

Shalom

CONNECTING THE ATLANTIC JEWISH COMMUNITY

 Atlantic
Jewish
Council
SPRING 2020



ATLANTIC
COMMUNITY
REACHES
OUT TO THOSE
IN NEED

Lost Memories

HOSTING A TRIP
TO ISRAEL
FOR FIRST TIMERS



Atlantic
Jewish
Council

Please stay tuned for more information about an upcoming in-person **Special General Meeting (SGM)** for members of the Atlantic Jewish Council happening in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Information on meeting date, venue, and time will be released once social distancing requirements have been lifted.

Please visit **theajc.ca** for up-to-date information about this meeting

Atlantic Jewish Film Festival

AN ATLANTIC JEWISH COUNCIL PRODUCTION

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We will continue to closely monitor our COVID-19 provincial guidelines and adjust our festival presentation accordingly. If we host a virtual festival—it will be disappointing to not meet in person so expect a few surprises as we offer you a most exciting and entertaining virtual 2020 festival. Not forever. Just for Now.



SHALOM MAGAZINE

President
MARILYN KAUFMAN

Executive Director
NAOMI ROSENFELD

Editor
EDNA LEVINE

Contributing Editor
JOEL JACOBSON

Design
MEGHAN RUSHTON

Advertising
EDNA LEVINE

Address all correspondence,
including advertising enquires, to:

EDITOR, C/O SHALOM
ATLANTIC JEWISH COUNCIL
5670 SPRING GARDEN ROAD SUITE 309
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA B3J 1H6

TEL. 902-422-7491 | FAX 902-425-3722
ELEVINE@THEAJC.CA
ATLANTICJEWISHCOUNCIL@THEAJC.CA

www.theajc.ca

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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

SPRING 2020
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ON THE COVER

Chasm, 2009
by Lynn Rotin

From the series
*"Broken English
and Other Languages"*
Oil on canvas
36" x 30"



Lynn Rotin paints, draws, and gardens in West Pennant, Nova Scotia just outside the city of Halifax.

To see more of her work go to
www.lynnrotin.com
or email
lynnrotin@gmail.com.

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From The Desk Of **MARILYN KAUFMAN**

President of the Atlantic Jewish Council

The Spring of 2020 has indeed, been a challenging one for many communities in Atlantic Canada

We have been hit with the Coronavirus, which has restricted social gatherings for a number of different Faith communities in our Atlantic Region. This has perhaps, influenced the manner in which Faith communities have celebrated Passover, Easter and Ramadan through the use of our digital/electronic virtual world. COVID-19 has forced us to explore and implement new ways of doing things, as we try to stay engaged with one another. While we honour those on the front lines who combat COVID-19, we mourn those members of our communities who have succumbed to it.

As well, the horrific tragedy which recently took place in Portapique, NS, has shown us that none of our communities is immune to such incidents, and our condolences go out to the many victims, first responders and their families.

The Spring Passover holiday speaks of persecution and redemption. The telling of the Passover story asks why is this night different from all other nights of the year—**Ma Nish Tanah Halayla Hazeh?** It seems that we can add a number of differences this year. COVID-19, joining a virtual seder online, social distancing, to mention a few. While we tell of our forefathers' escape from slavery in Egypt, we are made aware of the steps taken to ensure their freedom as they made their way across the Red Sea. Our thanks to the **Neuberger Foundation and the JFC-UIA** for making possible virtual programming available to all our communities during these challenging times.

As we reflect on the tragic events of the Shoah, we are reminded of the resilience of the human spirit and the resourcefulness of the Jewish people to survive the atrocities of the Nazi regime. April 21st, the first ever cross Canada multi-community national commemoration of the Holocaust was held on-line, open to participation by the public. Due to the present circumstances, the difficult decision was made to cancel a number of

community Commemoration ceremonies as well as this year's March of the Living and some Birthright missions. However, virtual access to programming enabled all of us to walk The March of the Living and hear the many testimonials given by some survivors of the Shoah—**Louis Rosenberg, Faigie Libman, Eddy Fisch, Rose Lipszyc, Judy Lysy, Irene Kurtz, Pinchas Gutter, Elly Gotz, Max Eisen, Martin Maxwell, Yael Cohen, Anita Ekstein, Alex Eisen, Leonard Vis, Magda Hilf and Natan Leipziger.**

A stolen childhood, social justice, the chance to breathe and enjoy one's freedom, given opportunities to pursue an education, being able to express one's feelings according to one's conscience, being able to refute the deniers, transcending the indifference of those who would remain silent bystanders, leaving a legacy to new future generations via interactive technology—all these things and the collective memory which accompanied them were cited by a number of **testimonials**.

Seventy-five years ago Canadian armed forces liberated the people of **Holland** from Nazi oppression. May 2nd will mark the anniversary date the Third American Army entered concentration camps so many years ago, to give the "offer of hope and life to those who knew only helplessness and despair."

On **Yom Hazikaron** we remember the members of the Israeli Defence Forces who gave their lives in service to the preservation of their homeland. And on **Yom Ha'atzmaut** we rejoice in the celebrations of a country established 72 years ago, a country who is to be recognized as a symbol to the world of a people who have achieved much and given much to the essence of **Tikun Olam**.

Tikvah. Hope. "The Holocaust did not happen in a vacuum." Hate left unchanged by indifference had horrific results. It is not enough to say "never again". We must be vocal in the face of adversity. We must be engaged with other faith

communities and all levels of government. We must continue to educate all generations of this pivotal marker of history and bring hope for our future as we move forward.

A special thank you to **Edna LeVine** for her hard work in organizing the success of the Holocaust outreach program. Thank you to **Naomi Rosenfeld** for keeping us updated on all the regional, national and international virtual programs available to us online. A special thank you to **Rabbi Ellis**, who has done an incredible job of outreach in Education in Halifax and to smaller communities in NB and NS. Thank you to **Svetlana** and to the members of the **AJC Board** for their support in maintaining the operations of our office and programs as we continue to serve our members.

On behalf of the AJC Board I extend condolences to those families who have recently lost loved ones. Be well and keep safe.
—Marilyn

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From The Desk Of NAOMI ROSENFELD

Executive Director

5 COMMUNITY LESSONS ARISING FROM COVID-19

The past few months have not been easy. We've lost jobs and loved ones. Our economy has been turned upside down. We've been forced to change our entire way of life and been prevented from leaving our homes and seeing our friends and family. It has been a very difficult time for everyone, and I don't mean to minimize that in any way.

Yet, with the onset of the changes in our society resulting from the COVID-19 crisis, I've also noticed many beautiful moments happening in our community. I thought I might choose to focus on the lessons taught by these glimmers of hope in these challenging times.

1. THE NEED FOR FLEXIBILITY

I'm sure you've heard the old Yiddish saying "Mann Tracht, Un Gott Lacht" or "Man Plans, and God Laughs." I don't think this adage has ever been more true than in the time of COVID-19. I'll admit, over the last few weeks, it has been painful watching months of planning disappear into thin air with the onset of strict but necessary COVID-19 gathering restrictions. But, this situation has forced us as a community to be nimble: finding new and innovative ways to connect, engage, reach out, and provide for each other's needs. Whether it was mailing out dozens of seder plates and boxes of matzah across the region, quickly pivoting in-person programming to online programming, or coordinating new initiatives to help keep our community healthy and safe, the importance of flexibility in organized Jewish life has never been so readily apparent.

2. THE IMPORTANCE OF CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER ONE-ON-ONE

At the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, I knew immediately that there would be a need to reach out and offer help those who may be vulnerable and isolated in our

Jewish community across the region at this time, so, with our partners across the region, the AJC began to organize a volunteer-based community calling tree and pair up volunteers willing to do some errands with those who expressed a need for help. What I didn't know, however, would be the beautiful connections and relationships that would be created as a result of this initiative. I've witnessed dozens of heart-warming friendships bloom across generational, cultural, and geographical lines as a result of these initiatives. I've heard delightful anecdotes about new-found familial and other connections. And, overall, I've been reminded of the importance of giving those in our community the opportunity to connect one-on-one in a meaningful way.

3. THIS COMMUNITY LOOKS OUT FOR ONE ANOTHER

Since putting out a call for volunteers to make some phone calls/run some errands for those in need, we've been inundated with dozens of calls and emails from volunteers wishing to help out in this time of need. These volunteers have made hundreds of calls and performed dozens of errands in an attempt to make sure everyone in our community stays safe and well. I've been blown away by the kindness and generosity of our community during this crisis.

4. TAKING TIME TO REFLECT AND STRATEGIZE

At the AJC, we're always juggling many initiatives at once: jumping from program to program; holiday to holiday; or demographic to demographic: all in service to this Jewish community that we love so much. However, while we've been busier than ever during this COVID-19 crisis, the lack of in-person programming has provided us with time that we do not usually have and, as a result, we have been taking significant time to reflect on our work and priorities, and

strategize and plan for a future where we can confidently move forward on our mission in the most efficient and effective way possible. We can't wait to show you many of the exciting things that we've been working on!

5. THE POWER OF VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING

While we at the AJC had had some experience with programming over zoom or other online platforms before the start of COVID-19, none of us had ever experienced the abundance of online virtual Jewish programming that we've seen over the last few weeks. Although there is certainly a learning curve with the technology and it does not replace in-person programming, I think it is safe to say that we've all been pleasantly surprised by the impact of it. Over the last few weeks, we've used online platforms to connect for programming related to shabbat, services, Passover, Yom HaShoah, Yom HaZikaron, Yom Ha'atzamut and more. In this medium, we have been able to learn, laugh, be emotionally impacted, and connect to one another. We have realized that there's significant upsides to virtual programming: the erasure of geographic barriers, reduced costs, decreased staff labour, time savings, and, of course, the ability to attend programs in your pajamas!.

Overall, while these last few weeks have not been an easy time for our community, it has provided some valuable lessons that will stick with us long after this crisis has ended. In the meantime, be well and feel free to reach out to us at the AJC if we can help you in any way! ☺

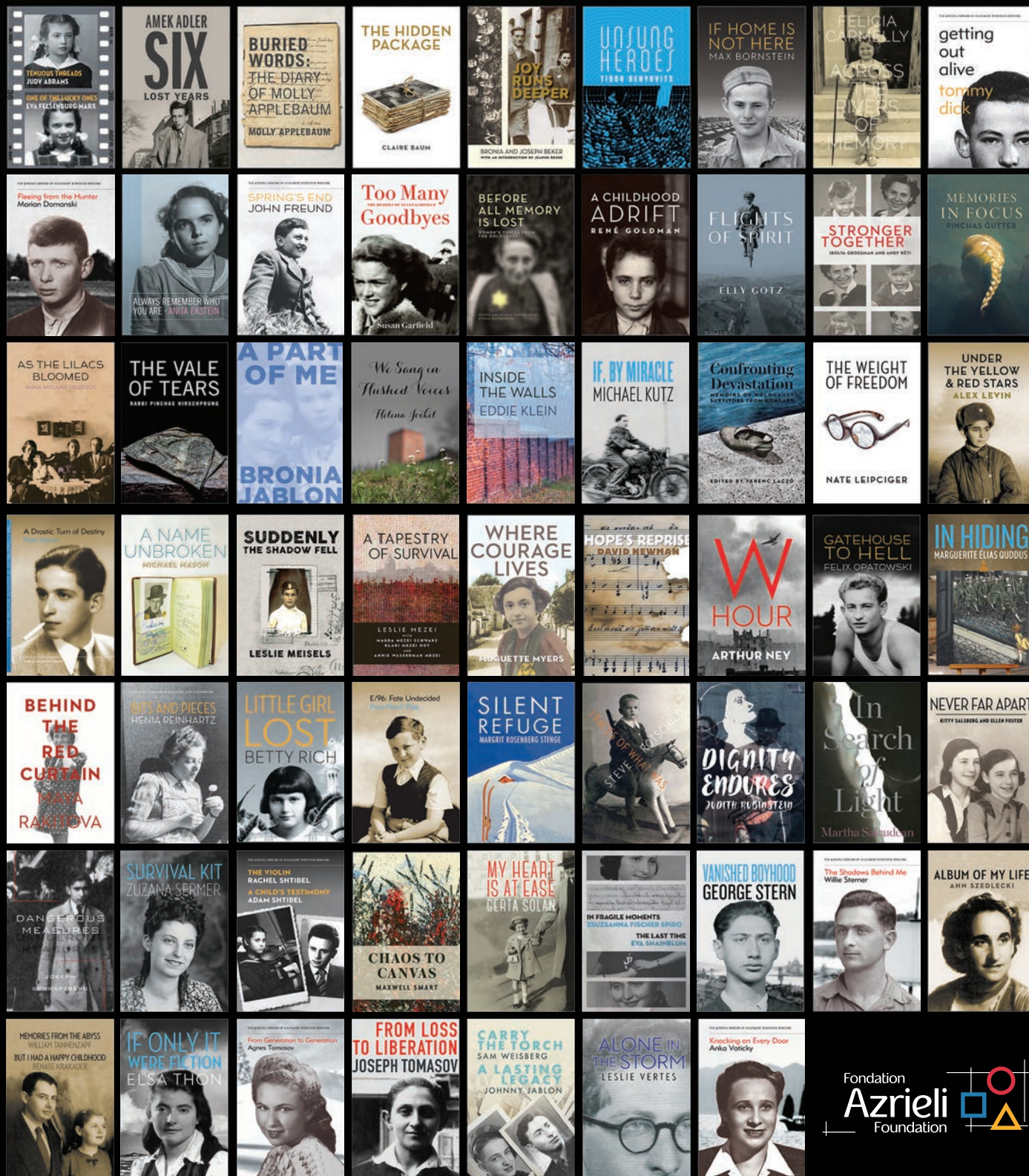
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information: theajc.ca**

Contact Naomi Rosenfeld:
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COLLECTING, PUBLISHING AND TEACHING SINCE 2005

Learn more about the Azrieli Foundation's
Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program

<http://memoirs.azrielifoundation.org>





From The Desk Of **EDNA LEVINE**

Director of Community Engagement

The Holocaust had a profound affect not only in countries where Nazi crimes were committed but in countries around the world where post-war conflict and residual trauma manifested after the genocide. In recognition of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, January 27, the Atlantic Jewish Council in partnership with the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 presented the Hungarian film, “Those Who Remained”, from award-winning director Barnabás Tóth. This dramatic film captured the emotional aftermath of two Holocaust survivors as they navigated living in society amidst political change while coping with their tragic loss of family members.

Volunteer engagement initiatives this winter continued our tradition of providing 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 experienced significant challenges this winter and moved locations twice prior to the COVID-19 restrictions. Once again in partnership with the Halifax Shambhala community we provided over forty bagged lunches as well as supplies for additional meals. The Shaar Shalom’s Tikkun Olam committee delivered three hot meals to *Out of the Cold*, please refer to the article on page 26 by Andrea Hilchie-Pye. We were grateful for the use of Spencer House Seniors Centre’s commercial kitchen to prepare the lunches.

Two special encore film screenings were hosted in February, presented at and in partnership with the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, Halifax. Filmgoers enjoyed a screening of Lynda Suissa’s film “Camp Kadimah: The Story of Our Lives”—the film is now available for purchase. Lynda Suissa introduced the film and chatted with guests after the sold-out screening. The 2019 Atlantic Jewish Film Festival’s People’s Choice Award winning film, “Golda’s Balcony,

The Film” was screened once more with special permission from the producer Dave Fishelson, the popular screening attracted people from the local arts community.

Yom HaShoah programs in our region were presented as a virtual program due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Cross-Canada Commemoration of the Holocaust was organized and supported by the Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre, Azrieli Foundation, March of the Living Canada, and Canadian Society for Yad Vashem. We submitted content from Atlantic Canada to the Cross-Canada virtual program for communities in Atlantic Canada to access. Contributions from Jana Wieder and Yolana Wassersug, Larry Riteman, Peggy and Shimon Walt, and Rick Schneider provided heartfelt narratives and musical pieces.

Our responsibility for promoting Holocaust education, the causes, and the consequences, combats ideologies of hatred and increases the resilience of young people. This year Citadel High School student Eliza Chernin formed a student committee to organize a Holocaust education program for their school and we met with the school’s principal and vice-principal to plan the event, tentatively scheduled as part of Holocaust Education Week this fall. To assist educators in teaching the Holocaust to students I ensured the high school received information on two key online tools designed specifically for teachers. The Azrieli Foundation Holocaust Survivors Memoirs Program designed a complimentary six-lesson *Education Program* on the theme of hidden children and identity. The *Education Program*’s online teaching guide with student worksheets, and survivors memoirs are available online: memoirs.azrielifoundation.org. *Voices into Action* is a program that explores human rights, prejudice, genocide, and discrimination, the online platform includes educational resources on the Holocaust and antisemitism, registration is on their website: fightingantisemitism.ca.



Halifax resident David Korn will have his memoirs published by The Azrieli Foundation Holocaust Survivors Memoirs Program. We are planning a book launch in early November at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 as part of our Holocaust Education Week programs.

The 7th Atlantic Jewish Film Festival (AJFF) is once again organizing to offer international award-winning films for four days in Halifax, November 19-22. Returning festival chair Lynn Rotin, and the organizing committee, Philip Belitsky, Rosalind Belitsky, Jon Goldberg, Linda Law, Jordan Schelew, Flint Schwartz, Ann Thaw, Howard Thaw, and Peggy Walt, are working to bring together a festival to offer filmgoers an engaging line-up of films, relevant programming, as well as ensuring the safety of attendees within the current pandemic restrictions. We are closely following the NS guidelines for hosting public events and simultaneously planning an alternate virtual festival, with some exciting surprises, if we cannot meet in person.

This year the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 partnered with the Department of National Heritage to present a virtual Canada Day celebratory program and invited our community to participate in their musical contribution—stay tuned for an exciting presentation online on July 1, 2020, information will be on our website. Be well and stay safe. 🌻

CIJA

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Nova Scotia



COVID-19 Resource Guide

CIJA

Information for individuals,
communities, and businesses

Learn more at cija.ca/covid-19-resources

MESSAGE FROM CENTRE FOR ISRAEL AND JEWISH AFFAIRS (CIJA)

BY JENNA NOWLAN, SENIOR MANAGER, POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS AT THE CENTRE FOR ISRAEL AND JEWISH AFFAIRS (CIJA)

Current events have tested us in ways unimaginable just months ago. From the recent murderous rampage that resulted in the senseless slaughter of 22 innocent Nova Scotians to the complex challenges stemming from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, these have been trying times for all in our beautiful Nova Scotia. In just a few weeks our lives have been turned upside-down.

People often refer to “six degrees of separation;” but, in a province as small and interconnected as ours, it’s two degrees at best. All of us listened in April to horrifying news reports, as familiar locations and landmarks transformed into scenes of unbearable pain.

After such horrific events, and after all tragedies and disasters, both man-made and natural, we must face the question: “where do we go from here?” If the past is any indication, the answer has always been a resounding, “we go forward, and we go together.”

This is and has been true of Jewish Nova Scotians and Maritimers in general. Indeed, we know that perseverance through adversity, and determination to move ahead, form the very backbone of our culture and the shared values that unite us.

Social distancing does not come naturally to many. Of no people is this truer than of Nova Scotians. We are a warm, joyous, and spirited bunch. While many see our province as defined by its rugged coast, by Nor’easters in the winter and hurricanes at summer’s end, we see a land defined by the scent of the salty air as we arrive at Halifax Stanfield Airport, by the sight of waves rolling to the shore, and by the sound of

the Citadel Hill cannon at noon. Most of all, we feel the unbreakable spirit of our people, and we take pride and find strength in our ability to unite—in good times, and in bad.

The months ahead will be difficult for even the feistiest among us. As our mandated social distancing begins to flatten the curve, and with summer at our doorstep, the urge to break our collective cabin fever with family barbecues and trips to the beach will be enormous. Public health officials, however, have warned us that social distancing measures are here for our collective health, and they are here to stay—for at least a few months more. Since March, these measures have saved countless lives. They have also negatively affected our economy and, in many cases, our mental health.

For Jewish Nova Scotians, the challenges posed by the pandemic have been considerable. Synagogues that were open in even the worst of times have now shut their doors, and prayer restricted to within our own four walls. Passover came and went without family Seders and visits from loved ones. Yom Hashoah was commemorated virtually, while Yom Ha’atzmaut felt, strangely, like any other day.

Like many federations throughout the country, the Atlantic Jewish Council (AJC), is faced with the unprecedented challenge of doing more with less. That challenge is perhaps even more acute in our neck of the woods, where many of our communities are smaller, mostly elderly, and spread over a larger geographical area than anywhere else in the country. This is why CIJA has joined together with the AJC, and our federation partners from coast to coast, to secure increased federal funding for our charity and non-profit sector. This sector plays a vital, frontline role during these challenging times; providing food for the hungry, and support for vulnerable members of



A Bedford native and Acadia University ('14) alumna, Jenna Nowlan is Senior Manager, Policy and Communications at the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA).

our community, including the elderly, the homeless, and victims of violence.

As we enter the eye of the slowly moving hurricane before us, we must not lose our resolve. In recent weeks, we have faced untold tragedy, while our vibrant communal life has been brought to a standstill. Like all storms, this too shall pass. And, when it does, one thing is certain: Nova Scotians, from Cape Breton to the Annapolis Valley, right down to the South Shore, will roll up our sleeves and come together, as we always have, to rebuild our province from the ground up. Because that’s just what Nova Scotians do. 🇨🇦



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MESSAGE FROM THE JEWISH FEDERATIONS OF CANADA UNITED ISRAEL APPEAL (JFC-UIA)

BY NIKKI HOLLAND, PRESIDENT AND CEO



Since 1967, Jewish Federations of Canada—UIA, from offices in Toronto and Israel, has supported and collaborated with Jewish federations, regional communities across Canada and international agencies and affiliates with the aim of strengthening the connection and commitment of Canadian Jews both to one another and to Israel.

The programs and services supported by Jewish Federations of Canada—UIA focus on strengthening Jewish community; building Jewish identity; advocating for Israel and world Jewry; and representing the interests of the national Jewish collective on both domestic and international stages.

As the national body that represents all Canadian Jewish communities, we serve smaller communities that, due to limited resources, are unable to engage independently in various opportunities. By representing the Canadian Jewish community to Israel and the Jewish world and by presenting International matters to Jewish Canada, we ensure that members from all communities are informed and engaged. In times of prosperity and times of hardship, our role stays the same, to serve the national collective.

A key function of JFC-UIA is the development and management of several Israel experience programs, including March of the Living and Birthright Israel. These incomparable and life-changing experiences are proven to strengthen Jewish identity in participants and increase support for Israel and the Jewish people among youth and young adults. Over 30,000 Canadians have

experienced Israel on a JFC-UIA program.

As we all know, 2020 has been an exceptional year. In the past few months, we have collectively experienced an emotional roller-coaster, including shock, fear, grief and anxiety. The past few months have seen the world transformed, with schools closed and most businesses—including Jewish federations across Canada—relocated to employees' dining room tables across the globe. And with Israel's borders closed to tourists, most of our 2020 Israel experience programs were cancelled. Initially thought to be for just a few weeks, it has now been a few months with the date of return to normalcy still an unknown.

However, what this pandemic has proven beyond a reasonable doubt is that physical distance is not an obstacle when it comes to Jewish community. As we continue to hunker down at home with our loved ones, our national Jewish community has become stronger. As a case in point, we need only look to the astounding attendance at all the online Jewish community events held over the last couple of weeks. Thousands of Canadians attended the virtual live events.


We honoured Holocaust victims on the International March of the Living on Yom Hashoah—Holocaust Remembrance Day. We mourned those lost in defense of Israel at the kotel in Jerusalem for Yom Hazikaron—Israel's Remembrance Day for Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terror. Lastly, we partied for Israel's 72nd birthday on Yom Ha'atzmaut—Independence Day celebrations.

We came together separately but collectively as a local, national and international community, connected by

our shared history, culture and values. It is an innate gift of the Jewish people, this ability to stand together, even when we're far apart, to mourn and to celebrate and to share experiences, a gift that only serves to enhance our already unbreakable bond.

Prior to the Yoms, JFC-UIA also hosted two online webinars by Zoom for almost 200 people. Daphna Liel, Israeli journalist & Political commentator for Channel 12 and host of the most popular Israeli political podcast, updated us on Israeli politics. Prof. Nadav Davidovitch, an Epidemiologist & Public Health Physician and Director of the School of Public Health at the Faculty of Health Sciences, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Israel, briefed us on Israel's response to the COVID-19 crisis. It was a genuine pleasure to meet new community members and to re-connect with familiar faces. We plan to hold more online sessions going forward. We hope to see you on the screen alongside community members from cities across the country at the next session.

We all know the adage 'the whole is greater than the sum of its parts'. As part of a network of charitable organizations that includes Jewish federations and councils across Canada, we know that our impact is greater when we take collective philanthropic action, whether it's in raising and distributing funds or planning programs that engage community members nationwide. We are stronger together.

On behalf of the team at Jewish Federations of Canada—UIA in Canada and Israel, I hope you and your families remain healthy throughout this crisis. 

CANADA'S CHARITIES NEED HELP NOW

BY NAOMI ROSENFELD, GUSTAVO RYMBERG, DEBBY SHOCTOR, CONTRIBUTORS

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The COVID-19 pandemic is a threat to all of us.

Even if you are spared the illness itself, you will be affected by its substantial economic impact, by the trauma inflicted on our collective mental health, and by the fear created in our communities. Its effect will depend on many factors, but it will certainly be felt by all Canadians. As the CEOs of three smaller Jewish community federations in Canada, we are lucky. For now, our families are safe, and our communities continue to function (albeit in an abbreviated fashion). For that, we are grateful. But we are not resting easy. Indeed, because our positions provide a vantage point from which to observe the pandemic's impact on some of our most vulnerable, we are increasingly uneasy. For those who were already struggling—people with disabilities, with mental illness, the elderly, the poor and food insecure—this pandemic is a disaster of unfathomable proportions. There are challenges in serving these communities in a big city but, in a smaller community, those challenges are compounded.

In Hamilton, we have already been forced to lay off several front-line employees. The evolving situation has put us face-to-face with the very real possibility that we will not be able to support the 12 beneficiary agencies that deeply depend on the support we, through donations to our annual campaign, are able to provide them. In Edmonton, where COVID-19's potential economic damage will endure in the context of the now exacerbated challenges facing the oil and gas industry, there are many more who require assistance. As generous as our relatively small cadre of donors is, they will not be able to support our efforts on their own. And, across the Atlantic provinces, with its geographically remote population, many of whom are seniors whose children

are not nearby, the work to support these vulnerable residents is daunting.

Organizations that feed the hungry, support the elderly, the mentally ill, the homeless, victims of violence, or other vulnerable Canadians desperately need support to continue their work. Many have built trusted relationships with those who are hardest for government agencies to reach. For many clients, the programs delivered by front-line social service delivery agencies is their lifeline. The cost to deliver these vital services, however, is increasing just as our resources are decreasing. Following consultations with our colleagues from social service agencies across the country, we know the situation many charities face is dire, particularly in small communities. We must manage the potential loss of millions of dollars from depressed investments, a precipitous drop in revenue from individual and corporate donations, and fixed costs that are increasing. From Halifax, to Hamilton, to Edmonton, and to all places


not enough. There are other options that the government should immediately consider that will carry minimal short-term cost and deliver immediate near-term benefit.

Canadian charities depend on the generosity of Canadians, many of whom have had to re-evaluate their giving. As people who regularly engage with generous donors of all levels, shapes, and sizes, we know that Canadians want to be involved and be part of the solution. Government can incentivize that behaviour, either by matching funds donated by Canadians or by enhancing the charitable tax credit. Both approaches would reduce the cost of giving which would be a win across the board. It would reward donors, many of whom are eager to help during this crisis. It would be a win for agencies who would be able to retain staff, keeping them off of employment insurance. It would be a win for governments who can share the burden with a sector well-positioned to help. It would be a win for our communities who

We take comfort knowing that charities and non-profits are indeed eligible for elements of the stimulus funding, including low-cost emergency business loans. These are fine programs. But they are not enough.

across Canada, that means cuts to services for the elderly, children, and the hungry. To keep these vital organizations operational and allow them to continue delivering their essential services to Canadians, we joined other leaders from across our sector and called on the government to take action. They listened and have delivered programs that will help our sector. We are encouraged with the wage subsidies announced last week, and we are looking forward to learning more about the program as it is rolled out; we take comfort knowing that charities and non-profits are indeed eligible for elements of the stimulus funding, including low-cost emergency business loans. These are fine programs. But they are

rely on non-profits. And, most importantly, it would be a win for the most vulnerable in our community, who will continue to receive assistance.

Canadians want to be part of the solution, and our government should help them. Enhancing the charitable tax credit or matching donations to charities are concrete actions that governments should take today to empower Canadians to lend a helping hand to the most vulnerable among us. 

Naomi Rosenfeld is Executive Director of the Atlantic Jewish Council. Gustavo Rymberg is CEO of the Hamilton Jewish Federation. Debby Shocter is CEO of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton.

AN ADVENTURE AND A NEW START AS CANADIANS

BY **DON MACPHERSON**, THE DAILY GLEANER
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Ricky Rifkin and her three children were all smiles as friends took photos and showered them with hugs and congratulations Tuesday as they reached a milestone in a journey that began almost five years ago.

The family was among the 93 people who took the Canadian citizenship oath at le Centre communautaire Sainte-Anne in Fredericton on Tuesday.

Rifkin said she chose to leave Israel behind and to move to Canada four and a half years ago “for a better future for my kids.”

As they celebrated their new citizenship Tuesday, she said she knew it was the right move.

“I am very happy with my choice,” Rifkin said.

Even in light of the deluge of snow the region saw on the weekend?

“Israel in the summer is much worse than Fredericton in the winter,” she said with a laugh, noting there was a specific reason she chose the New Brunswick capital as her destination. “I came for the Jewish community.”

While Rifkin came for a better life for her young family, others—such as Grenville and Debby Woollacott—were driven by other reasons. “It was an adventure and a new start,” said Grenville. The couple from Devon, England, came to New Brunswick 14 years ago. Debby Woollacott said they saw a charming farmhouse online in Williamsburg, N.B., near the Village of Stanley, and fell in love with it immediately. There, she said, they operate a hobby farm they call Fairy Wood. She also works as a registered massage therapist.

Fredericton Mayor Mike O’Brien, in his address at the ceremony, said the reasons newcomers choose to relocate to this area are varied—from work, study or escape from turmoil. “Everybody has a story,” he said, noting some taking the oath Tuesday have been in the area for a long time, and others only briefly. “Everybody has a role to play.”

Citizenship Judge Joan Mahoney said some of those becoming Canadian citizens Tuesday had a difficult journey. “Your situation has meant adapting to a new culture, a new climate... and for most of you, a new



PHOTO: The Rifkin family—from left, Lotem, 9, mom Ricky, Aviad, 12, and Dolev, 9—originally from Israel, celebrate becoming Canadian citizens in Fredericton on Tuesday. Photo: Don MacPherson/The Daily Gleaner

language,” she said. “You’ve made tough adjustments ... Canada is [now] declaring in favour of you.”

Canadian citizenship comes with new rights, she said—the right to vote, and the right to run for public office. She, O’Brien and Miramichi-Grand Lake MP Patrick Finnigan urged the new Canadians to be active citizens, and to consider running for office one day.

“Every Canadian can make a difference,” Finnigan said. “It is a great day because our Canadian family just grew.” And it’ll grow even more this week, as Mahoney noted Tuesday’s ceremony was the first of four being held in Fredericton this week. 5



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

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Lost Memories

BY NICOLE SULLIVAN, REPORTER, THE CAPE BRETON POST

REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM **THE CAPE BRETON POST**. ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN THE CAPE BRETON POST ON APRIL 6, 2020

SYDNEY—Faye David cried when she heard the building at 413 Charlotte Street was destroyed by a fire that led to its demolition.

It was where her and her husband Ike raised their family. It was where they owned and operated Ike's Delicatessen and it was a piece of downtown Sydney history.

"I cried and I think my kids did too, we spent a lot of time up there. I was there 52 years," said the 91-year-old who grew up in New Waterford.

"I was thankful nobody was hurt... I'm getting so many phone calls from people, telling me about all the memories they have from there."

Built in 1875 by Donald MacLean, who was a cabinet maker and merchant originally from Malagawash. After his death in 1901, a tailor named J.B. Morrison, who owned a men's wear shop next door, took ownership.

A fire on the first floor in 1921 led to the house being raised and the front section split into two stores—the first tenants were McInnis' Jewelers and Carroll's Drug Store.

A Mrs. Cohen opened a delicatessen in one of the storefronts which Ike bought from her in 1950. In 1960, Ike and Faye bought the building (two years after they married) and ran the delicatessen until 1989 when they retired.

The couple renovated the building, adding a back section, and making apartments for tenants. Faye said they weren't planning on living above the store, but when she had their second child, was "too comfortable to move."

"We worked very hard and put in long hours (from 8 a.m.–12 a.m.). My fondest memories were the people coming in being nice," she said

"When the Vogue (movie theatre) was going, we had a lot of people coming in after the movies, the movies used to end at 11 then. We grew it into a wonderful business. We had a good reputation and we were very proud of what we did. We made a lot of friends there and I still have them."

Faye's son, Phil, remembers working in

the family restaurant, happy to do so when he was a child, a little less happy when he was a teen. He also remembers how busy Charlotte Street was—with line-ups for the Vogue Theatre that stretched around the corner and late night bar crowds heading home.

"I went to bed my whole life, until 18, with Charlotte Street being noise and packed," said the 55-year-old who now lives in Toronto.

"I came to a quiet Halifax neighbourhood to go to university and I couldn't sleep."

Phil played road hockey on Charlotte Street and "shot the drag" (driving or walking up and down the street) with friends as a teen—driving the loop to go down the one-way road, checking for other teens and young adults hanging out downtown.

"Dad hated people using his parking spot," Phil remembered fondly. "So he'd go on the balcony and watch the people driving by. When my sister and I would be out, he'd count how many times we'd do the drag, then calculate the gas. Then the next day he'd say, 'You went down 15 times, that's \$5.'"

Like his mother, Phil was devastated by the news of the fire that forced firefighters to demolish the building at 413 Charlotte Street. Not only because it was his family home, but also because it held historical significance.

"To me, there are stores like Ike's, Yazer's, Jacobson's, that are iconic Sydney businesses, that were such a big part of the history of the city," he said.

"When they burn down or get torn down, we lose that part of that history. I used to be able to go home and look at that building and remember. Now I can't do that anymore... It's like having a piece of your life removed." ⑤

This article is reprinted with permission from The Cape Breton Post.



PHOTOS: (T) Faye and Ike David stand behind the counter of Ike's Delicatessen. (B) For decades, Ike's Delicatessen was a downtown Sydney icon, serving lunch crowds and opening until midnight for moviegoers catching the late show at the Vogue Theatre. This photo of the outside of Ike's was taken by photographer Owen Fitzgerald in 1989, a few weeks before owners Ike and Faye David retired and closed the restaurant. CONTRIBUTED



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EVERYTHING HAS ITS SEASON. IT IS TIME.

BY ELIZABETH WOLFE, PRESIDENT, CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS (CJN)

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Everywhere we have seen the devastating impact of COVID-19.

It has attacked every aspect of life as we know it, and we are all struggling to cope with the upheaval. We had hoped that *The CJN* could play some small role to inform, console and distract our readers as we all isolate at home, worried about our families, our friends, our medical caregivers, all those risking their lives to provide essential services, our businesses and livelihood, our community, our country, our world.

It is with great regret that we have realized that we will be unable to do so. Unfortunately, we too have become a victim of COVID-19. Already struggling, we are not able to sustain the enterprise in an environment of almost complete economic shut down. It is with deep sadness that we announce the closure of our beloved CJN, both in print and online.

In the spring and summer of 2013 we saved *The CJN* from its announced demise. At that time, I consulted with a number of community leaders, including my mother, Rose Wolfe, a long-time board member of *The CJN* and community leader. Her

response at the time surprised me. She said: "It had a good run. Everything has its season. It is time."

That response did not sit well with me, as I was not satisfied that we had done everything possible to save *The CJN*, especially given our family's 40-year association with the paper. I was not willing to give up without another try. With the support of the board of directors, we re-organized, restructured and created a new version of the paper and website to serve the Canadian Jewish community. Against all odds, our friends, advertisers and readers recognized how important it was to maintain *The CJN* as a platform to inform and engage Canadian Jewry.

The outcry at the time encouraged our efforts. It did not, however, translate into widespread support for *The CJN*, although our dedicated subscribers, advertisers and friends kept us afloat. Despite the challenges facing print journalism everywhere, we managed to survive, printing 100 editions (50 each in Toronto and Montreal) annually as well as supplements and periodic magazines and providing digital access through our website.

We have not been immune to the decline of the industry, although our decline has been slower than most. Our bottom line showed small profits early on, to start to

rebuild our lost reserves, became barely break-even shortly thereafter, and then recently succumbed to increasing losses. The economic devastation striking our community has also affected *The CJN*. *The CJN* suffered from a pre-existing condition and has been felled by COVID-19.

Our board of directors and management agree that, while we are committed to our community and our readers, our first obligation is to our staff, many of whom have been with *The CJN* throughout their careers. On behalf of all our readers, I want to extend an enormous thank you to all of *The CJN* staff who have provided Canadian Jewry with a much-needed connection to community.

I have no doubt that there will be another outcry from the community, particularly from those readers who rely on the print edition as their source of information, and perhaps, their connection to the Canadian Jewish community. It is my hope that members of our community will recognize the need for a national platform and that a new CJN will emerge.

Please know that we have done everything in our power to continue *The CJN* for as long as possible. It is with tears in my eyes that I conclude: It had a good run. Everything has its season. It is time. ❧

CJN CLOSURE

BY JOEL JACOBSON

Disappointment clouded by thoughts when I received the e-mail on April 2.

It was the day after April 1, so I knew it was NOT an April Fool's Day joke.

The Canadian Jewish News (CJN) was closing its doors permanently and the April 9 print edition would be its last. I was part of this iconic Canadian publication for more than 30 years. As Atlantic Correspondent, I wrote hundreds of pieces in that time,

chronicling events, and people in this region.

Reaction was generally positive, except for the odd typo, misnaming, or screwing up a fact or two. Not often, thank goodness. I heard from many Atlantic ex-pats, now living in Toronto or elsewhere in CJN's circulation area. They were thrilled to get news from "home". There was a positive connection between our region and the rest of the country. My stories enabled the rest of Canada to see what was happening in the hinterlands, that there was active Jewish life

outside of Ontario and Quebec.

Now, that's over—EXCEPT, a new on-line publication has started. Ontario-based, TheJ.ca is beginning its life and, hopefully, will continue a tradition of keeping Jewish news in front of Canadians.

Good luck to this innovative venture. Best wishes for success—and to whichever Atlantic correspondent takes the reins to inform the rest of the country how vibrant we are here in the East. ❧

HOSTING A TRIP TO ISRAEL FOR FIRST TIMERS

BY KAREN AND HOWARD CONTER

For those of you who have visited Israel more than once you may be able to relate... you know how your most recent trip to Israel was your BEST trip! After well over a dozen trips there for many reasons and with many different people... our most recent, this past October, was yet again... our BEST trip ever! And again for a different reason.

A few years ago, we were invited as dinner guests to Mary and JP Bordeleau's home for a dinner party. There we met Al and Mary MacPhee and Don and Debbie Kyte. Being observant Christians, they bowed their heads and said Grace before the meal. Someone asked if we, as Jews, said prayers before the meal and of course we said yes. Howard covered his head and said the blessings, in Hebrew, over the wine and bread. I translated into English. This, of course, began our dinner discussion. The three other couples all explained how they would love to visit Israel but were concerned for a number of reasons. We assured them it was perfectly safe and that we would be honoured to host them on a trip. They were thrilled and all signed up on the spot!! However, Howard did overhear someone saying "it's not going to happen"! Two weeks later I sent them all dates that we would be available, and our plans began. We reached out to a few other friends and were joined by Donnie and Shelley Clow. With the help of Seema (Wolman) Furman, a great friend of ours, formerly of Halifax, and a travel agent in Israel, our itinerary was in the works and on Friday, October 18, 2019 we met our amazing tour guide, Eyal Carmel in Jerusalem and began our adventure with a walking tour of Old Jerusalem. And we did not stop for 10 days!

* * *

We have asked each couple to submit an article to Shalom of their impressions and experiences of this amazing trip. It is hard to believe that basically 10 somewhat strangers could travel such a distance and become such great friends in such a short period of

time! We hit it off right from the being and enjoyed each day together experiencing Israel in ways that none of us had ever before. For us, it was an opportunity to see Israel in a different light. We saw a great number of significant Christian sites and got to experience through the eyes of our devoted Christian friends. Their knowledge of the Bible and that of our Jewish guide, Eyal, made for amazing intellectual discussion. We both learned things that we had never known before and that once again enhanced our love of what Israel truly stands for.

We also had the opportunity to share important Jewish sites and allowed our friends to see what Israel means to the Jewish people. We had the opportunity to share some of our Partnership Together projects and were able to show the tremendous work that has been done by Atlantic Canadians to support the citizens of Northern Israel.

We also shared great Israeli food and wines, we toured markets, went to both the Syrian and Lebanese border and shared home hospitality with friends in Israel. Our friends had an opportunity to understand what life was like in Israel and after many dinner conversations understood what it was like to be the only Democracy in the Middle East.

Overall it was another wonderful experience in the State of Israel, for us, our adopted second home. Please read the accounts submitted by our fellow travellers and appreciate the newfound love and respect that has been created for Israel. As we have always said, to really know and understand Israel, you need to get boots on the ground. ☺



PHOTO: Boating on the Galilee with our tour guide, Eyal Carmel (on the right).

REFLECTIONS FROM OUR TRIP TO ISRAEL DON AND DEBBIE KYTE

In light of the current COVID-19 restrictions on social distancing and travel we consider ourselves so fortunate that we were able to visit Israel in October 2019. We grew up with the old adage, "it is better to be born lucky than rich". How true. We were so lucky to have Karen and Howard Conter arrange all travel, accommodations and travel guide arrangements. And speaking of travel guides, we certainly hit the "win" button with the selection of Eyal Carmel as our human Torah and Bible. Eyal, a retired businessman, has an amazing grasp of the history Jerusalem, the Jewish people and the State of Israel. Under Eyal's guidance we had a two-week lecture series by a wise, kind and sometimes stern professor ("listen up")! Yet when mixed with five amazing couples who had never travelled together previously, great wines and splendid cuisine we were all part of a lasting experience.

A small private coach is definitely the way to see Israel. This allows for flexibility in seeing off the beaten track highlights such as the tank tour of the Golan Heights, the orchard and ice rink tours in Metula as well as the opportunity to share a wonderful meal with a young couple in Metula. We also shared another stunning meal with an equally enjoyable family on the Kibbutz Reshafim where we learned of the brilliance of land based fish farming.

And what would a journey to Israel be without a trip on dollar store floats down a tributary of the Jordan River? Just another of our unplanned adventures.

Among the numerous takeaways from our trip was not only Old Jerusalem, Jericho or the Western Wall, but most memorable was learning of the resilience and industriousness of the Jewish people. We often saw multiple layers of archeology, yet the key lesson was that determination is the catalyst for moving forward. What a history lesson!

IMPRESSIONS FROM OUR TRIP TO ISRAEL | AL AND MARY MACPHEE

Our trip of a lifetime from beginning to end. It is hard to highlight any particular place or event since there were so many. Each day brought a new adventure, sometimes each hour since there was so much packed into each day. History in this country abounds and we were fortunate to have an experienced, knowledgeable and enthusiastic guide who went above and beyond. We were also lucky to have with us Howard and Karen Conter, who have travelled here many times, guide us to some of the best restaurants as well as having us indulge in spectacular wines.

We enjoyed all the historic sites: Old Jerusalem, Jericho, Bethlehem, Holocaust Museum, Dead Sea, Town of Canaan, Caesarea, Capernaum, Masada and our trip to the Golan Heights. The scenery on our trip to the Golan Heights was breathtaking.

Above all it was the welcoming spirit of the people we met along the way. We were privileged to be welcomed into a Kibbutz and spent some time with one of the elders who explained the workings of the community and let us ask questions. On another evening we were guests in another Kibbutz. Here this family treated us as long-lost friends and we were wine and dined.

As well we were hosted by a family in Medulla and treated to a wonderful evening of food, drink and lively conversation. Truly these experiences left us with a lasting impression of warm, friendly, hospitable people.

As well we saw first-hand the many projects Canadians are involved with in Israel. The employees at these sites exhibited great love for the people they were helping and appreciation for the support you give.

Words do not do this wonderful country justice... You will have to visit yourself!

FROM MASADA TO METULA: A JOURNEY THROUGH ISRAEL DON AND SHELLEY CLOW

One of my classes as a first-year student at Dalhousie was a social anthropology class that explored life in a kibbutz. As a naive 18-year-old from PEI, I knew nothing of Jewish culture, barely knew where Israel was on a map, and certainly never thought I would visit.

Fast forward to October 2019 and our dear friends, Howard and Karen Conter invited Donnie and I, along with three other couples to visit Israel with them.

How do you describe Israel in a few short paragraphs? It's just not possible, so I apologize in advance.

A trip is never a trip without a few travel snags, the usual lost luggage and on this trip, lost travel hosts! I will spare you the details but suffice to say Howard and Karen deserve a medal for the most innovative way of getting to Israel after a cancelled flight. They joined us, on time, for our first day and without sleep for almost 36 hours.

As we gathered in the hotel lobby after our first Israeli breakfast (we had no idea at this point, just how important that bountiful breakfast would be) and for some of us, still in

the clothes we left Halifax in, we were joined by our tour guide. Off we went to tour the old city of Jerusalem. Our day ended 10 hours later, heaven knows how many steps and with one ice cream cone as sustenance. It was the start of 10 days of magic.

Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Jericho Masada, The Dead Sea, The Western Wall, Holy Sepulchre, Gethsemane, Yad Vashem, Mahane Yehuda Market, Jordan River, The Sea of Galilee, Nazareth. Every day a treasure trove of history, culture and over the top scenery. Our group were absolute troopers, the pace was rigorous, but we all felt that we came to see and do! I can't say enough about our tour guide Eyal Carmel. He was so well versed on the history of each place we visited, and added so many extras to our day, it was a passion not a profession for him. Our driver Hamzi, patiently waiting for us at every venue, the days got longer as Eyal added more things, but he was always waiting with a smile when we entered the van. Our days ended at a different restaurant each night. You could visit Israel just for the food, and after dinner, someone usually uttered the words "let's walk back to the hotel". We not only walked off our dinner, we got to enjoy Israel by night as well. Seeing the old city in nighttime light



PHOTO (T-B): Howard and Karen dancing; group taking a break; greeted at the Nachshonei Hachula School at Yesod Hamaala; Mural in the Old City, Jerusalem; Our group JP Bordeleau, Mary Bordeleau, Mary MacPhee, Al MacPhee, Don Kyte, Debbie Kyte, Shelley Clow, Donnie Clow, Karen Conter, Howard Conter, Jerusalem.

or strolling the Tel Aviv Promenade was the perfect end to our perfect days.

Up until the last few days of our adventure, I would say we had the "tourist" experience of Israel. That's not to say it was a touristy trip, when you visit Israel the above mentioned places are a must, but there should always be a part of your trip where you cease to be a tourist and you become a traveller. There's a difference you say? Yes, a traveller takes the side roads, the path less travelled, and that is what we were introduced to as we visited "the north" of Israel. A highlight of our trip for sure as we had the opportunity to visit the many charities that Howard and Karen and the Atlantic Jewish community support in the region. Metula was such an interesting dichotomy to Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

CONTINUE ON PAGE 18 >

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Bordering Lebanon and Syria, they live in a tenuous dot on the map, but they take it all in stride. We visited Canada Centre, toured an apple orchard, and visited a fish farm. We also got a close up view of the wall between Israel and Lebanon. An absolute delight was meeting Rachel Rabin (Yitzhak Rabin's sister). Now 94 she regaled us with tales from long ago and how she was a founding member of the kibbutz Manara. A fascinating woman. We toured the Golan Heights by Jeep and were treated to a magnificent lunch by a Bedouin family.

Our last day in the North we had a memorable afternoon rafting down a small river on inflatable tubes, supplied by our tour guide Eyal. It was not on the organized itinerary, and I still giggle when I think of the fun we had, and how trusting we all were as we followed him to the "unknown". Our day ended at the home of Seema and Sammy Furman on the Reshafim Kibbutz. Seema had been instrumental in organizing our trip, choosing our tour guide,

prearranging restaurants and venues for us, checking in every day to ensure that things were running smoothly. As if that wasn't enough, she and her husband Sammy along with their daughter and son in law treated us to the most delectable BBQ and so many side dishes that it filled their 15-foot table. As we took our places at the table, I looked around at all the faces, most of which were unfamiliar to me just ten days ago, were now such dear friends. We had toured the beautiful country of Israel together and now would be saying our goodbyes in the next few days. Our driver was a Palestinian, our tour guide was an Israeli, we were the crazy Canucks, Seema and Sammy and their family the consummate hosts. Diverse in so many ways, but we laughed, we talked, and shared the meal like a family. That's the amazing thing about travel, we get to see how individual we all are, yet still so similar. It also occurred to me that I had come full circle from that first class at Dal. Here I was in a kibbutz in Israel, however no longer the naive 18-year-old. And of all the wonderful things I experienced in

Israel, I shall always remember that evening.

Our trip had a certain brand of magic to it, and both my husband and I have said, should we go back? The sentimental side of us, says it would never be the same without our other eight travel companions, and our fearless leader Eyal, but the adventurous side of us, still wants to hike in the desert, cycle the paths, visit Haifa, see more of Tel Aviv. Something tells me the adventurous side of us will win out.

Many thanks to Mary and JP Bordeleau, Al and Mary MacPhee and Don and Debbie Kyte for being the best travel mates ever. To Sammy and Seema Furman for the memorable evening at your home, and that delicious meal, and to Seema for all your behind the scenes organization of our trip. And last but not least, thank you to Howard and Karen Conter, we would follow you both anywhere! I've lost count of how many trips to Israel you have made, but you shared in our excitement as if it were your first trip. You are mensches! And Israel, well let's just say, we'll be back!

OUR ISRAEL EXPERIENCE | JP AND MARY BORDELEAU

Our trip to Israel was amazing! The tour company and the guide did an excellent job. We as Christians were able to follow the life of Christ and visit the beginning of our faith and reiterate what we believe. However, we had the added bonus of travelling with our Jewish friends and because of this accompaniment we were also able to appreciate many of the beautiful beliefs of the Jewish people. We arrived in Jerusalem during the Sukkot festival. It was nice to see how the Jews embrace this holiday and we accidentally learned the hotel had a Shabbat elevator and we were on the eighth floor! It was all good. While visiting Tel Aviv we could not help but marvel at how such a modern city, which by the way lacks for nothing, sprang from the desert in such a short period of time. We can't forget the lush forest, which also sprang from the desert, speaks to the talent and the tenacity of the people. With our friends we travelled to the north of Israel and visited Canada Center located in the town of Metula on the Lebanon border. This, along with other community projects in the north are generously supported by Atlantic Canadian Jews. We would be remiss not to mention the many other attractions Israel had to offer such as vibrant art, meticulous museums, fabulous restaurants and beaches. It would be a challenge to be bored in Israel. Oh, did we mention the wine?

Best wishes to all our travelling buddies. We could not have asked for a better bunch to travel with. Thank You.

PHOTO (T-B): Lunch at Machane Yehuda Market; visit with Rachel Rabin, a founding member of the kibbutz Manara; rafting on the Jordan River; sea level; touring Massada; the group.

Karen and Howard Conter, Halifax, are active member of the Jewish community and chairs of Partnership2gether, an initiative that connects Atlantic Canada (and five other Canadian Jewish communities) with the Galilee Panhandle in Israel.



CAMP KADIMAH

Fostering a Camp Community in the Stay at Home Era

BY SARAH ATKINS, DIRECTOR

Most people who have spent any time at Camp Kadimah will tell you: the staff, campers and alumni of camp are more like a big family than anything else. While plenty of one-on-one friendships (and some more-than-friendships...) form at camp, one often understated camp relationship that forms is between individuals and the community. Indeed, our campers and staff will often talk about an explicable feeling of warmth and belonging when they are at camp, and our alumni write to us just how much they miss that feeling. This is a feeling that was felt by many generations of campers and staff at Kadimah, and Hebrew words were borrowed to describe it: *Chevra* and *Ruach*.

In our era of social distancing, quarantine, and isolation, this feeling is perhaps more important than ever before. To ensure the emotional wellbeing of our community at this difficult time, we must find a way to foster the Kadimah *Chevra* and *Ruach* outside of camp and spread it to the many households of our Kadimah families across Canada and beyond. In normal times, we achieved this by organizing multiple Kadimah in the City events both in Halifax and in Toronto throughout the year. Now, we must do it on the medium many of us have retreated to: the internet.

Over the past weeks, both we at Kadimah, as well as our friends at Canadian Young Judaea (CYJ), have doubled down on our engagement and outreach efforts online. On our Facebook and Instagram, we now regularly post camp trivia questions and throwback pictures from many years ago. We have posted crosswords, and fun surveys. On Zoom, we have led a virtual Oneg dance, and we look forward to organizing more. On their part, CYJ has now held multiple virtual camp activities, from rikkud zumba sessions, to Havdallah, to special programming for Passover, Yom HaShoah, and Yom Hazikaron. Kadimah families



Kadimah Painting: by Julia Kingstone was selected to be hung at Ottawa Queensway Hospital.

frequently take part in these activities alongside campers from other CYJ camps from across Canada.

We hope that our continued efforts to improve our virtual programming makes it easier for you and your family to feel connected with camp during these difficult times. We also encourage you to take this time as an opportunity to reach out to old camp friends, see how they are doing, and maybe even put together a Zoom call with your Machar year or your cabin co-staff.

Our Kadimah *Chevra* and *Ruach* is as strong as ever and has always kept us together. We will find the strength to get through this challenging situation no matter what lies ahead so that we can all be together again as soon as possible! 🌟



CHECK OUT CAMP KADIMAH ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM FOR GAMES AND MORE!



CampKadimah



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CAMP KADIMAH'S *FAMOUS* CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

Campers always look forward to Anne Joudrey's delicious chocolate chip cookies.

MAKES 48 COOKIES

INGREDIENTS

- > 1/2 cup butter
- > 1/2 cup shortening (or more butter)
- > 1 cup brown sugar
- > 1/2 cup white sugar
- > 2 eggs
- > 2 tsp pure vanilla extract
- > 3 cups all-purpose flour
- > 1 tsp baking soda
- > 1 tsp kosher salt
- > 2 cups chocolate chips

- 1 In a mixer beat butter and shortening until light. Add brown and white sugar and beat 3 minutes. Beat in eggs and vanilla.
- 2 In another bowl, whisk flour with baking soda and salt for about 30 seconds and beat into butter mixture. Add chocolate chips. Cover dough directly with plastic wrap and refrigerate one hour or up to overnight.
- 3 Using 1 oz dough (about 1 1/2-inch ball) per cookie, place on baking sheets lined with parchment paper and flatten slightly. Bake in a preheated 350F oven 10 to 12 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool on racks.

*Healthy Low-Cost Bun-less Vegetable Burger
created by Morris Givner.*

INGREDIENTS

- > 1 cup matzo farfel
- > 1/4 cup chia seeds
- > 2 tbsp white vinegar
- > 1 tbsp baking powder
- > 1/4 tbsp pepper
- > 2 tbsp parsley flakes
- > 3 tbsp sultana raisins
- > 3/4 cup quinoa flakes
- > 1/4 cup egg whites
- > 3 tbsp canola oil
- > Salt 3/4 tb.
- > 1 tbsp Celery salt
- > 1 lg. yellow onion (sweet) shred

- 1 Mix thoroughly all the above in a large round glass bowl and let stand at room temperature for 15 minutes
- 2 Take a large non-stick coated frypan, add canola oil, bring to frying temperature, add your hand compressed round patties to the pan, flatten each with the bottom of a cup, fry on one side for approximately 5 minutes, when dark brown, turn over and fry for another approximately 5 minutes. It is important to stand in front of the stove during frying. This is for safety and the quality and taste of your burger.
- 3 Place the 5 fried patties on a paper towleled covered dish. The paper towel absorbs the oil. Turn the patties over to be oil absorbed again.
- 4 Cover the dish with aluminum foil and let stand at room temperature for 10 minutes before eating the burger from your hand. Enjoy with a hot cup of tea with lemon.

** Morris Givner is a Professor of Pathology (Ret.) and Associate Professor of Medicine (Ret.) living in Halifax.*

HEALTHY *MATZAH* VEGETARIAN BURGERS



The late Marianne Ferguson, Halifax, was well-known for sharing her plethora of recipes. For many years she published them in her column "From Marianne's Kitchen" in the Shaar Shalom synagogue's newsletter the Shaar Shalom Times.

MARINADE INGREDIENTS

- > 2 tbsp olive oil
- > 2 tbsp red wine vinegar
- > 2 tsp. dried dill weed
- > 1/2 tsp dry mustard
- > 1/8 tsp pepper
- > 1/2 tsp grated fresh ginger

- 1 Trim about a pound of fresh green beans and boil in salted water for 5 minutes. Drain and cool and put into a plastic zipper bag. Cut up a small red onion into strips and add this to the beans.
- 2 Mix the marinade well and pour into bag with the beans and onions. Knead the bag a little so all is covered by the marinade. Put in fridge overnight. In the morning turn the bag over and leave a couple of hours longer.
- 3 To serve: Drain and put beans onto a platter and place the cut-up onion slices at each end. This looks very decorative and is very delicious as an accompaniment to chicken, meat or fish.

FROM MARIANNE'S KITCHEN MARINATED GREEN BEANS



FROM MARIANNE'S KITCHEN EASY APPLE CAKE



The late Marianne Ferguson, Halifax, was well-known for sharing her plethora of recipes. For many years she published them in her column "From Marianne's Kitchen" in the Shaar Shalom synagogue's newsletter the Shaar Shalom Times.

INGREDIENTS

- > 5 eggs
- > 1 cup sugar + 1/3 cup sugar
- > 1/2 cup oil
- > 1/4 tsp salt
- > 1 1/4 cups flour
- > 2 tsp baking powder
- > 1 tsp vanilla
- > 1/4 cup orange juice
- > 4-5 sliced, pared and cored apples
- > 1 tsp cinnamon

- 1 Beat eggs with 1 cup sugar, oil, and salt.
- 2 Add flour, baking powder, vanilla and orange juice.
- 3 Put 3/4 of this batter into a greased square pan (8X8, 9X9) and cover with apples.
- 4 Top with: 1/3 cup sugar mixed with cinnamon then drizzle the 1/4 of remaining batter over.
- 5 Bake at 325 degrees for about 3/4 hour or until done.

ON THE LIFE OF EUGENE (ISSER) GOLDMAN Z"l

APRIL 30, 2020

Eugene Goldman beloved husband of the late Ruth Goldman. Loving father and father-in-law of Leonard, Michael and Mary, and Sondra Goldman and Shawn Berry. Loving brother of Murray, and Ralph and Donna. Devoted grandfather of Eva and Anderson, Signe, Jared, Jessica, and Joshua, and great grandfather of Alberte, and Mathias. A Family graveside service will be held on Sunday April 5. Please visit www.benjamins.ca for shiva information. Donations may be made to Beth David B'Nai Israel Beth Am 416-633-5500 or to the Canadian Cancer Society 1-888-939-3333.

Isser, at heart was a true GLACE BAY B'Y. He talked about great memories and experiences of his days as a youth. Isser was one of the first Camp Kadimah campers. He had wonderful times and memories that he shared with his family and friends. One of his favourite topics was food and his mouth watered when he talked about Ma Bromberg's fricassee. To have Isser and his beloved late wife Ruth both pass away four days apart from the COVID-19 virus is unfathomable.

We know he will be deeply missed by relatives and friends throughout the Maritimes. 🕊



In these unprecedented times, we remember the lives of maritimers lost too soon to COVID-19. We send our deepest condolences to the families affected near and far.

ON THE LIFE OF MIRIAM GOLDBERG Z"l

Passed away peacefully at home on May 2, 2020, at the age of 99

Miriam Goldberg is survived by her son, Marc; and his wife, Marilyn; her daughter-in-law, Lorri; grandchildren, Sarah (Adam Chodos), Lisa (Adam Haller) and Ben (Sheila) Goldberg, Marisa (Brandon Wiggins), Devon Goldberg, Dylan Goldberg; and great-grandchildren, Eli and Henry Chodos, William and Owen Haller, Brody and Ryland Wiggins; as well as over 30 nephews and nieces. Born in Glace Bay, she was the youngest child of Sarah Ein Gold and Morris Gold. She was predeceased by her husband, Dr. Leonard Goldberg; and their son, Paul; sisters, Ida, Rose, Jennie, Fannie, Celia, Gertrude, Sophie, Lillian, Connie; and brother, Dr. I. Roy Gold.

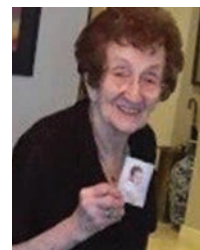
After completing High School in Glace Bay, Miriam attended Maritime Business

College in Halifax. While there, she stayed at Shirreff Hall at Dalhousie University, joined a sorority, and made many lifetime friends.

Miriam and Leonard were married in 1943 and celebrated their 75th Wedding Anniversary in 2018 in the Hotel Nova Scotian, the same venue where their wedding took place. A devoted wife, her married life was spent in Halifax where they raised their children Marc and Paul and enjoyed events centered around their large extended family and circle of friends. She and her husband were founding members of Shaar Shalom Synagogue. Miriam was active in charitable causes. She was an avid shopper. A great communicator with excellent writing skills, Miriam enjoyed writing letters and staying in touch with her family and friends.

In addition to her extraordinary caregivers and friends, her family wishes to thank Dr. Morris Trager, her physician for many decades, for his exemplary care. Also, special thanks to Judy McLeod, who was a wonderful support system for Miriam over the years, and Stephen Penny, a constant visitor who delighted Miriam by playing his ukulele and singing Cape Breton melodies with Miriam, who never forgot her Gold family Glace Bay roots.

A private graveside service will be held in Shaar Shalom Cemetery on May 4th, at 11 a.m., with Rabbi Karlin officiating. Donations in her memory can be made to Shaar Shalom Synagogue or a charity of your choice. To view or place an online message of condolence please visit: www.cruikshankhalifaxfuneralhome.com. 🕊



ON THE LIFE OF HARVEY DAVID Z"L

MARCH 25, 1932 – APRIL 14, 2020



Age 88, passed away in Halifax on April 14, 2020. Beloved husband to Beverly Block David, dear father to Shayna (Douglas Macy) and Dvora. Deeply missed by his grandsons, Aaron, Sam and David. Youngest child of the late Sophie J. David (Jacobson) and the late Louis B. David. Brother to the late Ruth Kirsh (Leonard) and Irving David (Lee). Brother-in-law to Marvin C. Block

(Lois). Remembered fondly by his nieces and nephews.

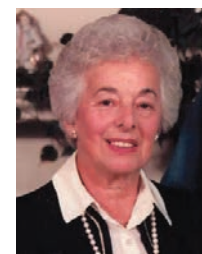
Born and raised in New Glasgow, Pictou Co. Harvey was proud of his Nova Scotia roots and all it had to offer. Harvey began his retail career in the family business. When he retired, Harvey enjoyed time with his family in Halifax and Toronto. Anyone who met Harvey, knew he was a selfless, gentle, modest

and kind soul. His intelligence, vision and wit could be seen in his deep interest in world news and politics. He held his culture and family close to his heart. Too dearly loved to ever be forgotten.

Due to COVID-19, private funeral April 17th and shiva. ☹

ON THE LIFE OF SYLVIA KARREL Z"L

1921 – 2020



It is with the deepest sadness we regret to announce the passing of our mother, Sylvia Karrel, formerly of Park Street, Sydney, at the Cape Breton Regional Hospital on March 25, 2020. She was the daughter of the late Israel and Lena (Mirsky) Glickman.

Sylvia spent many, many summers at her cottage on the Mira which she named "Karrel's Kove" and it held a special place in her heart. She is survived by her daughter, Valerie (Kevin) Moncton, NB; three sons,

all of Sydney, Jerry (Debbie MacLeod), Martin (Margaret), Curdis (Liesje), and her two loving granddaughters, Whitney and Bailey who were her pride and joy. She is also survived by her sister-in-law, Esther Glickman of Toronto, and many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her husband, Sam in 1995, and her sister, Anne Bleeman, and her four brothers, Bernie, Nathan, Morris and Saul. She was the last surviving member of her immediate family. As no funeral

service could be held, she was interred in a private family ceremony in the Hebrew Cemetery, Whitney Pier. Special thanks to her wonderful caregivers who made her last two years so enjoyable. You treated her like family. As well, we would like to thank the Doctors and Nurses of 4B and Palliative Care for their attention and caring. In memoriam donations may be made to the Palliative Care Unit or Society or a charity of ones' choice. ☹

ON THE LIFE OF MOLLY RECHNITZER Z"L

July 23, 1936 – April 1, 2020



Née Katz. Born in Montreal, Quebec and died in Halifax, Nova Scotia at 83 years old. Predeceased by parents Aron Katz and Dina (Sklar) Katz, husband Dolfi (Rick Berman) Rechnitzer, son Bernard (Bernie) Rechnitzer, brother-in-law Carol Wexler and many relatives and friends. Survived by son Stuart

Rechnitzer (and Corinne Isambert), brother Dany Katz (and Simma Poznanski), adored grandchildren Alexandre, Mélanie, Diana, Arielle, Nae, and Matthew Rechnitzer, sister-in-law Lottie (Rechnitzer) Wexler, niece and nephews Doris, Bernie, Jeffrey Wexler and many relatives and friends.

Molly was extremely energetic, generous and caring to family, friends and community. She is loved and missed by many. To protect public health, memorial services for Molly will be held at a later date in Halifax and Montreal, after COVID-19 social distancing directives will have been lifted. ☹

ATLANTIC COMMUNITY REACHES OUT TO THOSE IN NEED

BY JOEL JACOBSON, CJA ATLANTIC CORRESPONDENT
REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

The Atlantic Canadian Jewish community might be small, but during the COVID-19 isolations and quarantines, it has drawn close to ensure the comfort of its people. “We started a phone support program in Halifax (and followed up in the rest of the region) after calls were received from ex-pat Nova Scotians whose senior parents, relatives and friends live here,” said Naomi Rosenfeld, executive director of the Atlantic Jewish Council (AJC). “They were concerned of isolation because of the need to stay home because of their age and/or health vulnerability. “They asked ‘can anyone do errands for my folks, even check on them, visit them, to be sure they’re OK, while they’re isolated,’” she said.

AJC leaders in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland-Labrador made similar initiatives. “We set up a volunteer telephone committee, eventually about 85 wonderful people, and started contacting almost everyone in the community, not just seniors, but everyone,” Rosenfeld said. Lea Wagner had a very astute 94-year old man on her list who still lives alone, in his own home. He told her he is fine for now, walks to do his own grocery shopping at a nearby supermarket, but would welcome another call which Wagner has provided. “I’m only living in Halifax six months a year now,” said Wagner, who

made her volunteer calls from New York. “This keeps me in touch. And it makes me feel good keeping someone company for a bit. My recipients were happy someone was reaching out to them.” Volunteers were on call to arrange grocery shopping or other errands. As the threat of the virus intensified, and Nova Scotia health officials urged isolation and even quarantine, the need for the calling program became more important. While most people reported no immediate needs, the appreciation was evident. Devorah Gillard was excited to make calls. “I talked to five families and I have to say this has been one of the most rewarding and uplifting things I have ever done. I get off the phone feeling energized and so encouraged. People’s responses have been just joyous and so appreciative. I feel like I am building new relationships. It took so little time to have gained so much joy.”

The AJC’s Rosenfeld added, “I’ve made some calls and feel so wonderful talking with these people. I wish I had more time to make more calls. I’m learning a lot more about the community by connecting one-on-one.” In the smaller communities throughout the region, callers contacted people they’ve known their entire lives. “It’s easier for them to make the support calls than it might be in Halifax where many volunteers are making cold calls,” Rosenfeld said. One 85-year-old

woman in Halifax had a call from a woman in her 20s. They hit it off so well that the younger woman has called almost every day since. The older lady refers to her as a “second daughter.” One Halifax man said he had no concerns other than, “there’s no hockey for me to watch.”

As Pesach nears, and only two major grocery stores in Halifax carry Passover products, some of those isolated are asking for help shopping. Volunteers rush to their aid, knowing stores might run short, but, in this last week, the supply seems ample. Events honoring Yom ha-Shoah and celebrating Yom ha-Atzmaut have been scrubbed, although the latter will become a virtual program. Other virtual programs were planned to keep the community engaged and connected during the time of isolation

Rosenfeld was proud that AJC transitioned certain planned programs to an at-home model, such as creation of seder plates by children. Emergency grocery funds were dispersed to support Atlantic Canadians who regularly received the service from AJC. “There was no negative reaction (to cancellations) as people fully understood,” she said. “No one felt we made the wrong decision, but it was a shame after much planning had gone into many of them.”

SEND A Partnership2Gether GIFT CARD TO CELEBRATE!

HELP SUPPORT OUR VALUABLE PROJECTS IN NORTHERN ISRAEL

Contact Naomi Rosenfeld, executive director: 902-422-7493 | norsenfeld@theajc.ca

STUDENT FROM HALIFAX LAUNCHES FREE TUTORING SERVICE FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

BY **NOUSHIN ZIAFATI**, CHRONICLE HERALD LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER
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PHOTO: Rebecca Raphael poses for a photo outside her Halifax home on Friday, May 1, 2020. Raphael, and other tutors, are volunteering their time to help elementary and junior high-age students during the COVID-19 crisis.

—Ryan Taplin

Rebecca Raphael says she was lying down in bed one day thinking of how she could volunteer her time to help out her community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Like thousands of other students across the country, Raphael, 18, was forced to leave school early this year and continue her studies from home due to the pandemic. At the end of March, she left her school, Pearson College UWC in Victoria, B.C., and returned to Nova Scotia.

While browsing the internet, Raphael came across a free, virtual book buddy service that was introduced in Calgary, she said. Then, a lightbulb switched on in her brain.

“I thought it would be cool to start something like that in Halifax,” she said.

Running with the idea, Raphael established The Halifax Helpers. It’s a free, volunteer-run online tutoring service that aims to provide elementary and junior high school students in Nova Scotia with the learning support they need during these challenging times, as they continue with at-home learning while schools in the province remain closed until at least May 19.

In just two and a half weeks, Raphael has rounded up a team of nearly 20 volunteers from Nova Scotia and around the world who are offering online tutoring in areas such as English, French, math, science, visual art and music.

By visiting thehalifaxhelpers.com, parents are able to read the various tutors’ biographies, check their availability for tutoring sessions and set up online Zoom

sessions.

Acknowledging that it’s difficult for schools in the province to offer a one-size-fits-all solution for families during the pandemic, Raphael said the tutors are trying their best to make “the baseline education” that students receive during the pandemic equal. That includes tailoring lesson plans for students who may have learning disabilities or may be newcomers in Nova Scotia.

“If they don’t have these supports in place because their parents are working and aren’t able to help teach them, which is super fair and valid and that’s something really common that we’re seeing, you’re going to have kids that are going to miss out on these crucial concepts,” said Raphael.

Since launching The Halifax Helpers, Raphael herself has tutored at least 10 different schoolchildren. She does one-hour tutoring sessions with students, helping them with worksheets, practising French and creates PowerPoints and virtual activities, such as on Google Earth, to keep them engaged, she said.

“All of our tutors are really willing to put in the effort to make a dynamic learning environment.”

So far, Raphael said they have received lots of positive feedback from parents.

“They really like the service. They’ve said it’s super helpful. I had one parent talk about how their kid was really less engaged before and that they were really engaged with the tutor they were working with.”

She said they’re encouraging more parents to sign up for tutoring sessions for

their children and more volunteer tutors, to continue to offer learning support for students in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“(This service has) given me somewhat of a firsthand lens into what parents are experiencing during this pandemic and the strain that it could possibly take on their children if they don’t have these kinds of supports in place and if we don’t band together as a community to help them,” said Raphael.

“This is just another way to support each other.”

This article is reprinted with the permission of the Chronicle Herald. Noushin Ziafati is a Local Journalism Initiative reporter. The Local Journalism Initiative was launched and funded by the Government of Canada in 2019 to broaden the availability and consumption of local and regional news.

**COMMUNITY
INFORMATION**
theAJC.ca

**To contact
the AJC office:
info@theajc.ca**

TIKKUN OLAM COMMITTEE REACHES OUT TO THE HALIFAX COMMUNITY

BY ANDREA HILCHIE-PYE

The Tikkun Olam Committee at the Shaar Shalom has been giving back to the community since 2017. This committee is devoted to both internal and external acts of kindness and justice. This year the committee focused its activities on the Coldest Night of the Year, Feed Nova Scotia, and in partnership with the AJC, Out of the Cold, and the Community Caring Tree.

When COVID-19 entered Nova Scotia, the committee partnered with the AJC to develop a Caring Tree for community members in need of support.

The Shaar Team for the Coldest Night of the Year, which raises awareness of Canada's homelessness in crisis, surpassed its fundraising goal. The committee came together in late February and made three meals for Out of the Cold, a local shelter. When COVID-19 entered Nova Scotia, the committee partnered with the AJC to develop a Caring Tree for community members in need of support. This included pairing our seniors, immunocompromised and those

in quarantine. With members who could check in by phone or run errands such as groceries.

With COVID-19 impacting so many people the committee encouraged members to support organizations including those that provide direct service and shelter to homeless (Shelter Nova Scotia, Phoenix Youth Program, Salvation Army Centre of Hope, Out of the Cold Shelter Adsum for Women & Children, and Bryony House); Feed Nova Scotia; Canada Blood Services; SPCA/ Bide and While; Meals on Wheels, Getting Connected at Northwood to name a few either by donating time or money.

Finally with the senseless murder of 22 innocent lives, the Committee encouraged members to support the Red Cross fund set up in partnership with the Government of Nova Scotia to provide support to the individuals, families and communities impacted by the Nova Scotia tragedy with immediate and long-term needs, including resiliency and capacity building.

With COVID-19 continuing to impact many individuals and communities, the Committee will be looking at ways it can continue to provide support to those who are most vulnerable both within the Jewish and greater Halifax communities. 🌱

ONE FAMILY MANY FACES



www.oregans.com

CAPE BRETON NEWS

BY SHARON JACOBSON

I am writing this article on a beautiful “snowstormy” day at the end of April.

It is difficult to believe, what with the Winter weather in Spring, the Coronavirus Pandemic, and the “this just doesn’t happen here in Nova Scotia” rampage, that any news about a self-isolating Jewish community in Cape Breton would be forthcoming. But there have been important events to note.

The Karrel family matriarch, Sylvia, passed away at the age of 98. She was buried on March 26th, at the time when distancing measures were being put into place by the provincial government. The funeral was small and heartfelt with family and a few Shul members present.

Our summer resident, Anita Schick lost her older sister, Rhoda Benedon z”l, in Boynton Beach, Florida at the end of December. Rhoda started school in Glace Bay before the family moved to New York, but she spent many summers visiting her relatives, the Ein family, in Cape Breton.

ALAS, WE DID HAVE A HAPPY MOMENT!

It was Purim! We met in the Synagogue for the Reading of the Megillah, a holiday with a joyous outcome for the Jews, despite a shaky beginning! We donned festive hats & boas and with whistles, horns and groggers made noise to De-Hamenize our historic enemy. We celebrated with a glass of wine, compliments of Ron Caplan.

WE TRY TO CELEBRATE THE GOOD TIMES BECAUSE YOU NEVER KNOW...

The Sydney streetscape lost an iconic building on Charlotte Street this spring, March 29th. A fire took Ike & Faye (Tootsie) David’s landmark delicatessen Building. As Tootsie stated, it goes back over 50 years and NOT many have NOT experienced one of their deli sandwiches! The sight of the empty lot weighs down your heart—as if eradicating a sentimental part of your past life. The sign which was previously removed, survives.

WE INDEED LIVE IN A SENTIMENTAL NEIGHBORHOOD

I heard from Leone Bushkin, the late Fanny Cohen’s niece, (Fanny died at the age of 107) that her caregivers formed a group called Friends of Fanny. They meet on her birthday and visit her grave! There were several of them. I call them Fanny’s Gals.

This brings me to the Dystopian COVID-19 Era which, as Bill Gates so aptly remarked, and which I printed and saved, is really teaching us some very profound lessons. Above the strata of thick cloud, there is Blue Sky.

Gates talks about: how this disease treats us all equally, no matter who we are or where we are from, this virus does not need a passport, has no borders and thus connects us all. It reminds us that food, water and medicine are the essentials we need, not the luxuries on which we seem to place an inordinate value; how this virus has forced us back into our houses where we have neglected home life, how the family unit is strengthened. He talks of patience, free will, reflection and hope.

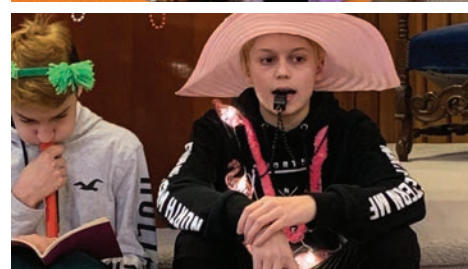
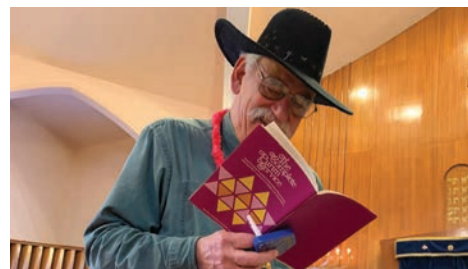
WE HAVE EXPERIENCED THE HIGHS AND THE LOWS THROUGH THE NETWORK OF TECHNOLOGY.

Zoom Seders and Shabbats, quarantines, work conferences, home-schooling, the news, birthdays, rituals, chats, & of course Humour & Entertainment. For example:

We have forwarded videos of everything from an A Cappella group singing the Beatles’ song, I Feel Fine, in Yiddish ...to the history of Hava Nagila, touted as “the only song that makes Jews get up and leave their Food!”

We have viewed the Yom HaShoah ceremony, punctuated by candle-lighting moments across Canada. Simultaneously, we, too, lit a candle in our homes.

We viewed the 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz and other camps. We listened to survivors remember a singular USA tank division of Black Americans



PHOTOS: Purim! We met in the Synagogue for the Reading of the Megillah, a holiday with a joyous outcome for the Jews, despite a shaky beginning!

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gaze at them with disbelief. It was a Virtual Holocaust Remembrance Day.

I recently read to my grandson via FaceTime, Shel Silverstein's book, *The Missing Piece*. The story describes a circle "bumpily" rolling along looking for his missing piece—a wedge. Because he is not a perfect circle, he moves quite slowly, discovering new things and meeting new friends. Suddenly he finds his missing piece and fits the wedge into its empty place. Happily, he speeds along, at such a pace that he skips over his new friends and misses out on a lot of new things, such as singing. The wedge had made it difficult. This makes him reconsider the importance of his missing piece. He drops his missing piece and continues on his way.... quite contentedly. This story reminded me of many things but, in this time of self-isolation, it revealed to me what we are gaining and learning from living a quieter, self-contained life.

TIME IS A DIFFERENT COMMODITY NOW. FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND JUST PEOPLE, ARE CONNECTING.

We are stopping to look and listen and think. If we are lucky, we see Blue Sky above the clouds.

We remember Anne Frank was cooped up to keep safe from the immediate threat of danger. It was not a deadly virus. It was the cold-blooded, insidious hatred of Nazi Germany for her people. Her diary describes times of despondency at not being free to go outside.... but then, one day, quite irrepressibly, she exclaims that she has found Spring—and it is inside herself. Well, maybe we all can't be as philosophical as Anne Frank.

WE DO HAVE AN INSPIRATIONAL SONG, THAT IS LIKE A KADDISH, TO RENEW OUR HOPE.

"We Rise Again" by Leon Dubinsky has buoyed more spirits I am sure than he thought possible. It was written for the 1984 musical, *The Rise and Follies of Cape Breton*, as an anthem of resilience and hope at a time when Cape Breton Island was going through an economic crisis. The song has inspired (to name a few) the Red Cross, church choirs, the March of the Living, & Holocaust commemorations as well as many prominent musicians and, now, the 2020 television special "Stronger Together, Tous

Ensemble" which celebrates our COVID-19 Pandemic front-line fighters.

Countries, organizations, groups of people and common individuals find comfort and optimism in its message of strength and the power of Hope. 5

I asked our community members to send in 1-3 words expressing what they have experienced these past six weeks. I have woven a pastiche from their comments into a collective presentation.—Sharon Jacobson

Reflective, Remembering, Thankfulness

Life is like walking on broken glass

Keeping it together

Oy Gevalt.

We're doing OK

Alone with my baking

Get a haircut

Baking and zooming

My walk.... T.V., Frig, Computer

The Economy...

Walking, Zoom Shabbat, Bread

Bored with Social Inaction

More than Inconvenient

Best Place to Be

We are a Cooking/Dishwasher duo

Miss Shul camaraderie

Staying-Put ...Not Bad

Baby Zoomers

Walking, Talking, & Gazpacho

Hairstylist=Essential Service

Thankful I am Canadian in Cape Breton

PEI NEWS

BY JOSEPH B. GLASS

TWO BABY BOYS

The Prince Edward Island Jewish Community (PEIJC) opened the year with the birth of two Jewish boys on the Island. With the small Jewish population in PEI, the birth of a Jewish child is a rare occurrence but two within days of each other is quite exceptional!

With no mohel on the Island, Rabbi Alan W. Bright came from Montreal to perform the Brit Milah on February 16th.

Michael Fleischman and Shamara Baid-oobonso's first child, Felix Marvin Aston was officially welcomed into the covenant. He was given the Hebrew name of Eliyahu Baruch. Felix shared the experience with his little friend Valen, the first child of Marley (Miriam Rivkah) and Giac Kwitco. Family, friends, and many members of the community witnessed this rite of initiation and celebrated this special occasion. A hearty Mazal Tov to the proud parents and their families. The community looks forward to watching the boys grow and taking on various roles in the community. (We'll need someone to recite *Ma Nishtana* in a few years.)

PASSOVER IN THE SHADOW OF COVID-19

Traditionally, the PEIJC holds a community seder that brings together individuals and families from across the Island. Participants share in the preparation of the seder meal and read the Hagada together. Unable to carry on this tradition due to COVID-19, the community found ways of celebrating together despite social distancing.

Two of our youngest members, Amalia Hoersting and Eli Opps, graciously shared their renditions of the *Ma Nishtana* (the Four Questions) for Islanders to play and enjoy at their respective seders. We sincerely thank Ilana Clyde, their Hebrew teacher and singing coach, for preparing them. Their parents and the community *shepped nachas* from their wonderful performances. (It is unfortunate that the PEIJC was unable to enjoy our rising stars Amalia, in the role of Esther, and Eli, in the role of Achashverosh, in the annual Purim *Shpiel* due to the cancellation of our Purim potluck.)

This year members could not share their seder tables and meals with guests, but they did

share their limited Passover supplies. In one example, a couple from New York City was required to remain on the Island over Passover. They lacked the basics for the holiday. Individuals came forward and helped provide some essentials for this stranded couple.

Hoping to spread holiday cheer, the community shared anecdotes and jokes that connected Passover and the pandemic. For example, one parent shared the following dialogue that she had while preparing for the Seder:

Mother: We have to have an extra place just in case Elijah comes to visit us. At some point we'll open the door and check if he's come!

Five-year-old son: No Mommy! Didn't you listen to the doctor?! We can't have guests because of coronavirus!

Another member shared his observations on the radical change in how seders were conducted this year:


What was really special about last night, was that at about 6:30 p.m. Jews around the

world were asking the same four questions:

- 1) Can you hear me?
- 2) Can you see me?
- 3) How do I turn on the audio?
- 4) How do I turn on the video?

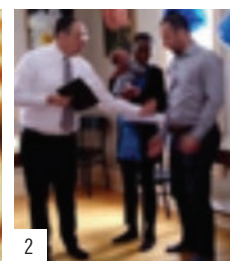
And, it was the youngest who supplied the answers!

YOM HASHOAH PRESENTATION

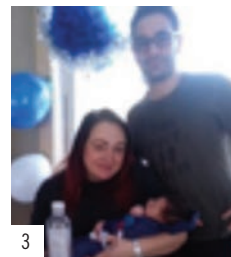
Unable to gather for Yom HaShoah, Professor Rick Schneider prepared a short presentation for the Atlantic Jewish Council's virtual Yom HaShoah program. He is a lecturer in Environmental Studies and is an instructor of English Academic Preparation at the University of Prince Edward Island. Rick had spoken at the PEIJC Yom HaShoah event in 2019 and reflected on his family's Holocaust survival story. In this short audio-visual presentation, Rick highlighted his grandfather, Alfred's remarkable story of survival during the Second World War. 



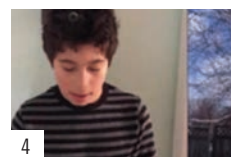
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Photos: (1) PEIJC opened the year with the birth of two Jewish boys on the Island (2) Rabbi Bright, Felix, Shamara and Michael (3) Marley, Valen and Giac (4) Eli Opps and Amalia Hoerstring reciting the Four Questions.

NEWFOUNDLAND NEWS

News from the far east BY RABBI CHANAN AND TUBA CHERNITSKY

TED TALKS

After last year's success we again hosted an adult social with Ted Talks after Shabbat on February 15th. We heard from renown lawyer Rosellen Sullivan, who was junior counsel during the famous Lamer inquiry in 2003. Rosellen spoke about wrongful convictions in the Canadian justice system. We then heard from our very own, Dr. Michele Levi. Michele spoke about the little known dangers of over the counter medicine and gave us five points to consider. The last speaker was Peter Ralph. Peter is a lawyer for the provincial department of justice and public safety and most recently was involved in the infamous Muskrat Falls Inquiry. Peter spoke about his role as a government lawyer and finished off with a positive note regarding the benefits the province will reap in the long run from the costly project. A buffet of salads, soup and cheesecake was served.

HOMENTASHEN BAKE

As if there wasn't enough going on in the community we all came together for a fantastic homentashen bake at Chabad of Newfoundland. Attendees had fillings of

different flavours to choose from. We played a fun game of kahoot! Trivia while they were baking and then took our final products home.

PURIM ITALIANO

(The theme was picked well before the outbreak began). We came together on Purim day to celebrate with traditional Italian foods and desserts.

After the Megillah reading we got to taste from the delicious Lasagnas and pastas. We played a game of trivia and there was a caricaturist on site for whomever wanted. Attendees got to do the other two mitzvot of Purim as well, sending gifts of food—*mishloach manot* and *matanot l'evyonim*—giving tzedaka to the poor and needy. As they say in Italy "molto bene"!

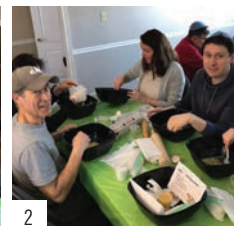
PASSOVER

Due to COVID-19 we cancelled the communal Passover Seder many weeks in advance but offered a variety of services to help cope with the current situation.

Rabbi Chernitsky continued giving the weekly classes over Zoom and had a special class titled "DIY Passover Seder" which was



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PHOTOS: (1) Getting ready for Kahoot! at Homentash bake. (2) Homentash bake (3) Megillah reading (4) Purim.

recorded live and then posted on Facebook.

We offered "Seder to-go" kits for whomever wanted, consisting of the six items needed for the Seder plate and also catering for the Seders. As usual we gave out Shmurah Matzah to everyone in the community to use for their Seders.

We are open 24/7 (with social distancing practices). For more information you can reach us at 709-341-8770 or through e-mail at chabadofnewfoundland@gmail.com. 

REPORT FROM THE SAINT JOHN JEWISH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

BY KATHERINE BIGGS-CRAFT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CURATOR

The Saint John Jewish Historical Museum, like every other museum and public space, has temporarily closed its doors in accordance with the requirements of COVID-19. We are now faced with making adjustments to planned events and the possibilities around opening for the summer.

Our first event of 2020 was the launch of Dan Elman's new book—Chess Concepts: The Evolution of Chess Ideas—on January 26. More than 50 people were in attendance to hear Dan speak about the history of chess and share challenging ideas. He shared photographs of Saint John chess players, many, but not all members of the Saint John Jewish community.

Plans for our Yom Hashoah event were cancelled. Other spring events including our annual fundraising concert and a continuation of the lectures on Judaism in Context by Dan Elman, were also put on hold and we hope to schedule them in the months to come, once it is safe for us to gather together again.

After a year of careful review and reclassification of our Museum library, we also had plans in place to open the library for reading and discussing books—but this too is on hold for better days.

The new exhibit planned for opening in early June will be delayed until next June—this provides an unexpected opportunity to make this exhibit even better than our original plans. There are four parts to the exhibit:

1. The people and places in Palestine in the 19th century—told in part with the journals and photographs of a missionary, Rev. William Jones, which date from 1855 to 1860;
2. How the Saint John Jewish community supported Israel from the 1910s to the 1970s, starting with the visit of David

Ben Gurion and Itzhak Ben-Zvi to Saint John in 1918 while they were part of the Jewish Legion;

3. The memories of those who grew up in Saint John and who travelled to Israel to visit or to work from the 1950s to today—we already have several of these and preparing to receive more;
4. A look at Israel today—for this we are hoping to gather stories from the families who have moved to Saint John from Israel in the past few years.

If you would like to contribute to this exhibit with your own stories, please contact the museum.

In the meantime, we will keep our exhibit on Jewish businesses up for the coming summer, with some new additions and plans to place the business exhibit on the web.

We will look for visitors from closer to home as restrictions lift and as we decide how to keep our staff, volunteers and visitors safe within our display rooms and the synagogue. Katherine Biggs-Craft, the Museum's Executive Director and Curator has been working from home. During the past several weeks, she has been working to update the list of museum acquisitions and getting reacquainted with documents, photographs and artifacts added to the collections some 25 years ago. In 1997 the focus was on collecting and borrowing memorabilia from individual Bar and Bat Mitzvahs for an exhibit. What we gathered included invitations, kippahs, photographs, match boxes, napkins and even Bar Mitzvah speeches. Maybe it's time to do that exhibit again.

We are still hoping to hire our usual complement of summer students although the focus this year might be more on projects than giving tours of the museum. To that end, detailed outlines have been created for several research projects: the stories of Holocaust survivors and children of survivors who came to Saint John; the development of guided/



self-guided walking tour of Jewish homes and businesses in uptown Saint John called "Following Their Footsteps: Finding Former Jewish Homes and Shops"; and writing brief but interesting biographies of those remembered on their *yahrzeits* during the Sabbath services.

The world around us has changed dramatically in just a few short months, as we make the safe choice to stay home and limit the spread of serious illness, but the Museum carries on with the tasks of collecting, preserving and sharing the Jewish history of Saint John. We can still celebrate Jewish life in Saint John with the posting of a new archival photograph each day on our Facebook page. Those who follow our page are encouraged to like what they see and offer their comments, their memories and even their assistance by identifying the faces in the photographs. We invite you to follow our page and join the discussion and share the memories—what better way to focus on happier times.

Until we meet again, stay safe! 🇮🇱

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FREDERICTON NEWS

BY IVAN LEVINE, PRESIDENT, SGOOLAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

We live in unbelievable times although predicted. I put forth the Energy that we LEARN from this stoppable world. May our Family and Friends' times be quality ones. May we be kind to others and be better environmental citizens. We must also be very thankful for our brave devoted Health Care Providers and Leadership.

Our Hebrew School is virtually flourishing thanks to Ami Whittaker, our Rabbi and Shaindy Goldman. Our Zoom classes, homework and games with learning packages from Bangor Maine, that use the Ji Tap site, are having a very positive experience.

We have started Virtual Services including our first Passover Seder and Rosh Chodesh IYAR as our Schul is closed. Shelley Stephens has even provided prayers/ services over the phone for those without computers. I have been calling our senior members who are housebound so that they do not feel isolated. We are also zooming Erev Shavuot and Yizkor (by phone as well). We will arrange our Schul spring General Meeting by zoom.

We had just started a new revitalized Membership Committee before the COVID-19 lock down. It is temporarily

on hold but we will succeed when our City opens up. We are very fortunate to live in a City/Province that is less affected by the virus and hopefully an opening Model to the rest of our great Country.

Our capital projects are continuing with the new insulated roof being installed in June. Our heating/cooling system is still a work in progress.

Wishing everyone Good Health and Contentment.

MONCTON NEWS

BY FRANCIS WEIL

As everybody else, the greater Moncton Jewish community (that includes Sackville, Dieppe, Woodstock, Riverview and Miramichi) is living in the middle of the COVID-19 confinement rules. Unfortunately we had to let go the formal weekly services since the lockdown started in New Brunswick.

THE YOM HASHOAH CEREMONY OF MAY 4 ALSO HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

The formal Bar Mitzvah of Jérémie Maicas had been scheduled for Acharei Mot Kedoshim (May 2). Obviously it had to be postponed for some date to be decided later. Jérémie already had his 13th birthday (in March) and he has been attending Shabbat services regularly. He has delighted all who are present with his beautiful voice while taking out the Torah or coming on the Bimah for El Keloheinu and Adon Olam. We are looking forward for the new date and hope it will come in a not too long future.

Some Mazal Tovs are due to quite a few people

- a. UNB graduate Natalie Arseneault, daughter of Janyce (Rubin) Arseneault and Paul Arseneault.

- b. Max and Lily Rose from Edmonton for the birth of the most beautiful identical twin boys, Arthur and Atlas in late January. Congratulations to 3-year-old sister Skyler. And a hearty Mazal Tov to the grand parents Joel and Lynn.
- c. All the High School graduates of 2020.
- d. Sam Haller who has been named the MVP (basket-ball) of his group.
- e. The Fransblow family (mother Rachel, Grand Parents Rhoda and Steven) for the briss of their little baby last October.

Esther Gorber, z"l, and Florence Lampert, z"l, left us last December. They both were long standing members, Florence being over 100 year old and Esther in her 90s. Condolences to the families.

We have a special thought for all who are in special homes, Bella, Lillian, Ann, Max and Ruby.

Thank you very much Victoria, Rebbetzin and Anne for taking care of those who need help and supplying them with delicious meals.



We had the delight, during the High Holidays to have the presence of Hazzan Kobi Brummer. He and his brother Shlomo, with the help of Evgeni, gave a beautiful concert between R.H. and Y.K., concert that was well attended mainly by our non-Jewish neighbors. At Simchat Torah Lee Wilson organized with the help of Anne, Terri, Carole and Jen a most beautiful feast. Thank you also to Perry Romberg for giving us a grant to cover the expenses.

Hanukah was well celebrated. We had public lighting of the Menorah both at City Hall and at the Moncton Hospital. The Hanukah diner was a marvelous affair, well attended. It was under the stewardship of Sisterhood President Betty Rubin-Druckman and Vice-President Victoria Volkanova. The group of helpers is so numerous that there is not enough room here to mention all the names,

CONTINUE ON PAGE 32 >

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but let it be known that they did a beautiful job. Pictures of the event can be found at apps.tiferesisrael.com/Gallery/index.cfm

* * *

The annual election to the board of directors took place in January. For the position of president, many members offered their name. Finally, to find a resolution to that situation, we simply decided to choose the most

handsome one among all these candidates. Hope we will not regret it too much.

* * *

The community dinner for Purim was cancelled at the last minutes because the threat of the coronavirus was starting to make its way. But that did not prevent us to be able to listen to several readings of the Megillah by Rabbi Yagod.

At Shul, this day, we had the visit of a sheik who must have been lost. 5

REFLECTIONS

BY RABBI DAVID ELLIS, AJC REGIONAL CHAPLAIN

Some reflections on the tragic events in Portapique, NS by my daughter Tamar, from Israel. My daughter writes in a heart-felt, intuitive style.

REFLECTIONS BY TAMAR ELLIS:

Every year on Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Memorial Day, the incredible people in the small village of Bass River, Nova Scotia would arrange a memorial. Located in the village in a very special memorial garden commemorating the veterans of the wars Canada has participated in, as well as peace keeping missions. There are several things that make this garden unique. Most memorials have lists of names of the fallen men and women. Here there is also a monument entitled "The Forgotten Heroes" to the animals—dogs, horses, carrier pigeons, and elephants who died in service during the wars. Another monument is called "the Broken" that looks like a tombstone with a large crack in it. This is a commemoration to all the soldiers who came back from war suffering with PTSD, died by suicide, those who are still suffering, and their families affected. There is also a small stone in memory of the Holocaust.

Every year, this community joins together to remember the victims and survivors of the Holocaust. I had the privilege of attending several years with my father who spoke at the event. It is interesting to note that there aren't any Jewish people living in the village. They felt it important to remember and to stand together strong against the hate that caused the Holocaust to happen. It speaks to the nature of the people of Nova Scotia. The need and importance to remember the past, to think of other members in the larger community, to be there, and show solidarity. This unique quality of community shows in this garden commemorating things that are often overlooked—animals and those suffering from mental illness. This is the feeling that will preside. Thinking of others that are forgotten and overlooked. The ability to open up homes and hearts to others and give selflessly of oneself. This is the base of the legendary hospitality Nova Scotia is known for. To be able to think of others, to empathize, to come together, and to always rise to the occasion, no matter how hard.

Today is Yom HaShoah and the people of Bass River and all of Nova Scotia are hurting.



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THE SINAI EXPERIENCE

BY RABBI YAKOV KERZNER, BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE, HALIFAX

On the holiday of Shavuot, we celebrate not only the giving of the Torah but its acceptance by the Jewish people. Every Jew knows that there are ten commandments, the first of which enjoins us to believe in G-d and that this belief is the first of The Thirteen Principles of Faith as stated by Maimonides. Maimonides additionally states that our portion in the Afterlife is conditional on confirming these beliefs. In this form, Judaism resembles other dogmatic religions.

A careful reading of the Torah reveals that, in truth, there is never a reference to "Commandments". The more accurate translation of the words "Aseres Hadevarim" would be "The Ten Statements". Nine of those declarations are in the form of commandments with the exception of the opening statement, "I am the Lord your G-d, who took you out of the land of Egypt." Many commentaries therefore dispute Maimonides' position. The argument is quite simple. You can not command someone to believe. If you don't believe in G-d, there can not be a command issuing forth from Him. Moreso, the Universal G-d of Judaism should claim more than the Exodus. He should claim the creation of the Heaven and Earth. Rather, according to this opinion, the first statement is the introduction of one party in a covenantal agreement. You must show allegiance to the G-d who saved you from slavery and formed you as a nation. That allegiance requires the acceptance and performance of the commandments that follow.

This approach drastically redirects the focus of Judaism away from dogma and into the realm of action. It conveys the message that our dedication to G-d and His Torah should lie in the performance of Mitzvot and the study of the underlying motivations for these directives.

The following passage from Rabbi Samson Rafael Hirsch in his "Nineteen Letters" outlines this approach:

"You speak of dogmas, dogmas of faith! ... Judaism enjoins six hundred and thirteen duties, but knows no dogmas. The sublime truths which lie at its basis, it reveals as axioms, clearly intelligible to all who have ears to hear and minds to comprehend... it rouses us to the endeavor to understand the world, man, human history, and God's plan operating therein. In this effort personal study and thought, universal human experience and the Torah are to be alike utilized, for the latter is as real and actual a source of instruction as the two former... (T)rue speculation takes nature, man, and history as facts, as the true basis of knowledge, and seeks in them instruction and wisdom; to these Judaism adds the Torah, as genuine a reality as heaven or earth... (In the past), people studied Judaism but forgot to search for its principles in the pages of Scripture... Bible and Talmud are to be studied with one sole object in view, to ascertain the life-duties which they inculcate, 'to learn and to teach—to observe and to do,'... (T)he Law, which lays down Reverence, Love, and Faithfulness as its three foundation-stones, does not cripple the heart, but that, when comprehended and assimilated to the mind, its fulfillment becomes a new power, a life from within, ... stimulating all the faculties to a freer development..."

When approached in this fashion, the challenges of philosophy and science become a secondary concern in the modern struggle for faith. Our primary

concern should be the advancement of a life dedicated to the morals and ethics that are the natural products of a Jewish way of life. Our study of Torah stories should be a personal journey, exploring the psychology, motivations, moral dilemmas and choices of our forefathers. The laws, rituals and directives of the Torah and Talmud should be a starting point for the exploration of a life devoted to moral rectitude and devotion to the good and welfare of mankind.

A long tradition on Shavuot night is to spend the night immersed in Torah study. A valid alternative to this tradition would be to commit to daily study of Torah and Judaism, designed to enhance your appreciation of Judaism and the place it should hold in all of our lives. This commitment to study and personal growth is the best way to recreate the Sinai experience, pass it on to future generations and ensure that Judaism remains a positive force in society. 5



Just a few kilometers from this memorial garden was the scene of the most horrific mass shooting in Nova Scotian history. It hurts that much more when the area is familiar and hits home. I know that this tragedy will only bring people closer together and instead of falling to hate, we will rise above as a community. Just as the song says, "we rise again". 5



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A VERY UNIQUE SHAVUOT

BY RABBI GARY KARLIN, SHAAR SHALOM CONGREGATION, HALIFAX



These days, our lives are centered around the COVID-19 pandemic: Sheltered at home, wearing face masks when out, limiting our contacts. Nonetheless, Jewish life and the Jewish calendar continue. Even if we are prevented from attending synagogue, joining friends and family for Shabbat or festival meals, or attending a class or program, on Thursday night, May 28, *Sivan* 6, 5780, we will bring in the holiday of Shavuot, the "Festival of Weeks."

All this just exacerbates the yearly challenge of Shavuot. For not only must we contend with celebrating the festival in isolation and not in physical community, but we must also do so for what is perhaps the most difficult Jewish holiday for many of us to get our heads around and find meaningful. Let me explain this last point.

Most Jewish holidays are understood, appreciated and beloved by Jews (and even many non-Jews to whom I've spoken). The message of freedom of Passover is universal, the possibility of rebirth and reconciliation of the High Holy Days is inspiring, connecting ourselves to God's

cycle of nature on Sukkot is reassuring, and reminding ourselves of the ultimate promise of Jewish continuity in the face of those who would seek us harm on Purim is hopeful.

But Shavuot, as we observe it, is "*Zeman Matan Toratenu*—The Time of the Giving Our Torah." It celebrates our people's arrival at Mt. Sinai, experiencing God intimately, as at no other time. And not just as individuals, in some sort of private, mystical experience, but in community, as a united nation. All Jews, then and now, were present at Sinai.

It is easier to see God as creator of the universe, the redeemer of our people from slavery, or even as ultimate judge of right and wrong. But God as the giver of Torah and lover of Israel! this is problematic for many of us. Perhaps that's why when we think of the major Jewish holidays Shavuot seldom comes to mind.

But don't confuse difficulty with value. Shavuot, because it comes less naturally for many of us, is a real test of our own sense of Jewish identity and of spiritual striving. Can we celebrate a festival which commemorates a unique relationship between God and

the Jewish People? Can we turn our attention from the universal themes of creation and redemption, concentrating on the particularistic aspect of revelation, for the two days of the holiday?

Shavuot affords us the opportunity to test ourselves, and in doing so, to grow immeasurably. We can observe Shavuot—even if we cannot be in our synagogues or each others homes this year—with candles, *kiddush*, private *tefillah* (prayer) and festive meals, and by making these days different from the usual routine of work and school (now, for most of us, at home). Even in the privacy of our own homes we can take time this holiday to re-accept and re-commit ourselves to Torah by studying our tradition: read the Bible, some Rabbinic literature, a contemporary book on Judaism in English. Devote this stay-at-home Shavuot to something higher.

It is my pleasure to wish our entire Atlantic Jewish community a hag Shavu'ot same'ah—a happy and meaningful festival of Shavuot. ❧

SO WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

BY REBBETZIN FRIMET SHAYNA YAGOD, CONGREGATION TIFERES ISRAEL, MONCTON, NB

These past two months, from Purim till now, has altered our lives forever. As our provinces shut down in dreaded anticipation of this plague, and amidst Pesach preparations, we suddenly found ourselves in the midst of new reality—Shuls, Cheders, Yeshivas, Beis Yaakovs, Ulpanas, Mikvahs, Chabad Houses—all shut down in the physical sense; solo Seders; social distancing; home isolation, a new meaning to disinfecting; mask; gloves; no flour, yeast, rubbing alcohol, lysol, paper towel and other types of paper to be found in our stores and the list goes on. If we needed a reminder of what the plagues of Egypt looked like, we certainly received it particularly Plague 10 where our ancestors were isolated

in their homes with a plague raging outside. The upside, of course, is what followed—Redemption and The Exodus. When one thinks about it, being in the midst of this during Pesach—Hashem has amazing timing!

Sitting down to Seder this year was truly filled with meaning and gratitude to Hashem. With borders closed and family members making their own Seders in safe places B"H, yes, we were physically apart but we could enjoy the Chag with peace of mind that everyone was healthy and secure where they were. Nishmat Kol Chai, the Prayer of Gratitude, that we say at the end of the Seder, took on a whole new meaning this year.

In the cholera epidemic of 1831, Rabbi

Akiva Eiger (who himself tended to the cholera patients) issued wide ranging Halachic directives of what had to be done to stay safe. Included in this was the directive that not only had the Prayer for the Government be said, as usual, on Shabbat Morning, but one had to pray daily that Hashem give wisdom to the government to issue the safest directives to the population regarding the health and welfare of its citizens. We are so blessed to be in such a wonderful country and particularly in the Maritimes. The Province of New Brunswick imposed a state of emergency early on and Baruch Hashem, lives were saved.

At the same time, we must remember all

the victims of COVID-19. Many countries suffered many losses. Some of the Jewish communities worldwide unfortunately faced a different scenario than us. Many had relatives who went on to their eternal rest and/or in the hospital or at home with this Mageifah (plague). Incomes evaporated overnight with the shutdowns. University students, at all levels, suddenly found themselves on pause or worse, their academics and prospects for finishing their degrees ceased to exist.

One of the remarkable things that transpired in our new reality was how our educational institutions, both private and public, adapted. They had to convert their instruction to online and telephone. It is truly amazing to see how many of the Jewish Educational Institutions in Canada were so well prepared in anticipation of the shut down and had all their instruction and avenues of instruction fully operational the next day.

Our Cheder, which has for the last few years incorporated online learning, followed suite. It is truly heartwarming how all of our Cheder

and Torah High School families made the process seamless. A very big thank you is also due to Rabbi Yagod and our volunteer online Rebbi, Rav Pinchos, who have put so much into the Torah High School online classes. We are truly the Cheder that never sleeps!

As we transition into the new normal and eventually receive back our beloved Jewish Institutions, we have to ask ourselves where do we go from here? In this week's Parsha, Acharei Mot—Kedoshim, there is a whole section of the Parsha that deals with what we do in private. We are in the solitude of our homes and have time to reflect on this question. On the individual level, we have to ask ourselves, what do we truly want in life and particularly what type of Jewish Life do we REALLY want?

At the community level—will we return to our precious Shuls with newfound appreciation for the beautiful sounds of Davening, ease in making Minyans, and Bar and Bat Mitzvahs that have more Mitzvah than Bar? Will the new Jewish Adult walk out with true appreciation for their Heritage and continue it? Will people

have more appreciation for the various Torah classes, social events, emails and Rabbis' Drashas that are provided for the benefit of their community? Will people have more appreciation for the wonderful men, women and children who truly make their institution run including the silent volunteers who are many times lynch pins in various events? Will students have more of an appreciation of their teachers, Rebbis, Morahs and Principals? Will they and their parents appreciate how much preparation goes into each class? Will all the wonderful Chessed (kindness) that developed among community members continue especially from those who never knew they could have such a meaningful impact on others? These are just some of the questions that have to be asked.

Hopefully, when we will all IY"H be post Corona threat, let us come to a new kinder, more thoughtful and meaningful social interaction. Let us come with a new respect for our Jewish Institutions where we can authentically have Jewish Continuity.

Have a safe and healthy summer. Kayitz Tov. A Gitten Zimmer. ❧

LESSONS FROM COVID-19

BY RABBI CHANAN CHERNITSKY, DIRECTOR, CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF NEWFOUNDLAND

As the world struggles to protect itself and bounce back from the pandemic, we can't help but wonder: "Why is this happening?"

We also know the famous saying of the founding father of the Hasidic movement, the Baal Shem Tov, that everything one sees or hears is teaching us a lesson in serving G-d.

On a summer morning, July 9th 1982 Michael Fagan managed to enter the Buckingham Palace in London. After the successful entry and avoiding detection from the Royal Police, he managed to find the Queen's bedroom, Elizabeth II, whom he promptly awoke. The Queen is said to have displayed regal presence under the pressure of her captor. As she was speaking to Fagan, the Queen managed to contact the Royal police twice. Under his threats, the Queen wasn't able to be explicit on the phone but tried to hint to the fact that she was under duress. The Royal police did not get the hints. The

Queen was ultimately saved minutes later by one of the maids in the palace who called the Royal police.

Someone pointed out the irony in the story—how the policemen's training for all the years leading to this event was for the sake of that moment when the Queen hinted that she needed help. BUT, when that moment came, the most deciding moment in their careers, they failed miserably.

Nobody knew that the moment would come, but we knew it could come.

Wow! What a lesson in life.

The reason why I'm sharing this story is because everything we've learnt and have been taught our entire lives was in preparation for this moment in history.

It was all a build up for this moment. We are watching a moment in history that changed the world and will change the world. This is our moment to shine—yes

there are challenges and difficulties—but if we are not ready this moment to live our lives to the fullest, to bring out the best and deepest resources within us, it may have all been in vain. Be strong!

Be courageous! This is the time when you have the G-d given gift to rise to the occasion.

Figure out who you are and dedicate your life to becoming an ambassador of light, love, of healing, of wisdom and redemption.

Don't be like the policemen in Buckingham palace! We can't afford to be that way.

This is the time not only to be strong but to realize our infinite value and realize how precious our lives are. Each and every one of us was sent down to this world for a mission that YOU and only YOU can accomplish.

May the memories from these times only be positive. May all those who need a speedy recovery have a speedy recovery. May all those who lost loved ones have the strength to deal with it in the best way possible. May all of us experience healing.

Have a healthy summer! ❧



PRAYING IN ISOLATION?!

BY RABBI YOSEF GOLDMAN, SGOOLAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE, FREDERICTON



In these most challenging times, I would like to offer my thoughts about how to set aside time during our “not such busy time” to pray, and my prayer is that by the time this is published, it will be just a memory, and we would have return to our regular schedule. Amen!

The Talmud tells us in Tractate B'rachoth (the first one—which teaches us, mostly, about the different blessings & prayers) about a situation somewhat similar to our days. Rabbi Nachman missed a few days of coming to Synagogue for the Morning (Shacharis) Service, so his father, Rav Yitzchak, who was concerned, paid him a visit. He asked his son in a very respectful way: ‘why haven’t you been showing up to Shul recently?’ Rabbi Nachman responded

that he had stomach issues, so he could not come, until he was cured (we must remember that in those days, the houses, as well as the Public Buildings did not have running water, or an attached washroom...). Rav Yitzchak responded that his son should have contacted the Cantor/Chazzan/Gabbai in order to find out (approximately) what time they would be saying the Amida (Shmoneh Esrei) prayer? and join the community, from his home, to pray at the same time with them. When Rabbi Nachman asked, why all this “trouble”? “He said to him: For R. Johanan said in the name of R. Simeon bar Yohai: “What is the meaning of the verse: But as for me, let my prayer be made unto Thee, O Lord, in an acceptable time? (Psalms 69:14)

When is the time acceptable? When the congregation prays.” (B'rachoth 7b-8a).

Last week, a few Rabbis gave classes about the true meaning & importance of the Law: “Love thy neighbour as thyself” (Leviticus 19:18), and I will try to explain how it becomes even more relevant to our prayer together. Most Conservative & Reform congregations begin their morning service with a short statement (most of them with a beautiful tune): “Behold, I accept upon myself the Positive Commandment of VE’AHAVTA LE’RE’ACHA KAMOCHA” (love thy neighbour as

thyself). I know this, because two weeks ago, an Orthodox community which I was praying with on Zoom, changed their password, so I joined a couple of congregations in the US. Rabbi Daniel Glatstein explained that this is actually a Law (to begin the Shacharis service with this statement) quoted by the Shulchan Aruch (Code of Jewish Law). It originates from a contemporary of Rabbi Yosef Karo—Rabbi Yitzchak Luria (AKA the ARI Z”L). So, my question is why don’t Orthodox Shuls begin with this proclamation?! I have no answer.

The largest Synagogue in the world in ancient times was in Alexandria, Egypt. They are said to have had 24,000 members, and the Gabbais (ushers) would wave flags in different colours, to get the attention of the congregants to answer Amen, Barchu, Kadish & Kedusha, since they could not hear the Chazzan. Imagine a full-scale stadium without any microphones... Our Sages, in the Talmud (Tractate Sukkah 51a), were wondering what happened to such a magnificent Synagogue?! Their answer is that the downfall of this Shul was that they were divided (physically & mentally) into cliques, based on your profession. The cobblers could not stand the shoemakers; the tailors couldn’t sit next to the black smiths; the gold smiths felt that they were ‘too good’ to befriend the silver & copper smiths etc. Even worse (in my opinion) is the conclusion of our Sages in Midrash Tanchuma that “each professional hates their fellow competitors”.

So, in conclusion, the proper way to come together in prayer, is to work on removing these jealousies and negative feelings, and the way to do it is to make that declaration! Yes, I am human, I am imperfect, but I can put aside these feelings and thank Hashem for creating ALL of humanity—because I cannot survive alone in this madness.

This is also the appropriate time to thank all the people who are helping us stay alive, safe, well-nourished & healthy! May G-d bless them and heal us! Amen! ☺

WASH YOUR HANDS AND REMEMBER WHOSE HANDS YOU ARE IN!

BY RABBI MENDEL FELDMAN, CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF THE MARITIMES

The verse in Psalms (chapter 119:89) reads as follows “Forever, O G-d, Your word stands firm in the heavens.”

What exactly is the meaning of this verse? And which words of G-d are we referring to?

Rabbi Israel Baal Shem-Tov (founder of the Chasidic movement 1698-1760) explains as follows, we know (Mishna Avot) that during the six days of creation

G-d created the world with ten utterances “let there be light”, “let there be a sky in the midst of the waters”, “let the earth sprout vegetation” etc. It is these utterances, these very words that stand firmly within the sky to vivify them, give them life, and bring them into existence.

Basically, the Baal Shem Tov is introducing the idea of constant creation and explains that it is not sufficient that G-d created the world 5780 years ago—the world is not on cruise control—G-d is constantly recreating the world.

Chasidic teaching gives the following

analogy: When throwing a rock from a mountain, since the nature of matter is to fall downward due to the pull of gravity, the rock will naturally fall to the ground. However, when throwing a rock from the ground up, since we are now investing energy that is against the nature of matter, the rock will only go up as long as it contains this invested energy and then it will resume to its original nature and return to the ground.

So too with the world, before creation, the world was ex-nihilo. During creation, G-d breathed life into the world that brings it into existence against its “natural state” (ex-nihilo), and as such it will only remain in existence as long as G-d creates it.

The Baal Shem Tov explains that if G-d’s word were to depart from the heavens for even just an instant G-d forbid, the entire world would become void, it would be as though it never existed.

What does this mean for us today?

While these are very trying and challenging times, the pandemic has put the entire world

at a stand still and we feel like we’ve lost all sense of stability, we need to know that this too is part of a larger picture and no matter how powerful or advanced we think we are, ultimately, G-d is in control. We need to place our trust in G-d, He created us, and He will take care of us!

And now that by Divine design we are quarantined let’s do something about it.

Many Jews view Judaism with the mindset that religion is reserved for and observed in the Synagogue, in reality however the home is the foundation and cornerstone of Yiddishkeit.

While the Shul is a crucial component in Jewish life, the vast majority of Jewish observances is practiced in the home.

So while synagogues are temporarily closed,—lay Tefilin and pray at home, while Talmud Torahs are shut—study Torah at home. Light Shabbat candles, put a coin in the charity box, affix a Mezuzah on your door, let us do a Mitzvah and *make our home a Sanctuary for G-d.*

With prayers that G-d bring an end to this pandemic and we meet again very soon in Shul and celebrate Simchas together with happiness and gladness of heart. ❧



EL AL FLIGHT IN HALIFAX

BY JOEL JACOBSON

There was that “Come From Away” feeling when El Al flight LY26 from Newark, NJ, was forced to a Halifax NS landing late Thursday evening, January 9, because of smoke in the cockpit.

The alarm was sounded about 90 minutes after takeoff, over the Atlantic, and the captain decided to land at the nearest airport, Halifax Stanfield International Airport, at about 11 p.m.

Unable to depart the next day because Shabbat would have arrived before the final destination, Tel Aviv, was reached, the passengers spent almost 48 hours in the Nova Scotia capital. El Al doesn’t fly on Shabbat. The experience was generally memorable and uplifting, as about 150 passengers and crew were welcomed warmly by the Halifax Jewish community.

Bassie Feldman, wife of Chabad Rabbi Mendy Feldman, was called by El Al personnel when the Boeing 777 plane landed. “They asked if I could help find accommodations and make food arrangements

for some of the people,” she wearily, yet excitedly, told CJNI Saturday evening, after the flight left Halifax for its final destination in Tel Aviv. “We realized the stranded passengers would be anxious and wanted to make them as comfortable as possible. We wanted to show Chabad and Maritime hospitality,” she added.

Many visitors experienced a Friday night Shabbat dinner and post-Shabbat services lunch Saturday at Bet Chabad, near the Lord Nelson Hotel, which found about 70 rooms for the guests, and Beth Israel Synagogue, both within easy walking distance for several who attended shul Saturday morning. Friday, on hearing of the flight delay, several Beth Israel women prepared extra food for Saturday’s Kiddush.

Lili, from New Jersey, who didn’t want her last name used, was travelling to visit family in Israel. She said the pilot kept them well informed of the smoke problem. “Passengers who didn’t know each other started talking and became like family. There were young children and older people, and everyone in between, all being taken

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care of. We knew El Al would do anything they could to help. They flew staff from Newark to help us through the weekend.” Lili was travelling with her daughter, Nicole, 19, youngest of her four children, who was travelling to visit friends in Israel. A Yeshiva NY student, Nicole helped amuse the younger children while arrangements were being made for accommodations. “They gave us three hotel options, two near the airport, and the Lord Nelson downtown, which was convenient for those wanting to celebrate Shabbat at shul and Chabad. The Halifax Jewish community who helped us was very inspiring, working hard to make us comfortable,” she said. Lili added, “Travelling in these circumstances with Nicole makes this OUR story, a mother-daughter story we will never forget.”

Roni Sinai of Teaneck NJ was one of six men walking to Beth Israel Synagogue for Saturday services. “The pilot didn’t take any chances. He was very professional and kept us informed.”

Varda Avram, Tel Aviv, and Eran Aloni and Muzi Haddad, both of Haifa, were returning home after visiting family in the United States. Eran said the first few minutes on the plane were “a little tense” until

they learned what was happening. “But the captain was very friendly, informative and encouraging. The whole crew was cooperative.” Avram enjoyed the brief stay in Halifax. “We saw the city. Some of us even went to Peggy’s Cove (a standard tourist highlight of the area.) The Shabbat dinner at Chabad was wonderful. They even brought food from Montreal for us.”

The Rebbitsen said she was told a “small number” would be coming to dinner but when she found it would be about 40 people, things became a bit more stressful. “The day was short, with Shabbat starting around 4:30 p.m. In Halifax, it is difficult to find the volume of kosher food for that number, and the chicken would be frozen and wouldn’t thaw in time to cook. A group in Montreal was able to find extra food for us there and ship it to Halifax in time.” Rabbi Feldman and Bassie did the cooking, preparing and set up for the dinner. “Everyone pitched in later to help clean up,” Bassie said, “It was very Hamish, like everyone was family. It was warm, welcoming beautiful and inspiring. There was singing and dancing, a feeling of great camaraderie.” She concluded, “One woman was moved to tears, telling me how grateful she was for the effort we put in for them.”

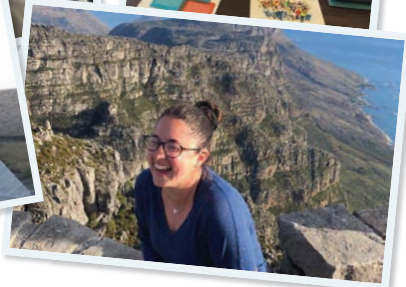
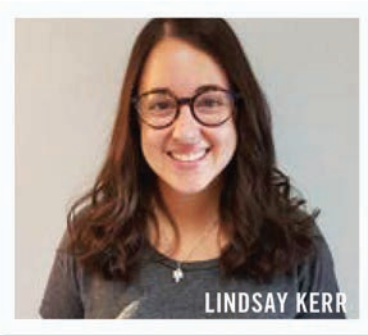
SAYING GOODBYE TO LINDSAY KERR

Our Director of Hillel & Next Generation Engagement,
October 2017– February 2020

Three years ago I attended BBYO International Convention in Dallas, Texas and confirmed a suspicion I had been feeling for quite some time. Classroom teaching was not the right match for me; what I really wanted to do was work in Jewish informal education. Shortly after my teaching term ended I began looking for work in this field and at the end of the summer was offered a job with the Atlantic Jewish Council which I began in October 2017. Since then I have been doing work that I love and feeling grateful for trusting my gut. At the beginning of March, I will begin a new position as the Director of Student Life at Hillel BC in Vancouver. I have really enjoyed my time on the east coast and am so appreciative of how welcomed I was by the community here. Moving to a city you’ve never been to and don’t know anyone in is very daunting, but the warmth I felt, even before arriving, was incredible. Thank you for opening up your community to me and allowing me to do the work that I love for the last 2.5 years.

As someone who appreciates symmetry, I find it fitting that I wrap up my first Jewish communal job just a few days after returning from BBYO International Convention which was once again in Dallas this year. My gut was right 3 years ago and I haven’t looked back!

Thanks again!—Lindsay



Mazel tov our Winter 2020 Abraham Leventhal Memorial Scholarship Recipients



Aaron Bates
Dalhousie University,
Medicine



Artur Brunets
Dalhousie University,
Engineering



Ada Denil
NSCAD,
Bachelor of Fine Arts



Melanie Dumaresq
Dalhousie University,
Nursing



Hiyam Gedalia
Dalhousie University,
Neuroscience



Sara Lawlor
Dalhousie University,
Masters of Public Administration



Michelle Levin
Saint Mary's University,
Criminology



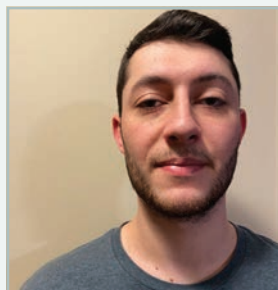
Lola Leving
Dalhousie University,
Neuroscience



Ben Rittenberg
Dalhousie University,
Kinesiology



Yana Shprits
Saint Mary's University,
Bachelor of Arts



Elias Vajda
Dalhousie University,
Science



Peggy Walt
King's University, Masters of Fine
Arts in Creative Nonfiction



We are here for you!

Please let people know they can contact us if they need help.

During the pandemic, we are providing help getting groceries, regularly checking in on those who are socially isolated with phone calls, and offering emergency financial support.

Call us anytime.

Sincerely, the staff of the
Atlantic Jewish Council