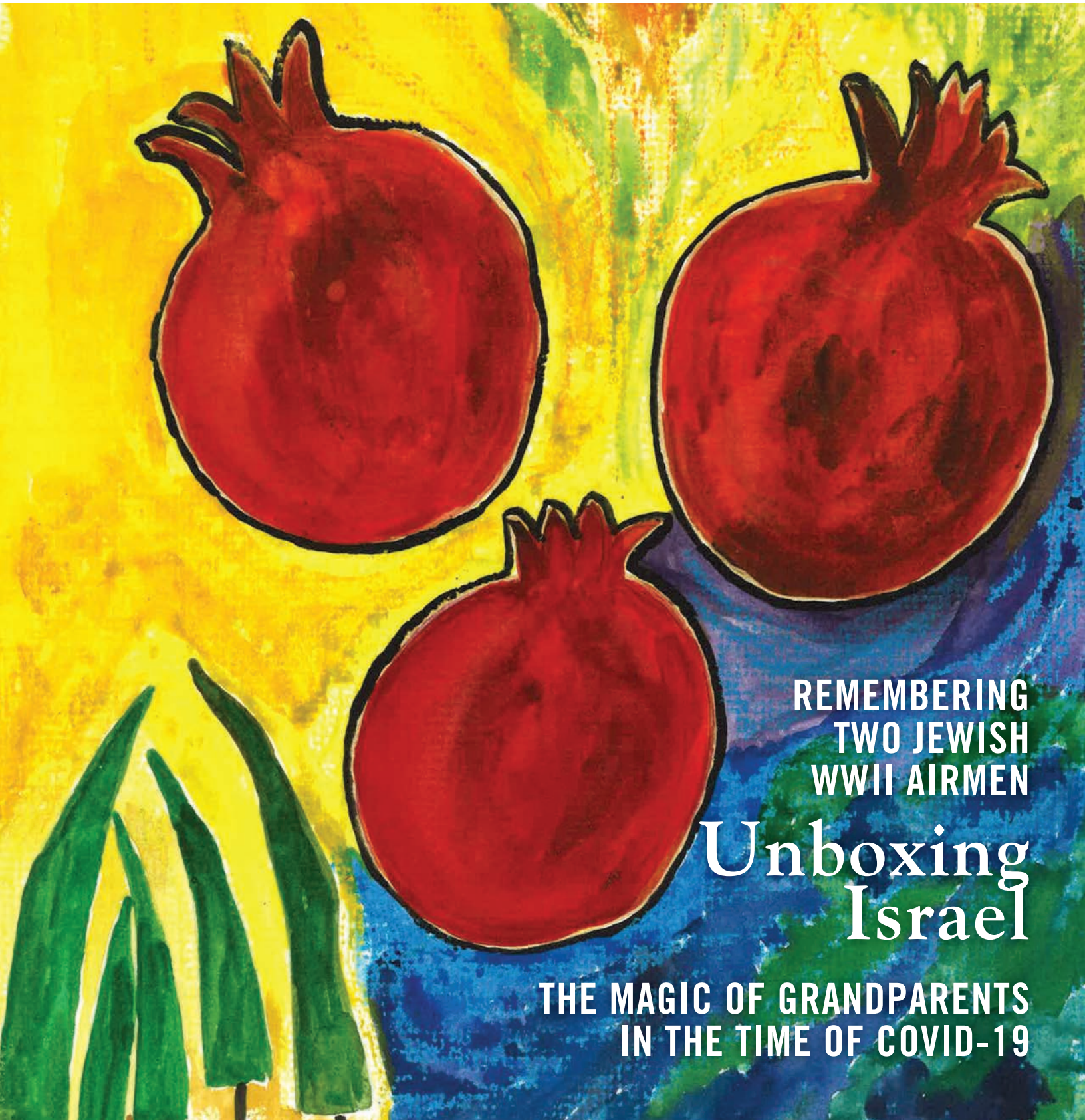


Shalom

CONNECTING THE ATLANTIC JEWISH COMMUNITY



FALL 2020



REMEMBERING
TWO JEWISH
WWII AIRMEN

Unboxing
Israel

THE MAGIC OF GRANDPARENTS
IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

THANK YOU TO THE FEATURED GUESTS OF OUR 2020 SPRING/SUMMER CONVERSATION SERIES!



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Amy Rubin



Bill Chernin



Michael Steinitz



Rabbi Dr. Notech Glogauer



Irwin Lampert



Peggy Walt



Mark David



Joel Jacobson



Richard Steinitz



Gerry Lonergan



Elizabeth Loder

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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

FALL 2020
VOL. 45 | NO. 2
TISHREI 5781

**COVER ARTIST**

Jennifer Baig Jacobson grew up in Moncton, NB. Surrounded by art and artists from an early age, painting has always been part of her life. Always encouraged by grandparents and parents to paint and express herself artistically, painting

has always been a constant. Second generation owner of Studio 14, Gifts & Gallery, Jennifer's love of art and colour can easily be seen at her shop. Jennifer studied art history in university and spent a year in France visiting many museums where she learned a lot about colour and composition.



11



17

Some of Bubbe's cooking goodies that Lisa Goldberg still has: the famous cream of wheat; tea; her nana Goldberg's tea cups and Lisa's great-grandmother's quilt. The cookbooks are famous Jewish ones entitled: A Treasure For My Daughter.



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Jaffa Flea Market. Photo: Amir Menahem

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From The Desk Of **MARILYN KAUFMAN**

President of the Atlantic Jewish Council

A SUMMER HEAT WAVE TRANSCENDED UPON US IN THE ATLANTIC REGION DEMANDING THAT WE LOOK FOR UNIQUE WAYS OF KEEPING COOL, AND VENTURING OUT OF OUR LOCAL “BUBBLE” AS COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS EASED SOMEWHAT, AT OUR PROVINCIAL BORDERS.

We found ourselves travelling by car to areas in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and the Island seeking a change of scenery to get away from the quarantine isolation of the past few weeks. Some even ventured as far as “The Rock” by plane.

With the advent of COVID-19 online shopping took on a whole new meaning for many of us. Who knew that “plastic” would be so valuable a commodity? Thus, when the timing was right (according to government standards), we embraced the opportunity to partake of the malls opening their doors to masked shoppers, even the banks. (One can certainly see the irony in this).

Given the go-ahead to have small gatherings of family and/or friends, we greeted this move forward with great enthusiasm. The internet, Zoom and virtual programming provided the much needed link with people of all ages from our various communities, both locally and across the country. But there is nothing like the face to face communication over a barbecued meal, the personal touch of friends shaking hands (within our bubble), or even better the beloved Bubbie and Zaidie hugs with grandchildren.

As we struggled to meet and overcome the challenges of “the virus” here at home, in innovative ways, we became aware that cases in Israel took an upward surge in a second wave, and the country closed its doors to visitors in an attempt to mitigate the spread of the disease. Restrictions here at home were put on visitation of loved ones in senior citizen homes and hospitalized family members. This was most difficult to contend with for all involved and restrictions continue in some provinces.

As we move cautiously forward, the Synagogues in our Region, are open for Friday night Shabbat services. Masked indoor presence is required along with physical distancing. Bar Mitzvah celebrations are a go, but being implemented with some ingenuity. It is good to be able to celebrate simchas in these challenging times and it is a tranquil feeling to be able to once again enter our House of Prayer.

As we reflect on this past year, Rosh Hashanah, the New Year, is almost upon us. We have perhaps, up until now, been taken over by COVID-19, its negative impact on our business communities, summer programs, social relationships within our

communities and our daily lifestyle. We now face a new academic year with trepidation and optimism that our children will return to classes, staff will return to work, and that they will be safe in the work environment.

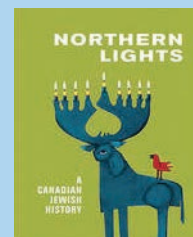
While we are cautiously optimistic with the recent announcement of the UAE's relationship with Israel, we actively continue with Jewish and Israeli advocacy. Many of our communities continue to work with other interfaith groups and various levels of government to fight ongoing hate and racism. Nationally we continue to develop plans for various Israel Experience programs. The AJC has had good participation in its Wednesday night online speaker series as well as virtual programs provided by JNF and JFC-UIA. The AJC has also offered a variety of virtual kids programming for its members. More information on general programming may be obtained by contacting the AJC office in Halifax.

Once again, on behalf of the AJC Board, I offer condolences to families who have lost loved ones. It has been particularly difficult in these times.

Best wishes for a Shanah Tovah, a Healthy and Sweet New Year. —Marilyn

In the Spring of 2020, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, The Canadian Jewish News, the Lola Stein Institute, and the Toronto Heschel School published **NORTHERN LIGHTS: A CANADIAN JEWISH HISTORY.**

A collection of essays and photographs reflecting Canadian history through the legacy of its Jewish citizens. It tells of the opportunities and camaraderie that Jews have experienced in Canada, hurdles that they faced, and the ingenuity with which they responded. The collaboration on this beautiful hardcover coffee-table book began in 2017 in an attempt to create a history of Jewish Canada in honour of the nation's 150th birthday. Authors who contributed chapters include Myra Freeman, Ellin Bessner, Gil Troy, Marsha Lederman, Irwin Cotler, and Jay Teitel. Halifax native Pam Medjuck Stein was instrumental in this book's publication.



Limited copies are available for purchase directly from the AJC. The cost is \$50 per book + shipping and there is a limit of one book per household. Please email Naomi Rosenfeld at executivedirector@theajc.ca to purchase your copy.



From The Desk Of NAOMI ROSENFELD

Executive Director

CALLING—AND CALLING ON—OUR JEWISH COMMUNITY DURING COVID-19

In the middle of March, when it quickly became apparent that COVID-19 would cause a disruption to society unlike anything else ever seen before in our lifetime, we quickly decided to stop what we were doing at the AJC and begin doing one thing: making phone calls. For weeks, I found myself immersed in spreadsheet after spreadsheet of indiscernible digits. Over a hundred volunteers stepped up to join our effort to call as many people in this community as we could: young, old, healthy, immunocompromised, married, and single. And the results of the more than 500 calls made were extraordinary. People connecting across generations and cultures, different denominations and geography, all in the name of our Jewish community.

It's a little ironic: at this time of year, every year, I spend a considerable amount of time putting together the AJC's annual report, and, even despite COVID, I did so again this year*. For weeks, I agonized over how to best articulate concisely and poignantly the value of the AJC to this community, and what an insurmountable loss it would

be for this community if the AJC no longer existed. Every year, I try to outdo our accomplishments from the year before: this year we gave out more PJ Library books, ran more programs, reached more unaffiliated Jews, and gave more support to Israel than last year! I had always created this report with the mentality of the bigger, flashier, or louder: the better our community.

And then COVID happened. And instead of running huge numbers of grand programs with large audiences, we pivoted to phone calls. We connected one-on-one. Quietly, we made sure that this community was ok by organizing grocery runs and giving financial support to families in need. And in a very different way than usual, we provided an alternate value to this community. One that may not look as grand in our newsletters, but that reached out and offered support in a way we never had before.

This fall, we will begin once again organizing volunteers to pick up the phone and make phone calls. And in these phone calls, we will certainly still be checking in on everyone, seeing how you are doing and

if there's anything we can do to help. But this time, we will also be asking something of you: to make a donation to our United Jewish Appeal (UJA) annual fundraising campaign.

This annual fundraising campaign is the lifeblood of our organization and community. Each donation ensures that we are here both to answer your calls and to make them to you. Each donation ensures that we can plan big, loud programs AND quietly help those who come to us in need.

So please, when you get a call (or an email) this fall asking for a donation to the UJA Campaign, please give generously and give punctually. And let us get back to doing what we most love working to support this community.

Wishing everyone a sweet, happy, and HEALTHY new year. Shana tova!

*For those of you reading this thinking, "I didn't get an annual report this year," stay tuned! It's on its way in a new format that I think you'll enjoy even more than those Jewish holiday calendar fridge magnets we sent out a couple of years back. 🍯

Shana Tova!

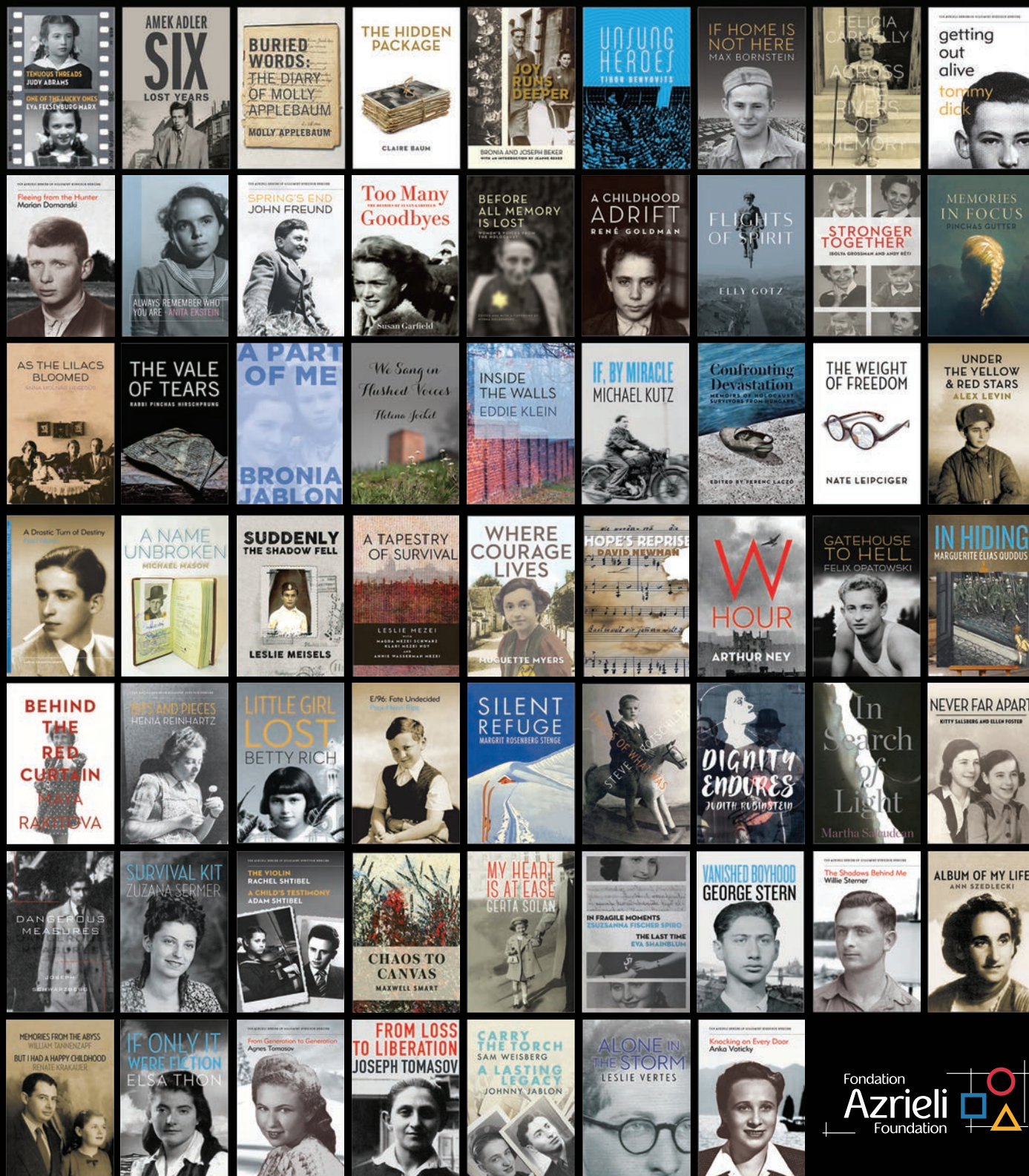
*The Atlantic Jewish Council
board of directors and the staff
wish all our readers and their
families good health, happiness
and peace in the new year.*



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

Across the country virtual Canada Day celebrations reflected our need to stay safe during the pandemic. This year we were invited to partner with the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 to present a celebratory five-minute video as part of the Halifax Canada Day virtual celebration. Rebecca MacKenzie-Hopkins, Public Programs Manager at Pier 21, spearheaded the creation and production of an original video, *Mawita'nej* (Let Us Gather). The video highlighted local multicultural talent—drumming, dancing, fiddling, and the performance of Leon Dubinsky's song *Rise Again*, featuring singers Leon Dubinsky and family, Jah'Mila, and a virtual choir composed of some individual from the NS Mass Choir, DaPoPo Theatre and other local groups. Sons of Mambertou opened and closed the presentation with the Honour Song. The video is posted on the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21's YouTube site.

Vibe Israel developed *Unboxing Israel* as part of their authentic digital assets to deliver Israel

content to a new generation of Jews, telling Israel's story from many perspectives. Please see the article on Page 20 for highlights from their 2020 virtual summit and for information on how to access their resources.

The 17th annual Holocaust Education Week (HEW), October 25 – November 8, presents programs to challenge and encourage action and conversation. Holocaust education inspires us to think critically about democracy and inclusion in present-day society. This year our events will be streamed virtually and include speakers, films, an art exhibit, and a special student program. Partners this year are the University of King's College, Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, Halifax Public Libraries, and the Azrieli Foundation. HEW is made possible, in part, by a generous grant from the Azrieli Foundation.

The 7th Atlantic Jewish Film Festival (AJFF) in Halifax opens November 19 screening international award-winning films for four days.

Given the COVID-19 situation we made the leap online and we will be presenting a virtual film festival on the Cineplex Cinemas' platform. Our singular festival offers us the opportunity to share our values and culture with the broader community while providing programming that would otherwise not be available in our area. Returning chair Lynn Rotin and the organizing committee, Philip Belitsky, Rosalind Belitsky, Jon Goldberg, Anna Hazankin, Linda Law, Jordan Schelew, Flint Schwartz, Ann Thaw, Howard Thaw and Peggy Walt, are busy working to ensure filmgoers an engaging virtual festival with relevant programming. We will deeply miss not being able to gather in-person, however, we are excited to include viewers from all of our communities in the Atlantic provinces. The complete festival schedule is available at AJFF.ca, please plan to attend and support the growth of the AJFF!

Wishing you lots of joy, good health, and peace in the New Year, Shana Tova! 🌟

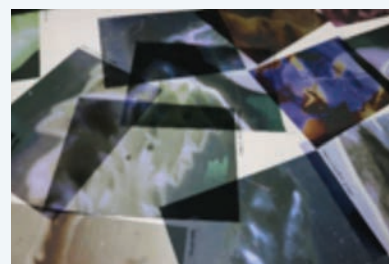
17TH ANNUAL HOLOCAUST EDUCATION WEEK

November 4 – 30: Chase Gallery, NS Archives, Halifax, NS

Speculative Cartographies, Mapping the Archive will be an exhibition of studio research undertaken by Halifax artists Angela Henderson and Solomon Nagler, and Polish Artists Aleksandra Janus, Aleksander Schwarz and Łukasz Baksik. This exhibition includes research conducted in five sites of mass graves of Jewish victims of the Holocaust that have been identified by the Zapomniane Foundation. Present in the exhibition are archival materials and experimental cartographic methodologies undertaken in forests and villages where there have been confirmed speculations of mass graves. Some of these sites are marked, others are still undergoing further investigation. The exhibition will also include photographic research from Łukasz Baksik, including excerpts from his series *Matzevot for Everyday Use*, a poignant investigation and documentation of *Matzevot* that were pillaged during the Holocaust, and still used to this day for civic and private infrastructure and building material.

Schedule and updates for all Holocaust Education Week programs: HolocaustEducation.ca

Given the continuing concern regarding COVID-19 and recent guidance from Public Health officials the Chase Gallery remains closed. We will continue to monitor the situation and if the gallery does not reopen in November the exhibit will be virtual.



This year has been one of
change and challenge.

As we enter the new year,
we want to know what's
on your mind.

Tell us at cija.ca/you

Your Voice Matters

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MESSAGE FROM CENTRE FOR ISRAEL AND JEWISH AFFAIRS (CIJA)

Community and advocacy during uncertainty.

BY JUDY ZELIKOVITZ, VICE PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY AND LOCAL PARTNER SERVICES AT CIJA, THE CENTRE FOR ISRAEL AND JEWISH AFFAIRS

Rosh Hashanah is a time of new beginnings, a time to reflect on a year gone by and on the new year ahead. As is often the case with new beginnings, it is also a time of uncertainty. Last Rosh Hashanah, we wished each other a sweet year, unsure of the future but hopeful of things to come.

As we herald the arrival of this new year, we do so understanding that we control far less than we had thought. Normally, the uncertainty that comes with a new start is imbued with hope for the possibilities ahead. This year, however, it is uncertainty itself that dominates. As 5780 draws to a close, we have learned that, during periods of uncertainty, we must seek what we can rely on: the strength of our community and our resolve to face these unprecedented challenges together.

In 5780, the challenges were many, and our community met them with an empowering, inspiring, and united response.

When urgent help was needed, social service agencies and not-for-profits mobilized, delivering food, providing services remotely, and offering support to those who needed it most. Jewish Federations, including the AJC, shifted their focus to emergency fundraising campaigns to meet the immediate needs of service agencies on the front lines, ensuring that the changing needs of our most vulnerable were met. In Atlantic Canada, this included volunteers calling other community members to check-in and offer support. CIJA advocated for the inclusion of not-for-profits in government support programs, such as the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, and helped ensure that Jewish schools were eligible. Volunteers mobilized by the thousands, responding to calls for assistance, helping the many seriously impacted by COVID-19.

Our community was tested in other ways, as antisemitism, the crafty shapeshifter that is always on the move, found new outlets during the pandemic. With Statistics Canada reporting a rise in antisemitic incidents through 5780, our community from coast to coast continued to unite, offering support where it was needed most. Indeed, this was the year we learned the many ways we could help and, for far too many, how to reach out to ask for help themselves.

As we renew our talk of new beginnings at the conclusion of a year defined by uncertainty, many wonder: how can we plan for the year ahead?

For 5781, we must change our approach and, instead of planning according to dates on a calendar, look at our character for the coming year. As Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz z"l, wrote


This does not mean, however, that on Rosh HaShanah one should make plans for the whole year. That would be impossible... What one should do on this day is form a general picture of what ought to be the character and direction of this year.

For 5781, we can accept the uncertainty of what is to come and focus on the knowledge that we can rely on the tested strength of our community. And that continued strength is up to us. We can commit to volunteering our time and, if we can, donating our money. We can commit to finding creative ways to give back and offering support to those experiencing hardship. Instead of planning large events or travel, we can plan to lean on our community when in need and support it every way we can. We can plan to check in on those who are vulnerable, to be more understanding of ourselves and others, and to be more present when given the gift of company among our loved ones.



Judy Zelikovitz

As we reframe what planning looks like for 5781, it can be difficult to determine how best to dedicate our efforts. There are many good causes that need our help. Instead of being overwhelmed, be reassured that, for whatever assistance you can offer, there is a worthy cause, organization, or initiative looking for someone just like you. The AJC and sister Federations are great starting places. Check out their campaigns and learn what their various service agencies and not-for-profits are doing.

Though much of the past year has been uncertain, Rosh Hashanah presents us with a chance to start anew. We *can* still hope for and work toward a better tomorrow. 5781 will be a year defined not by our individual wishes and schedules but by our collective character and commitment to our community. Planning for uncertainty may seem counter-intuitive, but history has shown that we have the capacity to come together and overcome even the darkest of times. As we look ahead to 5781, amidst all the unknowns, one thing remains certain: our community will continue from strength to strength. 

The Atlantic Jewish Foundation

SCHOLARSHIPS

All applications must be received by March 31, 2021

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

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

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

Applications available at: theajc.ns.ca/scholarships

The Noa & Sarah Heinish Scholarship

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

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

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

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

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

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

To carry on their good works, the Heinish family established the Noa and Sarah Heinish Foundation. This charitable foundation has provided endowments supporting Jewish educational and health care institutions in Canada and Israel. A portion of the funds has been allocated to the Atlantic Jewish Foundation to provide an annual merit scholarship for a student from the Maritime Jewish Community to study in Israel.

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

The Miasnik-Rein Trust

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

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

Halifax Endowment Fund (Jayson Greenblatt Bursary)

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

Jayson Greenblatt Bursary—\$500 each.

JEWISH FEDERATIONS OF CANADA UNITED ISRAEL APPEAL (JFC—UIA)

BY NIKKI HOLLAND, PRESIDENT AND CEO

The COVID-19 pandemic turned the world sideways and it took some time for us to find a balance as we all adjusted to this new temporary reality. But thanks to the strength and commitment of Canadian Jewish Federations and the resilience of the Canadian Jewish community, we are working locally and nationally to help our communities and will come out of this stronger and healthier.

Throughout the crisis, JFC-UIA has been working with leadership at Canadian Jewish Federations to make sure that they have what they need to serve their communities. The response of the federations to urgent COVID-19 related needs within their local communities was outstanding as they acted immediately to ensure the health and safety of their constituents.

We are so proud of the work done by our partners across Canada. We are stronger

together! Whether it be by sharing ideas, pooling dollars together, collective thinking and planning, the ability to work together helped each of us individually in many ways. That's why this year, for the very first time, the Jewish Federations of Canada are coming together online as a national community of almost 400,000 to ring in the Jewish new year! And we want you to be a part of it!

CELEBRATION OF FEDERATION

A Canadian Rosh Hashanah has an exciting lineup of both Canadians and Israelis with something for everyone. Be sure to mark your calendars and join us on **Sunday, September 13, 2020 at 7:30 PM EDT**. Stay tuned for more details, we will share them soon!

We wish you a sweet and happy 5781 with health, happiness and peace. 🍷

A FEDERATION CELEBRATION

CANADIAN
**ROSH
HASHANAH**

Highlights of the event include:

Musical performances by
**Sophie Milman
& Nikki Yanofsky**

Appearances by
Dr. Ruth and Henry Winkler

The best shofar blowers
from each community

Plus many more incredible guests!



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CONTACT US AT OFFICE@CAMPKADIMAH.COM WITH ANY QUESTIONS



CANADIAN ASSOCIATES OF
**Ben-Gurion University
of the Negev**
Israel's Nation Building University

Save the Class of Covid-19

S.O.S. – Support our Students

The far-reaching effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have had a profound impact on the world, and have drastically altered the lives of current and prospective students at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU).

BGU students are grappling with stress, uncertainty, isolation, and confusion about their future. They are reeling from the skyrocketing unemployment and economic fallout.

An estimated one in five BGU students is at risk of delaying their studies due to financial duress.



Israeli students begin their studies at an older age, following their army service. Nearly all of them are financially independent, unable to go to their parents for assistance and unable to work during the pandemic. Some are now unable to pay for their basic needs.

The need is increasingly greater now, as Israel faces a widening economic crisis with unemployment exceeding 25% and the financial situation of many families becoming more tenuous.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The immediate needs in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic are urgent. BGU has spearheaded a worldwide campaign to raise \$6 million to meet the severe demand for financial aid that goes beyond just tuition, including:

2,000 financial aid packages for undergraduates, with an average amount of \$1,800 per package: \$2.75 million is needed to maintain current undergraduate enrollment.

400 financial aid packages for master's degree students, with an average amount of \$6,000 per package: \$1.75 million to incentivize and stabilize enrollment.

150 doctoral candidate financial aid packages, approximately \$14,000 per candidate: A need of \$1.5 million to ensure innovative research continues.

Help us act today to ensure a better future tomorrow.

**For our students.
For the Negev. For Israel.
For the world.**

For more information and to make a donation to the Fund, please go to bengurion.ca or call toll free at 1-833-809-3848

ONTARIO & ATLANTIC CANADA

Shimmy Wenner, Executive Director, Ontario and Atlantic Canada

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www.bengurion.ca

CAMP KADIMAH

The Power of a Community Coming Together

BY SARAH ATKINS, DIRECTOR

It has now been several months since May 14th, the day when it was officially announced that Camp Kadimah will keep its gates closed for the 2020 summer. This marked the first time in 77 years that Kadimah has remained closed over the summer.

Within the context of a global pandemic, which has touched every facet of our lives, the cancellation of a Jewish summer camp in Nova Scotia may not seem like a “big deal”. However, for the many members of our camp community, it certainly felt like it. A summer without camp is a summer without favourite camp meals, favourite Peulot (activities), without nighttime cabin chats, and without camp’s many, many long standing traditions; small and large.

Most importantly, many were worried about the loss of the camp’s Ruach (spirit) and Chevra (community). With the loss of a summer at camp, we were challenged with the question: will we be able to preserve these essential foundations so that camp’s future summers aren’t impacted? After this summer full of virtual programming, the answer to this question is a resounding YES!

Over the past several weeks, with the help of dozens of staff volunteers, we have organized twenty sectional programs, six camp-wide programs, and a summer-long schedule of engaging social media content curated by our camp’s Cornerstone staff cohort. Rather than diminish the value of camp, these programs have only amplified our yearning for camp, and all that it means to us.

We can’t wait to see all of you at the Barss in 2021! 🌟



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

 CampKadimah  campkadimah

REMEMBERING TWO JEWISH WORLD WAR II AIRMEN

SAMUEL MEYER LEVINE & NORMAN YAFFE

BY DR. JOSEPH B. GLASS, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

When you visit the Tiferes Israel Cemetery in Moncton, one gravestone stands out. It is smaller than most, and light grey coloured as compared to the predominantly black or red granite monuments. Most monuments in the cemetery have the abbreviation pay nun (פ"נ) in Hebrew script, meaning "here lies" and a Magen David (Star of David) at the top of the monument. These markings are missing from this distinct gravestone. In addition, unlike other surnames which repeat themselves on a few gravestones in the cemetery, the surname Yaffe is unique.

On close inspection, this military gravestone marks the resting place of Aircraftman 2nd Class 1673290 Norman Yaffe of the Royal Air Force (RAF). He died on June 30, 1943. The marker is stylized like all others maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Below the name, rank, serial number, and date of death is a Magen David with the Hebrew letters—tav, nun, tzade, bet, hei (ת נ צ ב ה), which is an abbreviation of the Biblical verse, "May his soul be bound up in the bond of eternal life" (I Samuel, 25:29). At the foot, where personalized texts were allowed, is the inscription "*Deeply missed and mourned by his parents, sisters, and brothers and friends.*" It is the only World War II military grave in the cemetery.

On my visit to the Tiferes Israel Cemetery, I wondered why this RAF soldier was laid to rest in Moncton. I questioned whether anyone knew who he was? I pondered as to whether anyone pays tribute to him each Remembrance Day. This year, I would like to remember Norman Yaffe as well as Samuel Meyer Levine. The latter was born in Montreal and enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF). He died when his plane crashed during a solo training flight. I would like to highlight these two overlooked men who died during their military service on Prince Edward Island,

and share their tragic stories that resulted in the ultimate sacrifice.

While researching the Jewish history of Prince Edward Island (see: *Shalom Magazine*, Spring 2019, pp. 20-5) I was able to identify over thirty Jewish men and women in the military, who served and trained on the Island. Most were Canadians but there were Jewish men from the United Kingdom, the United States, Czechoslovakia, and Norway. Most underwent training at the RCAF bases in Summerside, Charlottetown, and Mount Pleasant and then continued to the European warfront. Others were instructors, mechanics, radio operators, and clerks whose sojourns on PEI extended from months to years. Some were accompanied by their respective spouses. Some of these Jewish airmen died while serving on PEI.

Prince Edward Island was the location of five different RCAF training schools which operated for various lengths of time during the war. In Charlottetown, there were the No. 31 General Reconnaissance School and the No. 2 Air Navigation School; in Summerside, the No. 9 Service Flying Training School (later moved to Centralia) and the No. 1 General Reconnaissance School, and in Mount Pleasant, the No. 10 Bombing and Gunnery School. The aerodrome and training school near Charlottetown was originally opened on May 1, 1941 by the RAF under the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan.

Training in the air force has its inherent dangers. Some airmen paid the supreme sacrifice, perishing in training accidents, other mishaps or due to illness without leaving Canadian soil. During the war, 856 servicemen and servicewomen either died or were seriously injured while at air force training schools across Canada. The discussion opens with Samuel Levine who died in a flight training accident in 1941 and is followed by Norman Yaffe, who died in a ground mishap in 1943.



Gravestone of Norman Yaffe in the Tiferes Israel Cemetery, courtesy of Alexander Egorov

SAMUEL MEYER LEVINE (1914-1941)

Samuel (Sam) Meyer Levine, the third son of Aaron and Ida Sarah Levine, was born in Montreal in 1914. His Russian born parents arrived Canada in 1905. In 1921 his father was a commercial traveler in the clothing business. His annual income of \$1,500 supported his family with five boys ranging in age from twelve to three years old. They lived in a rented apartment in a row house in Outremont.

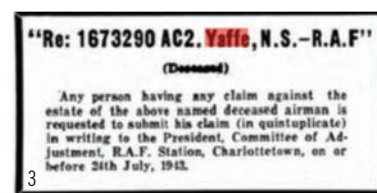
Sam graduated from Strathcona Academy, a school of the Protestant School Board in Outremont. He was a well-known tennis player in Montreal having won the championship at the North Branch YMCA. He also won a championship in Summerside in the summer of 1941. He appears to have been very athletic. When he enlisted,



1



2



3

1. Sam Levine's ill-fated flight from Summerside to Point Prim on a map of central Prince Edward Island (Cummins Atlas, 1928). The blue dotted line indicates the straight-line route and not necessarily the actual route flown. 2. Sam Meyer Levine, courtesy of the Canadian Jewish Heritage Network. 3. *Charlottetown Guardian*, July 6, 1943, p. 5, courtesy of Island Newspapers, UPEI Robertson Library.

he declared that he extensively engaged in hockey, baseball, tennis, golf, football, basketball, swimming, horseshoe pitching, table tennis, and softball.

From his high school graduation in 1931 until 1935 he was unemployed. He started working at Peerless Clothing Manufacturing Company in Montreal in the position of shipping and stock clerk. In 1937 he was the company's office manager in Amherst, Nova Scotia. From 1939 until his enlistment, he was a travelling salesman for Peerless Clothing.

He enlisted in the RCAF in Montreal in February 1941. This 26-year-old was six feet and one and a half inches tall and weighed 175 pounds. He had a dark complexion, brown eyes, and black hair. His brother Thomas C. Levine, also served with the R.C.A.F. He enlisted in December 1941.

Sam was trained to be a pilot in Toronto and Oshawa, ON, Victoriaville, QC, and Chatham, NB before he was transferred to Summerside to attend the No. 9 Service Flying Training School. He participated in Course 37 which ran from September 1 to November 21, 1941.

Sam was a newlywed. He married Margaret Fullerton in Moncton on June 28, 1941. Margaret was 21 years old and born in Sackville, NB. At the time of their marriage, her occupation was secretary. The RCAF noted in his personnel file that Sam had married without its permission. Margaret joined Sam in Summerside and resided off base with Mrs. Prichard in her home on Duke Street.

With the completion of this course, Sam would have received his flight badge. On November 18, 1941, this student pilot was the lone occupant of a Harvard Trainer. He took off from the Summerside airfield and

crashed some 70 kilometers to the south-east, off the south coast near Point Prim. That afternoon snow flurries impaired visibility and according to a witness the plane appeared to be in difficulty before it crashed into the water. An extensive search found the plane wreckage but did not find his body. Only in May the following year, after the ice in the Northumberland Strait cleared, did the lighthouse keeper at Point Prim find his body washed ashore nearby.

When Group Captain E.G. Fullerton presented wings to the 51 graduates of Course 37 in the Drill Hall at the Summerside base, Samuel Meyer Levine was awarded a Pilot's Badge posthumously. He had died just three days before graduation.

According to the *Charlottetown Guardian*, a funeral for him was planned in Summerside for May 19, 1942. "LAC Levine will be laid to rest in the RCAF plot there with customary RCAF funeral honors." The newspaper did not realize that he was Jewish and that his family's wishes were that he be buried in a Jewish cemetery near his family. His RCAF file noted "As this airman was of the Jewish faith, there was no temporary wooden cross erected on his grave." His body was brought to Montreal for burial. Major S. Gershon Levi, Senior Jewish Chaplain, officiated at the internment at the Baron de Hirsch Memorial Park.

NORMAN YAFFE (1924-1943)

Norman Yaffe was born in Liverpool, England in 1924. Little is known about his childhood, but he was the youngest of eleven children. His parents Isaac and Esther were born in Russia and wed in 1901 before their emigration. By 1902 they were in Liverpool where their first child was born.

Liverpool had a Jewish community estimated at 5,000 in 1900 and it grew to some 7,000 on the eve of World War II. In 1939 the Yaffe household, residing on Russell Street in Liverpool, consisted of Norman's parents, Isaac aged 82 and Esther aged 81, and three sisters and two brothers ranging in age from 34 to 20. Isaac was a tailor's presser, as he was in 1911, and three of his children were engaged in this trade. Norman would have been around fifteen years old, but it is unclear as to whether he lived at home. The enumeration page has the listing for the eighth person in the family blackened out with the notation "This record is officially closed".

He joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in 1941. When he arrived in Canada, he had the rank of airman 2nd class and had been trained as a wireless operator. His arrival in Charlottetown was around two months before he died in an accident. Witnesses in their testimonies after the accident mentioned that they did not know Norman and had not interacted with him.

On June 30, 1943 at 20:05 an "Aircraft had just started to taxi along the tarmac towards taxi strip when AC Yaffe who had been walking ahead of the aircraft and to one side of it turned sharply across the path of the aircraft and was struck and killed by the starboard propeller."

The aircraft in question was an Avro Anson with an RAF crew of three men. "AC2 Yaffe had been in the aircraft making a ground test of the wireless and, having completed it, left the aircraft and commenced walking towards No. 1 Hangar which was directly in front of the aircraft across the tarmac."

CONTINUE ON PAGE 16 >

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After reviewing the testimony of witnesses and examining the site and evidence, the inquiry determined that the cause of the accident was the “carelessness of AC2 Yaffe N.” The report added that “As he was of the Jewish faith he was buried according to the custom of that religion and within the specified twenty-four-hour time.”

An announcement was placed in the Charlottetown Guardian. “Re: 1673290 AC2, Yaffe, N.S.—R.A.F.” (Deceased) calling upon any person having any claim against Norman Yaffe’s estate to submit the claim in writing to the President, Committee of Adjustment, R.A.F. Station, Charlottetown.

Norman Yaffe was unmarried, and his family was in Liverpool. Unable to bury him in Prince Edward Island since there was no Jewish cemetery on the Island, he was laid to rest in the Moncton Jewish Cemetery. It was the closest Jewish cemetery. No further details and images for Norman Yaffe have

been located. (It should be noted that an extensive search of British resources was not conducted.)

It is unfortunate that I was unable to include a photo of him and thus put a face to the name, but I was able to tell a bit of the story of the person beneath the monument. His memory is recalled in Liverpool with his name inscribed on the Role of Honour in the Childwall Hebrew Congregation.

For persons visiting the Moncton Jewish cemetery, I hope they will also remember Norman Yaffe, a younger Jewish man from Liverpool who made the ultimate sacrifice in the war against the Germans and their allies. If you do visit his burial place, please consider leaving a small stone on Norman’s monument.

And, this Remembrance Day, let us honour the memories of two Jewish servicemen who died during World War II while stationed on Prince Edward Island. Sam Levine was among the more than 44,000 men and women in the Canadian armed forces who died in

defense of Canada and its allies during this war. Nearly 450 Jewish Canadians lost their lives. Norman Yaffe was among some 20,000 Jewish men and women, around six percent of Britain’s Jewish population, who enlisted in the RAF. Over 900 of them were casualties of war.

May Samuel Meyer Levine and Norman Yaffe be of blessed memory. 🕊

Dr. Joseph B. Glass is continuing his research on the Jewish history of PEI. His article “The Jewish Peddler on Prince Edward Island” was published in The Island Magazine, issue 85, Spring/Summer 2019, pp. 2-11.

If you have information, memories, stories, photographs, and other sources about the Jewish presence on Prince Edward Island that you would like to share, kindly contact him at: josephbglass@yahoo.com.



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The magic of grandparents IN THE TIME OF COVID-19: *Remembering Bubbe*

BY LISA GOLDBERG | This article first appeared in The Chronicle Herald on July 17, 2020



Lisa Goldberg's grandparents, Isaac and Bessie (Magonet) Goldberg. Katherine Biggs-Craft, Jewish Historical Museum, Saint John, N.B.

With so many of the elderly dying from COVID-19, I find myself deeply saddened by the knowledge that many children may never get to know their grandparents. That precious generation in families and historical knowledge keepers who impart magical memories in their grandchildren to sustain them well into adulthood.

Over the last month, I find myself thinking frequently of my grandparents, and the many hours I spent in their company during my childhood. I often wonder what they would think about this pandemic, particularly given their collective experiences entailed living through the Depression, war-time and immigration. No doubt they knew a thing or two about living through a global crisis. Yet from my vantage point as a child, their stories were stories of encouragement, stories of humour and stories of love.

As a young girl growing up in Sydney on beautiful Cape Breton Island in a small Jewish community, I had the gift of my grandmother for many years. Bubbe, the Yiddish word for grandmother, came to live with us in the one-bedroom apartment in the basement of our home after my Zayde (grandfather) died. Because my bedroom was also

in the basement, I often spent time with my Bubbe. Although memories fade over time, as I am now in my 50s, images of my Bubbe remain permanently ingrained in my DNA.

She was thin, quiet and a little stern. Her nails were always painted to perfection with dusty rose nail polish; she smoked Rothmans cigarettes: king size. I used to sneak a few of them when she wasn't looking. No doubt she knew but never said anything. Simplicity was her motto when it came to chocolate bars: It was Jersey milk or nothing.

Like so many Jewish grandmothers, she was a magnificent baker. To this day, I still dream of her hallah, luscious marble cake with chocolate icing, and poppy seed bagels all made with love from her little kitchen on Grove Street. Even her cream of wheat was cooked to perfection. Not a lump in sight. Despite the many bagel flavours of today, including blueberry, cinnamon and chocolate chip, I personally loathe to eat them. How could anyone justify such flavours when raised on warm poppy seed bagels made from scratch? According to my Bubbe, bagels had no business on a dessert menu. Although I didn't inherit my Bubbe's culinary talents, I seem to thrive in the eating department, much like everyone in my family.

My sister and I were big fans of my Bubbe's chocolate chip cookies: walnuts, a light dusting of powdered sugar, and melt in your mouth delicious. We would often run home from school and eat as many cookies as possible as fast as we could until she caught us. For some reason, which I could never understand, she wanted us to save some for my brother. Imagine.

Like so many, my Bubbe was a fan of the soap opera. I confess so was I. After school, I could be found sitting in her oversized



With COVID-19 afoot, Lisa Goldberg says lately she's been thinking a lot about her grandmother, Bubbe.

velvet-like chair, sipping sweet milky tea while watching her favorite soap: *The Edge of Night*. It was during these times that I got to know my Bubbe. While not an overly emotional person, she was wise, had a dry sense of humour much like my father, and a strong moral compass. Perhaps, and I may be wrong, but I suspect my understanding of right and wrong and everything in between may have become more nuanced in these conversations with my Bubbe. I could tell her anything my vivid imagination would dream up and know it would go no further. That is the magical thing about grandparents: they are also secret keepers—of course, they must be benign and mine usually were.

I recall a Saturday afternoon with my Bubbe, after being treated to tea and a chocolate-covered donut, she bought me the most amazing life-size blue teddy bear. Returning home, I remember thinking I would never be given a more magical gift in my lifetime. To this day, I don't think I have. That life-size teddy bear reigned supreme for many years, although I suspect teddy now takes up residence with some other lucky child. But that is the thing about teddy bears, they never go out of style. Perhaps Pam Brown said it best, "A teddy bear is your childhood wrapped up in faded yellow fur, and as such, he commands affection long after he is outgrown."

Not dissimilar from our magical memories of the teddy bear, we also don't outgrow the magical memories of our grandparents. We must therefore do everything we can to keep their memories alive long after they are gone. 🐻

Lisa Goldberg is an associate professor and Caritas coach at the school of nursing at Dalhousie University, Halifax.

IN SERVICE TO HASHEM AND COUNTRY

Canada's first full time Chabad rabbi air force chaplain embraces others and is embraced by all.

BY ELLIN BESSNER. REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM THEJ.CA



PHOTO: ELLIN BESSNER

Capt. Arnold Notech Glogauer, via Zoom, in his new Halifax quarters.

Canadians watching the solemn military ramp ceremony at the Halifax airport in late May for downed Snowbirds Capt. Jennifer Casey may not have noticed the officer marching in front of her coffin was wearing a kippah.

Capt. Arnold Notech Glogauer, the newest full time Jewish chaplain in the Canadian Armed Forces, didn't have a speaking role during the tarmac procession. Yet, as he made his very public debut on a national stage, Glogauer was also silently reciting Hebrew psalms for his fallen comrade.

"As a chaplain, to be able to play that role and demonstrate that, it was an extreme honour because I am a baby in the military," Glogauer told *TheJ.ca*.

CHALLENGING NEW POSTING

Glogauer, a Chabad rabbi and former Jewish day school principal, enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force in 2017. This March, he completed his first chaplaincy posting in Winnipeg and, following Passover in self-isolation at his home in Thornhill, Ontario, Glogauer packed his car with coolers of kosher food and drove east.

While he expected the assignment in Halifax to be challenging, in addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, Nova Scotians were reeling from Canada's worst mass shooting two weeks earlier after a gunman, disguised as an RCMP officer, killed 22 people.

Glogauer arrived at CFB Halifax on April 29, and immediately went into another two-week quarantine. He recalls how his new colleagues from the local chaplaincy office "schlepped everything" to his apartment.

Then news came in about a Sikorsky helicopter crash attached to HMCS

Fredericton, a Canadian frigate doing NATO training off the coast of Greece. Six crewmembers died. The victims worked at Glogauer's new unit, 12 Wing, in nearby Shearwater.

"I could take calls, but I wasn't able to help the way I've been trained to. That was very, very difficult," he said, recalling feeling helpless in isolation while everyone else quickly mobilized to support the families.

Three days after the end of Glogauer's quarantine on May 14, the Snowbirds crash happened.

"Notech was in his uniform ready to go," recalled Cmdr. Jennifer Gosse, Glogauer's superior officer and head of the team of 15 chaplains working at the naval installations. "I thought I might need a chaplain that night to do a next of kin notification, because everybody else was frankly zonked."

Although none of the victims were Jewish, Gosse was grateful for having Glogauer on standby.

"We had disaster after disaster after disaster," said Gosse, an Anglican archdeacon. "I was desperate for extra help."

In the end, although Glogauer wasn't dispatched, the rabbi maintained that being an Orthodox Jew wouldn't matter, even if military chaplains are often called padres.

"They can call me whatever they like, as long as they call me.

It's all about engagement," he said. "If I can do what I do, hopefully they'll look past the beard and see the heart."

JUST SHOW UP

Canada's chaplains are guided by three principles: minister to people of their own faith, help others worship in their own way and care for all.

Despite the Ten Commandments badge Glogauer wears on his chaplain's uniform, the job is more spiritual—what he refers to as a "ministry of presence."

"The role of a chaplain is to just show up," Glogauer said. "That's me demonstrating that I'm there for someone, I'm going to look after them, I'm going to walk with them."

Still, Glogauer knows he's breaking new ground for Jews in Canada's military. As the first full-time Jewish chaplain posted to work in Halifax, Glogauer is also only the third rabbi since the Second World War to serve in the regular forces.

He follows Capt. Bryan Bowley, a Montreal



Captain Notech Glogauer, 12 Wing Shearwater Chaplain, leads the procession to the hearse during the May 24 homecoming of the body of Capt. Jennifer Casey.

PHOTO: ORDINARY SEAMAN MELISSA GONZALEZ/12 WING IMAGING SERVICES

native who joined the RCAF in 2013 after a career as a pulpit rabbi. Glogauer's mentor, Capt. (Ret.) Lazer Danzinger, a Thornhill rabbi who joined the regular army in 2010 as a career chaplain, was the first.

"The chaplaincy branch is very open-minded and very progressive," said Danzinger, now retired.

Despite his early fears that Glogauer looked "too religious" when the new recruit was being groomed to sign up, Danzinger felt his successor would be "fabulous."

"He's well-grounded in his theology, his *Yiddishkeit* and his Judaism, but he wants to make a difference," he said.

It was a thrill for Danzinger to watch his protégé handle the ceremony for Capt. Casey. It was also personally satisfying.

"I thought I was a little bit instrumental in breaking stereotypes," he said. The ramp ceremony was "another huge step."

MOVING TOWARDS DIVERSITY

Glogauer is the only non-Christian chaplain attached to the navy town, according to Cmdr. Gosse. The Chaplain Service faced criticism in the past for failing to respond quickly enough to the growing diversity of the personnel in today's Canadian Armed Forces.

"That wasn't what we should be doing to serve our members best," Gosse said. "Since I came into this role, I asked to have one of the chaplains from the diversity group to be posted here for people other than Christians."

She's hoping a Muslim chaplain will join the team later this year.

The Canadian military has taken other steps towards religious accommodation: Sikh members can wear turbans and other religious items, while Jews can wear black leather kippot with dress uniforms, as Glogauer does. One of Rabbi Danzinger's proudest achievements is having camouflage-patterned kippahs issued in the kits of Jewish members.

So far, Glogauer hasn't had to work on Shabbat, although he could, in an emergency.

"The military gets it by understanding that diversity is at the core of who we are as a Canadian country," Glogauer said. "I'm so proud to be part of it."

MILITARY IN MY BLOOD

Glogauer's enlistment was inspired in part by the five generations of men in his family who wore the uniform for their countries. His German great-grandfather won an Iron Cross

in the First World War, serving with the Kaiser's army. But in 1936, the family escaped from Hitler's Europe and settled in South Africa.

Glogauer, 50, immigrated with his parents to Calgary in 1978. After attending that city's I.L. Peretz School, and then public high school, he completed multiple university degrees. Rabbinical ordination followed, and a 25-year career in Jewish education on several continents. His autobiography "Never Give Up" was published in 2016.

Around that time, he made his decision to leave teaching.

"It made me realize that serving in the military would be an opportunity for me to give back to the larger community and, in moving back to Canada, give back all that Canada had provided for me," Glogauer told the Canadian Jewish News in 2018.

MEETS JEWS EVERY DAY

Jews make up only an estimated one per cent of the regular strength in the Canadian Armed Forces—or somewhere around 700 men and women. The military does not release official numbers.

"I have a tiny, tiny portion of Jewish members," Glogauer said, adding that not everyone chooses to make their religion public. Jewish personnel can wear the letters JUD on their identity discs, as he does, but not all do. Nevertheless, he encounters Jews "each and every day."

"I was walking across the hangar last week and someone said to me 'Shalom Aleichem,'" Glogauer said.

With social distancing restrictions now in place in Halifax, making it trickier for him to introduce himself as the new chaplain, Glogauer is trying a creative approach.

"Once a week I bring a couple dozen bagels [from East Coast Bakery] to the wing commander. They love it!" Glogauer said. "It's a good way to schmooze."

Chaplains are also required to foster closer ties with local clergy, under the Religious Leader Engagement Doctrine. Although Halifax synagogues were not holding in-person services due to COVID-19, Glogauer did connect with some of the local rabbis. He also received an enthusiastic welcome through a Zoom talk he did for the Atlantic Jewish



A Facebook post from Cpt. Glogauer of the procession for the homecoming of the body of Capt. Jennifer Casey.

PHOTO: ARNOLD NOTEH GLOGAUER (FACEBOOK)

Council.

"Some of the nicest people I've ever met in Canada are here in the Maritimes," Glogauer told them.

With the pandemic preventing Glogauer's Toronto-based family from regular visiting, his wife, clinical psychologist Dr. Maline Chaya Glogauer, hoped to drive to Halifax for Shavuot with their two youngest children. Unfortunately for the family, health and safety regulations derailed the visit.

"It's the only real challenge," the rabbi acknowledged, two months into his new posting. "It's a little rough."

GOING TO SEA?

For Glogauer, some isolation will be good training for where he hopes to be deployed: on board a Canadian warship.

"Originally I thought 'A Jewish rabbi on a boat for six months? How is that going to work!'" Glogauer said, recalling how his kosher meals had to be brought in from Montreal while training in St. Jean, Quebec. But his view has changed, noting the lengths to which the military has gone to understand his needs.

If he does go to sea, there is one problem he'll need to solve: seasickness.

Glogauer once accompanied a search and rescue mission aboard a C-130 Hercules airplane over Alberta. Even with motion sickness, Glogauer managed to daven Mincha.

"Please God!" he prayed, recalling the rollercoaster ride of a flight. "Please don't let me be the first rabbi to throw up on their plane!". ☺

UNBOXING ISRAEL:

TIKUN OLAM OR GETTING THINGS DONE

BY ALEX ELGIN PHOTOS BY UNBOXING ISRAEL: OR KAPLAN, AMIR MENAHEM

“It’s a challenge widely faced by those working with the young Jewish community in America: the next generation does not connect to Israel in the same way that their parents did. And with travel out of the question right now, the challenge grows even greater.”¹

On August 13th I attend the “Unboxing Israel 2020 Summit” hosted by Vibe Israel USA. This event was held virtually, attracting world-wide participation, for us to discover the new toolbox created to assist us in telling Israel’s story. I also had the opportunity to speak with Vibe Israel USA President and CEO Becca Hurowitz who organized this summit. Unboxing Israel. What is it? What do you think?

Is it a branding slogan taken from YouTube or a new way of thinking about how Jewish communal and educational professionals engage the Jewish population with Israel in a way that is authentic and relevant to them?

The answer is both. Unboxing is essentially filming yourself opening boxes of toys or gadgets, uploading it to YouTube² and by filming yourself in action you create a narrative that people can understand and follow again and again. By doing so you create a digital community, a community of your followers.

Vibe Israel³ is a not-for-profit organization focused on energizing and inspiring the next generation about Israel by harnessing the power of social media and using country branding strategies to reach audiences that no-one else is tapping into, thereby changing hearts and minds about Israel.

So how do you Brand the country? How do you unbox its treasure box of cultural marvels that tap into people’s hearts? And most importantly how do you create this good vibe and influence that can help engage the community in a way that talks to people’s minds?

It is interesting to reflect on the understanding we draw from our thousand-year-old Jewish philosophy: to celebrate the Life itself. Being In an “Israeli Box” means

before anything else we Feel Alive.

Vibe Israel built a toolkit to help us understand how we can compete for attention, just like a commercial brand. A Brand of feeling alive and able to compete on the world stage through Jewish identity and traditions. The Amplifier effect is what we are searching for, our communal “sound of Jewish voices” to connect people and communities to share our story.

The latest research on the next generation’s perception of Israel finds that the “living together” mode is a way of connecting people around the world. Interestingly enough, this sense of togetherness just increased during our lockdown period and our telling of the Israeli story became a necessity in creating the new normal global Jewish identity.

A presentation of Israel’s compelling story can have the power to engage the next generation—generation Z⁴, while preserving and reinforcing tights to Israel for X’s and Y’s.

Vibe Israel’s vast experience, resources, and professional guidance is told by the world’s leading branding agency. Vibe Academy⁵ teaches you how to tell Israel’s story.

During these last months we all learned to participate virtually, and our interactive engagement tested out new ways of building new knowledge. In that regard Vibe Israel brings to the table digital assets—“Unboxing Israel” and “Search Israel” are resources to energize and inspire our discussions about Israel.

An interesting tool in their box is Vibe Live! This is a virtual Israel experience developed by Vibe Israel especially for Jewish organizations wishing to maintain the next gen’s connection to Israel when trips to Israel cannot take place.

But frankly speaking, talking to your

audience, or creating a virtual experience is a huge challenge for educational professionals. “We have to adopt those tools to the local context to make it really work. Our tools are high level ideas, that everybody can plug in” mentioned Becca Hurowitz during a brief telephone call we had during a follow-up to the event week.

A possible solution from Vibe Israel: Working with digital influencers⁶, followed by a live “Ask Me Anything” this format could provide a taste of “Know How” and begin the process of engaging not only in real (offline world), but digitally (online).

“The next generation of North American Jews don’t necessarily realize that Israel shares their values, and it’s our job to make sure we are telling Israel’s story from all angles, well beyond the conflict or religion. We want the next generation to choose to engage with Israel, not because they have to, but because they want to. And in a time when international travel isn’t in the cards, the best way to do this is virtually” said Vibe Israel USA CEO Becca Hurowitz. “We hope this summit will help Jewish professionals in their quest to energize and inspire the next generation about Israel—and by extension, connect young Jews to their Jewish identities.”

Unboxing Israel—what do you find inside? What narrative and images do you feel tells the “Good story”?

Is it about Israeli Hutzpa, Start Up Nation, or simply the Optimistic Nation of Dreamers and Doers?

Or is all the above with, of course, your voice. Your voice is the most important since you hear it inside your Jewish heart. It is that voice that can help us to build togetherness and Unbox Israel. It is that voice that drives Tikun Olam, through its own out of box



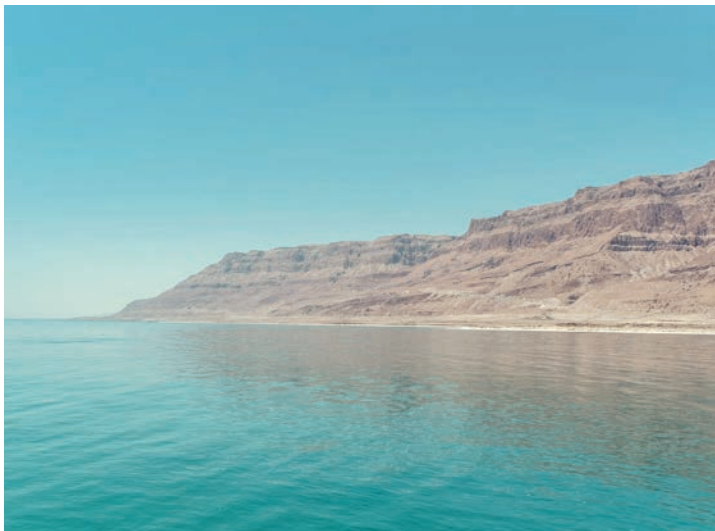
Alexander Elgin is a Senior Associate at B+H Architects, Director of Planning and Senior Project Manager. He holds a Master in Territorial Planning from École Nationale Supérieure d’Architecture, Paris and Bachelor of Architecture from Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem, where he was a curator of interuniversity’s partnership and an organizer of summer professional schools. Alexander recently moved to Bedford, NS and is a passionate Tango dancer and a community champion.



Hummus Table. Photo: Amir Menahem



Jaffa Flea Market. Photo: Amir Menahem



The Dead Sea. Photo: Or Kaplan



Sabich Toast. Photo: Amir Menahem



Tel-Aviv Bar. Photo: Or Kaplan



Jerusalem's Old City. Photo: Or Kaplan

Israeli thinking. It's you and your friends that tell the real-life story of how to celebrate the Life. We can all participate to Unbox Israel for the world, and brand its "Good Name" of a Nation of dreamers that know how to make things get Done.

Let us start first with a good Vibe and friendly chat! Please visit Unboxing Israel unboxingisrael.vibeisrael.com for online tools to help you tell Israel's story and you can contact me, Alex Elgin alex.elgin@gmail.com to begin our conversation, looking forward to hearing from you! Shana tova tikateyvu! 🌟

- 1 Introductory words to Vibe Israel USA's Unboxing Israel 2020 Summit, held virtually on August 13
- 2 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unboxing>
- 3 <https://www.vibeisrael.com>—Vibe Israel is a not-for-profit organization energizing and inspiring the next generation about Israel.
- 4 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Generation_Z
- 5 <https://www.vibeisrael.com/programs/academy>
- 6 A digital influencer is someone who has influence over his or her followers and influencer marketing identifies these individuals in order to reach potential buyers.
- 7 Part of Vibe Israel's Vibe Tours program

Atlantic Jewish VIRTUAL Film Festival

AN ATLANTIC JEWISH COUNCIL PRODUCTION

7th Annual AJFF | November 19-22

Given the COVID-19 situation, we have made the leap online and we will be presenting our first virtual film festival on the Cineplex Cinemas' online store platform available to everyone in Atlantic Canada!

Tickets available for purchase soon! Information on films, festival streaming, special programming, and updates at: AJFF.ca

SUPPORT THE AJFF

\$180 Cast Members: Includes a festival pass (\$40 value), 2 AJFF face masks, on-screen recognition, and a movie munchie gift basket delivered to your door.

\$90 Film Fans: Includes a festival pass (\$40 value), 2 AJFF face masks, and on-screen recognition.

SPONSOR A FILM (7 available)

\$1250 Sponsorship: Includes all of the above, plus a presentation prior to the film screening (including your pre-recorded message/advertisement, and the option to introduce the film). We will work with you to customize your message.

Thank you so much for supporting the AJFF!

2020 AJFF Committee: Lynn Rotin, Chair | Philip Belitsky
Rosalind Belitsky | Jon Goldberg | Anna Hazankin | Linda Law
Edna LeVine | Naomi Rosenfeld | Jordan Schelew | Flint Schwartz
Ann Thaw | Howard Thaw | Peggy Walt

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For sponsorship information contact
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UPDATES AT AJFF.CA





***AJFF Face Masks are for sale
in mid-September!***

Our colourful logo (left cheek) is heat-printed on a heather gray M100 Eco-Mask. Made from 70% recycled material. Moisture wicking fabrication is washable and breathable. Tested by an accredited laboratory and proven to have a 93.6% particle filtration efficiency. This is the highest cloth mask rating for a non-surgical mask!

Saturday feature film
plus a special surprise!

BACK TO MARACANÃ

8 p.m. | Saturday November 21, 2020

92 min. | Brazil/Israel | 2018

Hebrew/Portuguese with English subtitles

Director: Jorge Gurvich

Three generations of fathers and sons seek reconciliation on a spontaneous eventful trip to the World Cup, in this heartfelt and warmly funny Israeli-Brazilian family drama.

NOW INCLUDES 1 BOOK PER CHILD PER MONTH!



**Know any children ages 6 MONTHS
THROUGH 8 YEARS OLD
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TELL THEM TO SIGN UP FOR PJ LIBRARY!

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

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



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

TELL THEM TO SIGN UP FOR PJ OUR WAY!

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

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



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**Grandparents must have a grandchild with a current
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*Fill out the sign-up form at
pjlibrary.org/grandparent-enrollment
to sign up the grandparents in your life for special mailings and
emails from PJ Library*

ON THE LIFE OF SETH CHIPPIN Z"l

Passed away on August 5th, 2020



Seth Chippin passed away on August 5th, 2020 at Princess Margaret Hospital after a courageous battle with cancer.

Seth followed in his father's footsteps and began working at the Victory Meat Market from a very young age. It was important after Bernard's passing that he carried on the legacy. The Victory was so important to Seth. He was a hardworking man whose life was the store. He took tremendous pride in the store and cared for his employees immensely.

Seth was predeceased by his father Bernard Chippin.

He is survived by his mother Valerie

Chippin, sister Natalie Chippin-Lipkowitz (Sidney) and nieces Jaclyn and Rachel Lipkowitz (Zachary); his loving partner of 23 years Linda Beardall and her children Becky and Nicky; Uncle Kenny Frank (Francie); Aunt Betty and a number of cousins and friends.

Seth was a humble, selfless person who always had time for anyone. He loved the water, boating at the cottage and spending time with his friends and family. He was the ultimate nice guy that everybody loved. He was humble and performed many acts of kindness for his community. He always lent a

helping hand to those in need and was a very loyal friend to those who knew him. We have lost a very special person. He left us with an incredible model of how to live our lives, to be kind, helpful, and charitable.

Thank you to Dr. O'Kane, Dr. Ezzat, the palliative care team and the doctors and nurses in 17B at Princess Margaret Hospital.

For those who wish, memorial donations may be made to Richard LeGresley Billiard Cancer Research Fund at Princess Margaret Hospital (416) 946-6560 or the Sgoolai Israel Synagogue Fredericton, NB.

Due to COVID-19 Shiva will be private. 

ON THE LIFE OF LILLIAN SCHELEW Z"l

Passed away on Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at the age of 98



Her four sons, seven grandchildren, three great grandchildren and a large number of friends will remember her fondly. Our more sincere condolences go to the Schelew family.

Throughout her life, she had boundless energy which she used to pursue her numerous and varied interests.


Lillian had a quick wit and a sharp mind. She initially attended Queen's University and received her BA from Mount Allison University in 1942. She was past President of the Sisterhood of Tiferes Israel Synagogue, the Moncton branch of Canadian Hadassah, the Moncton branch of the Canadian Club,

Moncton University Women's Club and the New Brunswick branch of the Canadian Federation of University Women.

She was a past Board Member of the United Way of Moncton, the Moncton YWCA and YMCA, Greater Moncton Foundation Inc., the Moncton Museum, the Moncton Drama Council, the Moncton branch of the Atlantic Symphony, the Moncton branch of Women's World, Friends of the Moncton Hospital, the Moncton Symphony Foundation, Theatre New Brunswick, Moncton 100 and the Board of Governors of the Beaverbrook Auditorium.

She was a continuous contributor to the Moncton Food Bank as well as numerous other charities.

Lillian was a great golfer, tennis player, swimmer and bridge player. She took classes at Université de Moncton to improve her spoken French.

She was an avid art collector and specifically sought out and supported up and coming New Brunswick artists. Years ago, she donated all of her art collection to Mount Allison University. 

UPDATE FROM THE TIKKUN OLAM COMMITTEE IN HALIFAX

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 past six months the committee has focused efforts on Feed Nova Scotia, a sandwich drive for Sunday night supper at St Andrews, supporting the Black Lives Matter movement, encouraging the community to support the Red Cross/Red Crescent drive for Beirut and cleaning of the Agidas Achim Jewish Cemetery in New Glasgow.

As a result of the pandemic there has been an increase in food insecurity. Through the months of June and July, the committee led a Food Bank Drive. Through the generous support of community members, we surpassed our goal of \$1,800 with a total of \$2,230.00. to support Feed Nova Scotia. At a time when the need for the food bank

is increasing, Feed Nova Scotia was very appreciative of us undertaking this drive.

On June 14th, 16 community members came together and made over 250 sandwiches for those who depend on the St Andrews Sunday church supper for a meal. Although the St Andrews Sunday dinner has been going on every week for many years, due to COVID, the sit-down meals have been put on hold. In its place, St Andrews provided sandwiches on Sunday night for people to carry away along with casseroles and other types of contributions, which become a major part of continuing to provide support for those in need. When we arrived to deliver the sandwiches, a long line had already formed to receive the food. Our support towards this great cause was appreciated.

As a result of the Black Lives Matter movement, we have been discussing how

we can address the issue of prejudice within our Shaar community. We haven't reached a conclusion on how best to address these issues, but have compiled a list of books by Jews of colour to help us gain a better understanding.

Another project we are undertaking is a refurbishing of the Agidas Achim Jewish Cemetery in New Glasgow. Although some work has already been done, this fall the committee is planning on holding a clean-up day event. This will include painting the fence, cleaning the area of debris and planting some shrubs etc. If you are interested in participating in this clean up please contact Phil Warman at prwarman7@gmail.com.

We are also encouraging people to send contributions to the Red Cross/Red Crescent Society, to help the Lebanese in Beirut, after the terrible explosion there. The Shaar Board has chosen this organization as the best one for us to support.

We have some new members on our committee; so we hope to be able to do more in the future. Anyone wishing to join our efforts is invited to contact Andrea Hilchie-Pye: andrea@hilchie-pye.com. 📧

3RD ANNUAL PURIM TRADITIONAL GIFT SENDING IN HALIFAX

BY MARCIA KOHLER, JWRP 2017

Purim was celebrated in the month of Adar earlier this year. Little did we realize at that time how the days and weeks ahead would unfold. Our lives and routines have drastically been altered. Celebrating our Holidays together as a community has always been something we have taken for granted. We are grateful that our community had the opportunity to enjoy Purim just before the world ended up in lock down.

Purim 2020 was a great success. For the third year in a row, volunteers from the community came together to participate in the tradition of Shalach Monas. The project was organized by the 2017 JWRP (Jewish Women's Renaissance Project) ladies group who partnered with the JOLT (Jew-ish

Outreach Leadership Training) teens. The two groups organized the distribution of 144 gift baskets to elderly seniors and other individuals in the community. In February, a Hamantaschen Bake was held in the Beth Israel Synagogue kitchen, where hundreds of Hamantaschen were produced. In early March, the traditional cookies along with other kosher food items were assembled into decorative gift baskets by the JOLT teens and the Hebrew School children. The Shalach Monas baskets were distributed by many community volunteers. We were amazed and delighted by the positive enthusiasm this project produced among members of the community.

JWRP and JOLT look forward to

continued collaboration with this special project. Please feel free to contact the AJC if you wish to become involved in this initiative. Volunteering is a perfect opportunity to foster community relationships. The Purim project has proven to weave the generations of the Halifax Jewish Community together. All involved would agree that it was enjoyable to work together. With positive thoughts we look forward to Purim 2021. 📧

PROUD FEELING MUTUAL FOR THE NOVACKS

BY JOHN DEMONT, JDEMONT@HERALD.CA PUBLISHED JUNE 20, 2020
REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE CHRONICLE HERALD

"The days and weeks are blurring together. There is a sense of constant go. We know that if we slow down people end up dying."

Being a dad I was happy, with Father's Day approaching, to get an email from Lewis Novack, who is proud as could be of his pops, the much-applauded Dalhousie University professor Jack Novack.

Novack senior, who has already received the Lieutenant Governor's Medal for Excellence in Public Administration and the Canadian Association of University Continuing education award for Innovation and Co-operation, has just been awarded Dal's College of Continuing Education's inaugural award for excellence in teaching.

Dal's commendation lauded his "comprehensive knowledge of the subject," Novack's "focus on facilitating deep learning of the subject" and "development of critical thinking among everyone with whom you come in contact."

When I called Novack, whose focus is local government, and who has worked with a wide range of municipal and public administrators, to ask what the key is to being a great teacher, he paused for a minute at the end of the line in Halifax.

Then he said that first you have to love the subject, and have the attitude, more or less, when standing before the classroom that "I can't imagine why anyone wouldn't want to know about this."

It's not something that can be faked, he told me. Students pick up on a teacher's inflections and mannerisms. They know when something matters to the person at the front of the room.

"Enthusiasm is infectious," Novack said. The opposite, if someone is on autopilot or teaching a subject they don't really care about, is equally true.

You also have to care about your students, he said. In Novack's case that is easy, since his students go back to local government where they have a tangible impact on people's lives, which means that his own "little contributions can make a difference."

Novack, in truth, didn't want to talk about himself much the other day.

So we chatted for awhile about his concerns over the solvency of local governments due to the pandemic, and his feelings about the Black Lives Matters movement of which he said "freedom requires eternal vigilance" and "municipalities need to lead this not respond to it."

Eventually, the conversation meandered back to his son, Lewis the former Armbrae Academy valedictorian.

"He is very focused. He just doesn't have the normal kind of reticence," Novack said of the eldest of his three children, who at 27, is running the COVID-19 clinical trials at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

Then he proceeded to tell a story about how Lewis, at age 10, got it in his mind that he wanted to be certified in first aid and CPR from St. John Ambulance.

So, Novack Sr. drove him over to the St. John Ambulance buildings in Dartmouth one Saturday morning.

There, a boy whose favourite television show was Barney & Friends, walked into the classroom among rows of electricians seeking mandatory re-certification.

When lunch came the lads invited Lewis to join them at the tavern. He stayed put, eventually writing the multiple choice exam and becoming the youngest person in the province, at that point, to earn the St. John Ambulance designation.

When I called Lewis to get his version of events he said the idea came from all of the medical shows he had been watching on television in the early 2000s. "At that point I wanted to take on the world," he said. "First aid got me a little closer to the action."

It also kick-started his path towards the world of health care, which he thought was going to lead to trauma medicine, but instead has veered in another direction.

Novack had a knack for the sciences, but somewhere along the line also developed enough of an interest in the humanities to



Dalhousie University professor Jack Novack speaks with Yarmouth resident Warner Comeau at a municipal recruitment at the Burridge Campus of the Nova Scotia Community College. BELLE HATFIELD PHOTO

earn an anthropology degree from Carleton University in Ottawa.


A masters in Global Health Policy and Management at Brandeis University followed, where, among other things, he specialized in communicable diseases, then post-graduate work in global infectious diseases at Harvard University.

There he was recruited to become a clinical epidemiologist in the university's Department of Epidemiology, and then to lead a clinical trial at the Brigham and Women's Hospital's division of Infectious Diseases.

Now he's a full-time clinical epidemiologist at the hospital while also leading its clinical trials for COVID-19 vaccines, which means he's riding herd over a team of 35, all of them working 80-hour weeks.

"The days and weeks are blurring together," he told me. "There is a sense of constant go. We know that if we slow down people end up dying."

When I asked Jack Novack about his son he said, "I'm very proud of him."

The feeling is mutual. 



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The Abraham Leventhal Memorial Scholarships

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

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

Criteria for Application:

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

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

Applications available at: theajc.ca/scholarships

CAMP KADIMAH OAK ISLAND WEEKEND SUMMER 2020

BY NAOMI ROSENFELD, AJC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In a typical summer, hundreds of Jewish families from across the country flock to the South Shore of Nova Scotia on Camp Kadimah's visitors' day in late July to spend time together while embracing Judaism and enjoying the outdoors. Although, of course, there was no visitors' day weekend this year, 24 summer 2020 Kadimah-enrolled families from across Nova Scotia managed to recreate a little bit of this magic—while following social distancing protocols, of course. From Friday July 17th to Sunday July 19th, 2020, families from the HRM, as well as those from Sydney and Wolfville descended upon Oak Island Resort for the weekend. Events were kicked off on Friday night with a traditional kiddish and hamotzi. Saturday was filled with outdoor activities: hiking, cycling, pool swims, kayaking, paddleboarding, arts and crafts, volleyball, hockey, causal games of frisbee or spikeball along the beach, and, of course, swims in the ocean. Shabbat ended with a Kadimah-style musical havdallah along with a music-filled, smores-replete bonfire. The weekend ended with a classic Kadimah daytrip—a journey to the beach! While nothing could replace being at Kadimah this summer, we are grateful to all 24 of these families for helping these children bridge the gap until summer 2021. 📍



STUDENT FROM HALIFAX GETS ROYAL NOD FOR STARTING FREE TUTORING SERVICE

BY NOUSHIN ZIAFATI PUBLISHED IN THE CHRONICLE HERALD, JULY 15, 2020

When Rebecca Raphael launched a free, volunteer-run tutoring service to provide school-children in Nova Scotia with learning support during the COVID-19 pandemic, she had a feeling it would grow to meet a crucial need.

A few months running, The Halifax Helpers now boasts 50 tutors that host roughly 300 Zoom sessions a week on various subjects including English, French, math, science and music, supporting the educational needs of elementary and junior high school students in the province.

But what Raphael didn't expect was that it would receive the attention of Queen Elizabeth II.

During a recent virtual ceremony, Raphael was recognized by the Queen as the 147th Commonwealth Point of Light in honour of "her exceptional voluntary service supporting the educational needs of young people during the COVID-19 pandemic."

Nova Scotia Lt.-Gov. Arthur J. LeBlanc and Susan le Jeune d'Allegreshecque, the U.K. high commissioner to Canada, presented her with the Commonwealth Point of Light award, which recognizes inspirational volunteers for the difference they are making in their communities and beyond.

"It's an incredible honour," said Raphael.

"I think it just gives props to all our volunteers who have been so incredible and they're the reason that we're able to be where we are today to maximize our potential."

Raphael was inspired to launch The Halifax Helpers after coming across a free, virtual book buddy service in Calgary. Like thousands of other students in Canada, her school was shut down early this year due to COVID-19, so she had extra time on her hands and wanted to help out her community.

She rounded up friends and peers from her school Pearson College UWC in Victoria, B.C. and together they began hosting interactive Zoom tutoring sessions from Nova Scotia and around the world. Others have also jumped on board.

Raphael said the tutors have tried their best to make "the baseline education" that students

receive during the pandemic equal, including by tailoring lesson plans for students who have learning disabilities or are newcomers to Nova Scotia.


"All the tutors do their own research on how to tutor, what to do, on how to provide an engaging lesson and they've just done an amazing job, because we've received so much amazing feedback from parents," she said.

The tutors have kept up the work throughout the pandemic and they don't plan on quitting anytime soon. In fact, Raphael said they plan to expand the tutoring service beyond Nova Scotia and to keep it running even after the pandemic.

While the tutoring service is mostly on hold as schools are closed for the summer, a new website for The Halifax Helpers is currently in the works,

the volunteers have partnered up with the YMCA to recruit more volunteers through the Canada Student Service Grant and they're focusing on introducing the tutoring service in "a lot more communities" in Canada once September rolls around and schools are back in session.

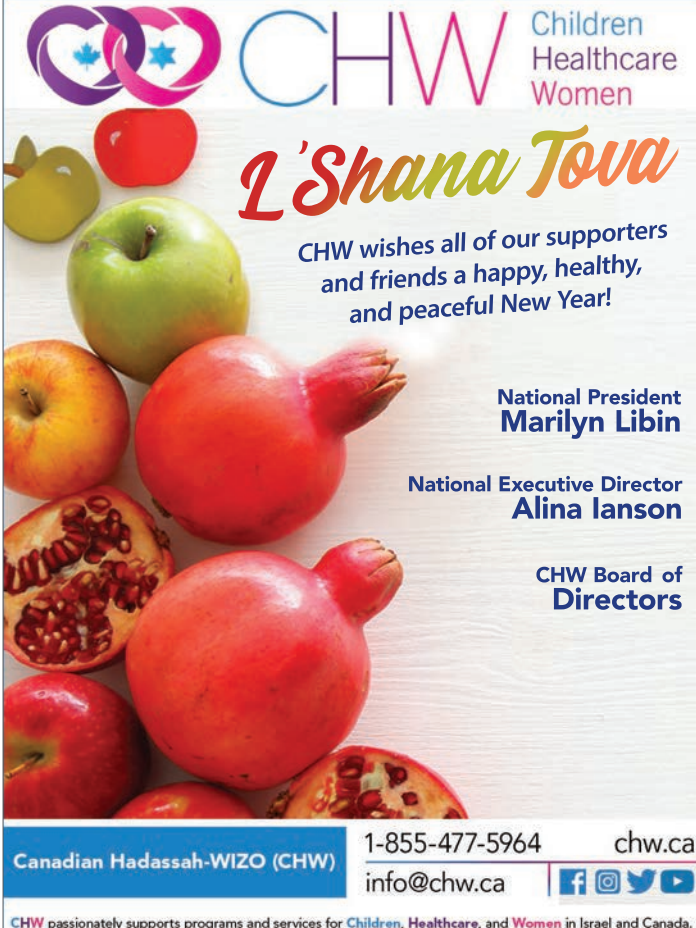
"I think the sessions that we've been offering have been top-notch, top quality, and I can't wait to watch this continue," said Raphael.

"The service is going to be incredibly useful, we have lots of parents saying they were waiting for something like this, so we plan to continue regardless of COVID-19." 



Rebecca Raphael, photographed at her Halifax home on Wednesday, was recently recognized by Queen Elizabeth II as the 147th Commonwealth Point of Light in honour of "her exceptional voluntary service supporting the educational needs of young people during the COVID-19 pandemic."—Tim Krocha

This article is reprinted with permission from The Chronicle Herald. Noushin Ziafati is a local journalism initiative reporter, a position funded by the federal government.



CHW Children's Healthcare for Women





L'Shana Tova

CHW wishes all of our supporters and friends a happy, healthy, and peaceful New Year!

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CHW passionately supports programs and services for Children, Healthcare, and Women in Israel and Canada.

NEWFOUNDLAND NEWS

News from the far east BY RABBI CHANAN AND TUBA CHERNITSKY

IT'S BEEN A ROCKY FEW MONTHS ON THE ROCK!

Right after Purim, in the middle of March, we went into lockdown.

Thank G-d NL didn't have too many cases but everyone took the proper precautions and our in person events were put on hold.

As the pandemic progressed we tapped into our international contacts to help the Health Department and RNC source PPE from China. They were grateful for the contacts we provided them with.

As a follow up to our successful TED Talks event in February we had it again, this time over Zoom. Just before Shavuot we had 3 speakers on Sunday May 17th. Rabbi Ari Drelich from Chabad of Edmonton opened the event with words of inspiration and encouragement during these difficult times of social isolation. The second speaker was Dr. Peter Daley. Dr. Daley is an infectious diseases physician and medical microbiologist besides being assistant professor of Medicine at MUN. Dr. Daley spoke about COVID-19 in Newfoundland and took some questions. The final speaker was local lawyer Peter Ralph, following up on his earlier talk re the Muskrat Falls Inquiry. Peter took some questions before we closed the event. We received fantastic feedback!

Since we couldn't host our usual Shavuot program, we delivered Shavuot packages to all members of the community. Yum!

We had the honour and privilege of hosting Holocaust survivor Irving Roth over Zoom.

Irving was born in Kosice, Czechoslovakia on September 2, 1929. He survived Auschwitz and Buchenwald, emigrating to the United States in 1947. The memories of the Nazi death camps never faded, and he devotes his time and efforts to educating young and old about the horrors of the Holocaust and the evils of racism.

Mr. Roth is the Director of the Holocaust Resource Center—Temple Judea of Manhasset and is an adjunct professor at



the University of Maine. He is a recognized speaker on anti-Semitism and the Holocaust and is a frequent lecturer at colleges and universities across the United States, Canada, and Europe. As a Holocaust survivor, he provides personal testimony on his experiences during WWII.

We were honoured to have Susan Goldstein Snyder, Curator at the National Institute for Holocaust Documentation in Washington D.C., as the MC.

The feedback we got was tremendous and many ordered Irving's book "Bondi's Brother" right after the event.

As this magazine goes to print we are planning our annual Rosh Hashana community meal and Shofar blowing. Exactly how and what will be determined closer to the Yamim Noraim.

Best wishes for a Ktivah V'Chatimah Tovah L'shanah Tovah Umetukah!

*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.*

BETH EL SYNAGOGUE NEWS

BY MICHAEL D. PAUL, MD

Since we reached level 3 of the Pandemic protocol, the shul has resumed live services, with social distancing seating.

We have had a new family join us from Toronto and they have fit in quite nicely. Sadly we did not have a communal Seder this year, but perhaps next year.

We celebrated the 80th birthday of our long-time member—Dr Isaac David Mercer. We had a special Oneg Shabbat following Friday evening services towards the end of July. Congratulations David—until 120!!

Our main focus now is joint communal High Holiday services at the shul for all members of the shul and of the Havura. There is a feeling that we will work hard to make this a reality, and everyone in both groups are excited about this endeavour. There is ongoing work to synthesize a service that will meet the needs of all concerned. 📞

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info@theajc.ca

FREDERICTON NEWS

BY IVAN LEVINE, PRESIDENT, SGOOLAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

I reflect on the thoughts, 'Are each of us making the Best of our COVID challenges and learning more about oneself, resilience, adaptability?' I feel blessed that we live in the Atlantic bubble with so much safe freedom and a resemblance of normalcy for the most part. We are admirably protecting the most vulnerable and trying to carefully open our schools and economy.

We now have limited Friday services in our extensively refurbished Shul. We have 2 Bar Mitzvahs coming, Avid Peled this month and Ben Benjamin-Crymble in January. Although we had to postpone our vastly attended (up to 700 people) Holocaust memorial and our annual BBQ (over a 100 people) for now.

We are very saddened to announce the passing of their daughter Dr Heide Grobe Perlman (51) Melbourne Florida to parents Sydelle and Dr Cary Grobe and Brother Issaic. A very large attendance on Zoom participated, sang and spoke as well at the Chiva highly honouring all the great mitzvahs Heidi has accomplished.

Seth Chippin (59) passed in Toronto and I delivered the following "Celebration of Life" at our Friday night services to a well-attended crowd. Condolences to his wife Linda, Nicky and Becky.

"Seth Chippin—Sethie—a Mensch, a Sudic, a Selfless, Charitable Man.

As President and better still a close Friend, which means 1 up to 5 calls per day, I lament of what Sethie meant to so many. We lost this week a very good Friend/Family member/Employer. Seth had a relentless quest to help people, including so many Family, friends, employees and even strangers. His heart overflowed with generosity, compassion and to our Shul as well.

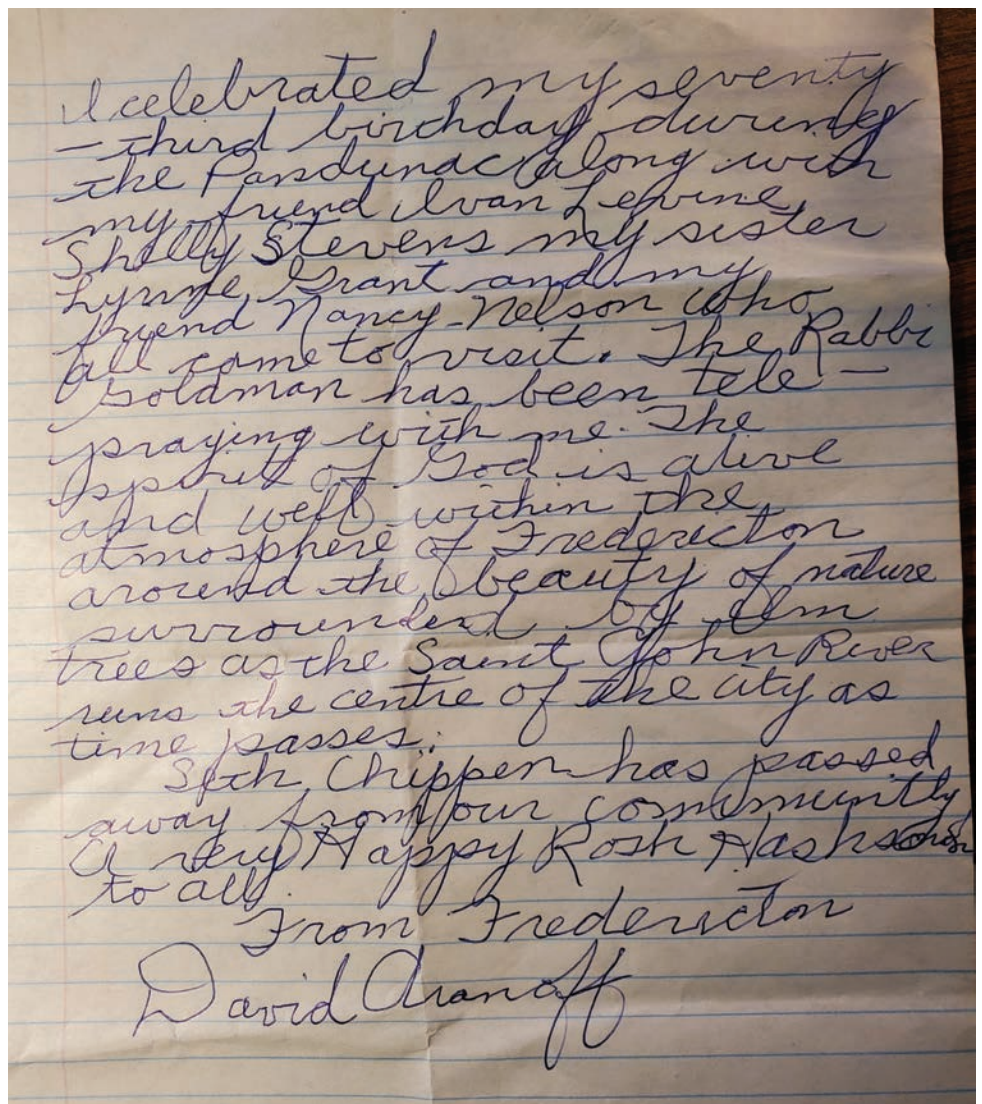
Sethie was not only a talker, but a doer. He was rough on the outside, and soft on the inside. He was relentless with his ideas. We would say 'How are you going to do that Sethie?', and he just did it! His passion for life, Family, Friends, travel, business and our Shul minions was immense. He was the epidemic of Sedouka and gave away

truckloads of food, each year, to charities and the less fortunate.

He was instrumental, with my Shul Presidency, with weekly consultations, extensive refurbishing our Shul, and the establishment, of our Bet Olam Cemetery.

He always had a business opportunity for anyone. Seth could source out anything for anyone. Seth is in Heaven, for all his good deeds, including taking care of his Parents, Family, Friends, and Smiling down upon US. Seth, and his Energy, will be missed!" 🕊

My Experience During COVID-19



SAINT JOHN NEWS

BY SUSAN ISAACS-LUBIN

This summer has been relatively quiet in Saint John. We have resumed holding Friday Night Services, although not always successful getting a Minyan. Social distancing and safety protocols are in place. I hope our numbers will increase once school starts and people try to return to a more normal life. So far, our “Snowbirds” have no plans to travel south this winter as the border is still closed and COVID-19 levels remain high in Florida and other southern states as well as the rest of the world.

Monthly board meetings have continued via Zoom. This seems to be working well and we will continue to hold our meetings this way for the next while. We are also looking at Hebrew School to figure out the best way to hold classes, whether in person or via Zoom.

Mazel tov to Eddie and Isabella Van Dam on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Ari. The Bar Mitzvah was held at the Synagogue, practising

social distancing, and with no food following. Although their family was unable to join them, we had a good turnout with Ari paying tribute to his parents, his brothers and his teacher, Phil Bloom. Ari and Phil shared an elbow shake at the end of his maftir.

Due to COVID-19 our summer we have missed seeing our summer visitors. Hopefully, they will be able to make the trip “home” next year.

Discussions have been held regarding the High Holidays, and the best way to celebrate this year. We will probably join a Zoom Service with a large Congregation from Canada or the United States. It will certainly be different than in past years, as are most activities in these times.

Katherine Biggs-Craft has done a wonderful job in getting the Jewish Museum opened to the public. Katherine personally cleaned

all public rooms in the building, submitted a written plan to the government regarding the opening during COVID times, hired her summer students, and organized projects for them during a quiet summer with very few visitors to the Museum. Kudos to Katherine!

Mazel tov to Anna Vinizer on her upcoming marriage to Francis Morneault.

We wish good health to Linda Hamburg who is recovering from a fall in her home.

Mazel tov to Shelley and Barry Cohen-Thorley celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary.

We would like to wish everyone Shanah Tova Umetukah—a good and sweet year. 🍩

REPORT FROM THE SAINT JOHN JEWISH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

BY KATHERINE BIGGS-CRAFT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CURATOR

The limitations on travel in the midst of the pandemic which has led to the closure of borders, cancellations of cruise ships and few tourists, has impacted the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum in a significant way. Without the visitors from Central Canada and the United States, things are very quiet and it certainly impacts the revenue from admission fees and gift shop sales.

We are finding new ways of doing things and using our time productively as you will see below.

Although we have had to cancel or indefinitely postpone many of our annual events, plans for the 7th Annual Saint John Jewish Film Festival are going ahead. This year our sponsors and ticket holders will have the opportunity to enjoy the movies

in the comfort of their own homes with a personalized link to watch one or more of our films online, followed by the opportunity to hear from someone involved in the making of the production and have the ability to ask questions. More information about our film festival, including sponsorship opportunities and ticket information can be found on our webpage—jewishmuseumsj.com/saint-john-jewish-film-festival.html

We have taken what sometimes seemed like very long days through July and August and found a bit of a silver lining—this summer has presented our summer students with lots of time to work on many new and long-neglected projects in the Museum.

We’ve worked at catching up on some simple things like getting all of our accession

information on to the computer—and thereby rediscovering a lot of interesting things that we forgot we had—and reorganizing the Hebrew books—mostly prayer books, many of them inscribed by community members from the early 1900s. Progress is also being made on organizing more than 50 boxes of archival material collected and catalogued over the past nine years, including a large section on Hadassah activities in the 1960s and 1970s (a very busy group of women!), the life and career of the late Senator Erminie Cohen including her community and political activities and lots of family photographs. Once all of this is done, we will be better able to track and find items of interest for research and exhibition.

Research projects have also moved along very well. One student is researching the stories of the Holocaust survivors who came to Saint John in the late 1940s, making detailed notes of their experiences in Europe and Saint John. As we plan improvements on how we share those stories with visitors, researchers and students, this research will prove invaluable. Another student is creating



PHOTOS: Isaac Home, 21 Orange Street; Holtzman Home, 214 King Street East; Jewish Museum business exhibit



small biographical notes on every person listed on the *yahrzeit* boards in the Shaarei Zedek Synagogue, making links between the families who settled in the city and reminding those attending services of the roles played for former city residents. We hope to post these biographical notes soon.

The decision was made to delay our planned exhibit for 2020 to next year. Having the extra time to research and prepare *"The View From Jaffa Gate: Travel to Israel"* is proving beneficial to better understand life in Palestine in the mid-19th century. A lot of background research from many sources will be brought together to put the exhibit storyline into context. It was at this time, that Rev. William Jones went to Jaffa and Jerusalem as a missionary from the United States. His journals (1854 to 1860), correspondence (1850s to 1890s) and the striking photographs he took of Jerusalem and surrounding area around 1860 will be starting point of the exhibit. Artifacts from our collection and stories gathered from community members who have visited or lived in Israel over the years will round out the exhibit. Here's hoping that circumstances in a year's time will permit a grand opening for this exhibit in June 2021.

In September, work will start on additional projects—some of these will depend on the full re-opening of research facilities at the public library and New Brunswick Museum archives where we can access newspapers from

years past, reference books and the archive collections stored offsite. Both facilities have plans in the works for re-opening and we will be contacted when that happens in the coming weeks.

With funding from the Saint John Community Arts Board, the Museum will develop a guided / self-guided walking tour as a series of short excursions highlighting former Jewish homes and businesses. What were once Jewish homes are located nearby on Leinster Street, Orange Street, and King Street East with business sites found along King, Princess, and Union Streets. If only the walls could talk!

Our always popular Jewish business exhibit is moving online with support from the Community Stories program of the Virtual Museum of Canada and the launch date will be in December 2021. This will be our

fourth story on this platform—look for our other stories : The Changing Tole of Jewish Women in Saint John, Celebrating 150 Years of Jewish Life in Saint John and Past Into Present: Generations of Jewish Life in Saint John at www.virtualmuseum.ca/virtual-exhibits/type/community-stories/.

The Museum relies on grants to create and fund exhibit and research projects and an application is being made for a new project—Saint John Jewish Family Tree. We are hoping to create a blog that will tell the stories of the families who made Saint John home, that will weave family information, family stories, photographs and artifacts together and create the links for extended family relationships to bring the community together. Expect a lot of questions to be sent to family members to help sort out the information and to ask for more. It will be a new way to bring a scattered community together, especially important in a time when we all must stay apart.

We truly miss seeing ex-patriots from across Canada and the United States and meeting all sorts of interesting visitors from all over the world, and look forward to the days when we can share our many interesting stories in person. In the meantime, follow us on Facebook and join in the virtual conversation.

Stay safe and well and plan for 2021 — Next year in Saint John! 📅

CAPE BRETON NEWS

BY SHARON JACOBSON

Well, here we are in the dog days of summer, panting for a return to some kind of normalcy. Some of us might be tired of hanging out digitally? We yearn to flex our social muscles in person.

HERE IN CAPE BRETON WE CAUTIOUSLY BLEW THE BUBBLE

In the beginning, there was Manny Strong's Bar Mitzvah. I will never forget this Bar Mitzvah. The photos describe the magic that Shayna and Darren pulled out of their hat. At that time, only 10 people could attend the service. We had a Minyan.

Manny performed so well, I think he was "the man" long before his Bar Mitzvah.

The luncheon that followed was plated and

served by his parents, and we were seated with a clear distance from each other. We were all so joyful to be there.

THE SIMCHAS FOLLOWED

Stanley and I sponsored a kiddish in honour of our 50th Wedding Anniversary (the 50 year Lockdown); we were followed by Shayna & Darren Strong who celebrated their 17th year of blessed matrimony; and then Myrna Yazer supplied her 75th birthday kiddish with her coveted (not *Covid*ed) chocolate cake.

Bella Shore reached the sublime age of 98 years with an afternoon tea "drop-in" at her house on Hillside Mira. Her daughter,

CONTINUE ON PAGE 34 ➤

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Sybil and granddaughter, Lauren arrived from Halifax to help put a lovely table of goodies together. Even Aunt Bella's Bobka showed up! Her nieces and nephews stopped by—Norm, Gary, Jerry and Betty, Bunny and Lowell Shore; the Yazers from Boularderie, Barrie Carnat and Leslie and Josine Dubinsky of Englishtown, her caretakers, Gertie and Martha, Paula and David (Mira), Inez (Sydney), Margaret Karrel from Ingonish (probably a fellow golfer?) and her old neighbours from Glace Bay, the Kennedys.

BUT I DO REMEMBER WHEN SHABBAT SERVICES FIRST RESUMED, WE WERE A BIT TREPIDATIOUS...

There were many seats and so it was not a problem to sit far apart... but—The Kiddish?

How would we do this? Should everyone bring his or her own flask? Would it look like Prohibition in the olden days? Needless to say, we figured it out, the usual attendees: Martin and Gail Chernin, Frank Elman, Barrie Carnat, Beth Sheila Kent, David Ein, Sandra Wajstaub, the Strong's, Inez, Stanley and I, plus assorted others who carried the service, inspired the drawing of a cartoon included somewhere in this article! Please excuse me if I do not include all people visiting our little congregation. Perhaps, even some events have escaped my memory, the "old grandmere just ain't what she used to be."

WE STILL HAVE A BIT OF OUR "SUMMER BUBBLE"

The Yazers, Leslie and Josine Dubinsky, Heidi Schwartz and Rose Schwartz Rubinoff, Beverley Davis, Raymond Goldman, Irwin Mendleson, Joan, Marlene and Ariel of the Elman clan, the Carnats, who are quarantining as I write, and Lowell and Bunny Shore, whose voices we welcome to join the Dubinsky choir for the High Holidays!

THE CLOSING OF CAMP KADIMAH HIT HARD

I am presently reading a book entitled, "I Will Never See the World Again". It is the memoir of an imprisoned writer, but it was the title that struck me. It was written in a bold black glaring font. It made you stop.

Everywhere people are saying, "We are entering a 'new normal'; the world as we know it will never be the same again, life will be different".



PHOTOS: 1-2 Manny Strong's Bar Mitzvah; 3 Ice cream; 4-7 Shul; 8 Michael Zatzman discovered challah made by Marlene Donovan in A Bakery in Ingonish; 9 Harold Yazer's spiffy mask coordinates well with his outfit; 10 Bella Shore's birthday; 11 Cartoon drawing of the Kiddish.

What with the pandemic, which has even entered the lexicon of my young grandson, the Kadimah Family could not believe camp would not happen this summer! Indeed, the question now is, "Will it happen next summer?" I believe it will, but I am a Pollyanna. My grandson, Izzy, who spent his first six weeks as a camper in 2019, was disappointed that he could not go back to

Kadimah this 2020.

He described the camp as "the best place in the whole world"!

I am constantly amazed that the Kadimah legend, the mythology, keeps renewing itself, thriving and growing on the dreams it spins.

There was a group of older campers that met up for a weekend at the Algonquin Hotel in St. Andrews, N.B. You may know



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them—Jim Spatz, David Alexander, Morris and Goldie Trager, Donna Newman, Victor and Judith Goldberg, and Stanley Jacobson. They reminisced and enjoyed the

old camaraderie as if they were still at Camp. It was August, and Stanley informed me that at this time at camp, people were starting to get sad that the season would soon be over! In fact, I believe, he felt that same sadness as everyone bade farewell to each other at the end of the weekend, and so it goes.

Two incidents stood out these past months that make you doubt the progress of civilization. The explosion onto the scene of a movement that stems from the fight for Civil Rights in the USA and is still striving: Black Lives Matter and the query into a Neo-Nazi Real Estate group on Cape Breton Island.

Both seem incredulous in the time in which we are living, and yet?

To extrapolate a quote of Einstein, "They are a target of instinctive resentment because they are of a different tribe."

We are Jews with a social conscience. Not only are we the mirror of inequity, we are in the Front Line.

Vigilance makes the spirit weary.

And yet, all is not lost, for as the song goes, "you have to love the dear hearts and gentle people that live in our hometown".

Two lines of traffic stopped for a family of ducks as they crossed the road and Michael Zatzman discovered challah made by Marlene Donovan in A Bakery in Ingonish!

As for the uncertain times in which we now find ourselves, COVID-19 may seem to have its own undeniable laws that rule its certainty, for as Einstein stated, God does not play dice, but it was Niels Bohr who countered with: Einstein, stop telling God what to do!

We wish everyone a Healthy and Happy New Year.

P.S. Please note Harold Yazer's sartorial splendour! His spiffy mask coordinates well with his outfit. ☺

MONCTON NEWS

BY FRANCIS WEIL

SHMUSH FROM MONCTON

As everybody else, the greater Moncton Jewish community (it includes Sackville, Dieppe, Woodstock, Riverview, Miramichi and Johnston Point) is living with the COVID-19 rules imposed by the provincial government.

We tried to celebrate Shavu'ot in Shul (May 29 and 30), but the Province prevented us to do so at the last minute. It was only on June 5 that we were able to start weekly services again.

A few days before (June 2 and 3) the community got together on Zoom to celebrate the first Yahrzeit for Noam El, z"l.

At about the same time (May 20), Dr. Rowen Shinder lost his Mother, Leatrice Kahansky, in Montreal. Because of COVID-19, he was unable to leave Moncton. The funeral was held on Zoom, an event that gave us the chance to reconnect with Rabbi Wolff who was the Rabbi here from 1982 to 1990.

Services in the synagogue have been held quite regularly since June 5, at least every Shabbat. The Torah has been read thanks to the services of five extraordinary Torah readers, Ury El, Rowen Shinder, David Miller, Arik Talmasov and Eitan-Emmanuel Izichkis. All five are excellent readers; special mention

can be made for Eitan-Emmanuel. Not yet 16, Eitan-Emmanuel can read perfectly at very high speed. Mazal Tov! Your parents, Shayna and Alexander can be proud of you!

We have a special thought for all who are in senior care homes, Bella, 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.

Cheder has continued, interrupted only by the summer vacations. It will restart soon. The Rebbetzin has weekly online lessons with some of the kids. She also has a weekly Yiddish class with a few members. Thank you Rebbetzin for your efforts.

Rabbi Yagod has continued to give Dvar Torah and lessons to various members of the community using the Zoom media. Thank you Rabbi.

If you want to participate to these Zoom gatherings, please send a message to rabbiyagod1@gmail.com

On August 12 we lost a very long-standing member. Lillian Schelew, z"l, has been a member of Tiferes Israel Synagogue since her birth in 1922. Ninety-eight years! About her life is in the 'Remembered' section on page 25. ☺



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PHOTOS: 1. Sisterhood in the 1990s; 2. Sisterhood in 2001; 3. Rabbi Wolff

BUY ISRAEL

We need your help!

We were inspired by a suggestion from Leslie Dubinsky to create a **LIST OF ISRAELI PRODUCTS** sold in our region. Please send us a list of any Israeli products you have discovered in local shops and we will publish the list in our weekly AJC newsletter.

Please email information on products to:

buyisrael@theajc.ca

To subscribe to our AJC newsletter, please email:

info@theajc.ca

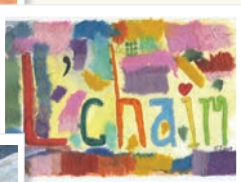
FROM LESLIE DUBINSKY:

I am old enough to remember in the 1950s when it was a very big deal when Jaffa oranges would arrive in the Atlantic Provinces and be actively supported by Jews and friends alike.

Nowadays there are some other great Israeli products that most know about such as Soda Stream, TEVA Pharmaceuticals and NAOT shoes.

But there are products that one can find by accident and thus better support Israel if they get some publicity.

I speak for example of excellent KETER plastic deck boxes, planters, garden sheds and other such products sold EG in Costco and Canadian Tire. These and other Israeli products may not be that familiar to all our AJC population and perhaps need mention. I have several Keter products and EG deck planters purchased at Costco and they are very well-priced and great for balconies.



ORDER A TRIBUTE CARD FROM THE AJC!

Tribute card designs are from original paintings by local artist Jennifer Baig Jacobson, this issue's cover artist, and the owner of Studio 14, Gifts & Gallery.

Make a donation in someone's honour or memory to the AJC and we'll send them or their family one of these beautiful tribute cards with a personalized message inside!

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PEI NEWS

BY JOSEPH B. GLASS

On August 9th, the PEIJC took advantage of the beautiful Island summer weather to have a small community picnic and to hold its Annual General Meeting. Following provincial public health recommendations, the event was held in an outdoor setting, precautions were taken to ensure social distancing and efforts were made to limit contact. The number of participants was capped, and attendance required RSVPs.

The picnic was held along the banks of the Hillsborough River, with a panoramic view of Charlottetown in the background. Ayelet and Larry Stewart graciously hosted the event. The picnic afforded community members the opportunity to catch with each other and, as expected, to share their COVID-19 experiences. The highlight of gathering was the participation of six-month-old Felix Fleischmann, one of the youngest members of the community, seen here with his mother Shamara Baidooobonso. Members of the community were delighted to see how much Felix had grown. We last saw Felix at his Brit Milah, which was shortly before the COVID-19 outbreak. Felix with his jovial and curious personality brought smiles to everyone. (Photos of the PEIJC picnic, courtesy of Nadav Clyde).

The picnic was an opportunity to hold the PEIJC Annual General Meeting. The President, Leo Mednick, reported on the PEIJC activities during the past year and shared details of the arrangements for the 5781 High Holidays. To ensure proper social distancing, the venue for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur community services has been moved to a large community hall. Attendance numbers will be limited as per provincial public health directives. Because of the potential of the release of dangerous levels of aerosols in the act of Shofar blowing, the PEIJC will holding the Shofar blowing outdoors. Regretfully, the annual Rosh Hashanah potluck lunch, a much-enjoyed event on the community's social calendar, cannot be held this year.

Elections for the PEIJC executive were held. Leo Mednick was the re-elected President for a two-year term as were other members of the executive: Past President—Winston MacGregor, Vice President—Leslee Sack, Treasurer—Shamara Baidooobonso, Atlantic Jewish Council Representative—Joseph Glass, and Summer Resident Representative—Michal Goldman.

A young community member, Elijah Opps, was recently featured on the local



CBC evening news broadcast—Compass. His parents Marina Silva-Opps and Sheldon Opps discussed their decision to home school their son. They explained that after schools closed in March, both parents began to teach their son, dividing his day into a schedule comprised of Hebrew lessons, math, literacy, hands-on science projects, and coding. They decided to continue home schooling for the 2020-21 school year. The news item included a clip of Elijah singing Hatikvah. His Hebrew teacher, Ilana Clyde, is very proud of her student's achievement. Elijah's performance may have been the first time Hatikvah was sung by an Islander on Island television. 📺

In response to Shalom Magazine's request, two members of the Island Jewish community shared their experiences during the first months of COVID-19.

ERICA POWERS WROTE:

The US/Canada border closure has been tough, since I'm originally from New York and haven't gotten to see family. In May my parents were going to drive from New York to celebrate my two-year old's birthday. Unfortunately, that trip never took place and my father has yet to meet my youngest who was born in December. We usually go to New York to celebrate Yom Kippur with family and attend synagogue there. The Atlantic bubble has made me so grateful to be in P.E.I. I miss my family and yearn to celebrate the New Year or Yom Kippur in person and not on a Zoom meeting.

HENRY SREBRNIK COMMUNICATED:

We are among the lucky ones during this pandemic. Pat is retired, and as a professor at the University of Prince Edward Island, I continue to receive my salary.

We no longer go to the gym, but I take long walks, weather permitting—fortunately it's been a beautiful summer. Amazon Prime and Netflix are our main entertainment venues. I keep in touch with my relatives via Facetime phone calls and e-mail.

We do have our eleven cats to keep us company. They are pleased that we are home so much more than we used to be. In response, they have become both more affectionate and more demanding. Indeed, a few of them are becoming too emotionally dependent.

UPEI will be teaching online this fall, and I am learning to use all the various tools, since I will be doing so from my home computer. Even with video platforms like Zoom, there will not be the give-and-take between myself and the students, and they with each other; spontaneity will be lost. Much learning goes on in the hallways, student lounges, and other places on campus, as well.

YOM KIPPUR AND THE SCAPEGOAT

BY RABBI YAKOV KERZNER, BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE, HALIFAX, NS

As we enter the month of Elul, our focus turns to the High Holidays and the Ten Days of Repentance, culminating with Yom Kippur. The Temple Service on that day has a strange but essential ritual called “The Sair L’Azazel”, or the “Scapegoat”. We place the sins of the Jewish People on a goat’s head and send it to the wilderness of Azazel.

It is the heart of the service and creates atonement for all sins, some of them even without repentance. A seemingly simple but superficial way of dealing with our imperfections.

It is an offering but is not offered on the Altar. Its blood is not brought before God and it has none of the regular ingredients of a typical sacrifice.

It is chosen by drawing lots between two goats. Our Sages tell us that the two goats are physically identical. One is destined to be “Kodesh L’Hashem”, “Holy Before God”, similar to all offerings in the Temple. The “Scapegoat”, on the other hand, is sent to the wilderness and according to our Sages is thrown off a cliff to its immediate death. What is the meaning behind this strange ritual?

Perhaps, the two identical goats represent two sides of our own personality. We have the ability to use our inborn qualities for

either good or bad. We can choose whether we direct our energy to enhance our spirituality, establish our ethical credentials, and use our qualities to become better people and draw closer to God. Or, we can abandon ourselves to the darker side of our personality and allow ourselves to be swept into a life of questionable choices.

No matter the path we choose, we are left with imperfections. There are two ways to deal with those imperfections. When we have generally chosen the former path, the hard work of teshuvah, repentance, is within reach. We can change our ways through hard work and determination. We can become “Holy Before God” by allowing the better part of ourselves to dominate, transforming and guiding our negative personality traits to a higher standard.

When we have chosen the latter path, it is easier to admit defeat and assign the guilt of our wayward path to outside forces and simply claim that “the devil made me do it”. It wasn’t me but an evil force that inhabited my body and my psyche. It comes from the “Other Side”.

Yom Kippur offers us a choice. We can use the time leading up to Yom Kippur to inspect our lives, uncover our true motivations, change our ways and become “Holy Before

God” even if our lives had followed the latter path.

But we are also granted a gift on this day. We can take the easy way out. Rid ourselves of our ugly side by distancing ourselves from the sick part of ourselves. We can claim multiple personalities and assign our darker side to a personality that we dispose of. It is the easy path to change but is fraught with the danger of the neglected side reappearing at a later date. It allows us to move forward but it only reflects superficial change. We can deny the complex personalities that inhere in every human being and move forward as if we are purified. This can work on a temporary basis and will hopefully be the beginning of a teshuvah process.

The full power of Yom Kippur can be realized when we come prepared with insightful reflection of who we really are and prepare ourselves for the long process of change. If we fail in that endeavor, then we should take advantage of the gift of immediate change. Of using a Scapegoat to purify ourselves in the overwhelming power of the day.

It is important to remember that the real benefit of Yom Kippur is the realization that Scapegoating is a temporary fix and devote ourselves to an elongated year of Yom Kippur with meaningful change that will last a lifetime. We may start by sending the Scapegoat to Azazel but ultimately, we want to transform ourselves to be “Holy Before God”. ●



WHO CARES?

BY RABBI CHANAN CHERNITSKY, DIRECTOR, CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF NEWFOUNDLAND

I was lucky to spend my post-secondary years studying in a Yeshiva. More than just acquiring knowledge, I got to absorb a plethora of Chasidic stories and moral lessons.

When the going gets tough I reflect on the many stories that I read or heard throughout the years to help me pull through those dark moments.

The current pandemic has proven quite challenging in many ways.

I’d like to share the following story, which helps us look at our current situation with social distancing, no/limited shul services in a different light.

There were two righteous brothers, *tzadikim*, who used to travel together through White Russia in the late 1700’s, Rev Elimelech of Lizhensk and Rev Zusha of Anipoli.

During one of their many travels they got caught up in the middle of a misunderstanding with the police and were arrested. They were placed in a jail together with a dozen convicted criminals.

One of the brothers wanted to pray the afternoon prayer, *Mincha*. His brother however, was quick to point to the pail sitting in the middle of the jail cell, which

the inmates used to relieve themselves. Jewish law forbids praying in proximity to it.

Disheartened, the brother who was eager to pray fell into a state of depression. Not only were they wrongfully accused and had to sit in jail with convicted criminals, they couldn’t even pray and plead to The Almighty.

Noticing his brother’s state, the second one got him out of this somber mood. He said to him: “The same G-d who wants us to pray to him 3 times a day doesn’t want us to pray in close proximity to the pail. In abstaining from prayer in such circumstances, we are also fulfilling G-d’s will!”

This realization sunk in and both brothers began to dance around the jail cell with great



PANDEMIC PROOF

BY RABBI MENDEL FELDMAN, CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF THE MARITIMES

A newspaper caption titled, "Pandemic Proof Investments" caught my attention (not that I have money to invest :) but I was curious. After browsing the article a bit, I got the gist of the types of companies that are vulnerable to pandemics, that are pandemic proof and those that are pandemic friendly, (meaning they do better during a pandemic).

This got me thinking about Judaism, what category would I put Judaism in? The Jewish people have been around for a very long time. If you have lived this long, then you have probably caught every possible illness and managed to survive. And that is true for the Jewish people as well. We have lived in every country, under every circumstance, culture, situation and have really seen it all. While other nations and cultures eventually caught something that brought them down, we are still here.

We have the longevity gene. We have been able to survive it all, we are not just pandemic proof, we seem to be everything proof, but that's on a collective level, on an individual level it is certainly more challenging.

I remember a story that I heard from Rabbi Mendel Futerfas. He was named Mendel after his father, because he never met his father who passed before he was born. He lived through

WWI and WWII. After the war he risked his life helping Jews escape from the Soviet Union, sadly eventually he was caught and spent 10 years in a labor camp. While he was there, he had many experiences that taught him profound life lessons that he shared after he was finally released.

One of the stories he related was about the time that he literally had nothing. As part of the labor camp that he was in, he was required to march daily to a worksite and complete physical labor. One day during the march he noticed a body of water along the way. In Chasidic tradition there is a custom to try to immerse in a body of water every morning before prayer for added purification. He was excited to have made this find and he tried to find a way how he could sneak away and immerse. After a few days he secretly broke from the group, dipped in the water and made it back undetected. He felt accomplished that he could do one more act that was connected to his Judaism and his relationship with G-d.

While he managed to pray and study everyday, this added immersing was very soothing for his soul. As the season changed to winter the water was getting colder, but this did not deter Reb Mendel from his daily

ecstasy. Soon, the whole jail cell was dancing around the pail! Noticing the tumult the prison guard went to check what was going on in the cell. He asked one of the inmates for an explanation. The inmate replied that he saw the two brothers talking and pointing at the pail before starting to dance with great enthusiasm. The guard wasted no time and removed the bucket from the jail cell. This wasn't a place for dancing and celebrating, after all.

Once the bucket was removed, the brothers turned to each other and said: "Now we can pray."

We are living in challenging times. We thrive on social closeness! Praying together, breaking bread together, schmoozing, etc.

At times like these we need to keep in mind that our efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19 are as pleasant in G-d's eyes as

the biggest and most wonderful minyan. We aren't being deprived of the opportunity to do what G-d wants from us.

Especially with the month of Tishrei approaching, when we have so many special *Mitzvot*; hearing the Shofar on Rosh Hashana, Shaking the 4 kinds and eating in the *Sukkah*, etc. Some of us will have a harder time this year or perhaps won't be able to perform them at all because of the restrictions from the health authorities.

This time we will get to do His will in a different way and that's what we need to focus on. We will focus on what He wants instead of what we want.

Wishing you a Shanah Tovah Umetukah! A good and sweet year in perfect health! 🍀

immersion.

One cold day after coming out of the freezing water he was shocked to discover that someone had taken his clothes.

Apparently, he did not notice that someone had followed him and had taken his clothing to embarrass and humiliate him.

His first reaction was panic and shame, but then it dawned on him that now there was nothing more for anyone to take. While he had nothing, it also meant that nothing could be taken from him. And what he had left was the most valuable thing one can have. He had his mind, his heart, his soul, his relationships, his G-d and his Judaism. And when he realized that these were thief proof, he realized just how lucky, wealthy, fortunate and blessed he was. And this gave him a sense of contentment that could not be shaken.

As he shared the story, it made a profound impression on me. When we have so much, we get caught up and become measured and defined by materialistic things that are not essential. Sometimes we need a dramatic story to remind us what we really have and that it is pandemic proof and essentially everything proof. When we can tap into that space we are not only pandemic proof we can truly transcend everything.

As we get closer to the High Holidays and they are more on our mind we can take stock of our Jewish basics inventory, and make sure we are covered and that we have all the Jewish basics in our home. This will definitely make it easier for our Judaism to be pandemic proof.

As we prepare for one of the most unique High Holidays, let's find the silver linings in all of this and take our relationship with our Judaism and G-d to a whole new level, the kind of relationship it will be when Moshiach comes.

May our efforts finally bring an end to this pandemic and to all pain and suffering in the world and let it usher in the time that we have been promised, a time of a good health, global peace and prosperity with the coming of Moshiach speedily in our days.

With best wishes for a happy, healthy & sweet New Year. 🍀



THE PERFECT HOLIDAY FOR A PANDEMIC

BY RABBI GARY KARLIN, SHAAR SHALOM CONGREGATION, HALIFAX, NS

When we think of the High Holidays, the *Yamim haNora'im*, we naturally think of Rosh haShanah and Yom Kippur. But there is a week-long holiday that follows almost immediately that sometimes gets lost in the

post-*Neilah* sense of relief and hope that follows the Day of Atonement.

Of course, I'm referring to Sukkot, which begins this year on Friday evening, October 2. For the entire week we use the

Four Species (*lulav*/palm, *etrog*/citron, *hadassim*/myrtle, *aravot*/willow) at home and in the synagogue, and eat our meals in the outdoor sukkah. Some even sleep in the sukkah.

One of my favorite childhood memories is of sitting in the sukkot of friends and neighbours. Being outside with loved ones has always left me feeling warm and safe, despite the delightful chill of autumn air. The symbolism of the sukkah, as evidence of God's protection, is still palpable to me.

As a teenager, Sukkot was a time to spend evenings and afternoons in the sukkot of friends from our shul. Every year I would look forward to dinner invitations from families who built their own sukkot. Our synagogue had what we called a "Sukkah Trail," a schedule of home sukkot open to guests on the first two afternoons of the festival. Each year we would walk the "Sukkah Trail," enjoying hospitality freely offered to all. Sukkot has always been for me a time of the community coming together and observing the mitzvah of *hakhnasat orchim*, the command to welcome guests into our homes and our yards.

Certainly, with the COVID-19 pandemic, this Sukkot will be quite different from any other. But, ironically, this may be the perfect holiday for a time of the coronavirus, since we have come to understand that the infection is less easily transmitted outdoors. This gives me the opportunity to suggest that we take it outside this Sukkot! Stay healthy by sitting in our sukkot—family and synagogue—and enjoy.

What a wonderful way to take some well-deserved time off from the fear and worry of this age, and to celebrate a holiday that combines beautifully safe-practice, with the centrality of community and God's protection.

To our entire Atlantic Jewish community, I wish warm greetings of *Shanah tovah*, a wonderful New Year, and also an early *Hag Sukkot same'ah*, a joyous festival of Sukkot. 5



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A VERY DIFFERENT KIND OF SHOFAR

BY RABBI YOSEF GOLDMAN, SGOOLAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE, FREDERICTON, NB

About a decade ago, I was introduced to a program of the Scouts Canada & Girl Guides of Canada, to earn a “Religion in Life” emblem (or badge). This amazing program give the opportunity for young girls & boys to earn a badge after completing different requirements, based on their age group. As far as I know, there are 3 children in our community who have earned this badge—which depicts a Seven-branch Menorah (with different coloured borders, depending on their age). When I was introduced to this program, I was asked by the parents to try to use it in my teaching and encourage the children to participate in our Synagogue’s Services, especially since it is a requirement.

So, as a good Jew, I asked why a Menorah and not a Tallis or a Mezuzah, or a Shofar. The reason I thought that a Shofar is very appropriate, is because, to the best of my knowledge—there isn’t one Jewish child (anywhere in the world) who hasn’t heard the Shofar blowing. Whether it be on Rosh Hashana or at the end of the prayers on Yom

Kippur. There is even a community in South Florida (where I lived for 2.5 years) that breaks the fast together late in the afternoon on Yom Kippur, but not before they blow the Shofar! to symbolize that the fast is over. In addition, the first stage is for kids who are 8-10 years old, and one of the tasks is to make a mold or draw four of the following Religious artifacts (and explain the use of each): Menorah, Ner Tamid, Aron Hakodesh, Havdalah Set, Shofar, Seder Plate, Mezuzah. Of course, I who grew up in an Orthodox home, know what all these are, but, every year on Passover eve, I need to check “what goes where?” on the Seder Plate. And, I suspect there are some adults in our community, who don’t recognize the Hebrew names for the Eternal Light & the Holy Ark. To this day I didn’t receive an answer why the Menorah was chosen, especially since it’s “missing” 1 or 2 branches (from the Hanukkah Menorah)?!

One of the things that will be very different this coming up season of Jewish High Holy Days, is that if we want to hear the Shofar

blowing—we will have to either create a (physical) partition between the people attending services and the Ba’al Toke’ah (the official title for the person who blows the Shofar); or, as we are planning to do, go outside.



I will conclude with an optimistic thought. Five Hundred years ago, after the Spanish Inquisition deported all the Jews from Spain, there were many Jews who secretly gathered in basements and other such hiding places, to hear the Shofar on Rosh Hashana. They actually asked a Rabbi if the laws of the beginning of Tractate Rosh Hashana—about blowing the Shofar into a pit (so that no outsider will hear)—apply to their challenging situation. We are very fortunate and grateful that we live in a country which gives us freedom to practice our religion in public! and even though we face challenges—we still have a belief and a way of life that doesn’t require us to hide our actions! And a Canadian non-religious organization rewards our children & youth with an emblem that declares: I am a Jew!

May we merit to hear the sounding of the Great Shofar of the Messiah, speedily in our days! Amen! ❧

WORLDWIDE SIYUM ON TRACTATE SHABBOS

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

Sunday, August 16, 2020, was the worldwide Siyum on Masechta shabbos. Probably everyone remembers the worldwide Siyum HaShas in January, not long before coronavirus hit the US and shortly after became a pandemic. The August event was the first ever worldwide Siyum on Masechta Shabbos! The worldwide has always been on the full Shas. Rav Eli decided to do one on Masechta Shabbos too and it was a great idea and a big success.

After the Siyum there was renewed vigor across the world for many people to also begin learning Talmud a page a day and the worldwide list of people who signed up was exponentially larger than last year. You don’t have to sign up to be a part of it, and many people learned it anyway even though they hadn’t signed up which is a great thing.

One of the ways this was done was through

learning “8-minute Daf with Rav Eli,” led by Rabbi Eli Stefansky, who also does a full daf that immediately became popular too. He was advertised by the Siyum Hashas event and the local Jewish publications in New York circulating about Daf Yomi at the time, and since he was on YouTube, he was very easily accessible so people signed on to see him and since January he’s jumped up to 3,000 subscribers. As someone who’s watched his daf shiurim (torah lectures/classes), I can attest to his popularity as something that comes naturally just because of who he is: friendly, warm and relatable, and makes you feel like he’s just like you, only lives in Ramat Beit Shemesh in Israel (known as RBS) and happened to have just decided to spend a few hours on the Gemara. His unborn humility is expressed through his self effacing and disregarding humor and lightheartedness

about who is, and becomes obvious when you see how he sees himself as just like everyone else, or as he likes to call himself “a simple Jew,” and how he is a rabbi but refuses to be called one because he doesn’t like titles, but instead insists on being called Eli. He runs a great chaburah (steady learning group) of other guys from RBS in three Shiurim: 8 min daf, full daf in the am, full daf in the pm. His whole story is listed in the Ami magazine, which you can find online, and it’s very inspiring: just a real estate guy in Chicago for years (after his Yeshiva education in Brooklyn growing up), and started noticing he wasn’t having any time left for learning ... years went by this way and finally he left Chicago and moved to Israel where he gradually increased gemara from a little a day, 1 hour at a time and soon was learning full time gur wanted to know the Gemara better so decided to be

“mechayev” (obligate) himself by starting a Daf Yomi Shiur ... eventually, what once started as a group of 8 guys in his living room who came for Thursday night Chulent grew into 65-100 guys at the RBS beis Medrash (place of torah study) and thousands of viewers online.

So many people were inspired by what he has to offer in the daf Shiur—his magnetic energy, the way he summarizes the daf so clearly, fluidly and in an easy to remember way, the way he explains the daf with such depth and overview at the same time and brings it home, the way he always has an interesting style, a focused flow and an ever-forward pace, and how he always starts the class with a “Good morning Rabbosai,” followed by reading the emails that came in, then started the Shiur exactly on time and ending on time every time, moving fast in between and constantly bringing in humor or occasionally breaking out into song when he came up to a line in the Gemara that had been made into a song, and closing with the memorable “have a wonderful day”, that though it is a common refrain, when he says it it makes the listener feel truly positive for the day. He addresses lots of people personally and tries to make everyone feel welcome and an essential part of the Shiur. And for all this people keep coming back for more and have been riveted since Day 1.

To make it as simple and compact as possible they wanted to do a Zoom window for every location around the world and had sign ups for people who would volunteer to host their location, and hosts had to sign up weeks in advance. My brother Pinchus was one of the hosts which we were very proud of. There were over 100 locations all over the world signing into the Zoom and many of them were interesting: Perth, Western Australia; Mexico, Mexico; Stockholm, Sweden; Belarus; Russia; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Paris, France; Dallas TX; Memphis, TN; Jackson, Florida; Johannesburg, South Africa.

They had from literally all over the world.

They did an immense program which was beautiful and you can watch the replay at this link: [youtube/Be1Esliq5H8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Be1Esliq5H8)

In summary, they had the MC of the event, the famous Rabbi Nachman Seltzer (author of many books, alumna of Miami Boys Choir, and many more besides) who was a long time steady member of the Shiur since the early days (he sits on Rav Eli's right hand

side if you watch the Shiur), who hit it off by introducing the event and explaining the program. They had interesting speeches from various Shiur listeners with the requirement that it be kept to 2 minutes each, and they had a section where each member of the daf introduced themselves by video so you got to meet them. They also showed a few movies made about the journey of the Shiur and the unexpected coronavirus that came in and changed everything—and how they adapted and how learning the daf was possible anyway and no daf was missed. It was captivating

The speakers were Charlie Harary and Rabbi Yissocher Frand, Rabbi YY Jacobson and a few others, who were all original in their style and delivered unique messages. They closed it off with a conclusive speech from Rabbi Seltzer and a candid speech from Rav Eli himself, who spoke about what this meant to him and had a few thoughts on the daf and having reached this point of finishing shabbos and so many listeners who hung on when many have dropped. He spoke how inspired he was by the listeners and some things he had learned from the journey.

Rabbi Seltzer then presented him with surprise presents from people of the daf who wanted to show how much it meant to them, and after that all the Zoom attendees had the chance to say personal goodbyes to Rabbi Eli and the RBS group.

They congratulated everyone who stuck with it all this time even though it gets hard, and they encouraged everyone to go stronger and better and with more energy.

The attendee speakers reminded everyone of Rabbi Eli's valuable advice which had helped throughout: “it's not about the Daf, it's about the Yomi” ... don't worry about making every daf, but about making every day, because eventually you will miss a day here and there, because you have a wedding to go to or someone had a baby or an emergency comes up, and if you focus on the former and say “I can't do today's daf until I catch up,” you will fall into the age old trap of missing today's daf to always do catch up and it's a horrendous cycle—this is 100% the top reason why people fall off the Daf cycle.

When you focus on the day, that's what really changes you. That's why with Daf Yomi, “it's not about The Daf (the page), it's about the Yomi (the day)”, or the consistency. One viewer mentioned how this helped him: “when I think of how much I remember from the daf each day it's not much, but just event

to remember one thing each day means a lot, and it's changed me as a person.”

Charlie Harary had interesting words to say on the subject: he encouraged everyone to keep holding out through Eiruvim (the next tractate) because it would get harder then, but after that tractate “it will be smooth sailing from there,” so don't give up yet. And be prepared for the challenges that come your way, because when you're not surprised you'll know how to defeat them and not be knocked off course. He also said that you should be aware of the temptation to add more, to do too much; instead, just do one more each day—not all of Shas (Talmud) in one day but one page at a time, plugging away at it, as the Verse says “Es HaKeves Echad”, “Bring one daily sacrifice,” which he explained also means that when you stick to something day in and day out, going for the daily grind and never giving up, even if you don't do much at a time but you keep that consistency—then You become the sacrifice, the one who is changed forever in a such a magnanimously positive way. My own thought on this was that becoming a sacrifice is when you keep plugging away at something to the point where, on all your “I don't feel like it” days, you're ignoring the inclination to give up and not do it (because the automatic thought goes, “it will just be this one day, and that always turns into giving up) and you begin to feel like you're sacrificing everything just for keeping that consistency, and you feel like you'll never make it through this... but then you do it anyway, that's when you become the sacrifice, and when you can get through that, that's how you'll know you've changed.

May all the Daf Yomi learners take this Siyum HaShabbos as an extra Chizik (motivation) to carry us through the rest of Shas, and may we all be able to ingrain these golden nuggets of wisdom, encouragement and powerful inspiration as the catalysts to our own changes in our lives, so that we can “become the daily sacrifice,” and so that we can transition and reach amazing heights and become the people we are truly meant to be.

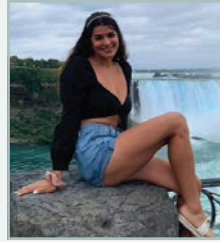


Additional information: <https://mishpacha.com/work-life-solutions-with-eli-stefansky>; <https://www.amimagazine.org/2019/07/10/coffee-break-with-eli-stefansky>

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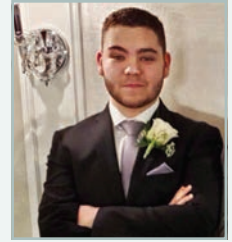
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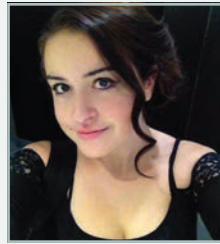
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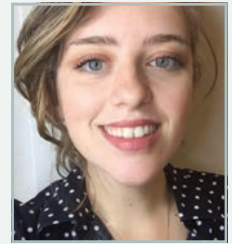
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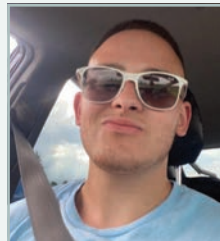
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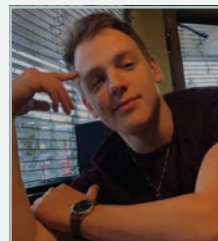
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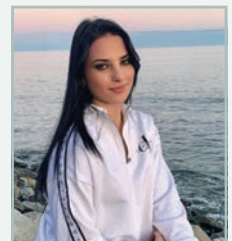
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