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Jacqui Vital will share her family's story in Alberta

By Regan Lipes, LJI Reporter

This month, the Alberta Jewish community will be visited by a very special guest: Jacqui Vital, a woman of courage, perseverance, and above all, hope. Jacqui is the mother of Israeli-Canadian Adi Vital-Kaploun z"l, who was murdered at the hands of terrorists in Israel on October 7, 2023. She has an inspirational message of hope to share with the community. "Adi was brave, always," declared Jacqui during a phone interview with *Alberta Jewish News*. "She killed a terrorist, saving her children – like a lioness!"

Jacqui will be speaking on August 29 at Beth Shalom Synagogue in Edmonton and at the Paperny Family JCC in Calgary on Wednesday September 3. She will also join the Calgary Jewish community on September 7 at the Walk with Israel event.

33-year-old Adi Vital-Kaploun OBM, is survived by her husband, parents, siblings, and two young sons. They all speak her name with tenderness and admiration. She leaves behind a legacy that the world cannot afford to ignore. "Every group I speak to is different," offered Jacqui. "But I need to tell Adi's story to keep her memory alive, and to let the world know that what happened on October 7 was unprovoked terrorism on innocent people."

On the evening of October 6, Adi hosted Shabbat dinner at the home she shared with her husband and children on Kibbutz Holit within the Gaza Envelope. It was Simchat Torah, and there was no reason for anything but family and celebration. Even though Jacqui was far away visiting her sister in Ottawa, it still was a joyful time spent together: the last they

Israel Pavilion shines at YEG Heritage Festival



The Aviv Dancers were a highlight at this year's Israel Pavilion - as well as the Elliott Steinberg Band, great exhibits and a delicious menu of treats. Yasher Koach to the organizers and volunteers. Photo by Tammy Vineberg

would have before blood-thirsty criminal fear-mongers stormed the peaceful kibbutz mere hours after the family's Shabbat candles had burned out.

Jacqui was scheduled to return to Israel on an October 8 flight that would never take off. She spent a beautiful Shabbat with her sister, her sister's children, and grandchildren. "It was so lovely. There was so much laughter. I had never really been introduced to SnapChat before, and the children were taking pictures and turning them into funny faces. There was so much love and warmth at the table," she recalled. "The next morning my phone was showing alerts and messages. We are seven hours behind them. I called my husband immediately. He was at the kibbutz but

afraid to talk in case one of the terrorists could hear him hiding in the saferoom."

Jacqui, who made Aliyah in 1974, and never looked back, again desperately yearned to return to Israel, but this time for truly tragic reasons. "Two RCMP officers came to my sister's home," Jacqui explained. "Adi was a Canadian citizen. She spent her summers here, went to camp here, and had ties to Canada. While my father was alive, we could be here visiting every year, and even after that too." Adi Vital-Kaploun by law was entitled to all the same protections, rights, and liberties as any Canadian, even residing abroad. Yet, aside from these two compassionate and dedicated

Continued on page 11

Book your Rosh Hashana Greeting today!

Rosh Hashana is approaching and *AJNews* is once again celebrating with two special editions – one for Calgary and one for Edmonton. We're proud to be the newspaper of the Alberta Jewish Community, publishing interesting and relevant original community news on a print, as well as our online weekly "Alberta Jewish Schmooze" which goes right into our readers' inboxes and daily posts on our website and X (formerly known as twitter).

It is more important than ever that we have a community newspaper to connect us and you can show your appreciation by purchasing holiday greetings in the newspaper three times a year – Rosh Hashana, Chanukah, and Passover. There are three sizes available – small for \$36, medium for \$72 and large for \$180 – something to suit any budget. If you enjoy receiving the newspaper each month, this is a great way to let the whole community know it.

Your participation helps us pay for printing and mailing and helps us deliver Alberta Jewish News to as many people in our communities as possible. It also allows us to give generous discounts to our Jewish organizations to help them advertise their events. With the funds generated from greetings, we are also able to

amplify community activities across the wide spectrum of affiliations in our community. As a service to community members, we also provide further discounts for personal notices of appreciation, announcements of milestones and obituaries.

Each month we send bundles of newspapers to the schools, shuls and other gathering places. In Calgary, newspapers can be picked up at the Paperny Family JCC, Beth Tzedec, Temple B'nai Tikvah, House of Jacob Mikveh Israel, Jewish Family Services Calgary, Calgary Jewish Academy, Halpern Akiva Academy and Chabad of Alberta. They are also available in our Blue Box in front of Glenmore Landing Safeway and at Grumans Delicatessen.

In Edmonton, newspapers can be picked up at Talmud Torah, Bliss Baked Goods, Beth Shalom, Beth Israel, Temple Beth Ora, Jewish Federation of Edmonton office, OPH, Jewish Senior Citizens Centre, Chabad of Edmonton and Jewish Family Services. Also at our Blue Newspaper Box in front of Callingwood Safeway, at the European Market in Callingwood Shopping Centre and at our Blue Newspaper Box in front of BMO in Wolf Willow.

If you've already pre-booked your greetings with



us – thank you!

Otherwise in the coming weeks, you will be approached to purchase a greeting in the Alberta Jewish News – by Sandy Fayerman in Calgary or by Dan Moser or Deb Shatz in Edmonton. Please say yes and book the greeting through them, or by calling the office at 780 421-7966 or sending an email to albertajewishnews@gmail.com.

You can also book your greeting independently online via our website at albertajewishnews.com/greetings. Our booking system allows you to book one holiday at a time or several at once – and the site allows you to specify the size of greeting that you'd like as well as your choice of holiday message. You can also now pay for greetings when you book them – on a secure site – or pay later with a cheque or eft.

The holidays are a time to connect with family and friends, and this is our way of connecting with each of you. See you soon, on the greeting pages of *AJNews*!



Camp BB-Riback campers have enjoyed a wonderful summer of fun, friendship, leadership and activity on the beautiful shores of Pine Lake Alberta. Photos by Jordan Highstead.

Camp BB-Riback 2025: A summer to remember

By Maxine Fischbein

The summer of 2025 will go down in Camp BB-Riback history as a notable one.

Thanks to improvement projects, one of the Jewish community’s most cherished institutions is looking good.

Most camper cabins have been refurbished, and the few remaining ones will be completed come fall. Upgrades have happened at the pool and the waterfront, including an extension of the pier. Foundation work and reroofing will breathe new life into the LTP Village washrooms. A three-year project generously supported by Lenny Shapiro will see the construction of a new doctor’s house and infirmary.

Despite the cost of these and other capital projects—funded by benefactors too numerous to mention—the camp has retired its debt.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic caused attrition that lingered into subsequent years, the first session of 2025 was filled nearly to maximum capacity with 191 kids from Alberta, Saskatchewan and beyond. Approximately 75 campers attended second session.

Helping Camp Director Stacy Shaikin to give kids the best possible summer was a staff composed of 30 local and 40 international counsellors and specialists.

Shaikin loves working with people who love working with kids, and he is proud of having diversified and professionalized the camp staff.

Some of that work has become more challenging over time because children have, in Shaikin’s opinion, grown more anxious. He chalks much of it up to cellphone addiction and the withdrawal when kids are asked to leave their phones behind.

Campers are not permitted to bring phones to BB-Riback, and for good reason. Shaikin says most kids become different people when they take a break from social media, get out in nature and relate to one another without distraction.

Homesickness is another challenge for some campers. This has led Shaikin to tweak camp protocols so that camp counsellors remain overnight in camper cabins on a rotating basis.

Except for Wonderweek, which gives BB-Riback’s youngest campers an age-appropriate taste of what the camp has to offer, BB Riback has historically offered two three-week camp sessions. Because this does not meet the needs of some campers and parents, Shaikin advocated change. Parents can now work with the camp to customize the duration of their children’s stay.

“I want every kid to leave here wanting more,” says Shaikin.

First session was action packed. The arrival of 11 Israeli staff members and two CITs was a source of

celebration. It was not certain at all that they would make it to Pine Lake due to attacks by Iran on Israel and fears of a wider Middle East war. Two Israeli staffers did not end up serving at the camp, one of them returning to their IDF unit.

The resulting gap left the camp short of a music specialist. While this meant that the annual camp musical had to be scuppered, Shaikin and his staff shifted focus to film and dance and re-instituted the Discovery Program, which helps campers to develop outdoor competencies.

A fishing rotation was added when the camp was able to acquire a boat thanks to the support of Dave Rothstein and a grant from the Jewish Community Foundation of Calgary (JCFC).

The JCFC once again ran its popular Youth Philanthropy program, giving older campers insight into the work of charitable organizations and engaging them in an allocation exercise that culminated in grants to Hillel—the organization serving Jewish post-secondary students—and Na’amat Canada Calgary.

Shaikin always makes a point of telling campers that the JCFC and its fundholders are instrumental in supporting Jewish causes and organizations that make a difference in their own lives, including the camp itself.

When AJNews visited Camp BB Riback last month, both the kids and Shaikin were coming off a high

Continued on page 8



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Unveiling Notice

The unveiling for **Benny Katz z”l** will be held at 2:00 pm on Sunday September 7, 2025 at Chevra Kadisha of Calgary Erlton Street Cemetery 32, 30TH AVE SW Calgary

Refreshments to follow at Paperny Family JCC 1607 90th Avenue SW Calgary

Just the Facts with Rolene Marks

Join CHW for a powerful presentation in Edmonton and then Calgary with acclaimed Israeli journalist, advocate, and WIZO Chairperson of Hasbara Division, Rolene Marks. Rolene is bringing “Just the Facts” to cities across Canada this September. She will be in Edmonton on September 10 and in Calgary on September 11.

Rolene Marks is a passionate advocate for Israel and appears on radio, television and in print. She is a member of the Media Team Israel, an advocacy body that fights media bias.

During her CHW event presentations, she will discuss a variety of important and diverse issues of relevance to the Alberta Jewish community.

The 80th anniversary of the UN General Assembly will open on September 9 and run throughout Rolene's visit. She is following UN Gaza - Israel related topics closely and will explore them during her presentations.

She will also address topics surrounding Canada's policies about Israel and PM Mark Carney's announcements of the Canadian government's agenda as it affects Israel and the Jewish diaspora.

Rolene will dispel lies, misinformation, and blood libels. She will share links and sites for accurate information and sources. She will talk about the need for Jews in Canada to share accurate information on social media. She advocates that we are all important to battle the PR propaganda against Israel and Jewish diaspora.

Rolene will also discuss WIZO's work in Israel and the importance of belonging in Canada to make an impact.

In a time of rising misinformation, propaganda and lies, Rolene cuts through the noise to deliver the real story – arming you with the facts you need to advocate for Israel with confidence or just to hear the truth for yourself.

She is a freelance journalist and broadcaster and keynote speaker who appears on international radio, television and has been published in numerous global publications. Rolene is the owner of Rolene Marks

Consulting, specialising in Media, Public Relations, Consulting on Jewish and Israel related issues as well as Media Training with both local and international clients as varied as public relations companies, non-profits, security, strategic planning, hi-tech and commercial.

Marks can be heard every day on Chai FM, a Johannesburg based radio station and is a regular correspondent on Channel News Asia and WINA Radio in the USA. She has been invited to speak to international audiences including in Brazil, Germany, Australia, South Africa, Israel, USA, UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), Limmud Finland and others. Television appearances include i24News, Newzroom Africa, SABC Africa, Channel News Asia. CNN, KurdSat and more.

Rolene produces and presents Modiin and Beyond – a weekly English-language show on Radio Modiin.

In 2007 she participated in the Israeli Ministry of

Foreign Affairs Young Jewish Diplomats Leadership course and the IUA Keshet Leadership Academy. Currently residing in Modiin, Israel, Rolene volunteers for WIZO and is a member of the World WIZO Executive holding the Public Diplomacy portfolio and previously represented the organisation on the World Zionist Congress. She represents World WIZO at the UN Alliance of Civilisations sessions on antisemitism and is World WIZO's representative to the International Alliance of Women.

Marks is a co-founder of Lay of the Land (www.layoftheland.online) host of the Israel Brief on YouTube and co-founder of the South Africa-Israel Policy Forum. She is the national spokesperson for the South African Zionist Federation and a DProf Phd candidate in the field of the media, politics and antisemitism at the University of Middlesex, London.

To register for the CHW event featuring Rolene Marks in Edmonton on September 10 or in Calgary on September 11, visit chw.ca/just-the-facts.



ALBERTA
Jewish News

Next print date is
September 9, 2025

Next deadline is
September 5, 2025



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JUST THE FACTS

With Israeli Journalist, Rolene Marks



Join us for a powerful presentation with acclaimed Israeli journalist, advocate, and WIZO Chairperson of Hasbara Division, Rolene Marks. Rolene will bring Just the Facts to cities across Canada this September.

In a time of rising misinformation, propaganda and lies, Rolene cuts through the noise to deliver the real story—arming you with the facts you need to advocate for Israel with confidence or just to hear the truth for yourself.

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Edmonton Chevra Kadisha meets community needs

By Maxine Fischbein

The Edmonton Chevra Kadisha, which has served the Jewish community continuously since its establishment in 1907, is an organization steeped in tradition and halacha. Counterintuitively, it is also committed to morphing in new directions that will help the sacred society better serve a changing community.

An example of the Jewish burial society's commitment to an increasingly diverse community is the effort currently underway to fund and open an interfaith burial section at the Chevra's still new northside cemetery, located on 156 Street at 147 Avenue, say Jeff Rubin and Barry Goldberg.

Rubin, who ascended to the presidency of the Chevra this past May, follows in the footsteps of his father, Abner Rubin, of blessed memory, who was a committed Chevra volunteer for decades. Goldberg, a friend of Rubin's since childhood, serves as vice president following years of service to other bedrock Jewish institutions in Edmonton. Other key volunteers in the current executive include Ken Soroka (treasurer), Sharon Hundert (secretary) and David Marcus (immediate past president).

"Never in the history of the Chevra has there ever been an advertisement of who is on the board of the Chevra because it was considered a secret society," Rubin told AJNews last month.

"In our mind, it is a sacred society. The only secret part of the Chevra should be the Taharachs [ritual preparation of the deceased prior to burial]. For everything else we want to be more transparent with the community moving forward," said Rubin who wants to bust myths about the society, including the persistent belief that the Chevra is flush with cash.

The Chevra does have some \$2.5 million in its



The newly elected board of Edmonton Chevra Kadisha with office manager Lauren Baram. (Missing Sharon Hundert).

coffers, but the funds are held in trust for the eventual burial of community members who have pre-purchased plots and for perpetual care of the northside cemetery and the original southside cemetery on 101 Avenue at 76 Street.

Rubin and his board wish to be transparent with the community and plan to share information about the society's operations, including revenues and expenses, to create a collective understanding of how the society operates.

They have already demonstrated their commitment to open discussion with Jewish Edmontonians of all levels of religious observance regarding policy changes that will allow the Chevra to serve the breadth of an evolving community.

The establishment of an interfaith section at the new cemetery, was proposed by a Chevra committee co-chaired by Karen Hering and Bill Dolman. The committee, including Chevra secretary Sharon Hundert, conducted extensive research into services provided by Chevra Kadisha organizations across Canada, Rubin said.

At a recent special meeting held by the Edmonton Chevra Kadisha, an overwhelming majority expressed support for interfaith burials in a designated section of the new Jewish Cemetery.

"We are now fundraising for that interfaith section," said Rubin, who is sensitive to the fact that the move remains a "contentious issue," especially with some long-serving Chevra members and members of the Jewish community at large who favour a more

traditional approach.

Rubin and his team remain committed to engaging with all community members including those with differing views.

"The percentage of interfaith marriage is growing enormously, and it just makes sense that they want to be buried together," said Rubin.

Development of the interfaith section depends on the generosity of Jewish Edmontonians. Land has been set aside to the east of the burial ground consecrated for Jewish burials on June 4, 2023, when the northside cemetery officially opened.

Sharon Marcus is heading up fundraising for the interfaith section for which the fundraising goal is \$400,000. The funds will cover clearing, excavation, grading, grade beams, walkways, landscaping, lighting, security cameras and permits.

Burials in the interfaith section will commence once the Chevra raises \$250,000, say Rubin and Goldberg, adding that donations to date total approximately \$150,000.

The Chevra Kadisha has considered interfaith burial policies and procedures in other Jewish communities as they build policies that best suit the Edmonton Jewish community.

There is already certainty on two matters. The Chevra will not allow clergy members of other faiths to officiate interfaith funerals at the cemetery. Similarly, they will not permit crosses and other iconography related to the faiths of non-Jewish partners on headstones.

"We met with the committee, the board, the Chevra as a whole and... the community to make sure that everyone was onboard but also to listen to people who weren't," said Goldberg.

"We felt confident, once the vote was taken, that we answered most questions to the satisfaction of the

Continued on page 17



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A MESSAGE FROM CEO STACEY LEAVITT-WRIGHT



If there is one takeaway from the new reality diaspora Jews are facing post-October 7, it is the importance of community unity. As the old joke goes, when you have two Jews, you get five opinions. Unity does not mean uniformity, but strengthening our ties and supporting one another are how we will navigate this era. The Jewish Federation is here to help mobilize, convene, and support, all made possible by the United Jewish Appeal (UJA) campaign.

This summer, our Jewish Federation has offered PJ Library and Shalom Baby events in parks, showcased Israel at Heritage Festival, and supported youth with bursaries for camps, while also taking part in JCC Maccabi games. The summer's close will mark our first Hillel Shabbaton for Western

Canada since COVID. Planning is underway with Beth Shalom for a Shabbat evening with Jacqui Vital, and with Temple Beth Ora for a course on Jewish peoplehood.

I keep meeting long-standing Edmontonians who are now seeking connections to community and a safe space to be their full selves. This points to the need for the new Jewish Community Centre (JCC), on which the redevelopment committee has been hard at work to establish final plans. We look forward to collaborating with Jewish Family Services to welcome newcomers with the return of Challah and Hummus, connecting recent arrivals, and further our partnership with a networking event for young adults in September.

We continue to ensure that in Edmonton we

find more opportunities to connect the community with the greater Jewish world, and the issues that matter. Our fall speaker series will begin with the UJA campaign launch that brings us together in pride, purpose, and community. At the heart of this gathering is Eitan Chitayat, the creator of the global movement I'm That Jew—a viral campaign that's reached millions worldwide and is inspiring Jews everywhere to stand tall, speak proudly, and share their stories.

This is more than just an event—it's a moment to come together and show the strength of our community. Whether you've given before or are only learning about UJA, your presence matters. I can't wait to see you there.

Reach out to us on social media or by emailing info@edjfed.org.



2025 Campaign Launch

Thursday, September 11 | 7 p.m.
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UJA LAUNCH EVENT
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Thursday, September 11 | 7 p.m.



Casey Babb and Loay Alshareef
Jewish Arab Reconciliation, the Future of Peace in the Middle East, and the Fight Against Extremism
Thursday, September 25 | 7 p.m.



Jonny Daniels
Unveiling Jewish Identity, Middle East Insights & the Fight Against Antisemitism: A Deep Dive
Tuesday, October 21 | 7 p.m.



Bonny Reichert
How to Share an Egg: A true story of hunger, love and plenty on Kristallnacht
Sunday, November 9 | 7 p.m.

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Local teens compete at JCC Maccabi Campus Games amid global tensions

By Chloe Soibelman

At a time when campuses across North America, Europe, and beyond are being co-opted by anti-Israel protests and rising antisemitism, 27 Alberta athletes joined nearly 2,000 Jewish teens in reclaiming university space with unity, athleticism, and pride. From August 2–8, the University of Pittsburgh hosted the JCC Maccabi Campus Games, offering a powerful counter-narrative to what many Jewish students are currently experiencing.

For our Calgary and Edmonton athletes, it was a whirlwind week—one that gave them a glimpse of what campus life “should” feel like: inclusive, joyful, and rooted in shared identity.

Alberta athletes competed in nine different sports, from swimming to ice hockey, and proudly brought home multiple medals — including gold in the competitive U17 boys’ and girls’ tennis divisions, and several podium finishes in the pool.

But beyond the medals, it was the moments of meaning that left the deepest impact.

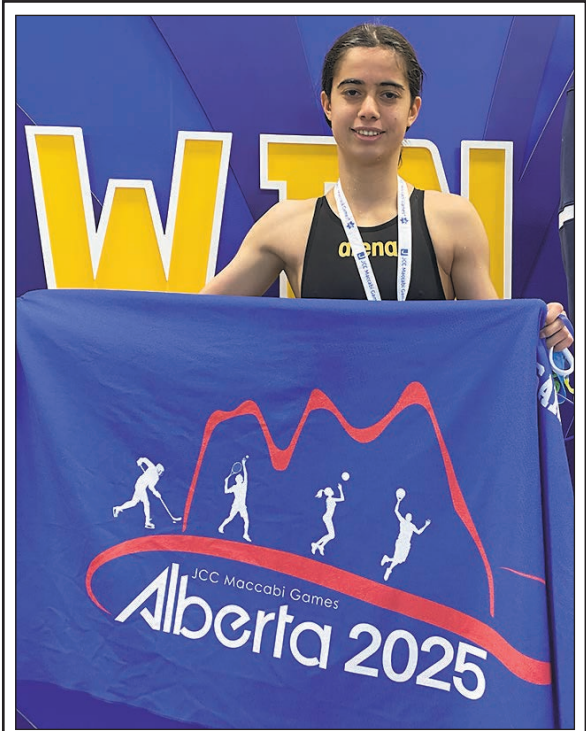
One such moment came during the gold medal ceremony for our tennis duo, Amaris and Blake, who participated in the Gold Medal Ribbon Campaign—an initiative honouring the hostages still being held in Gaza. As medals were awarded, Blake stood before a silent crowd and read a tribute for one of the hostages—likely only a few years older than himself—who has been held in unspeakable conditions for over 600 days. Nearly half our team stood in quiet solidarity, bearing witness to this act of remembrance and hope. We continue to pray for their safe and swift return.

Throughout the week, there were also countless opportunities for friendship and connection. Before the Games even began, our Alberta teens were hosted by generous Detroit families who opened their homes and hearts to our delegation. This pre-Games hospitality, organized by the JCC team led by Maya Garfinkle, laid the foundation for lasting bonds between the Detroit and Alberta contingents—an experience that truly enriched the week.

For many of our teens, the Maccabi Games are their first — or only — Jewish communal experience. One parent, Sharon, shared how her son, Joey, who had previously distanced himself from his Jewish identity, returned from the Games transformed—energized, proud, and more connected than ever.

She wrote to me after his return:

"I haven't stopped smiling since I got my boy back. Partly because I got my boy back, but also because I know this week has absolutely changed the trajectory of his life—similar to what attending Hebrew U did for me. It's not a religious thing. It's a cultural thing. A deep-roots thing. A pride thing.



Layla, 7, receives her medal.

I can't wait to help make it happen next year."

This is what Maccabi is all about.

Our dedicated volunteer staff team—Shira Spring, Mick Khan, Gabby Benjamin, Evan Horwitz, Ari Sniderman, and myself—felt truly privileged to guide our incredible teens through this experience.

We are deeply grateful to the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, the Paperny Family JCC, the Edmonton Jewish Community Charitable Foundation, the Jewish Community Foundation of Calgary, The Taco Shop, The Comic Strip, Henry Singer, Leib Zeisler, and several anonymous donors. Your support made this journey possible and helped shape a meaningful chapter in the lives of our future Jewish leaders.

Though this year's Games have just concluded, excitement is already building for next year's event in Toronto. And as the official T-shirt proclaimed—we'll be bringing our 'Eh game!'

To be added to the information session mailing list for next summer's games please email jccmaccabi@edjfed.org with your teens name, age, and sport. To participate teens must be 13-17 years old on July 31, 2026.

Chloe Soibelman is Delegation Head, Team Alberta, JCC Maccabi Games.



U15 Girls Basketball playing in the gym at University of Pittsburgh.



The U17 Alberta Houston Volley Mix Team pose for a team photo at the JCC Maccabi Campus Games.

2025 **HIGH** (5786)
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TASHLICH
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September 23 (Tues) 4:30pm - 5:00pm

YOM KIPPUR
Kol Nidre
October 1 (Wed) 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm
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Yom Kippur Ne'ilah
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Memorial Tribute



In Memory of Jerry Glasser z"l

1956 - 2025

It is with deep sadness that the family of Jerry Glasser announce his passing on July 18, 2025, at the age of 68 following a two-year battle with cancer. Jerry, son of Freda and Manny Glasser, was born and grew up in Vancouver, B.C. In his youth and early adulthood, Jerry played numerous sports, including football and rugby. He was an exceptional skier and later in life an avid cyclist.

Jerry graduated from the University of British Columbia with a degree in Commerce majoring in Urban Land Development. Moving to Edmonton in 1982, Jerry obtained his professional accounting designation while working for Chateau Developments. In the fall of 1982 Jerry wed Sharon Bookhalter, the beginning of a lifelong, loving and joyful marriage.

Jerry's career as a corporate accountant included working for N.A. Properties and later with Rice Engineering as Chief Financial Officer and Controller. Jerry's strong work ethic shone through in his professional life. He was very detailed in his work, a testament to his commitment and thoroughness in everything he pursued. As dedicated as Jerry was to work, it was surpassed by his devotion to family and friends. He was always giving of his time and energy to help those he cared about.

Jerry was a charitable person. He was extremely proud to support the Alberta Cancer Foundation by participating in the Ride to Conquer Cancer (now known as the Tour Alberta for Cancer) for 10 consecutive years. Jerry served on the Board of the Beth Israel Synagogue during the pivotal years when the West-end synagogue was being built. He also supported several projects with the Jewish National Fund and participated in three JNF bike missions to Israel. After October 7, 2023, Jerry focussed on supporting Magen David Adom, recently donating an emergency medical motorcycle to serve the people of Israel.

Jerry was a humble, kind and selfless man with an

easy-going temper-
ament and friendly
personality. He will be
deeply missed by those
who knew and loved
him, most especially
his wife Sharon, sister
Annette (Igor), brother
Alan (Barb), brother-
in-law David, nephews
Elli and Aaron, niece
Michelle, cousins, and
several close friends.
Jerry did his best to make the world around him a
better place. May his soul be bound up in the bond of
eternal life.



Israel approves plan to take over Gaza City, sets Oct. 7 deadline

By Philissa Cramer

(JTA) — Israel's security cabinet has endorsed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's plan to expand fighting in Gaza, despite warnings from military leaders and others that doing so would put soldiers and hostages at risk.

The plan approved early on August 8 does not specify that Israel will "occupy" Gaza, as Netanyahu said shortly before entering the marathon meeting that he intended to do. Instead, it focuses on Gaza City, the largest area within Gaza where the Israeli army does not already operate on the ground.

The IDF says it has conquered about 75% of Gaza since entering in October 2023 but has avoided major ground operations in Gaza City and a handful of other places where it believes hostages are being held — and where a majority of Palestinians are living after mass displacement within the territory.

Now, Israel is reportedly giving civilians sheltering in Gaza City until Oct. 7 — the two-year anniversary of the Hamas attack from Gaza that inaugurated the war — to leave.

The timeline allows for the Israeli army to array its personnel and supplies. It also leaves open the possibility for a negotiated end to the conflict, which much of the world has called for but Israel and Hamas have never agreed to, or for Hamas to surrender, as Israel has demanded but Hamas has

sworn never to do.

Netanyahu's office said shortly before 7 a.m. Friday that the security cabinet had approved a plan to prepare for seizing Gaza City "while distributing humanitarian assistance to the civilian population outside the combat zones." Israel has drawn international condemnation over humanitarian conditions in Gaza, which are likely to worsen substantially as hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians will be forced to move again into even more densely packed portions of the strip.

The announcement lists five principles for ending the war: disarming Hamas; returning all 50 remaining hostages, of 20 are thought to be alive; the demilitarization of Gaza; Israeli "security control" in Gaza; and the creation of a civil administration "that is neither Hamas nor the Palestinian Authority," the body that controls parts of the West Bank that some countries have endorsed as the governing authority of a future Palestinian state.

Netanyahu has drawn criticism for resisting calls to make a "day-after" plan for the war that would include a governance scheme.

Israeli military leaders reportedly pushed back against expanding operations in Gaza, citing the risk to hostages — some have been murdered when the IDF neared — and the condition of the country's reservists after nearly two years of war. Most hostage families and members of the Israeli public also want the war to end with a deal that would release the hostages.

The plan leaves the door open to further expanded operations in the future but falls short of the ambitions of some members of the security cabinet, who have said they want to see Gaza totally controlled by Israel, Jewish resettlement in the enclave and Palestinians encouraged or even forced to leave.

The statement from Netanyahu's office signaled that there was dissent without offering details about what form it took. "A decisive majority of Security Cabinet ministers believed that the alternative plan that had been submitted to the Security Cabinet would neither achieve the defeat of Hamas nor the return of the hostages," it said.

Bill and Brian Horwitz
would like to thank all our caring
family, friends and community
members for the overwhelming love
and support you extended to us
in memory of our beloved
Gillian Horwitz z"l.

We appreciate all the kind
expressions of condolence
we received.
We thank all those
who phoned, emailed, visited,
sent cards, made memorial
donations and contributed
to the shiva.
Your outpouring of love
and kindness comforted us.

The
Horwitz
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Mazal Tov
to Laura Moser and Mike Fischer!



They said "I do" on May 17, 2025.

Camp BB *Cont. from page 2*

following Maccabiah, where the camp is split into teams that compete in sports and other fun challenges.

Shaikin was still sporting a sweat-stained ballcap emblazoned with the name of his favorite rock band, Phish, which figured prominently in the beloved event.

Because the summer of 2025 will be Shaikin’s last as camp director, he asked and received permission from his staff to choose the themes for this year’s Maccabiah teams, which are typically named for famous Jewish people.

Shaikin has earned it after spending a good chunk of his life on the shores of Pine Lake as a camper, a staffer and, since 2018, camp director.

The music of Phish and the Grateful Dead are the playlist of Shaikin’s youth, when he formed lifelong bonds with fellow BB campers Darren Bondar, Jared Shore, Perry Jacobson, Rob Verbuck, Micah Libin, Mark Halpert, and Oren Litman. They still get together a couple of times a year to attend concerts by their favourite bands.

Studies have shown that Jewish summer camp and day school experiences are key factors in the development of future Jewish leaders, so it is no surprise that Shaikin, Bondar (also a former Camp BB director), Libin, and Shore have all served as leaders in the Calgary Jewish community.

Phish and the Grateful Dead may not immediately jump to mind as Jewish content, but Shaikin dedicated the teams in honour of Phish bassist and vocalist Mike Gordon and Grateful Dead percussionist Mickey Hart, both of whom are Jewish.

A poster competition yielded some tremendous art by Team Mickey Hart members Kat Van Leeuwen, Elle Delaney, Dorin Lamberg, Isaac Ausfresser, Lian Zohar, Raphie Simantov and Violet Lupo; and Team Mike Gordon members Minka Knoetze, Louisa Hunt, Shira Rabin, and Adam Parker.

While Team Mickey Hart prevailed in both the poster competition and Maccabiah, everyone was a winner. The posters will now hold a place a place of honour in the Hadar, along with past Maccabiah-worthy celebrities, including Israeli Prime Ministers, movie stars and Jewish community leaders.

Shaikin makes a point of telling campers about the lifelong friendships he continues to enjoy because of fun times spent in each others’ company at Camp BB. “We feel super fortunate that after 40 years we still get together. Our wives are friends, our kids all know each other. We have this community,” Shaikin said. “It’s all about the people you spent time with. That’s what you remember the most.”

Everyone eventually leaves the camp, but the camp does not leave them, says Shaikin, because the magic continues in those unshakable bonds.

Some former campers have even gravitated back to Pine Lake to celebrate milestones. During Shaikin’s time as camp director, a Bar Mitzvah, a bachelorette weekend, and a 30th birthday party took place at camp.

Though Shaikin will soon exit the camp gates for his last time as director, he will not be leaving it behind. He has offered to continue managing camp business until the camp board hires its new director ahead of summer 2026.

“I’m in a transition of my own,” says Shaikin, who is already managing his own business but is still willing, to mentor his yet-to-be-hired successor.

Shaikin leaves on a high note, proud of what he and his team have accomplished on the shores of Pine Lake.

“Yes, the job’s hard...but it has been a great eight summers, and I feel very gratified at what we’ve been accomplishing,” Shaikin said.

The sentiment is echoed by Camp Chair Jessica Miller Switzer, who attended Camp BB as a kid, is the mother of two campers, and has served on the board of the camp for six years.

“Stacy has been a great camp director. He’s really put his heart and soul into camp the last eight years. We’ve been really lucky to have him as long as we have,” Miller Switzer said, lauding Shaikin for helping the camp achieve a “much healthier financial position.”

Though the camp’s financial house is in order, work on necessary improvements continues at a time when an increasing number of families are seeking camper subsidies, said Miller Switzer, adding that the support of individuals, families and community organizations remains critical to the camp’s future.



Camp Director Stacy Shaikin

In addition to the capital projects that happened on his watch, Shaikin proved a successful fundraiser, forming relationships with local donors and securing grants from J-Camp 180—an initiative of the Massachusetts-based Harold Grinspoon Foundation—and Rogers Birdies for Kids.

Shaikin built and empowered capable senior leaders, some of whom have worked shoulder to shoulder with him for the past four or five years. He credits them with helping the camp to rebound from the COVID drought and become what it is today.

“This camp is in excellent shape,” says Shaikin who, having walked down memory lane, goes back to the future: “I love this place, and I want my kids and grandkids to be here.”

Maxine Fischbein is a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter.

CAMP BB-RIBACK is NOW HIRING

Camp Director (full time, year-round)

Located on Pine Lake Alberta, Camp BB-Riback is a Jewish summer camp that believes that every child is unique and deserves the opportunity to experience a full, enriching summer. This is a full time, year-round position that requires living onsite at camp throughout the summer season. A competitive total compensation package is offered.

Overview of Camp-Director

Reporting to the Camp BB-Riback Board of Directors, the Camp Director is responsible for all camp-related operations and activities, including community engagement, management of the facilities, food service, staff, and programs. This is a senior management position that partners closely with the Board of Directors on strategic priorities, long range plans, growth models, and fundraising.

The primary focus areas of this role are camper enrollment and community engagement, operations, and people leadership. The Camp Director will serve as the face of Camp BB-Riback in the community. This position will also lead recruiting efforts to hire and onboard a staff of 70+ seasonal employees.

This person will have a meaningful impact on building the Camp BB-Riback culture and community and will be an influential voice in the future of camp. If you are a camp professional with a proven track record in operations, this is the job for you.

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- Conduct routine inventory and procurement of supplies.
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- Oversee all camp program related travel for participants and camp staff.
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Minimum Qualifications

- Must be able to live onsite at camp in Pine Lake, AB for the summer season and reliably commute throughout the year as needed (middle of May- end of August)
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- Experience with business operations & administration, marketing and social media and fundraising / non-profit development.

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The Calgary Jewish Academy

בית הספר היהודי בקלגרי

The CJA Board of Directors is delighted to welcome, brucha haba’ah, Shelly Gelfand as our new Principal.

With extensive experience in educational leadership, she brings expertise, energy, and a collaborative spirit that will enrich our school community. As she begins her tenure, we look forward to the inspiring direction she will bring to CJA and wish Shelly, our teachers, staff, and students a year of growth, achievement, and joy in learning, with a bright future ahead.

Tons of fun at Edmonton Chabad Camp Gan Izzy



Children in Edmonton have enjoyed a summer day camp filled with fun and friends in a Jewish atmosphere at Chabad Camp Gan Izzy. There have been so many wonderful field trips and amazing activities!

Major Diaspora philanthropists call on Netanyahu to end war in Gaza

By Grace Gilson

(JTA) — As of August 6, 2025 nearly 2,000 prominent Jews around the United States and U.K. — and counting — have signed a letter to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu urging him to end the war in Gaza.

Coming amid a flurry of open statements to similar effect, the letter is notable because it has garnered signatures from influential Jewish voices with an extensive track record of donations to Israel, some of whom have not previously weighed in publicly on the nearly two-year-old war.

Among the signatories are Charles Bronfman, the Jewish Canadian-American billionaire philanthropist; the philanthropist Marcia Riklis; Dame Vivien Duffield, chairman of the Clore Foundation; and Trevor Chinn, the president of United Jewish Israel Appeal, a leading British Jewish charity that funds initiatives in Israel.

The letter is an initiative of a new liberal Zionist network called The London Initiative, founded earlier this year to “strengthen Israeli democracy, advance a fairer shared future for all citizens of Israel, revive hope in the prospects of achieving secure peace, and improve relations between all Israelis and world Jewry.”

The initiative is helmed by Mick Davis, a former

CEO of the British Conservative Party, and Mike Prashker, the founder of Merchavim: The Institute for the Advancement of Shared Citizenship, in an effort to “to reverse the direction” of the State of Israel, Prashker, who lives in Israel, told eJewish Philanthropy at the time of the launch.

The letter, titled “A protest letter to PM Netanyahu from world Jewry,” outlines four requests for Netanyahu: to “permanently restore and enable the provision of food and humanitarian aid to the Gazan population; end the war; enforce the law in the West Bank; and commit that neither you nor any member of your government will again advocate policies of starvation or expulsion as weapons of war.”

The support for the letter underscores growing criticism of the Israeli government from Jewish communities in recent weeks amid allegations of widespread starvation in Gaza and reported plans by Netanyahu to further occupy the Palestinian enclave.

It focuses primarily on the harm to Israel and Jews of Netanyahu’s prosecution of the war and handling of widening violence by Jewish settlers against Palestinians in the West Bank.

“We are under no illusions about the actions and intentions of Hamas, other extremist forces and the states that support them, and we acknowledge the painful dilemmas any Israeli government would face in addressing these threats,” the letter reads. “Yet we

also cannot escape the fact that the policies and rhetoric of the government you lead are doing lasting damage to Israel, its standing in the world and the prospects of secure peace for all Israelis and Palestinians.”

It continues: “This has severe consequences for Israel but also for the wellbeing, security and unity of Jewish communities around the world.”

Some of the letter’s signatories also signed onto a letter in early 2023 urging a halt to Netanyahu’s efforts to overhaul Israel’s judicial system, which they said would erode democracy in a state they had invested billions of dollars to strengthen.

The London Initiative declined to comment about the new letter, and the list of signatories has not yet been made public. A source close to the effort confirmed the number of signatories as of August 5 afternoon as well as the identities of the prominent signers, whose names have been included in urgent appeals on social media. The appeals said organizers set a deadline of August 6 night to sign on.

Among those to endorse the letter on social media was Rabbi Marc Israel of Tikvat Israel Congregation in Rockville, Maryland. He wrote on Facebook that he saw it as an opportunity to weigh in constructively at a time when, he said, it feels like much of the criticism of Israel’s leadership comes with an attack on the Jewish state, too.

“I want to encourage those who have been looking to express concerns about certain Israeli government actions and statements without adding fuel to the fire of Israel’s enemies and the antisemitic anti-Zionist propaganda to consider signing-on,” the rabbi wrote.

Special guest *Cont. from page 1*

RCMP officers, Jacqui Vital and her family were met by shockingly little assistance from Canadian officials. “Melanie Joly called me while I was already out the door to catch a flight to Newark. She said she might be able to get me on a cargo plane to Athens, but that then I’d be on my own to make it to Israel. I said ‘thanks’ but I’ve already taken care of it myself. That’s the kind of lack of assistance we got,” she said with audible resentment.

Jacqui first visited Israel when she was sixteen with a group of other Conservative Jewish youth on a summer excursion. “I immediately felt at home and knew I wanted to make my life there.” Still, she graduated from the University of Toronto before making Aliyah, and always remained close to her family and friends in Canada. “When people in Israel would ask if I am American, I did always enjoy saying: ‘No! Canadian,’” she recalled, musing slightly. With the treatment the family endured, compounded by the Canadian government’s lack of action, Jacqui has been left with some sour feeling toward her country of birth.

“Very early on there was a rally here in Ottawa, and my nephew went to support Israel, the hostages, the victims, and their families. I didn’t go, because there was just so much going on. My nephew said to Justin Trudeau, ‘Adi is my cousin. She’s a Canadian citizen. What are you going to do for her?’ but Trudeau said nothing.” In the face of such loss and despair the former Prime Minister’s lack of compassion read as cowardly to the family.

Jacqui, and a friend who was going to Israel to volunteer made their way to Newark. “We had to get from Newark to JFK,” she explained. “The RCMP had contacted NYPD and the local police escorted us from airport to airport. It’s all a blur though; knowing that Adi was gone, I was just focused on getting home, and I barely remember anything in between,” she said candidly. “My friend would delicately explain to people at counters, security, and check-ins so that I didn’t need to explain for myself.”

Funeral arrangements were made on a Friday before Shabbat. “The service was on Sunday, and I spent all of Friday evening texting people. I made a list of my religious friends and messaged them as soon as Shabbat ended on Saturday so that they would know.” There were approximately 1,500 people who attended the funeral. In fact, Jerusalem traffic was backed up for miles as mourners came to pay their respects to the young mother who heroically shot her assailant in order to save her children, only to have her own body desecrated by explosive boobytraps. Adi Vital-Kaploun had to be identified by her wedding ring according to Ari David Blaff’s article in *The National Post* (October 4, 2024). Adi was laid to rest in consecrated ground just outside of Jerusalem, just as she would have wanted. “Adi’s was one of the first funerals that took place, and so many people came to pay their respects,” remembers Jacqui soulfully.

The appalling treatment the family received from the Canadian government is no surprise sadly, as the new Liberal Prime Minister has decided to recognize Palestine as a sovereign state, seemingly condoning their leadership’s barbaric massacre of civilians on October 7. Jacqui and her family do not plan to remain silent. A lawsuit was filed, and according to the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, Jacqui’s lawyer Jillian Siskind: “The government and its actors are not above the law. The Minister’s decision may be discretionary, but it is not immune from review by the Courts. We are grateful that, with this decision, the court reinforced the government’s accountability to every Canadian.” The lawsuit sheds disheartening light on Canada’s 2024 renewal of UNWRA funding and its highly questionable allocations. On September 12, 2024, CIJA reported “The Honourable Madam Justice McVeigh rejected the Government’s arguments that the Minister of International Development’s decision was not reviewable by the courts or that the enabling statutes did not constrain his decision. This means that the application by Dikla Mizrachi, mother of Ben Mizrachi; Iris Liniado, daughter of Judih Weinstein Haggai; Jacqui Vital, mother of Adi Vital-Kaploun; Raquel Ohnona, mother of Alexandre Look; together with CIJA to have the March 8, 2024, decision by the Minister of International Development to resume UNRWA funding declared unreasonable will proceed before the Federal Court.”

Now Jacqui and her family must try to rebuild their lives post October 7. She is happy to report that Adi’s two sons, the younger of whom was still nursing at the time of her murder, are now thriving. They remember Ima Adi and the elder son, Negev, treasures an album of photographs. They have no shortage of love from

their father and their strong circle of friends and family. Adi’s memory is truly a blessing, and the community of Kibbutz Holit is eagerly awaiting the day that the family can return.

Jacqui, despite the trauma of having to bury a daughter, now speaks publicly about her loss so that nobody will forget what can happen when people turn a blind eye to hate and evil. She has spent many days over Summer 2025 speaking to young people at Jewish summer-camps, and is available to answer questions, even when they are painful. “Adi was brilliant,” she said with conviction. “I see so much of her in Negev. He’s athletic and strong, just as she was.” Adi’s story will continue to be told by her family until the world and decision makers in power begin to see that a world in which antisemitism is left to fester, and breed is not a safe one for anybody: both Jews and non-Jews.

The Alberta Jewish community and allies of Israel are invited to gather for this unique opportunity to meet Jacqui Vital. She is a formidable warrior for Israel, and with voices like hers sharing stories like Adi’s there is hope and inspiration.



Jacqui and Yaron Vital

To register in Edmonton on Aug. 29 email info@e-bethshalom.org. Register for Jacqui Vital on Sept. 3 at jewishcalgary.crowdchange.co/50439 and for the Sept. 7 Calgary Walk with Israel at jewishcalgary.crowdchange.co/50367.

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community calendar

Want to know what's going on in Jewish Calgary?
Check out the Community Calendar at jewishcalgary.org

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



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TOGETHER WE CAN: LAUNCHING THE 2025 UJA CAMPAIGN WITH PURPOSE AND COMMUNITY

Each year, Calgary's Jewish community comes together in a powerful show of generosity, solidarity, and commitment through our United Jewish Appeal (UJA) Campaign. Under this year's inspiring slogan, "**Give Today, Strengthen Tomorrow, Together We Can**," we are reminded that our collective strength is what allows us to care for one another, protect one another, and ensure the vitality of Jewish life—for today and for generations to come.

But this year, the stakes are higher than ever.

The cost of living continues to rise, and for many families, the cost of Jewish life has become increasingly difficult to manage. Our **Integrated Bursary Program (IBP)** is seeing unprecedented demand, as more people have turned to Federation for financial support to access Jewish day schools and summer camp. At the same time, we face growing threats of **antisemitism** that demand bold investment in **security infrastructure and professional staffing** as part of a national movement to better safeguard our community.

Despite these challenges, we are fiercely committed to what makes Jewish Calgary strong and connected: from **PJ Library®** and early childhood engagement, to **Hillel, JAC (Jewish Adult Calgary)**, and our vital **Inclusion initiatives**. These programs bring meaning and belonging to our community—and your support makes it all possible.

As we launch this year's UJA 2025 campaign, we invite you to take part in two exciting marquee events that reflect the heart and energy of our community. On Sunday, September 7, we'll kick off the campaign with **Walk with Israel**, a joyful and unifying celebration at the Paperny Family JCC. Join us for a 4km walk followed by a vibrant festival with kids' activities, live music, delicious food, and information tables from local community organizations. It's a day to walk proudly, show our unity, and launch this important campaign. Then, on Monday, October 20 at Beth Tzedec Congregation, we are honoured to host **Jonny Daniels**, founder of **From the Depths**, for an inspiring and thought-provoking evening. A former IDF paratrooper and senior adviser in the Israeli

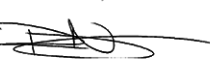
government, Jonny will share his global perspective and deep passion for Holocaust memory, diplomacy, and Jewish resilience.

This campaign is about more than fundraising. It's about building a strong, inclusive, and secure Jewish future right here in Calgary. It's about making sure everyone—regardless of age, ability, background, or means—can live a full and meaningful Jewish life.

Together we can meet this moment. **Together we can** provide care, connection, and community for all.

We hope you'll join us—at these incredible events, in this vital campaign, and in shaping the future of Jewish Calgary.

B'Shalom,



Rob Nagus, Chief Executive Officer
Calgary Jewish Federation

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





FREE

PRIDE SHABBAT

From Margins to Mitzvahs

Friday, August 22
7:30PM • Temple B'nai Tikvah



Celebrate Pride with a keynote address by **Hannah B (@HealthybyHannahB)** followed by a Shabbat service led by **Rabbi Cantor Russell Jayne** with members of Calgary's 2SLGBTQ+ Jewish community, and a dessert reception to close the night.





INFO & REGISTER at QR code or go to jewishcalgary.org
QUESTIONS? Contact **Jamie** at jkeltz@jewishcalgary.org



Adi Vital-Kaploun^{z"}

was a dual citizen of Israel and Canada. She grew up spending her summers in Ottawa with her extended family. Adi was a dancer, a saxophonist, a basketball player. She was a soldier, an engineer in cybersecurity, an environmental scientist in desert studies and solar energy. Adi was a daughter, a sister, a wife, a mother.

She was 33 years old when terrorists invaded her home on Kibbutz Holit. She somehow managed to save the lives of her husband, father, and two young children, aged four and six months. Before she was murdered, Adi killed one of the terrorists herself.

Adi's mom, Jacqui, is coming to share Adi's harrowing and inspiring story. Come and bear witness to the spirit of a young woman, who could do anything – and chose to be a desert farmer – raising her young children on the Gaza border.

Our Family's Story

A Conversation with Jacqui Vital

Wednesday, September 3
7:00PM • Paperny Family JCC

Register for this FREE event at QR code or go to jewishcalgary.org

For more information contact Diana Kalef dkalef@jewishcalgary.org • 403-444-3154



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MARCH OF THE LIVING 2026

We're beginning to plan for March of the Living 2026 and are gauging early interest from students in grades 10, 11, and 12, as well as their families.

If you or someone you know may be interested in this powerful and meaningful journey to Poland and Israel, please scan the **QR code** to complete the interest form.

For any questions, contact Diana Kalef at dkalef@jewishcalgary.org.





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WALK *with* **ISRAEL**

| Sunday, September 7 • 11AM - 2PM



Join us for Walk with Israel, the official kick-off of the 2025 UJA Campaign!
Featuring guest **Jacqui Vital**



Register* for this **FREE** event
at QR code or go to jewishcalgary.org



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**Registration is required to receive a lunch ticket (one per person).*

**A DEEP DIVE WITH
JONNY DANIELS**

Jonny Daniels is the founder of *From the Depths*, a nonprofit committed to preserving Holocaust memory and restoring forgotten Jewish heritage across Europe.

A former IDF paratrooper and senior adviser in the Israeli government, he brings bold leadership to the intersection of remembrance, diplomacy, and justice.



We are proud to honour **W. Brett Wilson** for his philanthropy, advocacy, and allyship with the Jewish community. Join us in celebrating a friend and champion.

Ticket: \$54
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Sunday, September 14
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For more information contact Lori Wolf at lwolf@jewishcalgary.org

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The MAN VAN®: Bringing free men’s health checks to Alberta Communities

In Alberta, one in six men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime. Early detection of the disease is key in ensuring positive outcomes for those affected but given this type of cancer often shows no symptoms, a new approach to testing was urgently needed to encourage men to get screened earlier and often.

Established in 2009, the MAN VAN® is Canada’s first mobile men’s health clinic, operating with one goal: save men’s lives. The clinic offers PSA (Prostate-Specific Antigen) blood testing for men aged 40 to 70, with no appointment needed.

Funded by community, for the community, these simple blood tests are quick, free, and require no identification. Bloodwork is sent directly to the Prostate Cancer Centre certified lab for testing and results are provided within the week.

In a province where 15 percent of people don’t have a family doctor and 40 percent of men only visit a doctor when something is seriously wrong, the MAN VAN® meets men where they are. By travelling directly to communities and neighbourhoods, it reaches those who might not otherwise get checked for prostate cancer, especially in rural and Indigenous areas where access to healthcare can be limited.

With a fleet of three mobile clinics on the road and a fourth on the way, over 70,000 men have been tested in 175 communities across Alberta to date. In addition to PSA testing, the clinical team also offers mental wellness checks, screening for depression and suicide risk.



The MAN VAN® is a mobile men’s health clinic, that offers PSA (Prostate-Specific Antigen) blood testing for men aged 40 to 70, with no appointment needed.

The process takes just 15 minutes, and it could save your life. For more information on finding a clinic in your local area, head to getchecked.ca.

FSWC Urges Edmonton and London to rename streets honouring Nazis

(August 6, 2025) – Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center (FSWC) is calling on the mayors of Edmonton and London, Ont. to take immediate action to rename streets in their cities that currently honour individuals affiliated with the Hitler-led Nazi regime.

In letters sent in early August to London Mayor Josh Morgan and Edmonton Mayor Amarjeet Sohi, FSWC expressed deep concern over the continued presence of Nazi-linked names in public spaces and urged both municipalities to act swiftly and decisively to rectify this disturbing situation.

In Edmonton, Savaryn Drive is named after Peter Savaryn, who served during the Second World War in the 14th Waffen Grenadier Division of the SS, a Nazi military unit implicated in Holocaust atrocities,

including the massacre of approximately 1,000 civilians in the then Polish village of Huta Pieniacka, which is now located in modern-day Ukraine. This is the same Nazi military unit in which Yaroslav Hunka served – whose recognition in the House of Commons in September 2023 sparked widespread outrage in Canada and internationally, ultimately leading to the resignation of the Speaker of the House.

In 2023, Canada’s Governor General issued a formal apology for awarding Savaryn the Order of Canada, recognizing the profound harm caused by honouring an individual tied to the mass murder of innocent civilians.

In London, Max Brose Drive honours Max Brose, a German industrialist who was an official member of the Nazi Party and a major

supporter of the Nazi war effort. Brose’s company produced gasoline canisters and armaments for the German military and profited from the use of slave labour.

“The continued existence of these street names causes pain to Holocaust survivors, the Jewish community and all Canadians who cherish human rights and historical truth. Such a disgrace also dishonours the 45,000 Canadian soldiers who gave their lives fighting Nazism,” said Jaime Kirzner-Roberts, FSWC’s Senior Director of Policy and Advocacy. “Canada’s history includes the disturbing reality that many Nazis and collaborators were able to find refuge in this country, never having to face justice for their horrific, murderous acts. Memorializing individuals who enabled or participated in Nazi crimes is fundamentally incompatible with Canadian values and a stain on Canada’s good name. Acknowledging and rectifying these wrongs, including the symbols that persist in our communities, is essential to upholding the principles of remembrance, accountability and justice.”

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Summer Corn and Zucchini Latkes

By Shannon Sarna

(The Noshers via JTA) — Who says latkes are just for Hanukkah? Well, it's not me. And summer is a great time to try using seasonal produce to make some crispy, delicious latkes.

I recently fried up some fresh corn and zucchini latkes, served with herb sour cream (or yogurt) and thinly sliced radishes. The texture of the fresh corn with zucchini and potato was so delicious. If you're looking for other ideas for non-potato latkes try broccoli stem latkes or even these healthful spaghetti squash and quinoa fritters from Julia's Album, which after all, is just another name for latke.

These corn and zucchini latkes are great for a light dinner, or paired perfectly with some poached eggs for brunch. Ready to cook?

Ingredients:

- 1 russet potato
- 1 medium-large zucchini
- 2 ears of corn, kernels removed (corn will be raw)

- 2 large eggs
- 3-4 Tbsp whole wheat flour (can also use unbleached AP flour or matzah meal)
- 1/2 tsp salt, divided
- 1/4 tsp pepper
- 1 cup Greek yogurt or sour cream
- 1-2 Tbsp chopped fresh herbs, such as cilantro, dill, mint, basil and/or parsley
- 1 tsp fresh lemon zest
- 1/8 tsp salt

Directions:

Cut ends of zucchini and coarsely grate. Place in a large bowl with 1/4 tsp salt. Allow to sit for 20 minutes. After 20 minutes, place shredded zucchini in a kitchen towel and wring out excess water.

Place shredded potato, zucchini, corn kernels, eggs, flour and 1/4 tsp salt in a large bowl. Mix until combined.

Heat 2-3 Tbsp vegetable oil in a large saute pan over medium high heat.

Form mixture into patties, size should be approximately 1/3 cup.



Cook latkes until golden and crispy on first side, around 3-4 minutes. Flip and cook for another 2-3 minutes.

Place onto a wire baking rack and add a pinch of salt immediately.

To make the herb sour cream (or yogurt): combine sour cream, chopped herbs, lemon zest and 1/8 tsp salt. Combine and serve with hot latkes.

Garnish with thinly sliced radishes if desired.

Shannon Sarna is the editor of The Noshers. ^

Edmonton Chevra Kadisha *Cont. from page 4*

majority,” Goldberg added.

“A lot of people who were against the idea initially... came on board,” said Rubin, especially when they understood that the burials will take place in an unconsecrated section of the cemetery.

“We feel very strongly that we are meeting the needs of Edmontonians who have [non-Jewish] partners, and we feel good about that,” Goldberg said.

“We are trying to be as sensitive and realistic as possible,” says Goldberg, adding that the burial of interfaith family members is but one of many priorities for the Chevra.

“The beautiful thing about the Chevra is that we are going to be flexible. We will talk about our policies and procedures... we are going to be open to change, but it has to be [carried out] within certain parameters,” says Goldberg, adding that halacha and minhag (Jewish laws and customs) will continue to guide the organization.

A prime concern is compassion for those who grieve, say Rubin and Goldberg who recently met with Danielle Dolgoy, Executive Director, and Meital Siva-Jain, Manager of Outreach Services, at Jewish Family Services Edmonton, to plan for an ongoing partnership devoted to meeting the needs of bereaved family members,” Rubin told *AJNews*.

While Chevra work is a calling, it is also a business, and Rubin has set about the establishment of committees devoted to governance, risk management, financial oversight, and the like to ensure that the organization operates with maximum efficiency.

Unlike other Canadian Chevra Kadisha organizations—with the exception, in part, of Calgary—the Edmonton Chevra owns and operates its cemeteries.

While Rubin and Goldberg are confident that the Chevra will continue to serve future generations of Jewish Edmontonians, the organization’s ability to do so hinges upon the willingness of new generations of volunteers to perform taharachs, assist at burials, and comfort the bereaved.

“It’s a challenge to find younger members,” says Rubin.

“When I lost my sister, my mother, and a few close friends, I saw the need for the Chevra, recalls Goldberg, who wanted to give back, a motivation that has attracted other Jewish Edmontonians to the sacred work for close to 120 years.

“Often people say, ‘Oh my God, it’s such a mitzvah you’re doing’,” Goldberg said to *AJNews*. “But we don’t

look at it that way.... It may be a calling, but it is about helping other people. When you are in that position on the other side of the table, you are *farmisht* [disoriented] because you’ve lost somebody near and dear.”

Like many volunteers who gravitate to the Chevra, Jeff Rubin follows in the footsteps of his father Abner Rubin, of blessed memory. Over the years, Abner encouraged his son to step up, as he had, on behalf of the Chevra.

“I just wasn’t ready yet,” recalled Jeff Rubin who answered the call approximately 20 years ago.

Rubin says that people often assume that all Chevra volunteers must participate in Taharachs.

“Not everyone is able to do a taharah,” says Rubin. “For some it takes a while if they are ever going to do it, but there are other roles that a Chevra member can fulfill.”

Tasks conducted by Chevra volunteers include answering phones, attending funerals to assure a minyan (the prayer quorum of 10 required for the recitation of the Kaddish prayer), meeting with bereaved families, and sewing tachrichim (shrouds).

The Edmonton Chevra, which averages 35 to 40 funerals each year, recently appointed Matthew Marcus as cemetery manager. Marcus, who previously worked at the southside cemetery, will be responsible for both cemeteries and will be a presence at the Chesed Shel Emes building on 105 Avenue at 123 Street.

Other paid employees include office manager Lauren Baram and casual labourers.

The Chevra plans to eventually erect a building at the new cemetery site that will include taharah facilities, a chapel, offices, a Cohen room, and washrooms.

Last month, the building committee approved conceptual drawings, which they have now referred to the Chevra board of directors for their consideration at their September meeting, says Rubin. Once approved, design work and cost estimates will follow.

It is likely that the Chevra will eventually sell the Chesed Shel Emes building, though this is not a priority for now, Goldberg said. If they do sell the building before completion of the northside chapel, taharah teams will prepare the deceased for burial at the funeral home of Connelly-McKinley, partners of the Chevra over more than a century.

Temple Beth Ora rents space at the Chesed Shel Emes, where they conduct prayer services. The Reform congregation’s plan is to move to the new Jewish Federation building in about one year’s time, Rubin said.

The northside cemetery consists of 30 acres, approximately six of which the Chevra has already

developed. According to various estimates, there is enough land to ensure Jewish burials there for a century or two.

Of course, this glimpse into the future of Jewish burial depends on the extent to which the community steps up, not only as volunteers but as philanthropists.

“We have a funding shortage,” says Goldberg.

Part of this arises from the fact that not all members of the community have the means to support, in whole or part, the burials of loved ones.

“Chevra needs to make that up,” Goldberg says, adding that today burials cost, on average, \$15,500 to \$16,000. Add to this the cost of perpetual care, and the figure rises to \$18,000.

The board is giving thought to the re-establishment of a Kevurah (burial) Fund to which community members could direct donations to help defray the costs shouldered by the Chevra when individuals and families cannot afford interment, Rubin said, adding that this is a responsibility that falls not only to the Chevra but the community as a whole.

Many prepaid plots—some bought by community members decades ago— do not come close to the \$18,000 sustaining figure. Although the Chevra will grandfather previous agreements, they are asking those in a position to do so to consider tax-deductible donations to bridge the gap.

“Times change. We have to move forward in all sorts of ways: morally, ethically, financially,” says Rubin, who values the counsel of Chevra past presidents and plans to continue meeting with them, keeping them informed, and ensuring that the community benefits from their wealth of experience.

Living past presidents of the Edmonton Chevra Kadisha include Harry Silverman, Percy Lerner, Rhoda Friedman, and David Marcus. Each has played a significant role in the unfolding story of one of Edmonton’s first and most important Jewish institutions, together with fondly remembered leaders now bound up in the bond of life.

Today’s Chevra leaders dedicate themselves to serving a community that has changed with the times but still needs the comfort of time-honoured Jewish traditions and compassionate support during their darkest hours.

If you are interested in exploring volunteer opportunities at the Chevra Kadisha, please call the Chevra office at 780-482-3065.

For more information about the interfaith burial section campaign contact Sharon Marcus at sharon@edmontonchevrakadisha.ca or 587-991-8437. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

Maxine Fischbein is a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A world destroyed: Remembering Awdah Hathaleen

By Asher Kirchner

About two weeks ago, on July 28, 2025, a prominent West Bank Palestinian activist-journalist named Awdah Hathaleen was shot to death by an Israeli settler, in the village of Umm al-Khair. I'm a member of the Edmonton Jewish community; I spent three months in that village in 2022, as a volunteer with Center for Jewish Nonviolence (CJNV). I got to know Awdah well. Since my return to Canada, I kept up contact with him through WhatsApp. I want to try to convey the kind of leader he was, so you will understand how devastating his loss will be, to the people of his village and to those working for justice and peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

Umm al-Khair is a village of Bedouins, originally displaced from Arad (inside the Green Line) in 1948. They bought their land, in the Masafer Yatta region of the West Bank, from landowners in Yatta, and optimistically named their new village "Mother of Goodness." Their livelihood was shepherding. The situation began to change in the 1980's with the establishment of the Israeli Jewish settlement of Carmel, that seized most of the village's grazing land. In time, the settlement grew: its perimeter is now metres from the Palestinian's houses, separated by barbed wire fencing.

To understand Awdah, you have to understand his uncle, Haj Suleiman Hathaleen. People ask, where is the Palestinian Gandhi? Haj Suleiman was just such a Gandhi figure: he championed nonviolent resistance, and inspired generations of Palestinian activists in the region, including the family of Basil Adra, of *No Other Land* fame, from the neighbouring town of At-Tuwani. Dressed in traditional Bedouin garments, Suleiman showed up for every anti-occupation protest he could get to, not just in his village or his region, but throughout the West Bank. Suleiman and his disciples reached out to Jewish Israeli peace activists and international human rights organizations (Jewish and otherwise), to build a coalition of support for the people of the Masafer Yatta region. In January 2022, Israeli Civil Administration forces entered Umm al-Khair to confiscate a car: the police tow-truck driver ran over Haj Suleiman, killing him, and then fled the scene. This happened just a few weeks before I came to the village, so I never got to meet him. The village was still in deep grief when we arrived.

The leadership of the village's solidarity-building efforts fell on Suleiman's nephew Awdah, who was only twenty-eight at the time. Like many of the young men from this poor shepherding village, Awdah had worked hard to earn a university degree. He taught English in the local school. He wrote articles, about his village's experiences, that appeared in 972mag.com and elsewhere. Once Zoom came into use, he gave webinars that reached international audiences. He hosted and befriended every human rights group that visited his village, explaining the difficulties of life under occupation, as he did for our CJNV cohort. "I go to bed every night not knowing whether I will have a house to sleep in the following night," he told us, due to Israel's policy of home demolitions, because the

Palestinians are denied building permits. Awdah's family's house had been demolished many times, and they rebuilt as best they could. Passing over the heads of the villagers were electric power lines connecting Carmel to a settler-owned chicken farm. "The chickens are connected to the electricity grid," he wryly observed, "but we Palestinian human beings are not." Instead, the villagers of Umm al-Khair rely on generators and solar panels, which intermittently get confiscated or destroyed by the army.

When I first met Awdah, I noticed the old burn scars that disfigured one side of his face, but I forgot about that the minute he started talking. The main things I remember are his warmth, generosity, and playful sense of humour. For example, when Awdah learned it was the birthday of Zak, one of the CJNV activists, he insisted on throwing a feast. He got ahold of a picture of Zak, fleeing (or pretending to) in terror from a flock of sheep, and Awdah presented a birthday cake with the picture printed in the icing.

Awdah's bitter experiences under occupation could have led him to hate Israelis. But he welcomed Israeli Jewish allies as well as diaspora Jews, as though we were part of his family. He joined our Jewish group in celebrating the Pesach Seder during our stay there. In addition to his activism, Awdah was a dedicated father. When I was there, I rarely saw him as he moved about the village without his son Watan in his arms. In subsequent years, two more children were added to his family.

Things changed after October 2023. In the aftermath of the Hamas attack, and Israel's response, the life for Palestinians in the West Bank, and in Masafer Yatta in particular, became exponentially worse, even though there is no Hamas presence in the region. Army checkpoints proliferated, making travel for Palestinians outside their village slow and dangerous, if not impossible. Soon, the Civil Administration told the villagers of Umm al-Khair that ALL of their grazing land now belonged to the settlers. They couldn't raise sheep anymore; they were deprived of their livelihood. The distinction between regular army units and settler militias all but vanished. Awdah kept me informed of what was happening through WhatsApp. According to his texts, settlers, in and out of uniform, began invading the village regularly, breaking into people's houses -- stealing, destroying, attacking and arresting Palestinians, with impunity. These incursions have now become a nearly daily occurrence. I woke up every morning praying there wouldn't be a text from him alerting us to some new settler outrage.

On Monday July 28, 2025, I began to receive texts from other Jewish activists on the ground in Umm al-Khair, as well as from Awdah's family: this what they reported. Another group of settlers, accompanied by a bulldozer and soldiers, invaded the village, intending to clear space for a settler-owned olive orchard in the middle of the village, and cutting the water lines to the Palestinian's houses. A villager was struck and seriously injured by the bulldozer. Unsurprisingly, a confrontation ensued. One settler, Yinon Levi, pulled out a pistol and began shooting. Levi has been

and get to know one another.

"We've had events where we've been able to introduce new medical students, in particular, to physicians in [a variety of] fields. Having those connections early on, I think, is very important," Galante said, adding that the JHAA also wants to provide these kinds of opportunities to allied health professionals.

JHAA leaders are particularly pleased to afford opportunities for young practitioners to seek mentorship and extend their networks in the interest of providing patients with the best possible care.

"We are filling a need," Katz says. "The more people we talk to, the more opportunities there are to support each other and collaborate locally, provincially and nationally."

"One of our biggest concerns...is making sure that the next generation of trainees, like medical students and students in other health fields, are feeling supported and welcomed as part of the community," Galante said. "That's really one of the best things we've accomplished thus far, even before the



Asher Kirchner and Awdah Hathaleen at the West Bank in 2022.

sanctioned for his extremist violence by Canada, Britain and the European Union (and the US as well under the Biden administration, but Trump lifted the sanctions). One of the bullets hit Awdah in the chest, killing him. Awdah was only 31 years old, leaving a widow and three little children who don't understand why they can't see their father anymore.

As word of Awdah's killing spread, the villagers erected the traditional mourning tent for those coming to pay their respects and comfort Awdah's family, as well as journalists trying to cover the story. But the army demanded the mourning tent be taken down. They then moved in with stun grenades, violently driving the mourners and journalists out of the village. The army initially refused to return Awdah's body to his family for burial. It would only be released if the family agreed to a funeral with no more than fifteen mourners, at night, outside of Umm al-Khair. The family indignantly responded, "Awdah was not a thief, and we will not bury him at night like a thief." Instead, the women of the village launched a hunger strike. On August 7, 2025, Awdah's body was finally released. The villagers were able to bury him, just outside of the village, near the school where Awdah taught. In violation of the army's agreement with the family, many mourners were kept from reaching the funeral.

The alleged killer Yinon Levi was briefly detained but released almost immediately. He continues to return to the village, carrying out further demolitions. About 15 young men from the village were also arrested and held in Ofer military prison for several days; but they too have now all been released.

Now, I find myself struggling to imagine going back to Umm al-Khair without having Awdah there to greet me. There is a gaping hole in my heart now. Mishnah Sanhedrin 4:9 teaches that whoever destroys, or saves, a single life, it is as if they had destroyed, or saved, the whole world. I now know what it feels like to have a whole world destroyed -- the world that had Awdah Hathaleen in it. How many more entire worlds have been destroyed already; and how many more will yet be destroyed in Israel and Palestine, before we demand that the killing stop?

Oy Awdah, oy humanity.

Jewish healthcare

Cont. from page 14

a nurse, the student observers who head up the trainee group, and a retired social worker who chairs a mental health working group.

While the JHAA is a fully independent body, it cooperates with the Jewish Federations in both Calgary and Edmonton, "to better meet the needs of the community," Katz says. He and his colleagues in both Calgary and Edmonton want Jewish healthcare providers to hear the overarching message... that "they are not alone."

"For a lot of people, this is a new thing, the organization and the antisemitism," says Katz, who also serves on the board of directors of the Calgary Jewish Federation.

While the JHAA has some serious goals, it is not all work and no play. The group has held social events in both Calgary and Edmonton, allowing medical practitioners informal opportunities to meet, mingle

organization was officially formed."

While the JHAA was born in Calgary, it is actively seeking members in Edmonton and throughout the province. "We hope to continue to grow, build connections and ensure that everyone is included who wishes to be," said Galante.

"We are thankful that we have the trust of so many practitioners," Katz said. "This is a great way to build community."

Jewish doctors and allied healthcare professionals who have not already registered with the JHAA can connect at <https://forms.gle/vbubzhjjSan6aN387> or www.jhaa.ca. Contact info@jhaa.ca for more information about the JHAA.

Coordinated events in Edmonton and Calgary will be held Sept. 14 and include dinner and a speaker who will talk about Jewish innovations in medicine, with networking opportunities afterwards. The events take place in Calgary at the JCC at 6 pm and in Edmonton at Talmud Torah at 6 pm. Contact info@jhaa.ca for more information and to register.

Canada Federations double investment for Galilee Panhandle

Canadian Jewish Federations have announced a new collaborative partnership, the Pan-Canadian Coalition, a collective national funding effort which includes all Jewish federations across the country contributing funds raised through Israel Emergency campaigns. This news follows months of preparation and field-analysis, which has yielded this groundbreaking, multi-year collaborative philanthropic venture.

Convened and led by Jewish Federations of Canada-UIA, the \$20 million CAD of the coalition will implement Project Regeneration, a strategic response to improve education in the Galilee Panhandle with a focus on academic infrastructure and region-wide educational initiatives. In turn, improving education will improve the quality of life. Residents identified the issue of education as the most burning for them, after security, when it came to returning to or staying in the region.

Supported by additional matching funds from government, partner organizations, and leading Canadian foundations, the total investment will exceed \$40 million CAD. This funding will drive transformative capacity building and innovation through a select group of grantees: Tel-Hai College – University on the Rise, Kiryat Shmona Community Centres, Kedma Student Villages, Maoz Educational Leadership Incubator, and HaBaita Regional Excellence Centres.

“These funds will be invested strategically in programs and services that will generate long-term strength, stability, and resilience that uplift the entire region and everyone in it for years to come,” stated Jewish Federation of Edmonton CEO Stacey Leavitt-Wright. “Project Regeneration is the newest evolution of our 30+ year partnership with the region, which we see as an extension of our community and whose residents are our extended family.”

The Pan-Canadian Coalition is led by a team of Jewish Federations of Canada-UIA senior professionals and volunteer leaders, together with Israel Federation representatives, federation

professional leadership and Israel Emergency Allocations Committees. Jewish Federations across all of Canada are taking part in this collective national effort, namely Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, Atlantic Canada, Hamilton, London, Victoria, Windsor and small communities across Canada.

Project Regeneration builds on Canadian Jewish Federations’ history of philanthropic investments and personal relationships with the region, through the CTC/P2G Partnership of Vancouver, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton and Halifax and the communities of the Galilee Panhandle.

“Our partnership region, which was already challenged by socio-economic issues and lack of job opportunities, bore the brunt of attacks by Hezbollah after October 7,” explained Leavitt-Wright. “A hundred thousand residents were displaced from their homes and communities and an estimated 60 percent of buildings in the region were damaged. Schools and businesses were shuttered; lives and livelihoods were out on long-term hold.”

In October 2023, Canadian Jewish Federations put out a call to support Israel in her greatest time of need, and many people came forward with donations to the Israel Emergency Fund, added Leavitt-Wright. “Our Jewish Federation of Canada-UIA (JFC-UIA) staff team on the ground identified short, medium, and very long-term needs. We addressed the short and medium-term needs through initial rounds of allocations that were overseen by the Israel Emergency Forum of which I was the CEO representative of the Coast-to-Coast Canadian (CTC) Jewish communities.”

“Now, as residents begin to return and rebuild their lives, we are addressing the long-term needs in a thoughtful, strategic, impactful way that will create a ripple effect for years to come through Project Regeneration. I am pleased to continue representing

the CTC Canadian Jewish communities and to bring Edmonton’s voice to the national table.”

“As Federations, we bring a unique vantage point that enables us to see the big picture and bring together partners, donors and leaders to make a lasting impact on our collective future,” noted Leavitt-Wright. “Rather than individual Federations funding individual projects, Federations across Canada have combined our funds to make a collective impact on a scope and scale that will resonate for decades to come. It will stand as an example of how our shared philanthropic impact—driven by your generous support—amplifies our impact when combined, whether at home or abroad.

“Together, we are making a much greater impact than any single Federation could have on its own.”

She added, “Having visited with mayors, community leaders, and the leadership of Tel Hai College as it moves towards becoming a university, I have seen a resilient and dedicated people who are eager to move this region forward and strengthen it further. Our JFC-UIA staff on the ground have their fingers on the pulse of the true needs and work closely with local leaders to ensure our funds have the greatest possible impact.”

“We look forward to sharing real-time reports about the impact on communities and individuals on the ground as it unfolds and as new funders join the venture,” said Leavitt-Wright.

“I want to thank Sarah Mali, Director General JFCUIA, for her leadership to this initiative, and my colleagues from across the country, who have all prioritized and ensured that every Canadian community is part of this initiative.

“We will continue the work of the partnership, which is focused on capacity building initiatives like STEAM education, support of mental health and resilience activities, and facilitating connections through Geshar Chai-Living Bridge initiatives. We also continue to work with major donors who wish to fund meaningful projects that further support this extension of our own community.”



This month at Talmud Torah Early Learning Centre in Edmonton



This summer the Edmonton Talmud Torah Early Learning Centre has been filled with laughter, curiosity, and joyful discovery. From the excitement of visiting the local fire station to splashing in water play, creating colourful tie-dye, sharing picnics, and “camping” adventures, every moment has been a chance to learn and grow. And each week, they come together to welcome the peace and beauty of Shabbat, making memories that will last long after summer ends.

Why ‘beach reading’ is a joke on Jews like me

Book Review

By Andrew Silow-Carroll

(JTA) — I’m reading a new novel by an Israeli author that has nothing to do with the war in Gaza, or any current crisis for that matter.

I can’t tell if I feel relieved or guilty. With a world in turmoil, how much permission can I give myself to tune out – if tuning out is even possible?

Iddo Gefen’s “Mrs. Lilienblum’s Cloud Factory” is set in a village on the lip of a crater deep in the Negev Desert – far from the bright lights of Tel Aviv and even Beersheba. When the family matriarch invents a machine that creates custom rain clouds, her family sees a way out of their thwarted lives in an Israeli backwater. With the help of an eccentric local investor, they expand mom’s home workshop into a full-fledged R&D lab and attract the interest of a famous venture capitalist. The subplots include a missing hiker, a budding romance and even a touch of larceny.

The book is both a family drama and a gentle satire of Israel’s high-tech sector. One reviewer praised its “spirited whimsy.” And “although it’s not set far from the Gaza border,” as Haaretz notes in a profile of the author, the novel “unfolds far from war-related headlines.”

“Summer reading” is big business. One camp holds that the ideal “beach read” is fat and frothy, heavy on plot and action and light on whatever it is that makes a novel “literary.” Others like to take on an overlooked classic or a nonfiction doorstop. Either way, there is a sense that summer fare should take you out of the moment – the way summer itself promises a break from the routines of the rest of the year.

“We go away because we need to relax and recharge,” writes Daisy Buchanan, author of “Read Yourself Happy.” “A holiday is supposed to have health benefits. And reading might be the magical secret that ensures we feel those benefits. It’s one way to truly get away from it all.”

This summer I’ve tried to get away from it all, I

really have. But the real world keeps finding me, like an aggressive mosquito, or worse, a persistent summer cold. My phone constantly buzzes with disturbing headlines out of Washington, and the TV delivers the latest bad news in Gaza. Summer reading feels less like a pleasant distraction than burying my head in the sand – and worse, an abdication of who I am supposed to be as a citizen and a Jew.

Judaism itself seems to discourage the kind of escapism that summer reading is supposed to promise. “Every ritual, every command, every syllable of the Jewish story is a protest against escapism, resignation and the blind acceptance of fate,” wrote the late Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, who I hope found a way to relax a little in the summers.

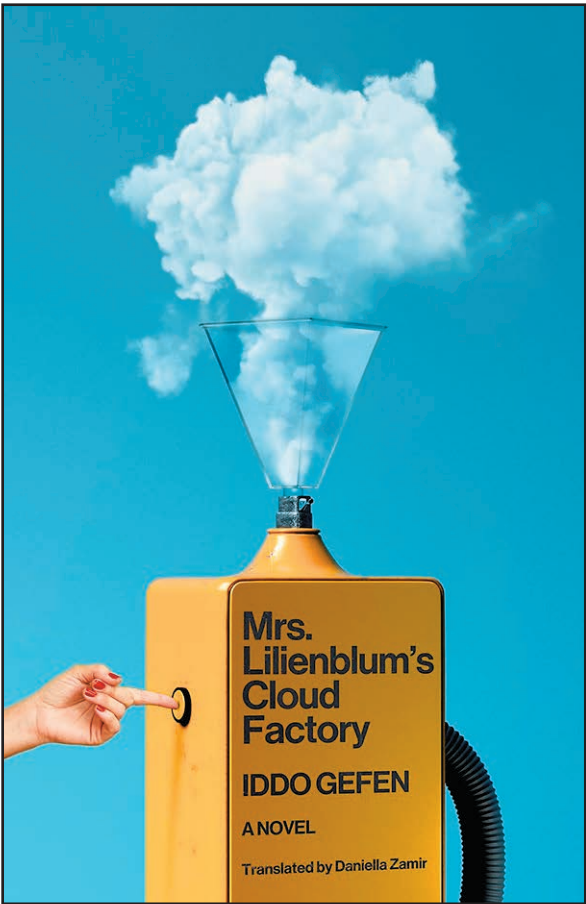
In the northern hemisphere, meanwhile, tradition drops a lengthy period of mourning right in the middle of the wet, hot summer. Tisha B’Av, the 25-hour fast commemorating the fall of the Temples and other historical calamities, started this year on Aug. 2. It was preceded by a month-long series of increasing restrictions based on Jewish mourning customs.

This year, anyway, Tisha B’Av ritualized what many Jewish are already feeling. Ask a Jewish friend how they’re feeling these days and you are likely to hear, “Personally? Not bad. Globally? Oy.” The domestic news seems like a nearly hourly call to outrage, while the crisis in Israel demands a caring person’s attention, whether it is the death toll in Gaza, the killing of Israeli soldiers or the continuing captivity of the hostages. It’s a time for action, not losing yourself in the pages of a thriller or a romance.

It turns out that Gefen has similar qualms: His book, after all, was first published in Hebrew in 2023, well before the Oct. 7 Hamas attacks. “It’s a bit of a weird feeling being out in the world with a book that was published in the U.S. after Oct. 7, but in so many ways is not reflecting it,” he told me on Wednesday. “Honestly, I wouldn’t write the same book” during the war.

Gefen, who is also a doctoral student in cognitive neuroscience at Columbia University, feels remorse at times for living outside of Israel during the war. But that doesn’t mean he has been able to escape its impact. Last year’s anti-Israel demonstrations at Columbia prompted him to write an essay for the Atlantic about his best friend, Maj. Sagi Golan, who was killed on Oct. 7 while defending Kibbutz Be’eri.

“When I see the words by any means necessary” written on a protester’s sign, wrote Gefen, “I think about Sagi: my best friend, whom I knew since sixth grade, the funniest and kindest person I have ever met.”



“Mrs. Lilienblum’s Cloud Factory” also includes a coded tribute to his fallen friend: It is dedicated to “General Luciano Rodríguez Ancelotti II,” a character in the book created by another character in the book. It is also the name of a character that Gefen and his fallen friend Sagi invented in high school.

Gefen said he wanted to honor the playful side of his friend. “He was a brave soldier that defended people and lost his life for it, but he was also this very fun, funny guy who liked making jokes, and there was much more complexity to his humanity in many ways,” he said.

“Mrs. Lilienblum’s Cloud Factory” is also a reminder of such complexity — that there are other Israeli stories to be told beyond war and strife. After talking to Gefen, who combines a gift for storytelling with a scientist’s interest in human emotions, I was almost ready to relax.

“People have a lot of guilt in the sense that you feel you can’t enjoy anything after everything that’s happening, because who are you to enjoy being in a cafe while there’s a horrible war,” said Gefen. “And yet sometimes, that’s the way of dealing with this horrible reality we’re facing now.”

“And if that gives you the strength to come back and address these things, then sometimes one needs to — I don’t know — read a book that is not completely related to the topic.”

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

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Canada says it will recognize Palestinian State in September

Canada will recognize a Palestinian state at the U.N. General Assembly in September as long as certain conditions are met, Prime Minister Mark Carney announced on July 30.

“The deepening suffering of civilians leaves no room for delaying coordinated international action to support peace, security and the dignity of human life,” Carney, a liberal elected in April, said at a press conference, referring to a hunger crisis in Gaza that has grown acute.

The move adds Canada to the United Kingdom and France as major world powers to announce plans to recognize a Palestinian state, marking a sea change among countries with significant Jewish populations. (Malta also announced recognition on Wednesday.) The moves offer a powerful symbol that some of Israel’s allies believe that a negotiated peace is currently out of reach.

As with France, Canada’s recognition is dependent on assurances from Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, which Carney indicated he had gotten, to hold elections next year for the first time in two decades and to exclude Hamas from the elections and any future governance. Unlike British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Carney did not make recognition dependent on Hamas’ release of Israeli hostages in Gaza. (Starmer is also requiring Israel to end its fighting in Gaza.)

Israel staunchly opposes the unilateral recognition of a Palestinian state and mocked Carney’s move as rewarding terrorism. Iddo Manned, Israel’s ambassador to Canada, said in a TV interview, “We will not give in to that pressure because this is our security.”

The announcement drew criticism from the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) and B’nai Brith Canada.

CIJA CEO Noah Shack stated, “Today, the Prime Minister stated that Canada will pre-emptively recognize a Palestinian state. This is predicated on misplaced faith in vague commitments by Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, notorious for his corruption, lack of democratic credibility, and funding of terrorists.

“Extending recognition absent real change on the

ground is a recipe for another failed Palestinian pseudo-state controlled by terrorists. It is deeply concerning that the government did not make statehood recognition contingent on the removal of Hamas from Gaza and the return of Israeli hostages. This only emboldens Hamas and condemns Palestinians and Israelis—including the hostages and their families—to more suffering.

“Our community seeks an end to this painful conflict and a better future where Israelis and Palestinians can coexist in peace. As the Prime Minister previously said, this requires a Palestinian state to be Zionist—affirming the right of a democratic, Jewish state to exist in safety. Pre-emptive recognition of a Palestinian state undermines this core principle.”

B’nai Brith Canada is also deeply concerned with the federal government’s announcement.

“This decision is dangerously premature,” said Richard Robertson, B’nai Brith Canada’s Director of Research and Advocacy. “As the Government’s intent to recognize a Palestinian state is predicated on the Palestinian Authority (PA)’s commitment to democratic reform and demilitarization, B’nai Brith Canada questions whether the PA can be trusted as a legitimate state actor and partner in the peace process.”

Robertson continued, “B’nai Brith Canada welcomes the Prime Minister’s reaffirmation that the Government is committed to a two-state solution that precludes Hamas from participating in any future Palestinian state. But it bears reminding that, since its inception, the PA has offered a multitude of rhetorical concessions while failing to actuate upon them.”

“Although Canada should play a leading role in securing an end to the Israel-Palestine conflict, recognizing Palestine as a state at this juncture would be premature and could undermine efforts to achieve a lasting peace,” Robertson said. “Such a decision could also be leveraged by anti-Israel extremists as an endorsement of their vitriolic actions that have been fomenting hate across the country.”

In advance of the UN’s General Assembly in September, B’nai Brith Canada urges the Government

to reconsider the viability of formally recognizing a Palestinian state under these circumstances.

Meanwhile, JSpaceCanada considers the announcement to be a meaningful step toward advancing regional peace. “We are heartened to see this government responding to the voices of so many pro-Israel, pro-peace Jews who believe that the best path forward is a two-state solution, one that includes both a Jewish State of Israel and an independent State of Palestine, broadly based on the 1967 borders,” noted JSpaceCanada in a statement.

“At the same time, we are dismayed by the Israeli government’s continued efforts to annex large areas of the occupied West Bank, and its failure to prevent the worsening humanitarian crisis in Gaza. The withholding of Canadian-funded aid, which is contributing to the starvation of civilians in violation of international law, underscores a troubling reality: the current Israeli leadership is not committed to negotiating a just and lasting peace based on a two-state framework. In this context, it is imperative that Israel’s international allies, including Canada, take bold action to preserve and promote a viable two-state solution.”

“It is important to remember not only that Palestinians have an inalienable right to statehood and sovereignty,” said JSpaceCanada Executive Director Maytal Kowalski, “but that an independent Palestinian state also guarantees the long-term safety and security of Israelis.”

“We now need to see concrete action from the Canadian government to demonstrate its commitment to this path, by banning trade with Israeli settlements, continuing to sanction violent settlers and extremist settler organizations, and helping to strengthen and reform the Palestinian Authority. This includes enhancing democracy and governance, fighting corruption, revising the prisoner payment program, and addressing incitement.”

“We commend Prime Minister Carney for this significant and courageous step, and reiterate our belief, shared by the majority of Canadian Jews, that a two-state solution remains the only just and sustainable resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We agree with the Prime Minister’s assertion that “[Canada] has the duty to promote peace and safety in Canada and around the world.”

This article used files from JTA and other sources.

An action-packed summer of fun at Calgary JCC Camp



It has been a wonderful action-packed summer of day camp fun at Calgary JCC Camp. Activities have included biking, indoor aerobics, swimming, amazing field trips and all kinds of sports and creative programs. (Facebook photos).

Family fun, fitness & festivities at the 2025 Bagel Loop

By Svetlana Pavlenko

Magical sunshine, smiles, and a whole lot of treats! On Sunday, July 20, Victoria Park was alive with laughter and bustling feet as more than 90 community members gathered for the *Bagel Loop: Walk/Run/Roll* event in support of the Jewish Senior Citizen's Centre.

Now a cherished summer tradition, this year's event was a lively showcase of intergenerational fun, fitness, and food – with participants ranging from 2 to 97 years old. Registration began at 10 a.m., where guests were greeted with fresh coffee, tea, and a delightful selection of pareve muffins and other delights lovingly prepared by Centre chef Daniella Drisdell.

The pre-walk warm-up featured our dynamic fitness instructor Wendy Kinsman. Her energy set the tone for a cheerful kickoff at 11:00 a.m. A heartfelt thank you to Marty (Magic by Marty), whose enchanting performance captivated every single guest – from toddlers to our most senior participants. With wide eyes and joyful laughter, the crowd was swept up in pure wonder. Marty reminded us all that no matter your age, a little magic can still leave you speechless.

As walkers, runners, and rollers made their way through the park loop, volunteer cheerleaders waved to the participants. Many guests tried their luck in our popular Ping-Pong Ball Raffle and 50/50 Draw. From diamond earrings to fun gadgets, gift cards from Unity Square businesses, and lunch cards for the Centre's famous 12 p.m. meals, every ping-pong ball held a winning surprise. Prizes were generously donated by

community sponsors, with a full list published in this edition of the Centre's Newsletter. Special thanks go to event co-chairs Barb Mickelson and Hans Pilz for their prize-hunting hustle!

After the walk, everyone gathered for a festive kosher picnic. Daniella and our wonderful volunteers served an elegant and satisfying spread including beef and veggie dogs, creamy potato salad, coleslaw, chips, fresh fruit, and a mouthwatering variety of pareve pastries. Guests left with full bellies and joyful hearts.

The day's success wouldn't have been possible without our tireless team of volunteers, who made sure every moment ran smoothly

To every participant, volunteer, supporter, and friend – our sincere thank you. Your warmth, energy, and generosity brought our event to life. Whether it was your first time at the Bagel Loop or your fifth, you helped us raise an incredible \$9,000 in support of the Jewish Senior Citizen's Centre!

Every dollar will directly support enriching programs and services – from fitness classes and cultural celebrations to educational workshops and daily community lunches. Your involvement helps us foster joy, dignity, and connection for older adults in our city.



Chef Daniella and the amazing Bagel Loop volunteers.

Why Wait? Get Involved!

If you loved the energy of the Bagel Loop, just wait until you experience what happens *every day* at the Jewish Senior Citizen's Centre! You don't need to be a senior to get involved – families, students, neighbours, and friends are always welcome.

Join us for classes, volunteer your time, or simply come for one of our legendary lunches. The Centre is a vibrant, welcoming place where generations connect, friendships form, and community thrives.

Come see what makes Your Centre so special – and maybe even join us before next year's walk! Let's keep walking, running, and rolling together – and growing our circle of friends.



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from the

Sources

by Eliezer Segal

Femmes Fatales

A husband came home early from work one day feeling particularly amorous toward his wife. The wife suspected that his romantic urge had been triggered by something that had happened in the office, and he admitted that he had been dealing with an attractive woman.

The furious wife immediately went after that beautiful lady, attacked her with a club and drove her out of town.

This spicy tale, worthy of prime time viewing, is related in the Talmud. The husband was the fourth-century Babylonian sage Rava. He had been adjudicating a case involving the finances of Homa, the widow of his colleague Abayé. In the course of her testimony, she happened to make a hand gesture that bared her arm—“and then the courtroom was illuminated,” prompting Rava to go home early for a romantic interlude with his wife.

Of notable interest in this story were the wife’s closing words to the lovely Homa: “You are already responsible for the deaths of three men, and now you have come to slay yet another one!”

The implication is that Abayé was Homa’s third husband, and that all three of them were deceased. This situation gave her a special, problematic stigma in Jewish legal discourse: she was a “killer wife.”

Elsewhere, the Talmud recorded how Abayé had married Homa despite knowing that she had already outlived two husbands; and it expressed astonishment at how he could have knowingly placed himself in what they regarded as a clear danger to his life.

The Talmud ordains that it is forbidden to marry a repeat widow, concluding that three deaths are needed to confirm her as a “killer.” There is a disagreement as to whether the root of the malady is a kind of physiological infection or a supernatural affliction caused by astrological alignments, designated in Hebrew as her “mazal.” The ancient tale of Tobit in the Apocrypha tells the story of a woman whose seven husbands were all slain at their weddings by the archdemon Asmodeus.

Many scholars who regarded themselves as rationalists maintained that astrology, with its roots in astronomy and mathematics, was a legitimate

science. If the danger to husbands stems from a medical condition, then it is comparable to the law forbidding the circumcision of a child whose older siblings were found to be hemophilic.

Medieval authorities accepted the Talmud’s ruling, which was consistent with the prevailing worldviews. As a precedent, some adduced the Torah’s story about how Judah refused to allow his widowed daughter-in-law Tamar to marry Shelah after the deaths of her previous husbands Er and Onan.

This perceived danger was so obvious to the medieval rabbis that they treated husbands who disregarded it as if they were actively attempting suicide.

The kabbalists interpreted the law in terms of their doctrine of reincarnation. Accordingly, the Zohar opposed all remarriages of widows, explaining that traces of the first husband’s soul remain embedded in the widow and the couple will be reunited in the next world.

Not surprisingly, the firmest and most articulate criticism of the “killer wife” concept came from the rationalist Maimonides. An inquiry was addressed to him regarding a woman who had been widowed twice and would now be eligible to marry her brother-in-law, in keeping with the biblical law of levirate marriage.

The rabbis who had been consulted previously disagreed as to whether or not the concerns about a two-time widow should override the fulfilment of a precept from the Torah. In his response, Maimonides expressed astonishment that experienced Torah scholars should be unable to distinguish between obligatory Torah laws and optional practices that are at best discretionary. Whereas the avoidance of circumcision in families with a proven tendency for hemophilia is based on sound medical science, the fear of the deadly widow is nothing more than a kind of “soothsaying, divination, fortune-telling and fantasy.” He pointed out that the established tradition among the Andalusian authorities was to permit such marriages (if only by resorting to legal subterfuges).

Maimonides drew his correspondents’ attention to severe consequences that might ensue if young Jewish women were prevented from marrying and were thereby forced to seek fulfillment in disreputable ways.

Other rabbinic authorities, even though they accepted in principle the Talmud’s disallowance of multiple remarriages, took into consideration various factors that would warrant exceptions to the rule. Some of these were related to differing perceptions of the reasons underlying the prohibition. Thus, if the prohibition was instituted because of some moral stigma in the woman’s character, then it might not apply to cases where the husband’s death had been part of a widespread pandemic (such as the Black Death in the fourteenth century), a pogrom or Inquisition—especially when the husband had sanctified God’s name through martyrdom. Conversely, if the blame could be ascribed entirely to the husband, as in cases of suicide, then the widow could not be held accountable. The influential “*Book of the Pious*” narrowly confined the prohibition to the cases discussed in the Talmud, of a third or fourth marriage—but not to a fifth or subsequent husband.

It was widely recognized that conditions in medieval society tended to multiply the cases of widowhood. Authorities noted (as had Maimonides) the prevalence of young marriage-ages and the resulting prolonged periods of celibacy that would be forced upon widows (analogous to the dire predicament of the “*agunah*” to which Jewish law strove to be sensitive). In some economies, Jewish men were particularly involved in international commerce, so that many husbands perished on voyages.

And there were of course crucial differences of world-view. Most Jews accepted the ancient folkloric perspective of a world pervaded by invisible astrological or demonic forces; though rationalists dismissed any theories that could not be validated by science, medicine or philosophy.

Ultimately, like so many of life’s complications, this one is a byproduct of human mortality. The most effective solution might be for husbands to avoid dying, and for wives to work at keeping their husbands alive.

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

YEG celebrates cultural inclusion

By Matthew Levine, LJI Reporter

This year’s Heritage Days Festival in Edmonton brought three exciting and fun packed days to Borden Park and celebrated our city’s cultural diversity. The festival ran from August 2 to 4, showcasing 67 different pavilions and featuring 900 different performances and attractions.

The Israel Pavilion, powered by Jewish Federation of Edmonton was open for business on Sunday and Monday with dancing, music, treats and a variety of exciting cultural displays and activities.

Israel’s pavilion introduced new landscape banners that showed the beauty and diversity of Israel’s topography alongside content boards that explained what people were looking at.

One of the highlights of the pavilion was the energetic performances of the Aviv dancers. Artistic director Abby Wright put together an incredible group of young talented Aviv dancers who performed a blend of traditional and modern pieces. Starting at 10:30 am they danced every hour until 5:30 pm on both Sunday and Monday.

A new and exciting addition to the pavilion entertainment featured The Elliott Steinberg band performing a mix of traditional and modern Israeli music. The band added some much appreciated rhythm and jubilation that filled the lull between Aviv dancer sets and kept the enthusiasm high at the pavilion.

A fan favorite activity was back! The archaeological dig showcased innovations such as drip irrigation and a number of Israeli inventions that people use every day. The marketplace was also back, thanks to Jody Wasserman who designed new shirts and Roben

Nurgitz who coordinated new merchandise that was available for sale over the 2 days.

Sophia Ilkanaev, the new caterer for the event, put together an incredible menu building on the success of previous years and also adding some new and exciting menu items. Her catering was absolutely delicious, and the food line remained long even during less busy hours and slightly overcast weather. The pita and hummus plate was amazing and the middle eastern iced coffee provided some refreshing energy.

The best part of The Heritage Festival is sharing cultures with anyone and everyone from many unique backgrounds. A number of politicians came through the tent to see the new offerings. Daniel Rubenstein, a volunteer at the Pavillion recounted his favorite experience.

“I was amazed by people's curiosity,” he told *AJNews*. “A couple came in and the husband was a pastor for a Mennonite community. He told me his story, asked me to read Hebrew with him, and then told me about his children and their names’ significance in the Torah.”

Jewish Federation of Edmonton CEO Stacey Leavitt-Wright was also amazed by the curiosity and multiculturalism. “We’ve had wonderful exchanges with people next door to us from Uganda and from the Netherlands. We had somebody come all the way from the Philippines. He wanted to express their solidarity with Israel and tell us the importance of the two countries’ interactions, even extending an invitation to our dance group to go dance there!”

Stacey gave a big thank you to all the volunteers and organizations that enable the Israel Pavilion to stay up and running year after year. The Jewish Federation of Edmonton is proud to be hosting the Israel Pavilion again this year, she added. “We appreciate all the



volunteers who ensure a welcoming event.”

Extra thank you’s go out to Poster Tech (Victor and Lena Linetsky), the Edmonton Jewish Charitable Foundation for sponsoring volunteer T-shirts, and David Aaron and Rebecca Asbell for being volunteer coordinators.

“Heritage Festival is an incredibly important event,” said Israel Pavilion co-ordinator Jay Cairns. “It is an opportunity for us as a community to come together and put our best foot forward, as a people, as a nation. It is a chance to reconnect with old friends and meet new people in and out of our community.”

This was the last year the festival will take place at Borden Park. It will return to its original home, Hawrelak Park, in 2026. “It’s been a great three years in this temporary space,” said Heritage Festival executive director Rob Rohatyn. “But we’re looking forward to returning.”

We are too! See you next year.

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The Hebrew Letter Aleph

Aleph (א) is the first letter of the Hebrew Aleph-Bet, yet it makes no sound. It is silent—but not empty. Aleph teaches us that beginnings don't always roar. Sometimes, strength begins in stillness.

The Aleph-Bet is more than an alphabet; it is a sacred system, divinely revealed. Jewish tradition teaches that G-d created the world through these letters. Each one holds spiritual meaning, purpose, and power. Kabbalah explains that each letter is a vessel of divine light, channeling energy from higher realms.

Aleph's numerical value is one. It symbolizes oneness, unity, and the absolute singularity of G-d. And yet, while Aleph is first, the Torah opens not with Aleph but with Bet in Bereishit - "In the beginning." This reminds us that even the most significant beginnings make room for others, just as Aleph holds space for sound without making a sound itself.

Aleph's form reveals its message: it is composed of two Yuds. One above and one below, connected by a diagonal Vav. The upper Yud represents the hidden, heavenly realms; the lower Yud, the physical world. The Vav unites them—a bridge between heaven and earth. This is the essence of Aleph: a silent connector.

But Aleph is not just a symbol on a page it is a living letter. When we study it, speak it, or live by its values, we bring its spiritual energy forward. Every recitation of Aleph becomes an invitation to unity, humility, and connection.

This week, we saw how Aleph came to life. In Edmonton, Ohr Shalom - אור שלום from Temple Beth Ora, quietly led a food drive filled with intention and care. Beginning with Aleph א, the word Ohr - אור beautifully reflects the quiet light they shared. Their efforts supported Yes Kosher Friendship

in preparing Kpsker food hampers for families in need. Without headlines or applause, their actions embodied the essence of Aleph: silent leadership driven by unity and compassion.

Even our province of Alberta begins with Aleph—אלברטה.

What can we learn and apply?

We can embrace humility and quiet strength. We can build bridges across differences. Where every person matters and every mitzvah echoes.

Just as Aleph is the first letter in Eretz Yisrael - ארץ ישראל so too can we bring the light of Aleph into our lives. When we nurture Jewish life wherever we are, we transform our homes into spaces of meaning and divine presence.

As it says:
"הִנֵּה מַה־טוֹב וְיִמְהַלְּצִים שְׂבֵת אֲחִים גַּם־יַחַד"
"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity." – Tehillim (Psalms)

May we each find the Aleph within us. Quiet, connected, and strong, and continue building communities of unity, purpose, and light, wherever we are.

Want to learn more?
Study one-on-one with Morah Rifka as we journey through the letters and meaning behind our heritage.
Email: YesKosherFriendship@gmail.com
Or visit us at: YesKosher.ca

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