

Shalom

CONNECTING THE ATLANTIC JEWISH COMMUNITY

 Atlantic
Jewish
Council
WINTER 2020



CYJ HALIFAX'S FLAGSHIP TEEN PROGRAM JOLT HAS BEEN OFF TO A GREAT START
THE PREMIERE SHOWING OF "CAMP KADIMAH—THE STORY OF OUR LIVES"
SPENCER HOUSE SENIORS ENJOY CHRISTMAS, THANKS TO AJC VOLUNTEERS

Mazel Tov!

ON BEHALF OF THE AJC FAMILY
WE WISH A HEARTY MAZEL TOV TO

Naomi Rosenfeld & Jeff Greenberg

ON THEIR UPCOMING MARRIAGE





SHALOM MAGAZINE

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NOTE TO OUR READERS

Our Atlantic Jewish community is losing more and more members as the years go on. In the past, Shalom has printed stories of regional community members who have passed away. While we try to acknowledge the major contributions of many of our late friends and family members, we request that you inform Shalom of passings of which we may be unaware so we may recognize these individuals. Shalom's editorial staff reserves the right to determine the length of memorial pieces to be printed in the magazine.

Written articles are the opinion of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the AJC.

Shalom

WINTER 2020
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ON THE COVER

Judean Desert from
Mount Scopus Campus,
by Tom Forrestall



This beautiful, original watercolour is 15" x 22" on paper, from the series 35 Days in Israel is available for purchase from the AJC: **\$4,100** framed (plus delivery). please contact Naomi Rosenfeld, AJC executive director, nrosenfeld@theajc.ca

Tom Forrestall is one of Canada's most acclaimed and exciting realist painters. Forrestall was born in Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia in 1936. In 1965, he held his first solo show at Roberts Gallery in Toronto and has since continued to show in galleries and museums across Canada. He completed a large outdoor piece for Expo '67. He was elected a member of the Royal Canadian Academy in 1973.



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From The Desk Of **MARILYN KAUFMAN**

President of the Atlantic Jewish Council

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Light one candle for the Maccabee children

With thanks that their light didn't die

Light one candle for the pain they endured

When their right to exist was denied

Light one candle for the terrible sacrifice

Justice and freedom demand

But light one candle for the wisdom to know

When the peacemaker's time is at hand

—Peter, Paul and Mary

Traditions are a large part of our Jewish heritage. And so, once again, we celebrate Chanukah, the Festival of Lights here, in our homes in Atlantic Canada, with Jews around the world. Once again, we tell and listen to another story of our overcoming adversity, this time with the Maccabees rising up against the Assyrians and ending with Nes Gadol Haya Sham, “a great miracle happened there”. We light our candles in the menorah, one for each of the eight nights of our Chanukah celebration to symbolize the burning of crude oil meant to last only one day, but miraculously lasted for 8 days. We further celebrate this holiday in the time-honoured tradition by indulging in foods fried in oil, such as eating potato latkes and tzufganot. Youngsters receive gifts or chocolate Chanukah gelt and we play dreidle and sing Chanukah songs. Our communities host Chanukah celebrations in our Synagogues, while some also partner with local libraries for a Chanukah celebration as part of a multicultural component in their yearly calendar. Chanukah is a time where we celebrate religious freedom for all and the rededication to our ‘Temple’.

As we take a brief glimpse at activities around the Atlantic Region, we see successful Jewish film festivals hosted in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. We have completed our UJA Atlantic campaign with the assistance of Naomi Rosenfeld, Perry Romberg and the AJC Board. On behalf of our AJC Board I wish to thank all our donors. You have

become an important integral part of our ongoing funding for activities, projects and programming which we undertake.

We have continued to hold the cross Canada Small Community Regional Forum webinars facilitated by Perry Romberg whereby concerned individuals from small communities can discuss topics of common interest, such as access to kosher meat products, online Hebrew, security of our Jewish institutions, maximizing use of our Synagogues through rentals, dealing with anti-Semitic incidents, just to mention a few. At my recent JFC—UIA meeting in Toronto, I pushed aggressively to maintain Perry's position as Coordinator for Small Communities. It is an essential cog in the wheel, so to speak, to assist the functioning of small communities and maintaining viable operations.

The AJC Board is presently looking into an in-depth updating of its By-laws and Constitution, a process begun at its September retreat.

There have been some antisemitic incidents which have occurred in some of our communities with which CIJA has successfully assisted us with. Nationally, we should be aware of the impact of the recent resolution vote by Canada at the UN which deviated from Canadian policy re—support of Israel. CIJA has undertaken its Maspik campaign, “an invitation to community groups and individuals to join a coalition of Jewish and non-Jewish groups to say enough (maspik) to antisemitism.”

Israel will head to the polls again for its third election within a year. Recent UK elections brought scandal of anti-Semitic leanings within the Labour Party and it went down to defeat. Twenty twenty will see the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Liberation of Holland by Canadian troops. Sixty—Jewish graves in Slovakia were recently desecrated... a community that now has no Jews living there. The Christian

community there (Namestovo) restored the grave sites. France's General Assembly has adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition on antisemitism.

A sincere thank you to all our staff and volunteers at the AJC for your efforts and input in moving us forward.

We have had several community members pass away during the past year and on behalf of the AJC Board, I offer our condolences.

As we leave the Festival of Lights behind, a reminder:

*“Don't let the light go out
It's lasted for so many years,
Don't let the light go out
Let it shine through our hope and our tears.”*

Chag sameach, Marilyn 🌟

**SEND A DONATION &
BEAUTIFUL TRIBUTE CARD
TO CELEBRATE A JEWISH
HOLIDAY, BIRTHDAY, OR OTHER
MILESTONE!**



Contact Naomi Rosenfeld,
Executive Director:

902-422-7493 | nrosenfeld@theajc.ca



From The Desk Of NAOMI ROSENFELD

Executive Director

LESSONS LEARNED FROM TWO DIFFERENT WOMEN'S TRIPS TO ISRAEL

The fall is always our busiest time here at the AJC. Between the back-to-school rush of our youth programming (PJ Library, JOLT, Hillel), the inevitable hecticness of the high holidays, our signature programs such as Holocaust Education Week and the Atlantic Jewish Film Festival, special events that inevitably seem to pop up (this year: our panel discussion at the Halifax Central Library and talk-back night organized around Neptune theatre's run of *Old Stock*), and, of course, the administration of our annual fundraising campaign (the United Jewish Appeal of Atlantic Canada), I often find that almost every non-yontif night or weekend in the fall is taken up by community.

So, of the four falls I have survived with the Atlantic Jewish Council, why on earth would I choose to have organized and led not one—but TWO—10-day long women's trips to Israel during this time?!

Despite the fact that I asked myself this question repeatedly in the weeks leading up to both trips (November 2017 and November 2019), these two initiatives were two of the most rewarding and impactful experiences I have been part of in my time here in Atlantic Canada; and I believe the 20 women participants feel similarly. Here's some of lessons I learned about community building along the way.

1. IT'S ABOUT QUALITY, NOT QUANTITY

We've run many events and initiatives since I started at the AJC 3.5 years ago: BBQs, Channukah parties, kids' events and more. Our biggest events easily attract over 200 people, and in any given year, we engage more than 2,000 people in some way. So, why do I value so highly an experience that only reaches 20 women? Well, in Jewish professional circles, we often differentiate between high-impact touchpoints (e.g. taking a course) and low-impact touchpoints (e.g. coming to a BBQ) with regards to engaging with someone and impacting their Jewish

PHOTOS: 10-day long women's trips to Israel (1) 2017 (2) 2019



identity. Both are important, but high-impact touchpoints are essential for reaching our goals as a community. With 10-days of immersive experiences, these trips were easily two of the most high-impact initiatives I've helped organize during my time at the AJC.

2. EVERYONE HAS A STORY THAT COULD GIVE YOU CHILLS

In doing what I do, I meet and frequently speak to a lot of people in this community. Between events, phone calls at the office, emails, and dinner tables, I am always communicating with individual members of our community. Yet, in these contexts, I don't often get to hear about people's Jewish journeys and their deep perspectives on our Jewish community. In the context of these two women's trips to Israel, there was ample opportunity to do both. The stories and perspectives of all 20 women totally blew me away.

3. AN EXPERIENCE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

I've long been an advocate of experiential education—but being a on a trip like this always reminds me why experiences are such effective tools in Jewish communal work. Is there any class that can teach you about shabbat like experiencing kabbalat shabbat, dinner and lunch in the old city of Jerusalem? Is there a seminar about prayer that can convey its meaning quite like praying with hundreds of people at the Western Wall? Can any history lecture compete with the power of being at Massada and taking in 2000 years of Jewish history *in the place where it really happened?*

4. THE ATLANTIC CANADIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY'S IMPACT IN ISRAEL IS REMARKABLE

I've often found that experiencing a familiar setting with new people can change the way you look at it. This was certainly the case when we brought both groups of women to the AJC's partnership region in the north of Israel. From the *Canada Centre* ice rink and day care in Metula, to the *Sidney Warren Science Education Center* at Tel Hai College, to the hydrotherapy centre in Mevoot HaHerman, I was reminded again just how incredible and substantive the Atlantic Jewish Community's influence has been in Israel.

5. SOMETIMES YOU MUST DISCONNECT TO CONNECT

What is the secret sauce that makes these trips so effective? There are many elements, but in my opinion, one strong factor is fact that on these trips, the women are forced to disconnect from the responsibilities of their everyday lives. With no children, partners, parents, or work immediately competing for everyone's attention, these trips provide the perspective and context during which the women can both connect with Judaism/Israel—AND—with each other. And, after all, engaging with Jewish community is much easier when you can do it with a friend or two.

A huge thank you to all the women who took the leap to come on both trips and to the funders who made it possible! Happy New Year everyone! ☺

Atlantic Jewish Film Festival

AN ATLANTIC JEWISH COUNCIL PRODUCTION

**ENCORE
PRESENTATION!**



**2019 AJFF
People's Choice Award:
Golda's Balcony, the Film**

Sunday, February 23 2020, 1:15 p.m.

**Presented in partnership with the
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Advanced purchase tickets: \$14 Adults;
\$12 students & seniors | \$15 at the door

AJFF.ca to purchase tickets

English | Documentary, Biography

DIRECTOR Scott Schwartz **PRODUCER** David Fishelson **CAST** Tovah Feldshuh **DISTRIBUTOR** Manhattan Ensemble Theatre
COUNTRY USA **YEAR** 2019 **RUNNING TIME** 86 minutes

Golda's Balcony, The Film (2019), documents the rise of Golda Meir from Russian schoolgirl to Prime Minister of Israel in one of the most thrilling and amazing stories of the 20th century. As a play on and off Broadway, *Golda's Balcony* sold out over 500 performances, becoming the longest-running one-woman show in Broadway history. Golda Meir's life has been transformed from a stage play into a cinematic event of overwhelming power and inspirational triumph. This multi-camera, kinetically-edited version of *Golda's Balcony* is likely to be the standard motion picture version of this Golda bio-drama for years to come.

*"MARVELOUS! Ms. Feldshuh's marvelous portrayal of Golda Meir will remain in your mind long after the show has ended!
A fascinating film!"* —MICHAEL KUCHWARA, Associated Press

*2019 WINNER OF 10 "AUDIENCE AWARDS" at Jewish Film Festivals in: Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, Charlotte, Honolulu,
New Hampshire, Palm Beach, New Jersey, Rockland Co., Dayton, Winnipeg and Halifax!*



From The Desk Of **EDNA LEVINE** Director of Community Engagement

Community engagement continues to strengthen our collective efforts with positive impact in local volunteer opportunities. On Christmas Day twenty-seven volunteers came out to Spencer House Seniors Centre and for the 8th consecutive year we provided seniors with a festive holiday celebration—live music, caroling, friendly conversations, door-to-door transportation, and serving up a delicious Christmas lunch.

Volunteer engagement initiatives continue this winter and for the 3rd consecutive year we will provide support to “Out of the Cold”, a Halifax community-based organization which provides shelter, meals, support, and a community drop-in space for people who are homeless or precariously housed during the winter months. This seasonal shelter moved locations in early January and opened its doors with an immediate need for hot meals. Following up on our partnerships last winter with the local Shambhala community and the Shaar Shalom’s Tikkun Olam committee we plan to deliver hot/cold meals, snacks, and supplies to “Out of the Cold”. Spencer House Seniors Centre very generously renewed their offer of the use of their commercial kitchen for us to prepare meals. There are many opportunities for community members to participate, the shelter requires bagged lunches and snacks on a daily basis, please contact me: engagement@theajc.ca if you are interested in participating.

In early December the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) released their updated guidelines for educators on teaching and learning about the Holocaust. The IHRA unites governments from 34 member countries to promote Holocaust education, remembrance and research. Their focus is currently on safeguarding the historical records and countering Holocaust distortion. Their website www.holocaustremembrance.com has a wealth of information including educational resources. In June 2019 Canada adopted their working

definition of antisemitism and currently 20 countries have endorsed this definition, the fact sheet outlining the background of this definition is on their website.

The working definition of antisemitism, non-legally binding, adopted by the IHRA (2016): *“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”*

The Annual Nova Scotia Social Studies Teachers Association Conference held at Saint Mary’s University, Halifax, once again offered a workshop on Holocaust education. This year Marc-Olivier Cloutier from the Azrieli Foundation delivered a program highlighting their new digital resource called Re:Collection, an educational tool for exploring the history of the Holocaust through first-hand accounts of survivors who immigrated to Canada after the war. We jointly hosted a table at the conference with Holocaust educator resources and the demand from teachers was overwhelming with many requests for additional information.

The 16th annual Holocaust Education Week (HEW) presented programs to challenge, awaken, and encourage conversation. Holocaust education inspires us to think critically about democracy and inclusion in present-day society. Community partners and support for HEW programming included The Azrieli Foundation, Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, and the Halifax Central Library. Holocaust Education Week programs are made possible, in part, by a generous grant from the Azrieli Foundation.

In recognition of International Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27 the Atlantic Jewish Council in partnership with the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21



PHOTO: 6th Annual Atlantic Jewish Film Festival, (L-R): Lynn Rotin, AJFF chair; Floria Aghdamimehr, opening night guest speaker at the screening of the Israeli film Working Women. Floria is the owner of Recognize Your Potential, she focuses on topics of Positive Leadership and Growth Mindset, and is on the leading edge of developing leadership and confidence to empower and transform to a positive workplace & life, with a lens of Positivity! RecognizeYourPotential.com

presents the Hungarian film about post-war conflict and trauma, “Those Who Remained”, Hungary’s submission for the 2020 Academy Award for Best International Feature Film.

The 6th Atlantic Jewish Film Festival (AJFF) screened international award-winning films for four days and attracted new partnerships and attendees. A big thank you to the many sponsors, advertisers and community volunteers who contributed their time to ensure a successful festival, the AJFF’s success is because of their efforts and commitment. I was grateful to work with and I extend my sincere appreciation and thanks to the returning chair Lynn Rotin, and the organizing committee, Philip Belitsky, Rosalind Belitsky, Jon Goldberg, Anna Hazankin, Linda Law, Jordan Schelew, and Peggy Walt, who worked throughout the year to bring together the festival, ensure filmgoers an engaging line-up of films, relevant programming, and a brilliant Saturday night party.

The AJFF hosts special film screenings throughout the year and the first two events are scheduled for February. On February 9 filmgoers are invited to a special screening of Lynda Suissa’s film “Camp Kadimah: The Story of Our Lives”, and on February 23 they will have the opportunity to attend an encore screening of the 2019 AJFF People’s Choice Award winner, “Golda’s Balcony, The Film”. Both screenings are in partnership with, and presented at, the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, Halifax. Tickets are available online at AJFF.ca. 📍

MASPIK! {ENOUGH}

A Canadian Coalition
to Combat Antisemitism

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YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

JUDY ZELIKOVITZ, VICE PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY AND LOCAL PARTNER SERVICES, CENTRE FOR ISRAEL AND JEWISH AFFAIRS (CIJA)

What is the impact of a single word? Sometimes, it's minimal. Other times, a single word changes everything. This is what happened in Canada's 2016 Census.

We know that Jewish communities across Canada are thriving. Synagogues work to provide meaningful experiences for congregants; summer camps and youth groups offer positive, formative experiences for youth; and Jewish Community Centres are home to a wide range of enriching programs. The image of this vibrant community, however, was not reflected in the recent 2016 Census. All because of one word.

One of the census questions relates to ethnic or ancestral origins and is accompanied by several examples to illustrate what is meant by "ethnic origin." In 2011, the examples included, among many others, Korean, Vietnamese, Jamaican, and Jewish. In 2016, the census was changed, and the examples listed only included geographic origins. "Jewish" was dropped as an example.

So what was the impact of not including that single word? It turns out, the impact was enormous.

In omitting "Jewish" as one of the examples, the number of Canadians who reported being Jewish by ethnic origin was 53.6% lower in the 2016 census than in the 2011 census. According to the 2011 census, the Jewish community in Canada was 309,650 strong. In the 2016 census, the community had shrunk to 143,665.

Accurate census reporting is important. Many public policy decisions are based on this data, so it is critical that it is accurate. This error caused great concern in our community. We know this because we heard directly from you. The omission of the word "Jewish" from the census resulted in thousands of other words being sent to us in emails, letters, and concerned messages.

Help Us Get To Know You Better



The survey is available online at www.cija.ca/you

As the advocacy agent of Jewish Federations of Canada-UIA, and of the more than 150,000 Jewish Canadians affiliated with their local Jewish federations across the country, including the Atlantic Jewish Council, CIJA's mission is to improve the quality of Jewish life in Canada through advocacy. Our job is to advance the public policy issues that matter most to our constituents, such as combating antisemitism, ensuring the security of community institutions, and yes, addressing a single word omitted in the 2016 Census.


We have an open dialogue with Jewish communities across the country; from bustling Jewish centres in Montreal and Toronto, to smaller, vibrant communities from Halifax to Victoria. We are very interested in what community members like you have to say, so every year we engage our grassroots. This year, we are seeking written feedback through an online survey.

CIJA's survey is an opportunity for Jewish Canadians to share their perspectives on Jewish life in Canada and let us know which issues matter most to them. The feedback we receive from the survey shapes our advocacy priorities, and involvement from community members has been instrumental in creating positive, meaningful change for the Jewish community in Canada.

Based on what we've heard from community members in recent years, we successfully advocated for strengthened hate crime laws, increased funding for community security, and secured a federal ban on genetic discrimination.

Fixing the problem with the census is one priority among many, such as fighting online hate, increasing the availability of accessible housing, and supporting refugees. And of course, at the centre of our work is combating antisemitism. One of the greatest tools we have in this fight is a clear definition of antisemitism that Canadian decision-makers can use to understand and mitigate against the growing and evolving threat of Jew hatred.

NOW WE ARE ASKING: WHAT ISSUES ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU? AND WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE US WORKING ON NEXT?

Through the 2016 Census, we saw the impact of just one word. With our grassroots community survey, we ask you to consider the impact of just one voice—yours. Let us know your ideas, your concerns, and the issues that matter most to you. We look forward to hearing from you. 

PARTNERSHIP2GETHER UPDATE

BY **DR. HOWARD CONTER**, CANADIAN CHAIR PARTNERSHIP 2-GETHER AND **KAREN CONTER**, ATLANTIC CHAIR PARTNERSHIP 2-GETHER

This past October 29 to November 2 we had the honour of attending our bi-annual Partnership Together meetings in Israel. Partnership is Atlantic Canada's connection with the Galilee Panhandle and with five other Jewish Communities across Canada.

Our mandate is to review, select and institute programs that involve education, healthcare and youth at risk. Between our core budget and designated UIA gifts Partnership provides well over \$1M per year to the north of Israel. This year our focus was on education as we have introduced new STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) curriculum into 15 elementary schools in our Partnership region. This improves the overall learning experience for all of these students. It makes them work together in problem solving activities and introduces a true entrepreneurial focus to their studies. This ties into the amazing work being done at the Sidney Warren Science Centre at Tel Hai College which continues to elevate the level of science education for all of northern Israel.

We also introduced a new liberal arts program which will be open to all Grade 11 and 12 students and will be taught by professors from Tel Hai College. We continue to support numerous programs for youth at risk as well as autistic and developmentally delayed individuals.

One of the highlights of this year's visit was a Geisher Chai Alumni evening! We had the pleasure of having dinner one evening with a number of Camp Kadimah Alumni CIT's... one of them had attending camp as a CIT when Partnership first started over 20 years ago! They truly enjoyed reminiscing about their times in Nova Scotia and their experiences at camp!

Partnership works because every dollar pledged goes 100% to where it is designated



because Canadian and Israeli volunteers and lay leaders monitor every step of the process from concept to inception. It has been a pleasure to continue being part of the amazing work that the Partnership continues to provide, and we invite everyone interested to please contact us or Naomi Rosenfeld, AJC executive director, for more information. 5

ONE FAMILY MANY FACES



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CAMPUS NEWS

BY **LINDSAY KERR**, DIRECTOR OF HILLEL AND NEXT GENERATION ENGAGEMENT



LINDSAY KERR

It feels like just yesterday that we were preparing for Rosh HaShanah but when I think about how much has happened in the community since September, I am quickly reminded that, in fact, four months have passed.

Throughout the fall we continued with our regular Shabbat dinners in Halifax, as well as dinner for Rosh HaShanah and breaking the Yom Kippur fast. In addition to our dinners we attended the Volunteer and Society Expo at Dalhousie University and a survivor testimony during the AJC's Holocaust Education week. Throughout the semester we have had in person interactions with over 50 different students on 4 different campuses in Halifax! One of our biggest wins of the semester had to do with a flag mural at SMU. A couple of our students noticed that the Israeli flag had been painted over three times on the wall of flags in a residence hall. They approached security and learned that after being painted over a couple of years ago, security moved it to different locations to try and avoid the vandalism again. With no luck they left the flags covered up. When approached by the students they were happy to repaint the Israeli flag and continue to monitor it going forward! Programming has continued at Memorial University in Newfoundland in partnership with Stand With Us Canada and in Fredericton where Jewish affiliated staff and students have continued to gather for Shabbat dinner each semester.

For the last two years we have been extremely fortunate to be part of a large grant program from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation to do PJ Library programming

for our young families. This year we are part of a new grant program that is a collaboration between HGF and The Genesis Philanthropy group; an organization focused on programming for Russian Speaking Jews. Together these organizations have given us an opportunity to continue our programming! We started with a visit to an apiary around Rosh HaShanah to learn about how bees live work and live. This visit included a neat opportunity to dress up in the beekeeping suits and get up close and personal with the bees. In October (around Sukkot) we went to the Discovery Centre to learn about the planets and how their rotation and alignment impacts the seasons and by extension, the harvest. Most recently we had a program at the Clay Café where around 80 kids came to paint their own Hanukkahs!

Again this year the teens are gathering for JOLT—Jewish Outreach Leadership Training. They do leadership meetings where they learn about Jewish history, leaders, and holidays, and outreach programs in the Jewish and general communities. Their outreach of a nature clean-up in the Halifax Commons ended with a visit to the local Green Party office! The national Fill A Purse campaign was wildly successful once again and sees teens making up purses filled with everyday items to be donated to Adsum Women and Children. On their first day of winter break some of the teens woke up bright and early

to prep for and be featured on a Hanukkah segment on CTV Morning Live. They talked about Hanukkah and did a latke making demonstration!

Our young adults continued their programming under the umbrella of Moishe House Without Walls. The biggest program of the fall was a Reconciliation Shabbat Dinner in partnership with the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre. MHWOW and The Halifax Youth Reconciliation Initiative (funded by Canadian Roots Exchange) partnered to co-host a Shabbat dinner discussing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples from a Jewish perspective. For more information you can listen to the recording of CBC's interview on the event: "Resilience and reconciliation: What Mi'kmaq and Jewish youth can learn from one another" is the google search to take you to the link.

Two more young adults from the region (one from Halifax and one from Saint John) attended MHWOW retreats bringing our certified host count to 3! We are looking forward to continuing with the programming and sending more young adults to the weekend retreats in 2020. If you know any Jewish young adults (22ish-32ish) who you think may be interested in attending and/or hosting programs please let me know at nextgen@theajc.ca! 📧

SEND A Partnership2Gether GIFT CARD TO CELEBRATE!

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**Know any children ages 6 MONTHS
THROUGH 8 YEARS OLD
living in Atlantic Canada?**

TELL THEM TO SIGN UP FOR PJ LIBRARY!

PJ Library is a program that sends free, award-winning books that celebrate Jewish values and culture to families with children 6 months through 8 years old. In Atlantic Canada, PJ Library is sponsored by the Atlantic Jewish Council.

*Signing up is free, easy, and takes less than 3 minutes. Go to **pjlibrary.org**!*



**Know any kids ages 8½ TO 12 YEARS OLD
living in Atlantic Canada?**

TELL THEM TO SIGN UP FOR PJ OUR WAY!

PJ Our Way is a program that offers the gift of exceptional chapter books with Jewish themes to kids ages 8½-12—books that they choose themselves! Every month, kids visit the PJ Our Way website to choose a book from a selection of four high-quality titles that have been reviewed by a panel of PJ educators, parents, and kids.

*Signing up is free, easy, and takes less than 3 minutes. Go to **pjourway.org**!*



Craving more than just books?

The AJC regularly offers PJ Library and PJ Our Way programming for Jewish children in Atlantic Canada.

Join us for Kids' Shabbat Dinners, holiday programming, social events, and more!

Please contact nextgen@theajc.ca for more information.

**\$100 USD PJ Library Get Together Grants
are Now Available in Atlantic Canada!***

\$100 USD grants are available for families (raising Jewish children, ages 6 months to 12-years-old who are enrolled in PJ Library and/or PJ Our Way) to host two or more other families (raising Jewish children) doing what they like to do together whether it's celebrating Jewish Holidays/Shabbat, volunteering, or more!

*Grant applications must be submitted BEFORE the event to be eligible. Apply for these grants at pjlibrary.org/gettogether.

CYJ HALIFAX ATLANTIC REGION

Our flagship teen program JOLT has been off to a great start

BY MARK KACHUCK NATIONAL EDUCATION DIRECTOR | CANADIAN YOUNG JUDAEAE

OUR CYJ HALIFAX KEN OR CENTRE, HAS BEEN VERY BUSY THIS PAST FALL.

Our flagship teen program JOLT has been off to a great start. Our chanichim and madrichim have had three programs, and three outreaches. This year, JOLT has been sticking to a strong curriculum that has been developed in our national office and is used all over Canada. This means that our friends in Vancouver, Montreal and Toronto are doing the same programs and same style outreach as us.

In October we explored the value of Tikkun Olam and how that relates to the environment. We did an outreach at the Halifax Commons, and met with the Halifax Green Party. This was a really impactful month as the climate marches all over the world were happening. We got to explore the Jewish response to environmentalism and what we can do in our local community. In November we explored Women in Judaism, and we once again ran our Fill A Purse Campaign. We collected purses and personal care items to fill them for women's shelters around Halifax. December was all about different issues in the media today, and our outreach was related to Hanukkah. We also welcomed Mark Kachuck, CYJ's National Education Director to Halifax, and showed him how strong the movement is here!

We are proud to say that CYJ Atlantic Region will be sending 14 delegates from Halifax and Moncton to Machane Choref, CYJ's National Leadership Convention in February. The Atlantic Region will have a strong cohort representing a significant number of Judaeans. We cannot wait to meet friends old and new for what will be an amazing weekend.

We have a lot planned for next year, and are so excited to be announcing some new programs for Halifax and the Atlantic Region so soon! If you are still interested in joining JOLT, please email nextgen@theajc.ca for more information. We look forward to another year ahead! 🌟

EDITOR'S NOTE:

JOLT is Canadian Young Judaea's flagship program for teen community outreach. JOLT stands for "Jewish Outreach Leadership Training." During the year, JOLT partners with various local organizations to give teens the chance to bring about positive change within the community. JOLT is available for teens in Halifax from grades 8 through 11 and runs from September to the end of May. For additional information please contact Linday Kerr, Director of Hillel and Next Generation Engagement, Atlantic Jewish Council: nextgen@theajc.ca



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CAMP KADIMAH

As the year 2019 comes to an end, we are left with one more opportunity to reflect on the memorable summer we had at camp. The 2019 summer was full of exciting moments, joy, friendship and ruach (spirit). It is these precious elements that transform a summer into what it is, and that enables camp to live in our memories. It is hard to encapsulate what these experiences mean to the campers and staff who experience them, yet harnessing the camp experience was exactly the goal Lynda Suissa aimed for when she embarked upon the journey to create the Camp Kadimah: The Story of Our Lives, a deeply thoughtful camp documentary.

This fall and winter season, the Kadimah community across the world finally got to enjoy the product of this journey. Camp Kadimah: The Story of our Lives premiered to sold-out audiences in Halifax and Toronto, with follow-up showings in Ottawa, Montreal, Vancouver, L.A. and Israel. The film showcased camp's rich history, with several interviews of campers and alumni ranging in age. Each spoke eloquently of the profound place Kadimah holds in their heart. Seeing what camp means to so many people was truly inspiring.

The impact of camp on its alumni and current campers and staff continues to be an inspiration. We are thrilled to work towards another successful summer ahead embodying that special camp spirit. 2020 camper enrollment is stronger than ever, with full cabins and a robust wait-list. Excitement amongst new and returning staff is also high, with strong staff recruitment numbers. This enthusiasm for camp shows at our Kadimah In The City (KITC) events, where new and returning campers get to experience some of the magic of camp in the cities in which they live. In November, we held a KITC event in Halifax at Party on People. Over 25 new and returning campers participated and enjoyed several rounds of laser tag, games, and reuniting with friends from the summer.

Further, in preparation for the 2020 summer, we have recently debuted a major fundraising effort, the B'yachad Partnership Campaign. With Kadimah nearing its 80th birthday, the capital



campaign's goal is to raise \$2 million towards needed infrastructure projects across camp and new programming facilities. These projects will allow us to improve the Kadimah of today while simultaneously better preparing it for future generations.

We are so excited for the upcoming 2020 summer, and we encourage you to continue following us as we prepare for CK2020. Registration for summer 2021 will open on Visitor's Day, Sunday July 26th, 2020 and as always if you have any questions, please contact us at office@campkadimah.com. Until next time! 🌟

BY SARAH ATKINS, DIRECTOR

MICHAEL PINK, CO-CHAIR

MICHAEL SOBERMAN, CO-CHAIR



FILM

CAMP KADIMAH

THE STORY OF OUR LIVES

It was more than two years in the making but the overwhelming reaction showed the time, labor and financial investment was worth it

BY JOEL JACOBSON

SPECIAL SCREENING: February 9, 2 p.m., Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, 1675 Lower Water Street, Halifax. Tickets available at: theAJC.ca

The premiere showing of “Camp Kadimah—The Story of Our Lives”, a one hour 45 minute documentary about one of the great unifying forces of Atlantic Provinces Jewry, took place before awed audiences at Halifax’s Pier 21 November 18 (150 people) and at Toronto’s Center For The Performing Arts November 19 (350) respectively.

It was also shown in Ottawa and Vancouver and will be seen by Kadimah alumni in Los Angeles and Israel in the next few weeks. It will soon be available on DVD and USB through a newly-forming website—thekadimahstory.com.

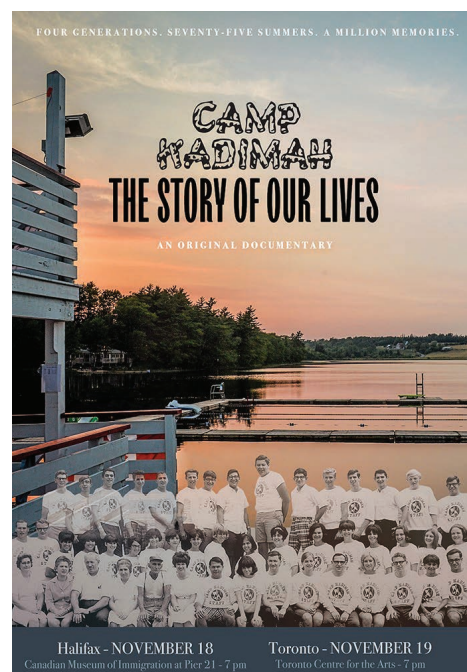
Produced and directed by Lynda Medjuck Suissa of Halifax, who attended the summer camp at Barss Corner, NS for more than a dozen years, the film highlighted the joy thousands of children have had over 76 years of summer camping.

Starting with a brief history of Jews in Atlantic Canada and the origins of the camp, through closing night in 2019, the film captured the emotions of alumni across the world. Campers have come from all points in Canada, plus the United States and Israel. Today, a third generations of Atlantic Canadian Jews are represented on the camp roster.

“So much history, so many memories and so many friends! Thanks (Lynda) for giving us this very special documentary,” wrote Gloria Jacobson Pink who grew up in Saint John NB, found husband Steven Pink of Yarmouth NS at Kadimah (a former Camp committee chairman), and have sent their children (including current Camp co-chair Michael) and grandchildren to Kadimah. “It most definitely is “The Story Of Our Lives”! ♥ no matter what happens in the future this movie will always be there to tell the history of Camp Kadimah and its impact on Jewish youth.”

Leigh Lampert (Moncton) met wife Darcie Richler (Toronto) at Kadimah and wrote “CK holds a very special place in our lives and the lives of our children. Thank you to Lynda and the many people who helped with this wonderful project. They spent hundreds of hours going through decades’ worth of photos, videos, correspondence and artifacts and interviewing more than a hundred current and former campers and staff. The end product was remarkable—a true labor of love.”

Andrea Garson of Halifax, and now Toronto, remarked, “It was an amazing tribute to a wonderful place.”



Suissa was glowing after the premiere performances. “It brought me so much joy and fulfillment to help people share their memories,” she said. “I interviewed 100 people and made sure each and every one got to be in the film. They captured the whole essence of what Kadimah has meant to them, and to everyone.”

Suissa traced the beginnings of Atlantic Canadian Jewry’s golden years in the late 1800s and early 1900s when hundreds of immigrants came from Eastern Europe to settle in Halifax, Saint John, Moncton and Cape Breton. Many started life as peddlers in the hinterlands, and developing into retailers and then the professions and industry. “It was a story of people coming from many shtetls, setting their roots into one larger (Maritime Provinces) shtetl. It was important to tell our children this part of their history.”

Suissa found film from the early days in the 1940s through today, and combined that with interviews and slides from later decades to relate Kadimah’s history. “The film is called The Story of Our Lives because it is the story of each one of us who attended Kadimah or sent their children. It is also the story of the Jewish communities of Atlantic Canada,” Suissa said.

Former camp director Joanna Wexler of Halifax eloquently described her feelings at the movie’s conclusion. “Over the course of lifetimes and sometimes even generations, we connect with places and people that are transformative. This beautifully compiled documentary really conveyed the power of this special place, and highlighted the importance of these spaces of culture, heritage and history for us, particularly for those of us in small Jewish communities. Kadimah is a lifeline to Jewish identity here in very real and tangible ways.”

Suissa said people came forward with offers to assist financially. “Their generosity made this project happen,” she said. She concluded, “It was a fun project, a beautiful story. I love Camp Kadimah. So many people have grown up with Kadimah as an integral part of their lives and their story.”



8TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS AT SPENCER HOUSE SENIORS CENTRE, HALIFAX

Community volunteers served up a lot of Christmas cheer: Myrna Yazer, Schuyler Smith, Nancy Cieplinski, Flint Schwartz, Kristina McMillan, Joel Jacobson, Dave Hanson, Sheri Lecker and Mark Evans and their children Sam, Joey & Bessie, Sherri Kasten & Yael (visiting from Boston), Adam Conter and sons, Mort Fels and daughter Rebecca, Linda Jonas Schroeder, Mindy Jacobson, Jenn Pink and daughter Freya, Michael Argand and Jo-Anne Nozick, Leo Weniger, Fanny Nathanson. AJC team: Edna LeVine & Naomi Rosenfeld.



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SPENCER HOUSE SENIORS ENJOY CHRISTMAS, THANKS TO AJC VOLUNTEERS

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JOEL JACOBSON



Little to do but eat breakfast, sit around, read, play on the computer, message friends on a hand device, and make a phone call or two.

It's 10:30 on the morning of December 25.

The aroma wafting through the rooms of Spencer House in south end Halifax is enticing, drawing a nose to the kitchen where dinner is being prepared.

Turkey is roasting, potatoes are boiling, fresh carrots, parsnips and green beans are prepping in a pot. Dressing is waiting to be heated. All the fixings for Christmas dinner are ready.

A bevy of Jewish men, women and children are starting to gather at this daily drop-in center where local seniors chat, play cards and games, and get a hot lunch. Today, these seniors will be served Christmas dinner, on a day where most have few or no relatives nearby.

The Atlantic Jewish Council has been offering this annual event for the last eight years. Usually 25 to 30 seniors attend, filled with gratitude for the generosity of the Jewish community. And, for the past several years, more than enough volunteers offer their time to give Spencer House a festive feel.

Besides preparing and serving the meal, the Jewish men and women lead a Christmas Carol sing song (thankfully with lyrics provided), meet and greet the folks as they arrive, and offer appetizers, fruit punch, coffee and tea, and later, give gift bags to each attendee on departure.

Edna LeVine, Atlantic Jewish Council's Director of Community

Engagement, coordinates the event. Myrna Yazer heads the kitchen crew and even bakes a special Christmas cake and makes the cranberry sauce in her own kitchen. Mort Fels (piano) and Linda Schroeder (flute) provide the musical accompaniment for the sing song. And community folk, from ages three to maybe eighty-three, are there to engage the seniors with smiling faces and lively conversation.

The Atlantic Jewish Council has been offering this annual event for the last eight years. Usually 25 to 30 seniors attend, filled with gratitude for the generosity of the Jewish community. And, for the past several years, more than enough volunteers offer their time to give Spencer House a festive feel.

By 2 p.m., cleanup has been almost finished, the seniors have left with full bellies, and gratitude, and the volunteers, many of whom don't see one another from one year to the next, are eagerly anticipating year number nine in this effort to make this event a down-home, kitchen party for people who need and relish it. 5

16TH ANNUAL HOLOCAUST EDUCATION WEEK (HEW) 2019



A full house at the Halifax Central Library, Paul O'Regan Hall, welcomed Ronen Israelski, Toronto, a documentary filmmaker and the son of a Jewish boy who met Hitler in Berlin in 1934. Israelski presented and narrated his original, work-in-progress, film "The Day I Met Hitler". The film featured newly discovered stories from people, including his father, who had direct contact with Hitler. For more information and to support this historical project please visit: <https://ca.gofundme.com/f/the-day-i-met-hitler>



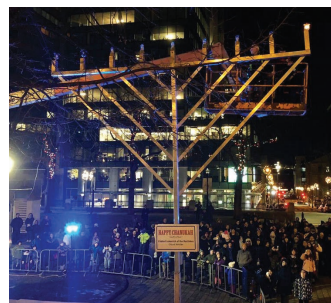
HEW featured two presentations in Halifax by Holocaust survivor Pinchas Gutter, author of *Memories in Focus* (published by the Azrieli Foundation), in conversation with Elin Beaumont from The Azrieli Foundation. Gutter captivated audiences with his detailed stories of survival. Over 400 students filled Rowe Hall at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 to hear his testimony and have their questions answered. His message for the future, "Pass the Torch" resonated with students and they flocked around him after his presentation eager to ask personal questions and be close to him. All attendee received a signed copy of Gutter's memoirs, compliments of the Azrieli Foundation. Pinchas Gutter and Elin Beaumont then made a very special presentation in a rural community, they travelled to Islands Consolidated School in Freeport, Nova Scotia, where students from Digby Regional High School joined to hear Gutter's first-hand survivor testimony.



Sol Nayman, Holocaust survivor, presented two educational programs, in the Bronfman Theatre at the Canadian museum of Immigration at Pier 21, one for the general public and one for high school students. Nayman's well-organized and informative presentation provided detailed historical context about the Holocaust, including defining "What is a Survivor" as well as his personal story of survival and entry to Canada through the "Tailor Project".

If you have a Jewish holiday celebration in mind and would like to connect with our community contact Naomi Rosenfeld at nrosenfeld@theajc.ca

CHANUKAH CELEBRATIONS



This year in Halifax, we had SEVEN different community Channukah events! Each of these events took place in different locations and catered to various demographics and needs within our community. We here at the AJC are thrilled that, collectively, the various Jewish organizations and volunteers in our community worked collaboratively, side-by-side, to create tailored, and meaningful channukah experiences for such large proportion of our community. These 7 events were (in chronicle logical order): The Beth and Shaar's Joint Channukah Sale (Dec. 15th); The AJC's PJ Library Channukah Painting Party (Dec. 15th); Natalie Zak's Children's Channukah Kids' Event (Dec. 21st); PJ Library's ABVGDeika Channukah/Novi God (New Year's) Party (Dec. 22nd); The Beth's Channukah Luncheon (Dec. 23rd); Chabad and the City of Halifax's Grand Menorah Lighting (Dec. 23rd); The Shaar's Family Channukah Dinner (Dec. 29th). Thank you to all the volunteers and staff who worked tirelessly to make channukah 5780 a huge success in Halifax!



6TH ANNUAL

Atlantic Jewish Film Festival

AN ATLANTIC JEWISH COUNCIL PRODUCTION

AJFF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**Lynn Rotin, Chair of the Halifax Jewish Film Festival**

Philip Belitsky | Rosalind Belitsky | Jon Goldberg

Anna Hazankin | Linda Law | Edna LeVine

Naomi Rosenfeld | Jordan Schelew | Peggy Walt

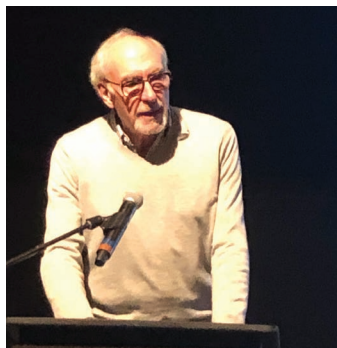
Give yourselves a pat on the back, volunteers and committee members! This sixth year of the AJFF was an overwhelming success. The best part (other than the films, of course!) is that it attracted film-lovers from across Halifax and outside the Jewish community, people willing to open themselves up to learning about different cultures and practices. To this end, films came from several countries: Israel, Mexico, Ethiopia, the USA, and France. We also chose a selection of Israeli shorts, four from the Sam Spiegel Film and TV School in Jerusalem.

Most years, and purely by chance, a common theme weaves through the films. This year the focus was women, all of whom find themselves in challenging situations ranging from religious to business to cultural.

"Fig Tree," filmed in Ethiopia, led me into a very unfamiliar world. It's based on the writer/director's own experiences when the military was literally grabbing boys off the street, throwing them into the backs of trucks, and kidnapping them to fight in the civil war. It chronicles the relationship between a teenage couple, and her efforts to get him to safety in Israel. This film not only gave me a window into the Ethiopian way of life but also a visual and visceral representation of what it was like to be there during that time. We had the pleasure of inviting Amara Bangura, Senior Communications Office, The Romeo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative, to introduce the film.

The award-winning, "Golda's Balcony, The Film," which documents the life of Golda Meir, was a powerful end to the festival. Tovah Feldshuh gives a stunning performance as Golda, playing over 45 characters in this one-woman play. Chosen "Audience Favourite" at 11 Jewish film festivals (including ours!), it was so well received that we decided to re-screen it on Sunday February 23 at 1:15pm at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic (this will probably sell out fast especially as many people want to see it a second time).

And I mustn't forget you, the audience members. By filling the theatre seats you tell us we're choosing the right films, those that resonate, and that make you want to come back year after year...so, see you next year, too... —Lynn Rotin



David Fishelson, producer of Golda's Balcony, The Film, closed the 6th Annual AJFF (pictured centre, with right, Lynn Rotin, AJFF chair and Edna LeVine, AJC). Fishelson presented background information and insightful stories about producing the Broadway play and the making of the film, to a sold-out audience at Park Lane Cineplex Cinemas, Halifax. Golda's Balcony: The Film, was the AJFF's People's Choice Award Winner.

EDITOR'S NOTE: There will be an Encore presentation of "Golda's Balcony, The Film" on Sunday, February 23 2020, 1:15 p.m. Please see page 6 for more details.



CAPE BRETON NEWS

BY SHARON JACOBSON

“Never be afraid to try something new. Remember, amateurs built the Ark; professionals built the Titanic...”

I thought this an inspiring quote, not just to get through one's week but the weekend as well. Saturday is Shul Day. We have a few members trying something new and thus attending services. It seems they are glad they did take this leap of faith, so to speak. Pray, Eat, Shmooze—not a bad idea for a sequel.

The Autumn began with the much appreciated and perennial delivery of lovely flowers to the Shul for Rosh Hashanah from the Lecker gals, Michelle and Sheri. (Thankfully, Cape Bretoners do remember their roots.) We had a nice group in attendance; Rabbi Ellis led the service and of course The Choir composed of Leslie and Léon Dubinsky and Barrie Carnat & Beth Sheila Kent enhanced the experience. We truly do come together in song, especially with the old tunes religiously taught in cheder days.

And of course, what would we do without David Ein's attention to detail! Shayna and Darren Strong once again set their table for the community!

Then, with Rosh Hashannah past, we gathered for Yom Kippur. Rabbi Ellis once again led the service. Because we enjoy Breaking the Fast together at the end of this day in Shul, Shayna and Darren and the boys muster to help make this happen, and we are always amazed at the miraculous spread of food displayed on the buffet tables! Everyone brings something! With 3 banquet tables of people and several food stations at which to sup and drink, it is and was a party.

The biggest change I have noticed since our return to the Island, 6-7 years ago, is the loss of vital members in the Jewish community. Lil Udovin, originally from New Waterford, mother of Stephen Nathanson, sister of Bella Shore, passed away at the age of 102.

Stephen, who is our archivist/ historian gave a very soft and eloquent speech that highlighted his mother's character, personality and life journey.

You knew her better from his eulogy which included family anecdotes.

Dr. Sandra Wajstaub lost her husband, Henry this year as well. They had moved to Sydney years before and stayed...Sandra has been a regular at the synagogue.

Mark Simon and Arthur Zilbert, formerly of Glace Bay, reported that they had a 2nd annual Maritime reunion in Toronto with an increase in attendance. Charitable donations were made to the Glace Bay cemetery fund and the Forest Hill Jewish Centre. They also broke a Shul record, according to Mark, for the largest number of Aliyahs handed out at a Shabbat service (by Rabbi Karfunkle). Leaders of the service were: Norman Khan-Shacharit, Bruce Simon-Haftorah, and Nathan Zilbert-Musaf Shirley Abramsky generously sponsored the Kiddish.

Also, prior to this, the 2nd Glace Bay Torah was loaned to the Yorkville Jewish Community under the supervision of Rabbi Meir Dubrawsky, originally of Vancouver. It was to be read over Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur at the Windsor Arms Hotel. The Rabbi would apparently like to read from this Torah on a weekly basis for his Yorkville congregation of Jewish Continuity.

Climate change came to the Temple Sons of Israel in the form of No Heat one cold day in Shul. Once more, the Strong family came to the rescue! It became a remarkable morning. Answering the distress signal sent out by husband Darren, Shayna arrived with blankets, warm things with which to cover up, and hot coffee! Methinks Moses could not have solved the problem for his tribe any better!

Holocaust Education for teachers and other participants in the community at large was held in the synagogue once more. Diane Lewis organizes this each year and each year, I am more and more overwhelmed. I like to attend to see what is being offered and how it



1



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PHOTOS: (1-2) The 2nd Glace Bay Torah was loaned to the Yorkville Jewish Community under the supervision of Rabbi Meir Dubrawsky (3-6) Yom Kippur gathering

is received. I sat down at a table with several teachers and a younger woman who had been to Berlin. They knew so much. I felt good. I told them about my feelings as a child when I first heard The Story of the Holocaust. I wondered where I could hide if the Nazis landed on our shores. I told them I felt sure "Germany" would never come to "Cape Breton" and then, read in the local newspaper about what efficient statisticians the Nazis were and how they had compiled the numbers and locations of Jews in other countries, down to the details of Cape Breton. Then the teachers at my table told me their stories. The younger woman got out her phone and I was pleased she had wanted to capture on her phone what she read to us—the inscription on a plaque she had seen in Berlin.

You know the one:

"In Germany, they first came for the Communists and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up"...and so on and so forth....."

Then they came for me, and by that time no one was left to speak up."

I had a quick chat with the speaker from Toronto about the prevalent rise of Antisemitism, real, or perceived but viscerally felt. He opened his briefcase and gave me a recently published book on the subject, Antisemitism Here and Now by Deborah E. Lipstadt. I thanked him as he rushed off for his presentation to those in the field of education or involved in other organized groups such as sport where diversity and tolerance need to be understood. As I left, I thanked the women at my table, and added that because of them, I felt safe. They smiled.

Avi Drucker and his daughter Harriet paid a visit to their old stomping grounds in Sydney. Avi was highly involved in the Jewish community and the larger society of CB as was his wife Evy who was not able to travel from Toronto. He enjoyed coming to Shul, participating in the Kiddish lunch and chatting away about people, places and ideas. He and Harriet were very busy revisiting their Past lives. It was most enjoyable seeing them both "catch up."

Heidi Schwartz termed the phrase "our elders" when referring to generations ahead of hers who I believe she felt were providing a fierce sense of continuity. I say this wryly as I just realized my "Pepsi generation is no longer coming at you—coming strong"! It is losing its fizz I believe due to age, relevance.

But we do seem to grow amazing Centenarians and Nonagenarians in our small towns too.

(Lil Nathanson passed away recently at age 102, Fanny Cohen was a force at age 107.) Today, Bella Shore, at 97 years rings in at the top of our Tribal Elders followed by the young' uns, Louis Allen, Faye David, Herman Nathanson, Shirley Dubinsky and Shirley Chernin. Stay-tuned, hopefully more to come.

The much-heralded documentary about Camp Kadimah was shown in Halifax, Montreal and Toronto. I heard about this from friends who live in these cities. We are hoping to bring Lynda Medjuck's film to Cape Breton for a viewing. We would even roll out the old tartan rug.

In *The World of Yesterday*, a novel by Stefan Zweig, a Viennese Jew who lived from 1881 to 1942, we read, as David Hare describes, "One of the greatest memoirs of the 20th century, as perfect in its evocation of the world Zweig loved, as it is in its portrayal of how that world was destroyed."

The author describes in the first chapter the times in which his parents lived in Vienna and in which he was raised.

It was a Time of Peace & Quiet, of Security, of a "belief that they could fence in their existence... In its liberal idealism, the nineteenth century

was honestly convinced it was on the direct and infallible road to the best of all possible worlds." Towards the end of the book, as Hitler comes to power, Zweig, as a prominent author with an international reputation and part of a viable literary community, describes "the height from which we fell, ...the unique consequences of this elimination of our entire literary generation. I really cannot think of any similar example in history." Yet, he goes back to that "wonderful and noble delusion "that his parents served, and despite the horror and humiliation, and shattered lives that mark this short period of time, something in him with a certain sense of mystery believes:

"What a man has taken into his bloodstream in childhood from the air of that time stays with him."

He comforts himself with an "inherited confidence in the eternal rhythm of progress onward and upward".

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PEI NEWS

BY JOSEPH B. GLASS

CELEBRATING THE HIGH HOLY DAYS

The Jewish community gathered and celebrated the High Holidays with several events. On the first day of Rosh Hashanah, over thirty-five participants joined in prayer. Leo Mednick, PEIJC president, masterfully blew the *shofar* for all Stratford and beyond to hear. The service was followed by a community potluck lunch with a smorgasbord of appetizers, salads, entrees, and desserts. The event was graciously hosted by Rachel Kassner and Joel Palter. The location of their home, on the bank of the Hillsborough River, afforded the opportunity to go down to the river to perform *tashlich*. Rachel and Joel again welcomed the community for Yom Kippur. Services were held for Kol Nidre and again the following morning.

The community was welcomed in the home of Annabel Cohen to break the fast. Martin Rutte and Leo Mednick led the neilah prayers. Leo blew the *shofar* at the conclusion of Yom Kippur, the culmination of a day spent fasting and praying for a sweet new year. The participants shared a potluck meal which Annabel organized and outdid herself.

SUKKOT

During Sukkot, the community *sukkah* was set up and decorated in the backyard of hosts Sheldon Opps and Marina Silva. A *lulav* and *etrog* were available for the community members to bless. Two young group members, Amalia and Elijah, participated in the festivities and showed their growing Hebrew knowledge. They beautifully recited the *kiddush*, the blessing for sitting in the *sukkah* and the *shehecheyanu* blessing. Their parents, devoted Hebrew teacher Ilana Clyde, and all gathered *shepped nachas* knowing that Jewish traditions were being handed down from generation to generation. With the cool Charlottetown weather, the participants enjoyed hot vegetarian matzo ball soup in the *sukkah*, a *forshpise* before the shared community meal. Joining us in the *sukkah* were visitors from the United States, Gary Weinstein and his daughter Teri Weinstein. The PEI Jewish Community Annual General Meeting was also held in the community *sukkah*.

ON-LINE HEBREW CLASSES

During the fall, on Thursday evenings, Ilana Clyde offered free, beginner-level, conversational Hebrew lessons to the members of the Atlantic Jewish community. She used Zoom, an online conference software, to give lessons that one could take from the comfort of one's own home. Ilana, an experienced Hebrew language instructor, is graciously volunteering her services. She and her family have spent their summers on PEI for 15 years and have a deep love for the island.

NEW BOOK BY J.J. STEINFELD

The Jewish community congratulates Island author J. J. Steinfeld on his twentieth book and thirteenth short story collection *Gregor Samsa Was Never in The Beatles*, which was published in November 2019. The book is an eclectic and thought-provoking mix of 45 speculative fictions written between 1983 and 2019. These wide-ranging stories explore many of the themes and the psychological terrain, from the absurd to the existential, through the varied literary lenses of science fiction, the surreal, fantasy, horror, the Kafkaesque, and the otherworldly, which the author has been dealing with in his literary writing over the years as he grapples with the desire for meaning and sense in the human condition while confronting the lives of his fictional characters and their imagined habitations.

REMEMBERING THE HOLOCAUST

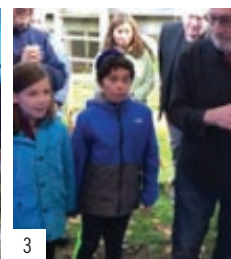
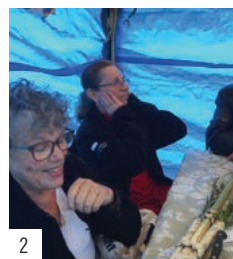
In the main hall of the University of Prince Edward Island Chaplaincy Center, a framed Holocaust themed poster entitled "I Constantly See Their Faces" is on permanent exhibit. Previously this poster was displayed in the office of John McLaughlin, Deputy Minister of Education and Early Child Development for New Brunswick. He acquired it during a study tour to Germany, Poland, and Israel. McLaughlin had this poster in his office for over twenty years and wanted to find it a permanent home, where it could continue to have meaning. A letter by Deputy Minister McLaughlin, providing the full context for the poster, is also exhibited. The poster found a new home at UPEI through the efforts of Dr. Israel Unger, Professor Annabel Cohen and Chaplain Sister Su Kidd.

HANUKKAH CELEBRATIONS

The Jewish community celebrated Hanukkah this year at two events. For the first night, Shamara Baidobonso and Michael

Fleischmann opened their house to the Jewish community. Michael slaved away over a hot stove preparing batch after batch of fresh latkes for all to enjoy with the potluck meal. Leo Mednick led the community in lighting the first candle. Other members brought their *hanukkiyahs* to illuminate the festival.

Debra Buckler and her husband Louis invited the community to an open house Hanukkah celebration on the eighth night of the festival of lights. This event was one of the few held outside the greater Charlottetown area. The couple live in the Prince County near Summerside. ☺



PHOTOS: (1-3) During Sukkot, the community *sukkah* was set up and decorated in the backyard of hosts Sheldon Opps and Marina Silva. (4) Remembering the Holocaust on the campus of UPEI (5-6) Hanukkah Celebrations

NEWFOUNDLAND NEWS

News from the far east **BY RABBI CHANAN AND TUBA CHERNITSKY**

CHALLAH BAKE

We had an incredible challah bake, joint with the whole Jewish community. It was amazing to see how much everyone enjoyed learning how to make challah, while enjoying meeting new people and catching up with friends.

We learned how to shape our own six strand challahs, the meaning behind the ingredients of the challah, and competed in a grand game of Jewish scattergories. All in all, it looked like everyone had a good time and are looking forward to other joint events.

ROSH HASHANA

We hosted a beautiful community Rosh Hashana meal preceded by the blowing of the Shofar. Definitely the biggest one yet. It was great to see new faces come through the door! The lesson we took this year from Rosh Hashana is to cherish the Torah and Mitzvot like precious gems and realize that the Torah is Hashem's instruction manual for us to live the best life possible.

SHABBAT IN THE SUKKAH

For the first time since moving here in 2017 we hosted a Shabbat dinner in our Sukkah! Everyone went out to the Sukkah despite the heavy rain, to make Kiddush. After tasting from the Challah most people headed into the house to have the Shabbat meal while a courageous few ate in the Sukkah. A great time was had by all, inside and outside. We learnt from Sukkot that all the high holidays and Sukkot share a common theme of Jewish unity and how important it is for our continuity.

SIMCHAT TORAH

Another first timer. We hosted a small group to celebrate the completion of the Torah reading cycle with joyous dancing, sushi and brisket.

PUBLIC MENORAH LIGHTING

We hosted our 3rd Annual Public Menorah lighting at Bannerman Park. Over 100 people showed up despite the bitter cold Newfoundland weather! In attendance were The Honourable Lieutenant Governor Judy Foote and Howard Foote. The lieutenant Governor lit the Shamash. MP Jack Harris, and Council Member Debbie Hanlon were in attendance and both delivered brief greetings. Afterwards Aaron Schachner was honoured with the lighting of the first candle of the Menorah and we finished off the ceremony with the singing of "Maoz Tzur" after which everyone was invited to enjoy the fresh sufganyiot and hot drinks. Menorahs and candles were available for whomever needed. The evening finished off with a fire juggling show. What a night. 🌟

We are open 24/7. If you are coming to visit, please let us know and we will be happy to meet you. For more information you can reach us at 709-341-8770 or through e-mail at chabadofnewfoundland@gmail.com. For discounted rates on hotel reservations, check out our website at www.chabadNfld.org.

PHOTOS: (1-3) A challah bake with the whole Jewish community (4) Fire Juggler at the 3rd Annual Public Menorah lighting at Bannerman Park (5) The lieutenant Governor lit the Shamash. MP Jack Harris, and Council Member Debbie Hanlon were in attendance and both delivered brief greetings



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FREDERICTON NEWS

BY AYTEN KRANAT

Fredericton Shul President's Update

BY IVAN LEVINE, PRESIDENT, SG00LAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

On behalf of our Shul Executive and Board, I want to wish you all a fun filled happy Chanukah and Seasons' Greeting.

You may have noticed that our Shul has new thermo pane windows covering our old single glaze ones. This plus a new thermostat, LED lights and weather-stripping all outside doors, should save on power bills.

Capital projects are 90% completed for this year (replace/repair exit doors and paint social hall walls to do) leaving only the roof replacement in the late spring 2020, which has been contracted. The current roof has no insulating factor and we are increasing it to an acceptable R insulating factor. I am pleased to say that we are more than 5% below total budget. I can proudly say also that since I have been President the last 6 months, we have received by donation more than our Capital Expenditures and still counting.

We have just finished renewing our Insurance policy with a new well-established company and save over \$2,700 per year in premiums.

Hebrew school is going well thanks to

Shaindy, Ami and Our Rabbi. Our worthy Rabbi is doing remarkable outreach goodwill as co-officiating at an Amish/Jewish wedding and as guest Lecturer of the Introduction religious studies at Saint Thomas University on Judaism/history.

We experienced a very good High Holiday attendance of approx. 50 people at the height with an average of 30 and minimum of 20 congregants. Bravo to us for demonstrating our vitality and participation. On the other hands, cold weather and early night fall tend to challenge having a minion. I want to specially thank Shelley Stephens as President of the Sisterhood and Ami Whittaker for taking the lead in organizing 3 events for our Channukah Celebrations centered on children participation.

It gives me inspiration when a senior member of our Community takes on weekly responsibility of acting Treasure with timely precision and care. A special thank you to Bob Brown.

A hearty Mazel Tov/Congratulations to Ricky Peled on becoming a Canadian citizen. Well Done. Also a Mazel Tov to the Grandparents Sandy Byers and Larry on the



SISTERHOOD UPDATE

BY SHELLEY STEPHENS, SISTERHOOD PRESIDENT, SG00LAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

Sisterhood and Sgoolai Israel Synagogue sponsored our annual Chanukah celebration, I want to thank all who volunteered in planning and participation of our annual Chanukah celebration that took place on Sunday, December 22, 2019 from 3:30-5:00 p.m. at the Synagogue. It was well-attended and all enjoyed eating latkes and a sing-a-long and dancing with the children.

Special thanks to Rose and staff of the Fredericton Public Library who we partner with each year, the celebration took place on Monday, December 23, 2019 at 2:00-4:00 p.m. and it was well attended by families and children. They made a shamash craft, sang songs, ate cookies, played dreidel and ate Chanukah gelt. In attendance was a visiting family from Buenos Aires, Argentina with their son (verbal permission, Lauren Hudgins, Ariel Eiberman and Malachy).

Stay tuned for upcoming events such as Purim and Passover seder to be announced at a later date.



birth of their grandson Sasha Ruben Byers Durbin and proud parents Alyssa and Josh.

Food for thought, I am working on a mission statement for our community. Please give me your input. Mission Statement/guidelines for future Presidents/Boards; the main objectives are for inclusion/welcoming of all our diverse Jewish Community and foster good relations with the Greater Fredericton Community. To further community Spirit we encourage members to attend services or events at least twice a month to experience our deep culture and Joy thus showing unity/strength of Jews for a strong Israel.

Channukah Celebration at Clay café painting menorahs was well attended, and the Fredericton Public Library Channukah Festival had approx. 50 people with 25 children. Our Shul party was on Sunday 22nd and had an attendance of 47 people with 13 children.

I have heartfelt humility for all your support and participation in making our community well respected and active. 🕊

The Abraham Leventhal Memorial Scholarships

The Atlantic Jewish Council invites applications from residents of Atlantic Canada for Abraham Leventhal Memorial Scholarships towards tuition fees for future post-secondary studies in the Halifax Regional Municipality.

The award will normally be to a maximum of \$5000.00 for each application. The biannual application deadlines are May 31st (for studies beginning the following September, or later) and November 30th (for studies beginning the following January, or later). Applicants can apply once in any 12- month period. Abraham Leventhal Memorial Scholarships may be used towards either part-time or full-time studies.

Criteria for Application:

The applicant must be a resident of Atlantic Canada. For the purposes of this application, this means that the applicant must have resided continuously in an Atlantic Canadian province (Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, or Newfoundland & Labrador) for at least one period of 24 consecutive months not including any time spent enrolled as a full-time student at a post-secondary institution. ("Full-time student" means that the applicant was enrolled in a post-secondary education program for at least 60% of the regular course load, or 40% if the applicant is disabled, including internships and practicums.).

Applicants must be attending a post-secondary institution in the Halifax Regional Municipality. Please note that the Halifax institution must be the institution from which the applicant expects to receive a degree/diploma. As well, please note that students studying on a semester/year abroad, or students attending satellite campuses of Halifax-based institutions (e.g. Dalhousie University's Agricultural Campus) are ineligible for Abraham Leventhal Memorial Scholarships.

Applications available at: theajc.ca/scholarships

REPORT FROM THE SAINT JOHN JEWISH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

BY KATHERINE BIGGS-CRAFT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CURATOR

This has been a very active year with events and new projects... and even as the year winds down, more projects are on the horizon.

On October 6, we invited Robert Katz, a professor of art from the University of Maine to share his multimedia presentation *Were the House Still Standing*, which told the story of Holocaust survivors and liberators who settled in Maine. An audience of more than 30 listened attentively and asked many good questions. This event was made possible with support from the Atlantic Jewish Council.

The Sixth Annual Saint John Jewish Film Festival was held in late October and we were excited to welcome more than 300 people over the six nights to view the films chosen for this year: *The Keeper*, *Promise at Dawn*, *Leona*, *Shoelaces*, *The Tobacconist* and *My Polish Honeymoon*. Many people were able to attend every show, including 60 who attended our gala opening. This event would not be possible without the support of many sponsors from the Saint John area. The Film Festival is the major fundraising event for the Museum each year and plans are already underway for next year's festival.

A book reading was held in November with Natalie Morrill reading from her first novel, *The Ghost Keeper*. She was the winner of the Canadian Jewish Literary Award in 2018. The book begins in the years between the two world wars when Josef Tobak builds a quiet life around his friendships, his beloved wife, Anna, and his devotion to the old Jewish cemeteries of Vienna. Then comes the Anschluss in 1938, and Josef's world is uprooted. His health disintegrates. His wife and child are forced to flee to China. His closest gentile friend joins the Nazi Party—and yet helps Josef escape to America. When the war ends, Josef returns to Vienna with his family and tries to make sense of what remains, including his former Nazi friend

who, he discovers, protected Josef's young female cousin throughout the war. *The Ghost Keeper* is a story about the terrible choices people make to survive. The event was held in partnership with the Lorenzo Society at UNB Saint John. We were excited to have at least 40 people in attendance.

The Saint John Jewish Historical Society held its annual general meeting on Sunday, November 4. After receiving reports on a successful year, a new Board of Directors, including a number of new members, was elected: Lorie Cohen-Hackett, president; Eyal Ekshtein, treasurer; Rev. Philip Lee, recording secretary; Dr. Elizabeth McGahan, past president and directors: Dr. Joseph Arditti, Anne Baker, Lorne Daltrop, Ilanit Friling, Lloyd Goldsmith, Regina Mantin, Dora Nicinski, and Anna Vinizer.

After the Annual General Meeting, Gary Davis was honoured with the title of *President Emeritus*. It was a well-deserved recognition of the 18 years that he devoted to the Museum, eleven of those years as president. In addition to tributes that reminded those present of his many contributions to the Museum over his tenure, he was presented with a certificate for 18 trees planted in Israel in his honour. Gary worked hard to ensure that the history of the Jewish community was shared and would be preserved for a long time to come.

The museum was busy with visitors during September and October, particularly with passengers from visiting cruise ships. As always, we are thankful for many volunteers who came in during those two months to make sure all who visit know our story. Thank you to Phil Bloom, Ron Levine, Lorie Cohen-Hackett, Joseph Arditti, John and Dorothy McKim, Judith Meinert-Thomas and Isabella Van Dam who gave so generously of their time.

As the museum settles down for the coming winter, things remain busy in the museum office—there are many boxes of archival material to sort and file with the help of Isabella Van Dam, books to organize onto the library shelves, and a new exhibit to create for 2020.

The Saint John Jewish Historical Museum is proposing to create an exhibit to examine travel to the Middle East / Palestine in the 19th century. The starting point for the exhibit is material that has been made available to us by Mrs. Cassie Stanley of Rothesay, N.B. whose great-great grandfather, Rev. William Jones, served as a Christian missionary in the Middle East in the 1850s and 1860s. Rev. Jones went to the Middle East with his family to spread Christianity, however, after some time he noted in his journal that the Jews could not be converted. He was connected to American missionaries and travelled widely through the countryside, making many friends among his fellow Americans and the people in the land. His journals relate his experiences and what he saw in the Middle East. We will be able to access and copy journal entries, photographs and correspondence relating to his experiences to tell his story. Especially significant to this material are photographs taken and processed by Rev. Jones in the late 1850s which show Jerusalem and surrounding villages. Part of the exhibit will examine the process used to create these images. The exhibit will also examine how the early residents of the Saint John Jewish community viewed Palestine and create an opportunity for current Jewish residents of Saint John and visitors to the Museum to learn more about the land of Israel, particularly in the 19th century, but also more recent history. The exhibit will also incorporate several seldom seen artifacts from the Museum collections.



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PHOTOS: (1) Robert Katz, Maine, professor, artist, and creator of a multi-media installation at the Holocaust and Human Rights Center in Augusta, presented in Saint John, NB his film "Were the House Still Standing: Maine Survivors and Liberators Remember the Holocaust". Katz mesmerized the audience with his thought-provoking storytelling of searching for his own history. (2) Saint John Jewish Film Festival (3) A book reading was held in November with Natalie Morrill reading from her first novel, *The Ghost Keeper* (4) Gary Davis (pictured with Lorie Cohen-Hackett) was honoured with the title of *President Emeritus* (5) Photograph by Rev. William Jones (6) Lorie Cohen-Hackett, president, with Richard

As part of the exhibit, we also hope that our members will share their experiences of living, working and visiting in Israel—as the exhibit research progresses, they will receive an invitation to contribute their own story.

* * *

On Sunday, December 29th, the Museum and the Synagogue cooperated to hold the annual menorah lighting event. This event welcomes members from the Saint John Jewish Community, many local residents, government officials and lots of children. Many volunteers assisted with the making of latkes and donuts for the event.

* * *

Our first event for 2020 will be a book launch for Dan

Elman's new book—

Chess Concepts: The Evolution of Chess Ideas. The book is arranged as a series of lectures for chess educators, chess players and 'kibitzers' as a 'Chess Appreciation' course. Dan Elman begins with some basic ideas, then we are introduced to the evolution of ideas from the 6th century to the 21st century. The book also introduces the Masters of the game who contributed to chess through the ages. These reflect the mindset of philosophy, psychology, even the political manipulations of their times. As

with actors, musicians, poets, authors, mathematicians, etc. there exists a global comradery between all chess players whenever they meet. This is a beautiful and exciting adventure of the mind. Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 26 from 2 to 4 p.m. for a reading and book signing event with Dan Elman.

* * *

Best wishes to all for a healthy winter and see you in the spring! 🍀

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MONCTON NEWS

BY FRANCIS WEIL

Two kinds of things to report to AJC's Shalom Magazine (from the Greater Moncton Jewish Community). On one hand, the *good things*, i.e. the community is alive and well, with good support for the weekly minyanim. The Holidays have been well celebrated, including two great community suppers, one at Simchat Torah and the other at 'Hanukkah. Also, two public lightings of the Menorah, one at City Hall, the other at the Hospital.

On the other hand, the *sad things*, i.e. people are passing away and we thoroughly will miss them:

Noam El was victim of a tragic accident in June and left his parents and brother heart-broken.

Joseph Rinzler, a long time member, lived a good life till the prime old age of nearly 95 (obituaries.tj.news/book-of-memories/3877565/joseph-rinzler/obituary.php).

Sincere condolence goes to his wife Ruby and entire family. Joseph was a Mensch, a very generous person. He remained so in his death. The community is very thankful for the large and generous donation he left to the synagogue. Toda raba Joseph and Ruby.

Abe Rubin, 86, also a long time member, left us in August; he was a quiet man, very family oriented; his niece Rhonda looked after him with devotion. (www.fergusonsfuneralhome.com/obituaries/135725).

Dina Medina, 84, mother of Maurice, left us in December (obituaries.telegraphjournal.com/book-of-memories/4050534/dina-kadosh/obituary.php).

Our condolences to Maurice, Dahlia, Carmella, Melissa and Grand-daughter Shanna Goldberg of Toronto.

Esther Gorber, 92, passed away on the eve of 'Hanukkah. A long-time member, she was predeceased by her husband Charles. She leaves behind her son Bruce (Rosanne), her grandchildren Shayna Gorber (Jon) and Michael Gorber as well as her sister, Bess of Montreal. She had lost a son, Jay, over 20 years ago. Esther was born in Montréal, the daughter of Eva and Jacob Melnick.

Florence Lampert, 100, a previous member

and Mother to Vice President Irwin Lampert, passed away in December. A beautiful eulogy written by her Grand-son Leigh Lampert can be found in the 'Hanukkah community bulletin at (www.tiferesisrael.com/news.html).

Simchat Torah was celebrated in style at Tiferes Synagogue. In the evening a group of persons (Anne Jochelman, Terri Cohen, Carole Savage, Carole Rinzler and John Wilson) under the stewardship of Lee Johnston-Wilson prepared the most beautiful meal one could think of. A micro-grant helped financially. Thank you Perry Romberg for that generous grant. It helped us in welcoming the non-affiliated.

A few weeks later the annual 'Hanukkah dinner took place, this time under the steward ship of a group of people. The meal was delicious, a record number of people attended. About 20 pictures of the event can be found at <http://apps.tiferesisrael.com/Gallery/album.cfm?a=23969> as well as on the FB of Moncton Jewish Community. Thank you Betty Rubin, the Izichkis family, Alina Langleben, Ruth Fuller, Miriam & Emmanuel Maicas, Sharon Rubin, Rozie & Sandy Attis, Carole & Jen Savage, Judy Cohen, Devorah Parks, Chana Leek, Rebbeztzin, Victoria Volkanova, Oksana Yazgur, Mitchell Rubin, Chanie Yagod, Sophia Makarov, Avigail Izichkis, Yirmi Maicas.

Thank you to Eitan Izichkis, Itai Langleben, Chloe Roness, Benjamin & Isabella Makarov for the Cheder Play directed by the Rebbeztzin.

The two traditional public lightings of the 'Hanukkah Menorah were again organized this year; one at City Hall with over 60 participants, the other at the Moncton City Hospital—several nice pictures can be seen if you go on the FB page of Moncton Jewish Community. ☺



The Atlantic Jewish Foundation

SCHOLARSHIPS

All applications must be received by March 31, 2020

Scholarships will be awarded on financial need, merit, and on the availability of funds.

Submitting a scholarship application does not confirm automatic receipt of a scholarship.

Priority will be given to first-time applicants. Scholarships are only available to residents of Atlantic Canada.

Applications available at: theajc.ns.ca/scholarships

The Noa & Sarah Heinish Scholarship

Throughout their lives, Noa and Sarah Heinish devoted themselves to the betterment of their community, their house of worship and the state of Israel.

Passover of 1943 found Noa and Sarah assisting in the preparation of a Seder for hundreds of young Jewish servicemen stationed in Halifax before shipping out to Europe.

At the end of WWII, Noa was one of a group of interpreters who met the ships which brought Holocaust survivors from Europe to the shores of Halifax. Speaking in Yiddish, he helped them transfer to the trains which took them to family members waiting their arrival in upper Canada.

Noa Heinish was one of the founders of Shaar Shalom Congregation and served as its first president.

Together with Sarah they lent their support to every arm of the congregation.

Sarah Heinish was an active member of Women's League, Hadassah, Neptune Theatre, the Soroptomists and the Nova Scotia Institute for the Blind. Both Noa and Sarah gave generously of their time and resources in the support of Israel Bond drives, United Jewish Appeal, Camp Kadimah and other groups and were leaders in the Canadian Jewish Congress. For many years they operated a successful clothing business on Gottingen Street in downtown Halifax which closed in 1972.

To carry on their good works, the Heinish family established the Noa and Sarah Heinish Foundation. This charitable foundation has provided endowments supporting Jewish educational and health care institutions in Canada and Israel.

A portion of the funds has been allocated to the Atlantic Jewish Foundation to provide an annual merit scholarship for a student from the Maritime Jewish Community to study in Israel.

Noa and Sarah Heinish Foundation Trust—\$1,000-\$2,000 each. One scholarship per year for study in Israel.

The Miasnik-Rein Trust

A limited number of scholarships of \$2,000 each are available to worthy students, one or both of whose parents profess the Jewish faith. The scholarship is open to students of the Atlantic Region for the purpose of establishing or continuing exposure to their Jewish heritage by means of an organized Jewish experiential education program that includes study, travel, community service, or other suitable activities. Examples of appropriate programs include Holocaust Education tours, organized Israel trips, Jewish teen tours, Jewish summer programs etc. If you are unsure about the eligibility of a program, please contact Naomi Rosenfeld at nrosenfeld@theajc.ns.ca for more information.

Miasnik-Rein Trust—\$2000 each. Maximum 5 scholarships per year.

Halifax Endowment Fund (Jayson Greenblatt Bursary)

A \$500 bursary awarded to a Jewish student from Atlantic Canada to further Jewish studies in Israel or in the Diaspora.

Jayson Greenblatt Bursary—\$500 each.

THINKING OF THE HOMELESS

BY RABBI DAVID ELLIS, AJC REGIONAL CHAPLAIN

I participated recently in a memorial service for homeless individuals who had died during the past year. The service was held at St. Patrick's Church, over in the old north end.

My daughter Tamar had worked at the Canadian Mental Health Clinic for several years. It is only a few blocks from where we held the services. Tamar was quite aware of the situation of the homeless in Halifax. She regularly organized field trips, shopping tours and cultural events for them. She had a genuine heart for everyone. When I asked her what I should say on the occasion, she wrote the words below.

I read them as part of the readings.

"Sometimes my boss at the Canadian Mental Health Association goes to that. A lot of the people into the programs experienced homeless or very poor housing. There is a very strong connection between housing and mental health.

It is very easy to judge someone who is

homeless asking for change. You can assume they are violent, alcoholics, or drug addicts. Many people just walk by without even acknowledging the fact they are there.

It is very hurtful to be ignored. Much more so than being mean to someone, because when someone is mean to you, at least they are acknowledging you're there while ignoring makes someone invisible.

People are on the streets belong to a family. They are someone's child, brother, sister, perhaps a mother or father. They have a family somewhere who loves them. No matter what they look or smell like they deserve to be treated with kindness and respect.

When Jesse and I would walk downtown he would have a pocketful of change and try to give everyone 50 cents because it will make a small difference in someone's day. If you don't feel like giving money, buy a coffee or a cheap pair of gloves or a blanket from dollar store. If you can't do that, then simply

smile and ask them how they are.

As Pirke Avot says, greet everyone with a pleasant face. There are many examples of how this can change people's lives. We also shouldn't judge. The person begging on spring garden rode could have fallen on bad luck with poor investments, been a victim of fraud, or is battling illness. Who knows, many one day we might be homeless due to fire, or unexpected circumstances.

A society is judged by how they treat the most vulnerable members of its society. It is shameful and appalling how Halifax has treated its vulnerable population. There is a building boom, however no increase in affordable housing and resources for the poor. This should inspire us to do better. As we enter the new decade we should reflect on these ideas, and let the next decade show Halifax to be a leader in combating homeless." 5

JEWS ARE SCARED

BY RABBI GARY KARLIN, SHAAR SHALOM CONGREGATION, HALIFAX

A deranged man with a machete storms into a Hanukah party in a northern suburb of New York City, injuring five Hasidic Jews. A synagogue I once served in Hamilton, Ontario, is defaced with anti-Semitic graffiti. The withdrawal of a human-rights award in Nova Scotia elicits a series of anti-Israel tirades in the press. Throughout the world, anti-Semitic incidents—physical, verbal and written—have been on an upswing in recent months.

That being said, I am not afraid for my safety. And although I've been living in Halifax only a short time, in general I'm not concerned that our Atlantic Jewish community is in danger.

However, I *do* have one fear. I'm worried that these attacks on our religion, on our people, and on the state of Israel, will overwhelm the community conversation. I fear that our reaction to the hatred directed against us will come to overly-define what it means to be Jewish in this time.

And I especially dread that our young, who are growing into their identities as Jews, will have their senses of Jewish selves marked as the "persecuted." Or even worse, God forbid, that they will want to escape a view of themselves that tags them as a hated minority.

We live in a time when our identities are open as never before. Personal choice is the byword of our age, especially among the young. I see it in my children's generation, in the kids in my congregation, and in the students our combined Hebrew school. A Jew in our time is free to affiliate and live a Jewish life, or she is free to just blend in, to present as "just Canadian."

Judaism cannot be a legacy defined chiefly by resistance to those who detest the Jew. We cannot let those who seek us harm define the terms of who we are. And we cannot let the haters force us into defending ourselves as a primary act of Jewish living.

I believe that assimilation is a loss—not only to the community, but for the Jew who

chooses to leave. We Jews are the beneficiaries of a way of life that has given meaning to the life of our people—individually and collectively—for three millennia. We are a people who gave ethical monotheism to the world. We are heirs of a Torah that has proven its divinity through its timeless permanence.

I invite all those who are reading these words to join us in joy and affirmation. Come join together at our shuls to daven, to learn, to celebrate, to connect, and to eat. Come together to study our *masoret* (tradition), to meaningfully explore the seventy faces of Torah. Come together to find a way to bring our uniquely Jewish *hesed* (loving-kindness) to a neighbour in need.

Come together because it is good for Jews to serve God, each other, and our neighbours, though *mitzvot*, the commandments of our tradition, in fellowship.

Just not out of fear. 5



PREJUDICE AND PRIDE

BY RABBI YAKOV KERZNER, BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE, HALIFAX

As antisemitism rears its head once again, we must reevaluate how we define ourselves as Jews in the public sphere and more importantly in our own eyes. A divide between Israel and the Diaspora, in our reaction to antisemitism, has been ever present. Jewish life in North America has been **prejudice** oriented. An extraordinary amount of time and energy has driven a Holocaust centered Judaism. Holocaust Remembrance, literature, film and academic studies often become the lens with which we view our history. These are all necessary ingredients and must be promoted in a society that is in danger of repeating past mistakes. However, I wonder if our Jewish **pride** resides in the claim of the uniqueness of our suffering. We can rightfully claim that Judaism has survived without a homeland and through interminable suffering and oppression but we risk the danger of overly emphasizing the negative aspects of Jewish history. With the recent rise of violent antisemitic acts throughout the Diaspora, our Jewish identity and solidarity continues to focus on defeating our enemies. Even our relationship with Israel seems to rely on the importance of guaranteeing its survival and defeating the forces that constantly threaten our survival.

Israelis have a different avenue for which to express their Jewish identity. The vibrancy of Jewish life through its culture, language and learning awakens their **pride** in the accomplishments we have achieved in the last seventy years. Walking through the streets of Jerusalem, sifting through the remnants of archaeological sites, walking the paths that our ancestors tread, living a life that relies on a Jewish economy, agriculture and defense and celebrating national and religious holidays in a place we call home will always create a bursting **pride** in our history and in being Jewish. The diversity of Jewish life and the almost unbounded bursts of creativity create an unending **pride** in being part of a history dating back 3300 years. Israel is a land of Jewish ideas, religion and culture that allow us to live a uniquely Jewish life driven by ethical principles and a clear moral compass.



Recently, there has been a debate as to whether Judaism is a nationality or a religion. Judaism in Israel prominently declares both elements and these two factors will contribute to its survival. Our survival in the Diaspora will result from an important choice between these two identifying features or their combination. We can identify with the nation of Israel and live vicariously through their struggles and accomplishments or make Aliyah and live an Israeli Jewish life, choosing to emphasize our nationhood or our religion. Alternatively, even in the Diaspora, we can embrace the Judaism that granted us survival through two thousand years of exile. That Judaism constantly struggled for survival but only thrived as a result of **pride** in what Judaism offered. A way of life that embodied ethical and moral principles, spirituality, a disciplined lifestyle that adhered to Jewish Custom and Law and an unbending **pride** in our culture and history. It is very dangerous to use our enemies as a primary means of survival. It does not offer us the proper tools for future growth. We must acquaint and reacquire ourselves with all the beautiful notions that our Torah and tradition have given us. Our traditions and our rich literature are the core of what Judaism offers and are certainly the essence of our continued survival and growth. Seek them out and expand your Judaism to include the justifiably earned **pride** in our heritage and refuse to live a life based only on survival and a reaction to **prejudice**. 5

DAF YOMI

BY CHANA YAGOD, DAUGHTER OF RABBI AND REBBETZIN YAGOD, CONGREGATION TIFERES ISRAEL, MONCTON, NB

This past week we started the Daf Yomi, on Sunday, January 5, 2020.

The Daf Yomi is an amazing event that takes place every 7.5 years.

On January 1st, 2020, Jews from around the world attended MetLife Stadium to celebrate the most monumental regularly occurring event in recent Jewish history: “the Siyum HaShas”, the completion of the Talmud, a program of 7 and a half years. Over 92,000 people attended the MetLife Stadium in New Jersey, and then for the first year they had a direct connection to Barclays Stadium (Brooklyn, NY) for all the spillover that couldn't fit at the MetLife.

It was jam packed, and they had all-kosher concession stands giving out hot drinks, and hot pizza and other foods. They also gave out warming packs and blankets for whoever was cold.

It was freezing with wind blowing and low temperatures, and only a few had thought to wear fur hats, but nevertheless people packed the stadiums for hours despite the cold.

They had speakers and insights and the final portion of the Talmud was read aloud, and then, everyone rose to say the final Kaddish that completes the Siyum.

The energy of thousands of people standing up at once and saying “Amein Yehei Shemey Rabbah,” in the MetLife Stadium, was something that can't fully be described. It was powerfully elevating and deeply resonating to everyone present, and the atmosphere was one of intense energetic happiness and optimism. Throughout the Kaddish, despite the low temps, it was warm in the stadium! Moments before all were shivering in the chill and suddenly it got very hot and people started taking off their hats and loosening their heavy jackets. This is something that can't fully be explained, but the understanding in this is that the great strength with which everyone put in the YSH”R, multiplies by so many thousands, was enough to heat up the room.

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Even so this was quite miraculous. The energy in the stadium was amazing. The life and vibrancy was felt by everyone and was immensely uplifting, and it was a moment that I think no one will forget.

After the Kaddish they had a presentation on the Holocaust that included old photos and stories and interviews with Holocaust survivors. They had lesser-seen, vivid videos of instances from the Holocaust and a Kel Malei Rachamim, which moved everyone to tears especially the Holocaust survivors in the crowd. Yes, they were there too despite the cold and hours of duration in event, it was amazing! And near the end of the presentation some of the survivors interviewed left positive words of inspiration with the crowd. It was deeply moving and unforgettable.

The speakers were different this year than last Siyum 7.5 years ago. They addressed the every day person, speaking of how any kind of person can and has started the Daf Yomi, and they did an interesting interview video where the students said how it could be 5am, the alarm clock ringing, it was cold and snowy outside and they would have to just get themselves up and brave the wind for this most important appointment and drive or even walk the mile or a few to where they'd meet their friends and study the Daf of the day. It could take 20 or 30 min or an hour, and then they would all go to work after. It showed groups on the trains studying together, people who had just randomly sat together and discovered they all had a Gemara and were all learning Daf Yomi so they started a study session while the train was in motion. This amazingly was very common.

The common reason for not starting Daf Yomi is "Oh it's too long I'll never make it through all of Talmud" or "That's so much commitment—every day?" or "Of course I'll never get there, so why even try? What's the point of starting and falling off in the middle?".

But all these were regular people who never really had enough time to complete Talmud or even learn a page a day, and many thought they could never make it, but they just thought you know what, today I'll try to make the Daf. And each day they put their best effort. And 7.5 years later they had completed the whole Talmud—just from that one page a day!

And this shows that anyone can learn the Daf Yomi—you can do it too! 5

DON'T QUENCH YOUR THIRST

BY RABBI CHANAN CHERNITSKY, DIRECTOR, CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF NEWFOUNDLAND

There's a very interesting Midrash.

Our sages tell us that when Jewish people were in the desert, the Mishkan (Tabernacle), the portable version of the temple, was complete and ready to be erected. The date: The 25th of Kislev. You can imagine their disappointment when Moses told the Jewish people that G-d wanted to postpone the inauguration until the 1st of Nissan, more than 3 months later.

G-d told the Jewish ppl: "I owe you one and I'll pay you back"—When did he pay them back? In the 2nd temple era, with the holiday of Chanukah falling on that very date the 25 of Kislev. Chanukah means dedication, which is what they had to do after the temple was desecrated by the Syrian-Greeks.

What's the significance of this delay? How is the celebration of Chanukah a substitution for the sanctuary?

There's a great insight from rabbi Tzvi Frummer:

When the Jewish people concluded the tabernacle but weren't allowed to erect it, at that moment, they didn't have the sanctuary, all they had was a thirst for it.

What's the difference between wanting something and having something?

When I have something—I can lose it. When I have something—it can be taken away from me. When I don't have something, all I have is a thirst, a desire.

G-d could have given the Jewish people the tabernacle but then—it could have been taken away from them and destroyed. Instead, he gave them something else, he gave them a different gift, the ability to dream, TO YEARN. That's the reason why that day became immortalized as the holiday of Chanukah because after the temple was destroyed, no part of the temple remained in Jewish life, other than the kindling of the menorah, which accompanied the Jewish people throughout their history, through thick and thin, during dark times and great times.

Why is it the only aspect of the holy temple that would never cease, it was never obliterated? Because the kindling of the menorah represents that our passion, our fire, it can never be taken away from you and each year on the 25 of Kislev, that passion, that yearning for a better life, a more wholesome, divine life is aroused. And that's why G-d delayed the inauguration of the sanctuary because he wanted to give them the gift

of desire, of yearning, because only that will remain eternally with them and no exile, no subjugation, no expulsion can take it away.

Sometimes we find ourselves in a situation where we don't have what we want, we may be in an abyss, we may be in shackles, maybe you have surrendered to addiction or we feel surrounded by blockages of all types of forms—BUT no matter your circumstances, NO ONE can ever rob you from your desires, from your thirst, from your yearning! Nobody can ever take it away from you.

Chanukah is the holiday that can never be obliterated because it represents that desire that never dies.

My dear friends—I share with you—the gift of yearning. Happy Chanukah! Have a healthy Winter! 5



THE REBBE—SEVENTY YEARS STRONG

BY RABBI MENDEL FELDMAN, CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF THE MARITIMES



The 10th day of the Jewish month of Shevat (in Hebrew Yud Shevat, this year February 5,) marks the 70th Yahrzeit of the sixth Lubavitcher Rebbe Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak Schneerson (1880-1950) of Righteous Memory.

It also marks the day which the seventh Rebbe Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson (1902-1994) OBM accepted the leadership of the Chabad Lubavitch movement.

What is a Rebbe?

Chasidic teaching describes the Jewish people as a *המילש תחא המוק* as one complete organism... one complete body...

This spiritual body then, has a head, a leader. The word Rebbe is comprised of three letters ר ב ר, Rebbe is an acronym for “Rosh Bnai Yisroel” (head of the Jewish People). A Rebbe then is the head of this organism... the head of this body...

Just as a head feels the plight of every limb of the body and attempts to remedy the plight, so too, does the Rebbe feel the difficulty of every Jew and attempts to respond accordingly.

Eli Groisman shared the following story:

I grew up in Curacao, a Caribbean island that is part of the Netherlands. There were no Jewish schools on the island at the time, and I attended the Protestant school.

I had a very difficult time at school. Although I was brought up in a non-observant household, I stubbornly refused to participate in the religious services and classes that were part of the school curriculum. Non-Jewish students picked daily fights with me, and I even felt that my teachers and the school's principal were taking their side.

In 1984 I reached 7th grade and things were coming to a head. Life was not getting easier. On the contrary, fights were more prevalent then ever and more vicious. My relations with the school principal became more and more hostile. I started skipping school. I spent my days playing golf at the nearby golf club, returning to the school grounds in time for my father to drive me home.

One day, the principal called my father in to find out why I had not been in school the

past few weeks. Meeting me as usual after school, my father asked, “How was school today?” I replied, “The same as always.” My father then asked “Were you in school today? Last week? Two weeks ago?” Not wanting to lie, I admitted that I had not.

My father gave me a choice: either give in and do as all the boys do or leave school and go to work with him—and work hard—every day. I didn't need to think long. I walked into the principal's office, put my textbooks on the desk, and ran back to the car.

My family's relations with the community also began to sour as a result, my father was terribly upset about my situation, but he didn't know any way out. The next morning my father went to his shul, a small, unobtrusive building near his home. He asked the caretaker to unlock the door and went over to the *Aron HaKodesh* (ark), poured-out his heart to G-d, and turned to leave.

On that same day in January of 1984, Rabbi Moshe Kotlarsky, (today vice chair of the outreach arm of Lubavitch) received a call at home from Rabbi Hodakov, the Rebbe's chief of staff, “The Rebbe wants you to go to Curacao immediately.” (No further instructions, no further details, Where? What? How?)

Rabbi Kotlarsky took 17-year old Yeshivah student Levi Krinsky, (today heads the Lubavitch activities in New Hampshire) and was on the next flight to Curacao.

Arriving at the airport, not knowing where to go or what to do, they hailed a taxi, requesting to be taken to the synagogue. Taxi drivers in Curacao are used to such requests, and they usually comply by driving to the largest synagogue on the island, renowned as the oldest synagogue in the Western Hemisphere, Mikvah Israel Emanuel. This synagogue, in which services are conducted only on Shabbat, functions also as a museum throughout the week.

This taxi driver, however, took his Rabbinical passengers (not to Mikvah Israel Emanuel) to a small, neighborhood shul. As the taxi pulled up to the door, Rabbi Kotlarsky saw a man leaving the building.

Thinking that this man would be a convenient source of information about the local Jewish community, he approached him and said: “We were sent here by the Lubavitcher Rebbe. We want to get to know the Jewish people here. We are staying at the Plaza Hotel. Can you come with us and tell us about the local community?” The man,—who was none other than my father, just leaving the shul—nearly fainted.

My father told Rabbi Kotlarsky about our family's plight and introduced me to him.

My first question to Rabbi Kotlarsky was: “Are you allowed to defend yourself if someone comes up and punches you?” I had the impression from movies and TV shows about the Holocaust that Jews were weak and did not fight back when attacked. Rabbi Kotlarsky responded, “You make sure that you defend yourself, and do such damage that they won't come back!” I thought this Rabbi was cool.

Rabbi Kotlarsky invited me to go to New York and attend Camp Gan Israel in the Catskills that summer, and later to Yeshivah that started in September. This was the answer to our prayers, and we accepted the offer immediately.

It was the Rebbe's unconditional love... care... and concern for every Jew that made him so endearing, so admired, so loved by hundreds of thousands of individuals the world over.

Although the Rebbe has passed on, his impact is still felt by the many Chabad houses that span the globe and his emissaries that continue his monumental work to reach out to every individual with unconditional love and concern. ❧

HATRED VS. LOVE

BY RABBI YOSEF GOLDMAN, SG00LAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE, FREDERICTON

The Sifri (Halachic Midrash on Parashat Be'Ha'alotcha) tells us a very strange Halacha (according to Oxford dictionary: "the body of Jewish law supplementing the scriptural law and forming especially the legal part of the Talmud"): "B'YADU'A ESAV SONEH

LE'YA'AKOV"—it should be known (that) Esau hates Jacob. Usually, when we learn Halacha, like from the Shulchan Aruch (Code of Jewish Law) or the Mishna B'rura, there is a practical implication of what to do, or refrain from doing. What are we supposed to learn

from this statement of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai (AKA Rashbi)?!

One of the answers given is that, just like we should not deviate from a decided detail of the law, once it was voted on and accepted as what the norm is, so, too, Esau (and his followers/descendants) will always hate the Jewish people. The most (in)famous example is Haman (Book of Esther), who was a descendant of Amalek—Esau's grandson. And, since the Bible does not tell us specifically what triggered Haman, we have to assume that there was no logical reason. Former President Chavez, of Venezuela, to the best of my knowledge, never met a Jew in his life, but hated our People so much that he funded the car-bomb attack on the Jewish Community Centre (AIMA) in Buenos Aires on July 18th, 1994.

We are living in a time that is so very troubling! It is not only our People who are being attacked, but it is very difficult for us, as a Jewish minority, to understand all the recent attacks. I think that there is a very fundamental difference between our communities and other religious communities who have been under attack in recent years. I believe the difference is that when we are hated, it doesn't stop at our community centres, Synagogues & schools. The most recent attacks, of this last week only, targeted innocent people (individuals, mostly), that the only common thread is that they were Jewish, of all denominations, or friends, colleagues & First Responders (the Kosher Market in Jersey City) of Jewish people.

Hashem commanded us to love each other. I believe that this is the only response we have right now. The Talmud tells us in a few places that since the 2nd Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed because of SIN'AT CHINAM (unexplained hatred), it can only be rebuilt if we have AHAVAT CHINAM—unexplained love! This, in my humble opinion, does not include people whose life mission & goals is to spread hatred! King David says in his amazing Book of Psalms: "MESAN'ECHA HASHEM ESNAH"—"Your enemies, Hashem, I shall hate" (139:21).

May Hashem heal the wounded, console the bereaved, and bring us true Salvation, speedily in our days, Amen! 🕊

Wishing you a very Healthy & Good Winter. May you have real warmth and safety during this cold and dark time—B'Shalom, G-d Bless, Rabbi Yosef Goldman



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