interpretation of the Biblical narrative will enjoy this documentary.

**Where to watch?** Stream on Disney+ or buy on Prime Video

**What’s it rated?** The series is rated TV-14, but this episode specifically is probably suitable for viewers younger than 14. Parents should view first and make the choice appropriate for their own family.

**Runtime:** 44 minutes



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Thinking of you during this time of reflection & renewal.



# The very best Matzah Lasagna

By Sonya Sanford

This easy take on a Passover classic is sure to become a family favorite.

Once you're halfway into Passover, and the leftovers from seder are long gone, do you find yourself craving something that will scratch the itch for doughy bread and silky pasta? That's when it's time to whip up a matzah lasagna, or "matzagna" as it's more lovingly called. While the dish's exact origins are unknown (although it's likely an Italian Jewish creation), matzah lasagna strongly resembles Sephardic mina, a popular Passover matzah pie made with layers of cooked spinach and melty cheese.

Every family has their distinct way of preparing matzah lasagna; some insist on including cottage cheese in lieu of ricotta, others rely on torn fresh mozzarella instead of shredded, and some swear that it's essential to soak your matzah before you assemble the lasagna. So, what makes this matzah lasagna different from all the other matzagnas?

This recipe simplifies as many steps as possible by utilizing prepared ingredients, while leaving room to customize and personalize your matzah lasagna. While the ingredient list is short and simple, there are a few musts to maximize flavor. Basil and thyme added to the ricotta mixture offer a fresh, punchy, herbaceous note, and the sharp cheddar combined with mozzarella heightens the savoriness and depth. And it may seem like you're adding a huge amount of ricotta, but trust the process because matzah is more drying than a noodle and requires a heftier amount of filling. If you're feeling ambitious, you can even go the extra mile and make your ricotta and marinara from scratch. Sometimes, I also like to add in a layer of

sauteed spinach or mushroom for a dose of fiber and nutrition.

Layered together and baked until browned and bubbly, matzagna is impossible to resist. Serving it to my family, my niece took one bite and enthusiastically exclaimed: "This tastes just like pizza!" followed by a request for seconds. Matzah lasagna is guaranteed to satisfy the kid in all of us.

Total Time: 1 hour. Yield: Serves 6-8.

### Ingredients

- 6-7 sheets matzah
- 3 ½ cups (1 jar/25 oz) marinara or your favorite tomato sauce
- 2 (16 oz) containers whole-milk ricotta
- 1 cup chopped basil + more for garnish
- 4-5 sprigs thyme, leaves removed from stems, about 2 tsp
- 1 large egg
- 1 tsp kosher salt
- ½ tsp black pepper, or to taste
- 5 cups (16 oz) shredded low-moisture mozzarella
- 1 ½ cups (5 oz) shredded cheddar cheese
- ¼ cup grated parmesan (optional)

### Instructions

Preheat the oven to 375°F.

Add the ricotta, chopped basil, thyme, egg, salt and pepper to a bowl, and mix until just combined.

Assemble the lasagna in a 9"x13" casserole dish that is at least 2.5"-3" deep. Start by adding 1 cup of the marinara to the bottom of the dish. Layer two sheets of matzah on the bottom, break as needed to fit them into a single layer. Top the matzah with 2 cups of the ricotta mixture (half of the mixture), and smooth it into an even layer with an offset spatula or the back of a spoon. Evenly top the ricotta with 2 cups of shredded mozzarella and ½ a cup of shredded cheddar.

Repeat the process by dolloping 1 cup of sauce



Matzah Lasagna. Photo: Sonya Sanford

over the shredded cheese. Top the sauce with two sheets of matzah, the remaining 2 cups of the ricotta mixture, followed by 2 cups of shredded mozzarella, and ½ a cup of shredded cheddar.

For the last layer, top the cheese layer with two sheets of matzah, then finish it off with the remaining tomato sauce (if you enjoy a saucier lasagna, you can add an additional cup of tomato sauce over the top before you finish it off with the shredded cheeses). Add the remaining 1 cup of mozzarella and ½ cup of cheddar. Finally, sprinkle the parmesan over the top.

Cover the lasagna with foil, and bake for 30 minutes covered.

Uncover the lasagna and bake for an additional 15-20 minutes or until browned and bubbly on top. Allow to cool for 15 minutes before serving so that the lasagna can set and hold its shape.

### Notes

This recipe requires one full jar of marinara, but if you like a saucier lasagna, add an additional cup (or a small 8 oz jar) of tomato sauce to the top of the lasagna.

To make the lasagna ahead, bake for 30 minutes covered, remove from the oven and allow to fully cool. Refrigerate or freeze the lasagna. If refrigerated, reheat at 375°F for 15 minutes covered, and 15 uncovered; and if it's frozen, reheat for 20 minutes covered, and 20-25 minutes uncovered.

*This story originally appeared on The Nosh.*



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Is it safe? *Cont. from page 15*

wooden benches and flower boxes to beautify a Kiryat Shmona public library for returning Israeli residents.

After Oct. 7, Canadian Jews raised a record \$140 million million to help Israel through the immediate emergency. While much of the funds went to aid evacuees from the Hamas attack in southern Israel—and some funds went to help evacuees from northern Israel—now, after 17 months, the continuing allocations are being done with longer-term planning in mind, including rebuilding the north.

On March 6, JFC-UIA announced it was allocating \$20 million to strengthen education in northern Israel, with funds also going to expand a community college located south of Metula, in Tel Hai.

“This Pan-Canadian Initiative, focused on “building forward better” through being a catalyst for transforming education in the north, to ensure stronger, more attractive communities and a better future for the people of the north, is just one example of Canadian federations playing a significant role as partners with the people of Israel,” said Steven Shulman, the CEO of the Jewish Federations of Canada UIA agency.

The Israeli government has already promised to repair the region’s popular ice hockey complex in Metula, known as the Canada Centre, the first Olympic-sized ice rink in the Holy Land. It was built in the 1990s with donations from Jewish Canadians.

The centre means a lot to the Zamirs because their son, who now runs a solar energy company in Edmonton, learned to play ice hockey there. Oren Zamir actually spent his high school years playing hockey in Alberta, and also played as a member of Israel’s junior national hockey team.

“Until a few weeks ago, there [were] a lot of soldiers over there, so I think it’s a big mess,” Michal Zamir said, recalling her last drive in the arena’s neighbourhood. “I saw the windows were broken.”

The fate of the Canada Centre has been a continued worry for another northern Israel resident with deep roots in Canada. Dr. Esther Silver was born in Calgary, raised in Toronto, but made aliyah. She now lives in Kfar Vradim, about an hour southwest of Metula.

Although she can see the Lebanese border clearly from her terrace, and Syria in the distance, her community was not ordered to move away after Oct. 7.

A former goalie when she lived in Canada, she is the manager of Israel’s national women’s hockey squad, whose members used to practice at the Canada Centre in Metula.

“While it was damaged secondarily to a missile hitting the swimming pool area...it caused damage to the whole site. So basically, the arena is shut down,” Silver told The CJN, adding that at least five of her players are among the evacuees and some have not returned to their homes.

“It will depend on funding from the government, and we hope and pray that we’ll come back because we have a lot of players from Metula.”

In spite of the lack of ice time for practice, Silver’s team made the trip to participate in February 2025 in the IIHF women’s hockey World Championships tournament for their division, held this year in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Despite having some team members currently serving in the IDF who weren’t permitted to take leave to come practice, and two other players who didn’t travel with the team for security reasons, the Israeli players racked up a silver medal.

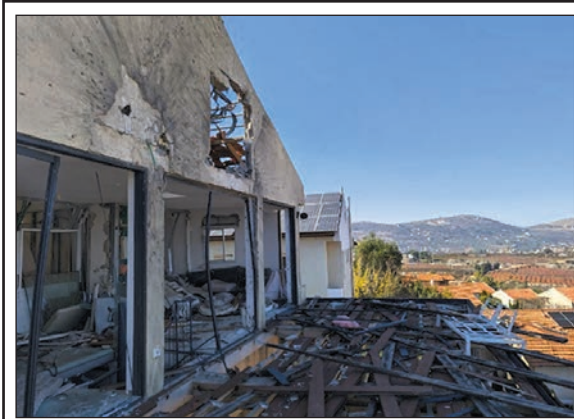
“It was pretty difficult getting our team together and getting to the tournament. But our girls are amazing. They’re so brave,” Silver said, adding that the Israelis were booed when they took to the ice, and local organizers refused to play the Israel national anthem on the live broadcasts when the Jewish team won.

Silver remained in Kfar Vradim during the war because she said Israeli authorities didn’t consider her community close enough to the Lebanese border.

“The government decided that only up to four kilometers away from the actual border were people to be evacuated,” she said, adding that Kfar Vradim is nine km away. “But that’s a fallacy, because people five and six kilometers from the war also had no time to react to missiles, and it gave us no special protection from being shot at.”

The IDF has an Iron Dome battery in her community, and she has a front row seat from her terrace to the hostilities.

“We were all pretty



Damage from Hezbollah rocket attack on Metula. (Nir Zamir photo)

exposed all the time. It’s been a difficult year.” Israel estimates 45 civilians were killed in the north during the war, including the 12 young Druze children playing soccer in Majdal Shams. A further 78 IDF soldiers lost their lives in battle in the area.

Silver herself lived through one particular close call that has left her, a psychotherapist who treats children with ADHD, with a form of post-traumatic stress disorder.

“One episode that scared the shit out of me, excuse me, but as a Canadian I’m not really used to full out war. One morning I was driving on the street just below me, and the siren sounded. I got out of the car and lay down on the ground, and I looked up. Tons of explosions. Rockets. The Iron Dome went up, and it was like ‘Oh, my God! I feared for my life!’”

She recalls that day a rocket hit an apartment half a kilometre from her and destroyed it. The tenants, who were themselves evacuees from communities a bit closer to the Lebanese border, were in the shelter and were unhurt. However, the same day, she remembers about 50 rockets had fallen, killing a young Arab Muslim man who was helping his brothers and sisters get into the bomb shelter.

“He was struck directly by a rocket, and they

*Continued on page 28*

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It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Celeste Reef, of blessed memory. Celeste leaves behind her husband Morris, sons Trevor (Melanie) of Toronto, Colin (Ilona) of Calgary and daughter Hayley (Mike) of Baltimore and her brother and sister in South Africa.

Celeste was also a beloved Savta to 14 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. Celeste battled cancer for five and half years and fought until the last minute when she died in her sleep on February 28th at age 82. Our family moved from South Africa to Calgary in January 1979, and our parents have lived in Toronto for the last 16 years. We love and miss you so much mom.

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Is it safe? *Cont. from page 27*

couldn't find any parts to bury, it was that bad.”

Silver has curtailed some of her practice, because it involved driving to treat patients in Karmiel, and running the gauntlet of Hezbollah rockets and shelling hitting her car.

“I'm 72 years old. Getting out of my car during a missile attack and lying on the ground is scary and not comfortable. So I stopped working in Karmiel. So it profoundly affected our work.”

Soon, she will be bidding farewell to the family of evacuees from Even Menachem, who were renting her lower floor after Oct. 7. The husband lost his job managing a store in Nahariya because of the constant rocket barrages which prevented him from making the commute. But the couple is determined to return home shortly, with their three children.

Financial problems are also motivating some returnees, Silver believes.

“A lot of the evacuees had problems renting apartments. Some not good people were jacking up the prices,” Silver said, adding she's spoken to a lot of people who will go back. “I have many patients who have been evacuated... and what they tell me is they can't afford to live anywhere else.”

During their absence, the Israeli government paid for the evacuees' shelter costs, either with free hotel accommodation, or provided funds to rent apartments and living costs.

Kfar Vradim's community became prominently featured after Oct. 7 because it was the hometown of one of the Israeli hostages captured into Gaza: Romi Gonen. The 24-year-old woman was taken by Hamas terrorists from the Nova music festival, and released only in January 2025, during the second ceasefire. Gonen's cousin, Maureen Leshem, lives in Toronto, and has been tirelessly campaigning for the release of her relative and all the hostages.

Yarden Gonen told Israeli media she and her sister would not likely come back to live in Kfar Vradim, a town of over 5,000 people, except for a visit, because the community was “crushed” by the IDF's Iron Dome unit there.

Back in Kfar Vradim, Esther Silver is more optimistic, and feels it is safe for evacuees to come back, as long as the IDF is ensuring peace.

Although she does have patients who, having been uprooted for nearly two years, will choose their new lives.

“Yesterday, just going to the beach, the place that we usually go to, [I saw] huge construction to repair all the damage that was done during the war, and I think that's going on everywhere, in Shlomi, all of the villages in the north, and hopefully the investments and the donations from abroad are going to speed that up, and obviously in the south which was totally devastated. But also up here we had a lot of damage, and I think that help is going to do a lot to encourage people to stay up here and to work. We need people to live here.

Silver had an invitation for Jews still living in her native country, dealing with spiking antisemitism.

“Of course, any Canadians who are thinking of escaping Canada to a safer place, as ironic as it sounds, our village is building new houses, and they have a high quality of life, and I totally recommend it.”

Michal and Nir Zamir received their last government evacuation support payment in February.

Michal has just arrived in Edmonton to spend the Passover holidays with her husband, their son's and their daughter's families, and five of their nine grandchildren.

Their two other daughters remain in Israel. One, who is single, does not want to return to Metula for now. She is staying in Binyamina.

“She said maybe in a few years, maybe,” her mother said. “When she feels safe and she sees there's no Hezbollah behind the border, then she might come back.”

Nir has forbidden their other daughter to bring her four children to Metula.

“Don't come to sleep in *Savta's* house, for now. We will tell you when to come, and it will be when we feel safer,” he said.

Nir may not return to Metula in person for quite some time. He is planning to remain in Edmonton, in a condo the couple bought. Michal, who will work remotely while in Canada, will go back to Metula in June.

“I hope you will come later,” she told her husband.

Michal is optimistic that Hezbollah has been weakened to the extent it is no longer able to wage war on northern Israel – after the IDF's targeted assassinations last fall of Hassan Nasrallah and other terrorist leaders, as well as the exploding pagers operation injuring 3,000 Hezbollah members.



Dr. Esther Silver's home in Kfar Vradim overlooks the border with Lebanon. (Supplied photo)

A two-month long IDF ground and air incursion into southern Lebanon ended in November, 2024 with a U.S. brokered ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah.

“Maybe time will change. Maybe. I don't know. I spoke to the Lebanese, and they said, they are against Hezbollah also, so maybe there's a little light in the end,” she said, explaining that she hopes the future looks “pink”.

“Michal, you were always naive, and you're still naive,” Nir replied.

“Nobody cannot even promise you 100 percent that from now to the future, it will be safe. We are Jewish people. We know that we'll have to fight all our lives for our safety and religion, and whatever. We know that our great-grandchildren will have to serve the army and protect the country forever.

“There is no easy way.”

The couple's roots in Metula go back two generations. Michal's grandparents were among the pioneers who founded the community. Her mother was born there. Nir and Michal originally lived in Tel Aviv after they married, but nearly forty years ago, they pulled up stakes and moved to Metula.

“We were Zionists. We wanted to come to live in the northern border of Israel,” Nir said.

After Oct. 7, the couple didn't flee Metula right away. Nir put on his army uniform, and, despite being decades older than the soldiers he was serving with, volunteered in a reserve unit to defend the town. But after a couple of weeks, the IDF ordered all the civilians to leave. Michal wouldn't go without Nir.

“So they told me, ‘Okay, you're too old for us. You have to leave.’ Nir recalled. “I wasn't insulted, but I understood the idea. They didn't want any citizens to live in the town during the war when nobody knew what's really going to happen.”

While signs of life are returning to the border towns, including Metula, Nir thinks most young people will not come back, leaving his community devoid of a future.

“I think that Metula will become a very old town, with all the old people that are not so afraid of staying in the north, next to the border,” he predicted.

*This article was originally published in The Canadian Jewish News (thecjn.ca).*

# Margarita's dishes

at the Calgary Farmers Market

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# Passover books for children of all ages

By Penny Schwartz

(JTA) - An endless Passover seder takes center stage in “One Little Goat: A Passover Catastrophe,” by writer Dara Horn and illustrator Theo Ellsworth, award-winners who teamed up for a humor-filled, time-travel graphic novel for young people.

The tale of an epic seder — it drags on for six months — joins a new crop of children’s books with Passover themes, from a based-on-a-true-story retelling of a Pesach celebration on Mt. Everest to a look inside President Barack Obama’s White House seder, a first in American history.

This year, the eight-day holiday, also known as the Festival of Freedom, begins at sundown on Saturday, April 12.

## “My Matzah”

Ann Diamant Koffsky  
Apples & Honey Press; baby to 2

Young kids will be delighted to share a young koala’s excitement as the toddler searches its house for the afikomen — the piece of matzah that Papa Koala hid as part of the seder. The eager joey searches everywhere — and even turns upside-down — but needs a little help from Papa to find the missing matzah. The colorful board book brims with Ann Diamant Koffsky’s buoyant illustrations.

## “Zayde Babysits before Passover”

Jane Sutton; illustrated by Kate Chappell  
Kar-Ben Publishing; ages 4-8

Ruthie is excited because her grandfather, whom she calls Zayde, is going to babysit all day, while her mother and Bubbe prepare for that night’s Passover seder. This lively, brightly illustrated story is full of zany fun, ending with the family seder, when Ruthie proudly recites the Four Questions.

## “Happy Passover, Edie Rose!”

Joy Preble; illustrated by Valeria Cis  
Kar-Ben Publishing; ages 4-9

Mia lives with her family in a big city apartment. Every year she looks forward to celebrating the Passover seder at the home of Edie Rose, a vivacious woman who invites her neighbors from all backgrounds for the festive ceremonial meal. When Edie Rose breaks her arm baking macaroons, Mia is determined to surprise her by bringing the seder to her. All the neighbors pitch in with homemade Passover foods. The heartwarming, cross-generational, multicultural story highlights the seder’s theme of welcoming all.

## “Passover on Everest”

Rachelle Burk; illustrated by Craig Orback  
Intergalactic Afikomen; ages 5-10

When Nikki Bart was a young girl on a family vacation in Israel, she and her mother hiked to the top of Masada, the ancient hilltop fortress overlooking the Dead Sea. A few years later, the mother-daughter team set out on a more challenging climb, to reach the

summit of Mount Everest. It is just before the start of Passover and along the way, Nikki tells their Tibetan Buddhist guides that she would miss being with her family for the holiday. In this beautifully illustrated story, inspired by the Barts’ actual hike, readers enjoy Nikki’s journey and the surprise seder that the Sherpas prepare for her and her multicultural climbing companions.

## “Ellis Island Passover”

Marissa Moss, Creston Books;  
ages 5-10

After being sent to her room for misbehaving, a 7-year-old girl is not in the mood to celebrate Passover. But when her favorite uncle walks in the door, he spirits away her sadness as he recounts his childhood immigrant story to America when he spent a very unusual week at Ellis Island. His inspiring story deepens the girl’s appreciation of Passover and she happily joins her family for their seder.

## “Roadside Seder”

Anna Levine; illustrated by Naama Lahav

Apples & Honey Press;  
ages 5-8

When a huge log falls across a major Israeli highway on the eve of Passover, the traffic jam threatens to upend the seder plans for scores of families. Despite the best efforts of a clever boy named Benji and other stranded travelers, the massive palm is immovable.

Determined to have a seder, Benji transforms the log into a Passover table and asks others, including his Ethiopian-Israeli grandmother, to share the foods they have packed in their cars. Naama Lahav’s animated illustrations convey the seder’s spirit, as Benji realizes it takes a community to solve a problem.

## “The Curious Case of the Missing Pot Roast: A Passover Mystery”

Jamie Kiffel-Alcheh;  
illustrated by Menahem Halberstadt, Green Bean Books; ages 4-7

for an inquisitive boy who is always tossing out clever questions and riddles. In this lighthearted story, the high-energy sleuth is determined to find out why his mother trims off the ends of the pot roast she cooks for their seder. He dashes through their apartment building to his grandmother and great-grand-mother, who solves the mystery. At their seder, when he recites the Four Questions, he feels a deep connection with his multi-generational family who are gathered around the festive table.

## “Next Year in the White House: Barack Obama’s First Presidential Seder”

Richard Michelson;  
illustrated by E.B. Lewis  
Crown Books; ages 4-8

In the spring of 2009, President Barack Obama became the first sitting president to attend a Passover seder at the White House, bringing together the American-Jewish community and the country’s first Black president. In addition to First Lady Michelle Obama and their daughters, Malia and Sasha, other guests included a trio of Jewish White House staffers who threw together an impromptu seder the year before while campaigning with Obama. The award-winning team of Michelson — who’s Jewish — and Lewis, an African American, bring to life this fascinating story of how that seder inspired a president.

## “One Little Goat: A Passover Catastrophe”

Dara Horn; illustrated by Theo Ellsworth  
Norton Books for Young Readers; ages 8 and up

In this wildly imagined, time-travel graphic novel, a family’s seder drags on for six long months, a plight recalled by the teenage son, the story’s protagonist. The weary family is stuck in time because the teen’s toddler sister tossed aside the afikomen — the hidden piece of matzah that must be eaten before the seder can end. The action takes off when a talking goat appears at the door — a nod to “Chad Gadya,” the traditional song sung at the end of the seder. The wise-cracking goat escorts the teen on a journey to search for the afikomen, traveling back through layers of seders past, to the original biblical Exodus night. The teen returns to his family’s seder — afikomen in hand — with renewed appreciation for the endurance of the Jewish people.

Horn, the author of five novels for adults and the nonfiction essay collection “People Love Dead Jews,” is a three-time winner of the National Jewish Book Award. Ellsworth’s work has been included in the “Best American Comics” anthologies.



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— Book Review —

How to Share an Egg: A true Story of Hunger, Love and Plenty by Bonny Reichert

Reviewed by Maxine Fischbein

Toronto-based writer, chef and food stylist Bonny Reichert — who was born and raised in Edmonton — has written a memoir that will surely bring back fond memories for the many Jewish Edmontonians that know the Reichert family and, in particular, Bonny’s father: Holocaust survivor and beloved former Edmonton restaurateur Saul Reichert.

In *How to Share an Egg: A True Story of Hunger, Love, and Plenty* (Ballantine Books, 2025) Saul Reichert’s story is the jumping-off point for his daughter’s exploration of intergenerational trauma and its effects on her own life.

The unifying feature of the journey is food. Lack of it was one of the privations endured by Saul Reichert when his childhood was destroyed by the Nazis and their collaborators in his native Poland. Yet food was also the key to the new life he built for, and with, his family.

Bonny Reichert’s obsession with food has other underpinnings, given her mother Toby’s efforts at maintaining a trim physique in contrast to the girth of her mother — Bonny’s Baba Sarah — a woman who was, both literally and figuratively, larger than life.

Branded by her mother as the “sensitive one,” Bonny Reichert’s trauma begins in earnest when, as a young child, she asks her father about the number tattooed on his arm.

While making every effort to answer her questions with age-appropriate stories about the number and the “bad men” who put it there, her father’s explanations become the stuff of nightmares, a situation that worsens when the family gathers around the TV to watch *Holocaust: The Story of the Family Weiss*, a TV series that brought the Shoah to public consciousness when it aired in 1978.

So great is her trauma, that Bonny Reichert spends much of her life avoiding the topic of the Holocaust and declining opportunities to travel to Poland and the death camps. When her father — who hails from a long line of Gerer Chasidim — finds out that a family grave remains in Poland, he insists that the

family travel there.

On that trip, a meal in a seemingly unremarkable restaurant — certainly not the kind her discerning family would seek out — Reichert experiences a bowl of borscht that she knows instinctively just how to eat. The meal takes Reichert’s culinary journey to old-new places in her efforts to replicate the cholent once made by Reichert’s paternal grandmother Udel. The rich stew — a Sabbath classic — looms large in Saul Reichert’s early and happy memories from his pre-war childhood in Poland, before the slaughter of his family, his deportation to Auschwitz-Birkenau, forced labour, a death march and, through it all, abject hunger.

Despite this — and, perhaps also because of this, Saul Reichert built a new life, warmly welcoming and feeding others, most notably at the family’s iconic Jasper Avenue eateries Teddy’s and The Carousel. (Edmontonians of a certain age have vivid memories of Saul Reichert’s warmth as they entered his eateries. You were welcomed as if you were the most important person to walk through the door.)

We get some evocative glimpses of the restaurants through Bonny Reichert’s eyes as a child and teenager.

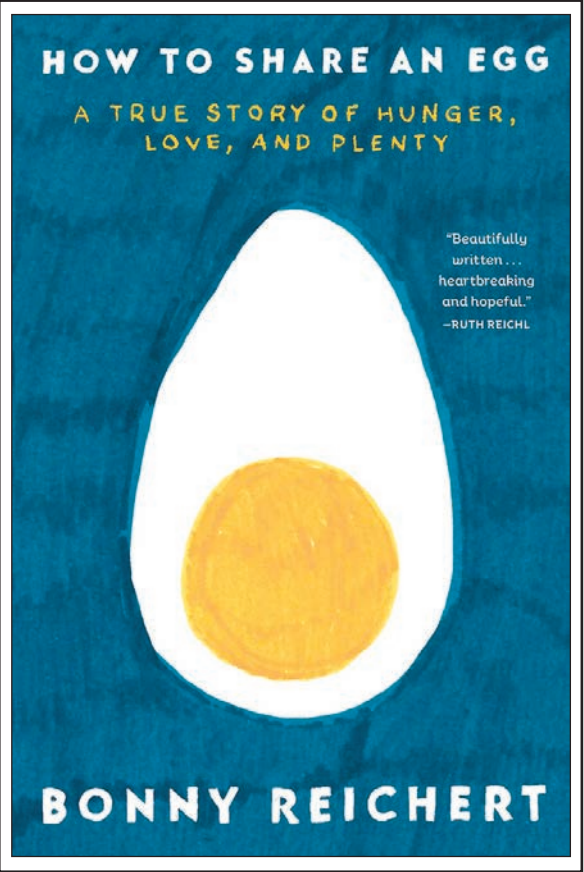
Also remarkable are the glimpses of Reichert’s maternal grandmother, Sarah Taradash, whose recipes and personal presence brought tam to countless diners. She is a source of comfort to her granddaughter through unconditional love, not to mention a steady stream of Jewish soul food that helped to fuel her *Bondles*’ seemingly inevitable entrée into the world of cuisine.

Seismic shifts keep happening as Reichert struggles with two wishes expressed by her aging father: That she should “be happy” — a state that is elusive given the burden she carries — and that she write a book about his experiences as a Holocaust survivor, an assignment she avoids for years but fulfills, in part, in the latter pages of her memoir.

*Appetite* describes Bonny Reichert’s book thus: “Sharing the moments that are sweet, salty, sour, and bitter, this is one woman’s search to find her voice as a writer, chef, mother and daughter. Do the tiny dramas of her own life matter in comparison to everything her father has seen and done?”

The answer to that question depends, of course, on each reader.

For this one, Reichert’s sour and bitter moments — a number of which are laid at the feet of her mother and authority figures on the professional side of her



life — seem to take up a disproportionate amount of real estate in *How to Share an Egg*.

By contrast, there are more than a few close family members whose sole purposes seem to be to advance Reichert’s self-exploration, as when she fictionalizes her sisters’ names and reduces them to one composite figure.

Those readers who pick up the book anticipating a deep dive into Saul Reichert’s experiences will probably leave the table hungry. Some may not easily digest the poetic license Bonny Reichert utilizes in the telling of her father’s story.

Individuals who crave tales of self-exploration may find the memoir infinitely more satisfying, and foodies will, no doubt, be captivated by Bonny Reichert’s superpower: turning words about food into mouth-watering sensory experiences.

Reichert took a brave step in writing this memoir and she is a writer to watch. Her writing is most exquisite when she gets out of her own head and reveals herself in living and breathing relationship with those she loves most.

Maxine Fischbein is a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter.

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Happy Passover

Wishing you peace and blessings this Passover



— The Great Passover Matzah Ball Debate —

Like a rock, baby!

By Sinky Titanicstein

*Editor’s note: In the spirit of lively discussion at the seder table, we bring you these arguments about a staple of the Pesach meal: The humble matzoh ball. These may or may not have been contributed by Joel Magalnick, president of Temple Beth Ora in Edmonton, and are reprinted from the now-defunct JTNNews, where Joel served as editor for the last 13 of its 90-year existence.*

There is so much that can be said about matzoh balls, all of which may be important, but if you asked me to take all that I have to say about matzoh balls and densely pack them into one word, that word would be SINKER! Yep, you read that correctly, I said sink, baby, sink!

The virtues of the matzoh ball are many – we are of course familiar with them. They can make us happy when we feel down, they bring smiles to our faces and our tummies during a week of gastrointestinal distress. They are so utterly fantastic, that we actually eat them all year long, even when we don’t “have to”!

What I cannot understand, however, is why some people like them to be light and fluffy like cotton balls or those awful “Snowballs” that you get at the

local mini-mart. During Passover, we do not eat leavened/puffy foods. This serves to remind us that our ancestors had to leave in such a hurry that they did not have time for their bread to rise. The spirit of these special Passover rules also tells us not to eat fluffy anything. In fact, I take this spirit so far as to not even wear feathered boas during the holiday – fluffy is bad!

When I eat a matzoh ball, I want to search for it in my bowl of soup; I don’t want it to be floating there at the surface like some sort of beach ball. No, I want to wander through the bowl looking for the Promised Ball (seeing any connections to our past yet?). Once I find it, I want to work to cut it into bits. Life was not easy for our ancestors when they had to flee their homes, thus it should not be easy for us.

A friend of mine is even more extreme about his matzoh balls being dense sinkers. Just the other day, when we were discussing global politics, we meandered over to the topic of matzoh balls. In his opinion, you either like your matzoh balls dense or you are with the terrorists. Personally, I think he is a bit fanatical, but I can relate to his feelings.

Matzoh balls are serious business, and I don’t want my business to be fluffy. Not to mention the fact that a dense matzoh ball simply tastes better – it has a better texture, it holds the complex flavors of chicken soup within it, it absorbs spices in a way that a fluffy matzoh ball can only dream. Shall I continue?



OK then, I will. A dense matzoh ball holds its shape throughout the entire holiday, while a fluff ball will often fall apart if not handled correctly while making the transfer from the pot to your bowl. A dense matzoh ball can fill you up, so that when you take a bowl of matzoh ball soup to work for lunch, that’s all you need. If you bring a lunch of fluffy matzoh ball soup, you’ll need about dozen to fill you up. Dense matzoh balls are simply more economical, more efficient and better for you. And let’s face it: if you’re gluten-free, fluffy’s not even an option. Thank you for seeing it my way. Go dense or go home! Happy Pesach.

Like a lifesaver, let them float

By Capt. Beachballberg

There is nothing I hate worse than having to bring a hacksaw to my seder table. Not only that, when baseball season begins, I don’t want some joker thinking it’s funny to pull a matzoh ball out of our soup pot to make the first pitch. This is why matzoh balls must be fluffy.

Not to mention the Passover seder itself. We’re talking about a big meal here, folks. If for no other reason than to save yourself for the delectable food ahead, the matzoh balls and the soup must be light. How on earth are we going to get through egg soup, charoset on matzoh, four more cups of wine (plus the required ones), salad, gefilte fish, roasted chicken, kugel, steamed asparagus, and the afikomen if we’ve got a lead weight taking up half of our tummies?

That says nothing about the taste, either. A hard

matzoh ball is like a fortress. It doesn’t allow the flavors of the soup – whether it’s the vegetables in the stock or the oils from the chicken – to filter through and make each and every bite delectable. Sure, they fall apart. But they’re supposed to! If the ball comes apart easily, then an equal amount of ball, soup and vegetable can fit into the spoon. That’s every flavor, with no excavating required. What more could you ask for?

Another thing to think about: when the Hebrews were escaping from Egypt, how many of them do you think would haul a bag filled with big, round rocks? None? Good answer.

Then there’s the whole age discrimination part of the argument. How many times has an older member of the family come to the seder, bitten into a heavy matzoh ball, and then they can’t find their teeth? How many teething babies, anxious to enjoy their very first

seder, turn their backs on Judaism for the rest of their lives because that first matzoh ball impacted their first little tooth and now there’s no way they’ll ever try that stuff again? Fluffy and floaty is better. There’s no doubt about it. I know this is an election year, and the advertising is gonna get messy, but I feel that I too must go negative on these hard, undercooked, dense matzoh balls, if you can call them that. It’s fluffy or nothin’. If it must be a choice between the hard matzoh ball lovers and the terrorists, then I for one am with the terrorists.

Wishing the Community a Happy Passover



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# Happy Passover

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## Chag Purim at the Parperny Family JCC



Everyone had a wonderful time at the Purim Party held at the JCC on March 14.

## Co-presidents *Cont. from page 14*

In fact, the Calgary Chevra Kadisha lost ground over 20 years due to not increasing its fees for services, says Lipton who adds that Calgary is now in line with Jewish communities across the country.

“We do not have an economy of scale,” says Lipton, adding that most revenues taken in by the Chevra are fees for burials. A second income stream is the sale of interment rights (plots). The third is donations, which typically accounts for less than 10 percent of all revenues, Lipton says.

Donations are a welcome offset as the Chevra self-funds ritual preparation and burial of individuals whose families cannot afford the cost.

The Chevra has made a conscious choice not to do aggressive fundraising, a move leaders fear would put a stumbling block in front of other community institutions that rely on charitable donations.

Occasionally, families do make donations to the Chevra after they have paid for their loved one’s funerals, said Lipton, citing several generous gifts in recent months.

It is a little known fact, but after-lifetime gifts to the Chevra Kadisha can be earmarked by donors via the Life & Legacy program, an initiative of the Calgary Jewish Federation and the Jewish Community Foundation of Calgary. While the Chevra is not a partner agency, Life & Legacy donors may designate funds to any registered charity in Canada.

The Chevra applies for federal and provincial grants for capital and security enhancements (grant writers would be welcome volunteers, say Dvorkin and Lipton) and prides itself in the investments it has made over the years which have helped on a number of fronts including perpetual care at the cemeteries.

This is critical, especially when one considers that Calgary’s first Jewish burial site at Erlton Cemetery has no new funds coming into it now that every plot has been sold. Funds will be needed in perpetuity in order to facilitate snow removal, landscaping, repairs and the like at both Erlton and the 37 Street SW Chevra Kadisha Cemetery which, according to Lipton and Dvorkin, has enough capacity for one century if not more.

Dvorkin says that the Chevra has a great relationship with the developers that are creating residential neighbourhoods in proximity to the 37 Street SW cemetery.

Other relationships valued by Dvorkin and Lipton are those with Calgary’s rabbis – who share a common commitment when it comes to supporting and publically acknowledging the work of the Chevra.

Also close to their hearts are the 18 Calgary Chevra Kadisha board members, six of whom serve on the executive.

“When you look around our board table, you are looking at 500 years of experience,” says Dvorkin. “Not a lot of boards can say that. Certainly you want to have new and younger voices, but the commitment of hundreds and hundreds of years of service to one organization says a lot.”

“Yet, when you look around the table, the average age is a bit older than we’d like it to be,” says Lipton.

Community members – especially young ones who think they are a good fit for the Chevra – are urged to contact either Dvorkin or Lipton for a conversation.

Particularly when it comes to taharah, volunteers are not cast immediately into the deep end, says Lipton, who adds that training and gradual integration into the process are typical.

The Calgary Chevra Kadisha is one of very few in North America that continue the time-honoured tradition of cutting and hand sewing tachrichim thanks to a circle of volunteers. The hand sewing is easy to learn and veteran sewers are the first to reassure fledgling volunteers that Chevra customers have never been known to make returns.

Volunteers are needed for a wide variety of other tasks including making up minyanim for the funerals of individuals who do not have enough family and friends to guarantee the required ritual quorum of 10. Other possibilities for volunteers include filling graves, providing IT, HR, legal and medical expertise, writing grant applications...and the list goes on.

People can contribute on an ongoing basis or as the need arises.

“We have tried vigorously to recruit a part-time back-up *shomer*,” says Dvorkin, adding that this position – for which there is compensation – involves sitting in proximity to the deceased and reciting *Tehillim* (Psalms) until the taharah and funeral.

“What we do is out of love and respect for those who went before us,” says Lipton.

Anyone who can hold that close to their heart can contribute to their community in a significant and meaningful way by becoming a Chevra Kadisha volunteer.

“The Chevra will only continue to function if there are enough people there to support it.” Lipton said.

This hope, says Lipton, was expressed by Bill Aizman according to a eulogy by one of his daughters when the long-serving former Chevra Kadisha president was laid to his eternal rest last year.

Asked why he had dedicated so much of his life to serving the Chevra Kadisha, he simply stated that he always hoped the volunteers of the Chevra would be there to ensure that he was buried according to time-honoured Jewish traditions.

Lipton urges members of the community to speak frankly with their adult children about the ways that they can honour those who have gone before them.

Quoting Joni Mitchell’s famous song *Big Yellow Taxi* – “Don’t it always seem to go that you don’t know what you’ve got till it’s gone,” Lipton hopes that a new generation will rise to the occasion.

During his March 9 address to Chevra volunteers, Lou Bracey paid tribute to his late father who cried at a Shabbos Kiddush in his honour just before he left Liverpool to begin a new life in Canada.

“Don’t forget your Yiddishkeit,” was his father’s admonition.

After years of devotion to the community – including close to a half-century of service at the Chevra Kadisha – Lou Bracey has certainly fulfilled his father’s ethical will.

Chevra leaders are counting on a new generation to likewise honour their parents and their community by stepping up to participate in a mitzvah like no other.

Community members interested in serving the Chevra Kadisha are urged to contact Susan Dvorkin or Harold Lipton. Messages can be left for them at the Chevra, 403-244-4717.

*Maxine Fischbein is a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter.*



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# Artist Sarah Bing captivates audiences with new exhibits

Calgary artist Sarah Bing is set to captivate audiences with her two simultaneous exhibitions, “I AM” and “Fools Parade,” showcasing her unique perspectives on identity and the pervasive influence of technology. Opening on April 9th at the Calgary Jewish Centre, “I AM” invites viewers into a world of self-exploration and reflection, while “Fools Parade,” currently on display at Rated Ultra Lounge, critiques our modern relationship with digital devices.

“I AM” will be available for viewing from March 10 to April 28, 2025, with the opening reception scheduled for April 9 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Calgary Jewish Centre, located at 1607 90 Ave SW. This exhibition holds special significance for Bing, a member of the Jewish community, as it provides a space for reflection on identity – both personal and communal. Through her art, she encourages viewers to engage with their own narratives and the rich tapestry of experiences that shape who they are.

In her artist statement for “I AM,” Bing invites attendees to consider the paintings as mirrors reflecting the myriad influences and emotions that shape their lives. “In the exhibit ‘I Am,’ I invite you to embark on a journey of self-exploration and reflection through a collection of paintings that echo the complexities of identity and experience,” she explains. Each piece serves as a chapter in a larger story, resonating with universal themes of growth, struggle, and transformation.

Simultaneously, at Rated Ultra Lounge, “Fools Parade” is a vibrant exhibition, which has been on display since November 21, 2024, and will remain until summer. It provides a critical commentary on our society’s relationship with technology. Located at 314-3rd St SE, Rated Ultra Lounge adds a lively atmosphere to Bing’s colorful exploration of digital culture.

In her statement for “Fools Parade,” Bing addresses what she sees as a pressing issue in contemporary society: our dependence on technology. “Fools Parade is a body of work that shines a bright light on the true pandemic of today’s society,” she asserts. The series is crafted with the dimensions of a cell phone in mind, highlighting how our devices have become a central part of our lives, often at the expense of personal connections.

Bing describes the artwork as both whimsical and seductive, with bright colors and playful shapes that initially appear innocent. However, she warns that a deeper critique lies beneath the surface, reflecting a chaotic commentary on our social construct. “At first glance, the work is playful and innocent,” she notes, but as viewers delve deeper, they may find themselves captivated by the vibrant chaos, raising questions about the nature of connection in a digital age. “Who are the fools?” and “What is left sacred?” she challenges viewers to contemplate.

Bing is a distinguished artist based in Calgary, renowned for her vibrant exploration of themes through abstract and expressionistic styles. Graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts with distinction from the University of Calgary in 2002, she majored in oil painting, honing her expertise in color theory.

Her work transcends traditional boundaries; she embraces a diverse range of subjects, from cityscapes and landscapes to poignant themes such as domestic violence, judgment, and mindfulness. The current body of work for both exhibitions serves as a commentary on contemporary society, delving into the illusion of connection promised by modern technology. Executed in a striking abstract surrealistic style, her paintings utilize a vivid and electric color palette, reflecting the complexities of the 21st-century social landscape.

In 2010, Bing received a significant commission from the Calgary Bar Association, resulting in her monumental painting “The Living Tree,” which adorns the 52-foot back wall of the ceremonial courtroom in Calgary’s court center. Measuring 25 feet long by 6.5 feet high, it is the only painting to hang in a courtroom in Canada, marking a unique achievement in her career.



Join Sarah Bing for an evening of art and conversation at the JCC on April 9 at 6 pm.

Outside of her artistic endeavors, Bing shares her life with her partner of ten years and their blended family of five children. She finds balance through daily meditation, fitness, and cherished moments spent with her loved ones.

As the opening reception for “I AM” approaches, art enthusiasts and members of the Jewish community alike are encouraged to attend and engage with Bing’s thought-provoking work. This exhibition not only showcases her artistic talents but also serves as a catalyst for meaningful conversations about identity and the complexities of the human experience. For those unable to attend the opening but interested in connecting with the artist, Bing welcomes personal outreach via email at [sarahbingart@icloud.com](mailto:sarahbingart@icloud.com).

Both exhibitions exemplify Sarah Bing’s dedication to exploring the intricacies of identity and the nuances of modern existence through her art. They offer a rare opportunity for viewers to pause, reflect, and engage with the narratives woven into each piece. With “I AM” opening on April 9th and “Fools Parade” continuing its run at Rated Ultra Lounge, this is a moment for Calgary’s Jewish Community to celebrate the vibrant and thought-provoking contributions of one of its talented artists. Don’t miss the chance to witness these compelling exhibitions that challenge the boundaries of art and invite us to reflect on our own identities in today’s fast-paced world.

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Wishing family & friends a happy, healthy Passover from Lorie Abernethy & Gie Roberts




Wishing family & friends a happy, healthy Passover from Brian and Karen Abrams and Family



Happy Pesach to the entire community from Jeanette Berger and family




Wishing family & friends a happy, healthy Passover from Faye and Warren Book



Wishing family & friends a happy, healthy Passover from Miguel Heller and Carla Atkinson




Wishing family & friends a happy, healthy Passover from Marnie, Darren, Jonah & Chloe Bondar




Wishing family & friends a happy, healthy Passover from Kim, Alex, Adam and Zach



**חג פסח שמח**  
from Sharon Batshaw & Family




Wishing family & friends a happy, healthy Passover from Annabelle Bondar




Wishing family & friends a happy, healthy Passover from Harvey Cyngiser



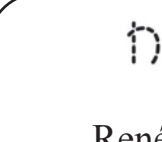
Wishing family & friends a happy, healthy Passover from Linda and John Barron and family




Happy Pesach to the entire community from Phyllis D'Aguiar




**חג פסח שמח**  
from The Crohn - Zalmanowitz Family




**חנה נחם חן**  
from Renée & Milton Bogoch



Wishing family & friends a happy, healthy Passover from Louise Feldman




Wishing family & friends a happy, healthy Passover from Ruth Dvorkin, Susan Dvorkin, Dara, Spencer & Josh




Happy Pesach to the entire community from Shirley & Al Chafetz and family



Wishing everyone a Passover filled with love, joy, & thoughts of freedom from Sam, Cindy, Rebekah & Josh Feldman




Chag Sameach. Am Yisrael Chai, from Albert, Marcy, Gabriella, Aviva & Jazlyn Fialkow



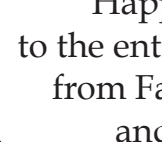
Happy Pesach to the entire community from Michele Doctoroff, Ted and Sydney Switzer



Wishing everyone a Passover filled with love, joy, & thoughts of freedom from Sam, Cindy, Rebekah & Josh Feldman



Happy Pesach to the entire community from Dr. Caron & Rabbi Mark Glickman



Happy Pesach to the entire community from Faith Dubisky and Family



Chag Sameach. Am Yisrael Chai. from Halley and Bruce Girvitz

Have an incredible holiday filled with laughter & good food.  
Wishing everyone a Happy Passover.  
from Esther and Sam Plucer

May the Festival of Freedom bring peace & love to our community at home & around the world  
from Jenny Belzberg





Happy Passover  
to the entire community.  
Am Yisrael Chai,  
  
from  
Sandy Fayerman



Chag Sameach. Am Yisrael Chai,  
from Cheryl, Jason,  
Jacob & Gabrielle Gurevitch



Chag Sameach.  
Am Yisrael Chai,  
from Darryl, Alli, Joseph  
and Leo Gurevitch

**חג פסח שמח**  
from  
*Maxine & Milt Fischbein*



**Best wishes  
for a healthy,  
happy Passover.  
Am Yisrael Chai.  
from Louise Glin  
and family**

Wishing family & friends  
a happy, healthy Passover  
  
from  
The Hoffman Family  
J.J., Caitlin,  
Leefy, Leyla, Kai



Wishing everyone  
a Passover  
filled with love,  
joy, & thoughts  
of freedom  
  
from  
Therese Groner and Family



**Best wishes for a healthy,  
happy Passover.  
Am Yisrael Chai.  
  
from  
Jackie & Hayim  
Hamborger**



Wishing family & friends  
a happy, healthy Passover  
from Vivian  
and Ben Herman



Best wishes  
for a healthy,  
happy Passover.  
Am Yisrael Chai.  
  
from  
Barb and Ron Krell & Family



Happy Pesach  
to the entire community  
from Jackie Halpern,  
Glenn Solomon and Family

Happy Pesach to the  
entire community  
from  
Susan and David Inhaber



Chag Sameach. Am Yisrael Chai.  
from Rabbi Cantor Russell G. Jayne  
and Mr. Russ Janiger

**Best wishes for a healthy,  
happy Passover.  
Am Yisrael Chai,  
from Mel and  
Gail Ksienski & Family.**

Happy Passover from  
Rhonda Barad,  
Steve Kaganov and family.



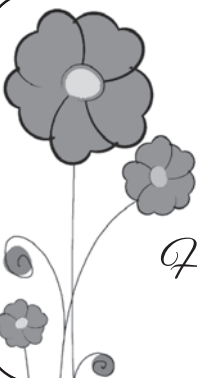
**Wishing family &  
friends a happy,  
healthy Passover  
from  
Janis and Brian  
Kowall and Family**



Wishing family & friends  
a happy, healthy Passover  
from  
Lea Kohn and Family



*Wishing family  
& friends a happy,  
healthy Passover  
  
from  
Harold & Sandra  
Lipton & family*



*Chag Sameach.  
Am Yisrael Chai,  
  
from  
Marni Besser  
and Steve Lipton*



Wishing family & friends  
a happy, healthy Passover  
  
from  
Walter Moscovitz



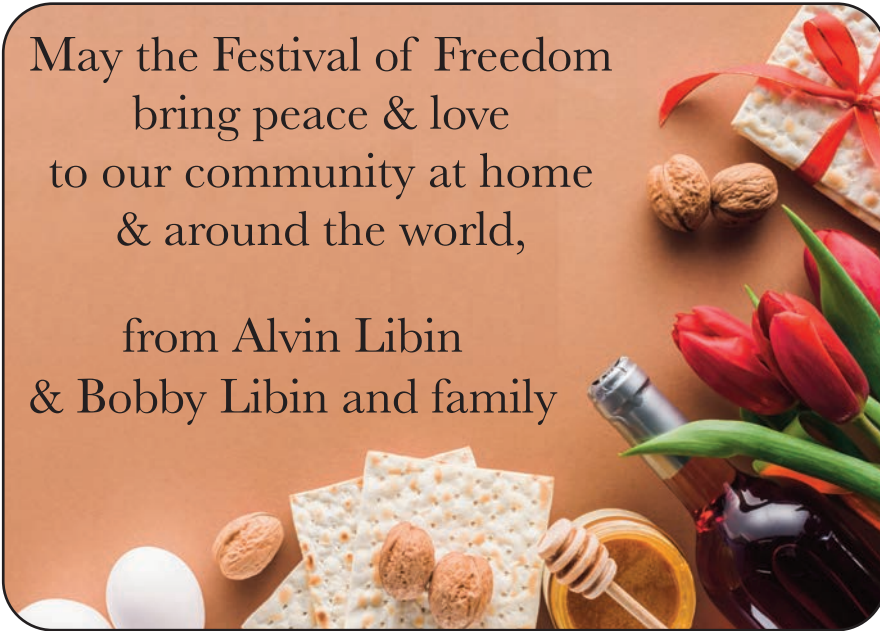
Wishing a kosher and joyous  
Passover to you & your loved ones,  
  
from  
Phil & Harriet Libin,  
Michael & Matthew  
Ackman, Stuart, Sierra  
& Thea Libin



*Have an incredible  
holiday filled with  
laughter & good food.  
Wishing everyone a  
Happy Passover.*  
  
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May the Festival of Freedom  
bring peace & love  
to our community at home  
& around the world,  
  
from Alvin Libin  
& Bobby Libin and family





ПОРЯДОК СЕЙДЕРА

קדש

КАДДЕШ

Произносят Киддуш над бокалом вина.

יְרַחֵץ

УРХАЦ

Омывают руки, но не произносят при этом обычного при омовении рук благословения.

כרפס

КАРПАС

Обмакивают «карпас» в соленую воду, произносят благословение над овощами и кушают.

יֵחַץ

ЯХАЦ

Среднюю мацу, из трех находящихся на «кеаре», делят на две части; большую часть прячут для «Афикоман».

מגיד

МАГГИД

Начинается чтение Агады. До того, как младший в семье задаст вопросы «Ма ништа-на» наполняют второй бокал.

יְרַחֵץ

РАХЦА

Омывают руки для еды, но на этот раз с обычным благословением.

מוציא מצה

МОЦИ, МАЦА

Произносят благословения «Хамоши» и «Ал ахилас мацо», и кушают кусок мацы, величиной с «казант».

מרור

МАРОР

Произносят благословение «Ал ахилас морор» и съедают горькую зелень, величиной с «казант», предварительно обмакнув в «хазерет».

בורך

КОРЕХ

Делают своеобразный сэндвич из двух кусков мацы, прокладывая между ними «хазерет»

שלוש עשרה

ШУЛХАН ОРЕХ

Праздничная трапеза.

ברך

БЕРАХ

Наполняют третий бокал вина и произносят застольную молитву.

צפון

ЦАФУН

Съедают «Афикоман», величиной с «казант».

הלל

ХАЛЛЕЛ

Наполняют четвертый бокал вина и произносят специальную хвалебную молитву «Халлела».

נרצה

НИРЦА

После окончания правильно проведенного Сейдера можно быть уверенным, что он был любим Всевышним

Wishing family & friends  
a happy, healthy Passover  
from Cheryl, Rob, Danielle  
& Jarrett Milner



Wishing family & friends  
a happy, healthy Passover  
from Charlene and Gerry Molotsky  
and family



Happy Pesach to the entire community  
from  
Therese Nagler



Chag Sameach. Am Yisrael  
Chai from Josh, Michelle,  
Spencer & Jordan Orzech



Chag Sameach. Am Yisrael Chai.  
from  
from Beth and Lorne Price



Happy Pesach  
to the entire community  
from Lorne,  
Raechelle,  
Shoshanna &  
Leo Paperny



Wishing everyone a Passover  
filled with love, joy,  
& thoughts of freedom  
from  
Pnina and Mark Rubensohn  
and family.  
Michelle and Bronwyn Leifer



Wishing family & friends  
a happy, healthy Passover  
from Rachelle Rabinovitz & family



Wishing everyone a Passover  
filled with love, joy, & thoughts  
of freedom  
from  
Roz Mendelson  
& David Hodgins



Wishing family & friends  
a happy, healthy Passover from Richard,  
Kimberly, Liam & Seth Nagan



Wishing everyone a Passover  
filled with love, joy, &  
thoughts of freedom  
from  
Al Osten



Wishing family & friends  
a happy, healthy Passover  
from David and Cynthia Prasow  
and Family



Wishing everyone a Passover  
filled with love, joy, & thoughts  
of freedom  
from  
Murray Robins  
and Family



Chag Sameach.  
Am Yisrael Chai,  
from  
Steve, Tracey,  
Oscar & Alanis



Best wishes for a  
healthy, happy Passover.  
Am Yisrael Chai.  
from  
Dr. Stuart  
and Irene Ross





# HAPPY PASSOVER

Happy Passover  
to everyone from  
Medina Shatz,  
Randy Best, & Bluberry



*Best wishes  
for a happy, healthy Passover  
from the family  
of  
Arlein Hoffman Chetner ז"ל*



**חג פסח שמח**  
*from Marg Semel, Adam  
Singer, Rachel and Hanna*

Wishing family & friends a  
happy, healthy Passover  
from  
Dorothy Hanson,  
Sheldon Shagal  
and family



*Wishing family & friends  
a happy, healthy Passover  
from Gail,  
Dean, Bryan,  
Ellie, & Matthew  
Staniloff*



**חג פסח חננו**  
from Judy Shapiro  
and Richard Bronstein and family

Wishing family & friends  
a happy, healthy Passover  
from  
Cheryl & Morley Shore



Wishing family  
& friends  
a happy, healthy  
Passover  
from  
Esther and  
Gary Silberg



*Best wishes for a healthy, happy  
Passover. Am Yisrael Chai,  
from  
Adam, Deb,  
Hannah, Lilah,  
and Benji Silver*



Chag Sameach. Am Yisrael Chai.  
from Diana Kalef, Elliott,  
Jonah & Micah Steinberg



Wishing family &  
friends a happy,  
healthy Passover  
from Faigel ז"ל  
& Len Shapiro  
and family



Happy Passover  
from Joshua, Jessica, Zoey,  
and Max Switzer

Happy Passover  
from Brian and  
Gail Sidorisky



Wishing family  
& friends a happy,  
healthy Passover  
from Jim Casquenet  
and Betty Sherwood



Wishing a kosher and  
joyous Passover to you  
& your loved ones  
from  
Mary & Ken Taub  
and Family



Wishing family & friends  
a happy, healthy Passover  
from Stan and  
Carey Smith  
and family



Happy Passover from  
Art and Scroll Studio  
From Hand to Heart ... Judaica Art  
from  
Caron Glickman  
and  
Shelley Werner



Wishing everyone  
a Passover filled with love,  
joy, & thoughts of freedom  
from  
Linda & Gary Wolf  
and family



Wishing everyone  
a Passover filled with love,  
joy, & thoughts of freedom  
from  
Wynne &  
Harvey Thal



*Wishing the entire community  
a Happy Passover  
from the  
Balaban  
Family*




*May the Festival of Freedom  
bring peace & love to our community  
at home & around the world,  
from  
Darlene Switzer-Foster,  
Bill Foster & Family*






Best wishes for a healthy,  
happy Passover. Am Yisrael Chai,




from Eva &  
Gordy Hoffman

Wishing a kosher and joyous  
Passover to you & your loved ones



from the Zivot Family,  
Rose, Debbie,  
Mark & Karen



Wishing everyone a  
Passover filled with  
love, joy, & thoughts  
of freedom

from Dalia, Allan,  
Tammy and Mark Wolinsky



May the  
Festival of Freedom  
bring peace & love  
to our community  
at home & around  
the world

from  
Jerry and Fay z”l Schwartz

*May the Festival of Freedom bring  
peace & love to our community  
at home & around the world*



from  
*Marina Paperny  
& Shep Secter  
and family*



Best wishes for a healthy,  
happy Passover. Am Yisrael Chai.  
from Ron Plucer and family



**חַןּ פֶּסַח חַןּ**  
Am Israel Chai!  
from  
**Zohar & David Wallach**



**לְשָׁנָה הַבָּאָה בִּירוּשָׁלַיִם**

Wishing everyone in the community a happy and healthy Passover.  
Thank you for welcoming Alberta Jewish News into your homes each month and for participating  
in these holiday greetings. We are proud to be part of the Calgary Jewish Community.

From Deborah Shatz, Daniel Moser, Sandra Fayerman, Maxine Fischbein and Sandra Edwards



from the

Sources

by Eliezer Segal

One Passover

in Vancouver

Like so many historical milestones, differences have arisen regarding the precise details of this encounter. Everyone remembers that it occurred on Passover, but they disagree about the date. She places it in 1922, when Passover began on Wednesday evening, and the meal in question occurred on Friday evening. He, on the other hand, recalled it as happening in 1921 when the first day of Passover fell on Shabbat.

Both versions concur that Esther and David Marks (originally: Marcowitz) of Vancouver were observing their normal custom of inviting visiting entertainers for a splendid Friday night meal.

The Marks family were a wealthy and socially prominent couple, active in the general and Jewish communities. They had a special affection for theatrical performers. Those were the days of vaudeville, entertainers who would travel through circuits of theatres throughout North America. In Vancouver the most active venue for these shows was the old Orpheum, and many rising stars passed through it during that period.

That year one of the acts that was appearing at the Orpheum was the Marx Brothers. The Marks family (not related to the Marxes) extended an invitation to the comedians, but in the end the only brother to show up for that Passover meal was not one of the notorious zany characters, but their straight man, Herbert Manfred Marx, known in their stage act as "Zeppo."

Zeppo arrived at the Marks house in the company of another performer, a frequent roomie of his, a comedian named Benjamin Kubelsky from Waukegan, Illinois. Zeppo persuaded the shy Benjamin to attend, assuring him that "he knew some fascinating Vancouver girls and it would be wild, with Canadian ale, Canadian rye, Canadian women and Canadian whoopee." Benjamin protested that the prospect held no attraction for him, but he consented to be dragged along nonetheless—only to discover that this was no rowdy fling, but a wholesome Jewish Shabbat meal (or seder, depending on which version we accept).

The nearest thing they encountered there to the wild Canadian women promised by Zeppo were the Marks family's two teenage daughters, Ethel ("Babe") and Sadie, about nineteen and seventeen respectively. (The precise ages vary in the telling). Sadie tried to impress

the guests by dressing above her age and playing violin, but her efforts were not well received.

Kubelsky was clearly bored, and he whispered audibly to Zeppo, "What did you bring me to meet these kids for? Let's get out of here!" This did not help ingratiate him in Sadie's estimation. Afterwards, she and some classmates attended some of Benjamin's performances in order to heckle.

A few years later the Marks family had moved to Los Angeles where Sadie was employed at the May Company department store. Kubelsky, now known by his stage name of Jack Benny, was performing in that city and befriended Sadie's older sister. Their acquaintance was renewed and went through many ups and downs, until they were married in a small Jewish wedding ceremony in Waukegan, attended only by immediate family, on Friday afternoon, January 14, 1927. He was unaware that this was the same silly teenage girl whom he had ignored at that Passover meal in Vancouver.

Neither Jack nor Sadie—who adopted the professional name Mary Livingstone—was particularly outspoken about their Judaism. Both of them identified their parents as "strictly Orthodox," whereas their adopted daughter Joan recalled that her grandparents "weren't particularly religious," though they lit Shabbat candles and were at home in Yiddish culture. I suspect that the discrepancy reflects differing expectations and stereotypes of what Orthodox Jews should be like.

Although it has been suggested that Jack Benny was uncomfortable with his Jewish identity, the reasons underlying this perception are not quite convincing.

His proverbial miserliness has been criticized as the exploitation of an antisemitic trope, but it blends with a bundle of other personality flaws, especially his vanity, that somehow make him come across as endearing.

The fact that he and Mary relinquished their original Jewish names apparently stemmed (at least initially) from other motives. While still rising in the showbiz ranks Jack was pressured by performers with similar names (Jan Kubelik and Ben Bernie) to maintain a clear differentiation from them. Sadie took

the name of "Mary Livingstone" when she was hired to replace an actress who was already playing a character of that name. In any case, there was no shame in having a Jewish name in a profession that was dominated by borscht-belt stars like Jolson, Jessel and Cantor. Even gentiles like Bing Crosby were constantly throwing in Yiddish expressions. In a scratchy recording of a rehearsal of his radio show it is possible to hear Jack sharing crude Yiddish insults with his producer Hilliard Marks (Mary's brother) about one of the crew members.

Jack's ensemble often included a parody of a thickly accented Yiddish immigrant, a carryover from an old vaudeville convention now known as "Jewface," which had undeniable antisemitic overtones. And yet Benny's exemplifications of this stereotype—the pushy Shlepperman and the whimsical Mr. Kitzel—were both depicted affectionately.

I don't think any Jewish religious traditions were ever mentioned on the show except in the occasional Mr. Kitzel sketch. Jack did devote shows every year to Christmas and Easter, but without any religious content. The Christmas shows were about shopping for gifts, with Jack driving the store clerk crazy with his indecisiveness; and Easter was limited to the parade or egg-hunt.

His well-known generosity (the real Jack Benny was the opposite of his tightfisted stage persona) extended to Jewish and Zionist causes.

If the crucial Passover meal in Vancouver was actually a seder, then it presumably included the recitation of "Next year in Jerusalem!" Jack would fulfil that prayer, including a visit to the Western Wall, in September 1943 as part of an entertainment tour for the United States armed forces. He again performed in the Jewish state in 1972, two years before his death.

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Wishing everyone a meaningful and peaceful Passover  
Spring brings renewal, and hope for good days ahead

Happy Pesach!  
We look forward to welcoming you  
THIS YEAR in Jerusalem!



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