

Shalom

CONNECTING THE ATLANTIC JEWISH COMMUNITY



FALL 2021

HEBREW CLASS
IN ATLANTIC CANADA

O GREENEST
BRANCH
IN HALIFAX

JEWISH HATE IS
WHAT IT'S ABOUT



Thank you to our legacy
donors for making it
a sweet New Year



LIFE & LEGACY[®]

IN ATLANTIC CANADA
Securing our Jewish Future

Todah Rabah!

Thank you to the following people who have already committed to making a legacy gift to an Atlantic Canadian Jewish organization!

Please contact **Naomi Rosenfeld** to learn more or to make your commitment.

If you too have already made a legacy gift to a Jewish organization in Atlantic Canada and would like to be included on this list, contact Naomi:

executivedirector@theajc.ca or **902.422.7493**

Anonymous x 5
Joyce Barak
Ethel Cooper-Rosen
Yakov Feig
Devorah Gillard
Eric Goldberg
Judith Goldberg
Victor Goldberg
Jennifer & Richard Goldhar and Family
Paul Gray & Toby Mandelman
Bonnie Katz Webber & Henry Webber
Linda Law
Miles Leznoff
Carol Lee Loebenberg
Joanna Mirsky Wexler
William Mosher
Lloyd Newman
Jack Novack
Mark Rosen
Naomi Rosenfeld
Joseph Roza
Lynda Suissa
Jack Yablon
Harold Yazer
Arthur Zilbert



SHALOM MAGAZINE

President
MARILYN KAUFMAN

Executive Director
NAOMI ROSENFELD

Editor
EDNA LEVINE

Graphic Designer
MEGHAN RUSHTON

Advertising
EDNA LEVINE

Address all correspondence,
including advertising enquires, to:

EDITOR, C/O SHALOM
ATLANTIC JEWISH COUNCIL
5640 SPRING GARDEN ROAD, SUITE 300,
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA B3J 3M7

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

www.theajc.ca

This publication is printed by:
HALCRAFT PRINTERS INC.

Mailed under Canada Post:
PUBLICATIONS MAIL SALES AGREEMENT
NO. 40052452

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 2021
VOL. 46 | NO. 2
TISHREI 5782

ON THE COVER



Sea of Blue, by Lynn Rotin
24" x 36", mixed media (oil, pencil on canvas)
\$2,800. This painting is available for purchase
from the artist—email: lynnrotin@gmail.com

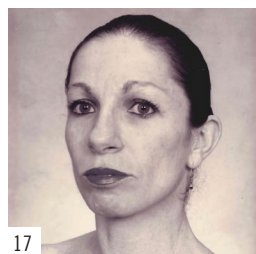


Lynn Rotin paints, draws, and gardens in West Pennant, Nova Scotia just outside the city of Halifax.

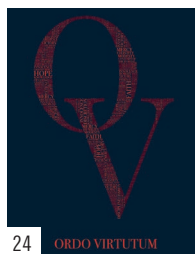
To see more of her work go to lynnrotin.com or email lynnrotin@gmail.com.



11



17



24



29

FEATURES

- 17 Hebrew Class With Our Teacher
Ilana Clyde In Atlantic Canada
- 19 Jewish Hate Is What It's About
- 20 What I Do Not Understand
About Our World
- 22 LIFE & LEGACY®
IN ATLANTIC CANADA
- 24 James Rolfe and Vocalypse Productions
Present: *O Greenest Branch in Halifax*
- 28 Nutritious, Filling and Satisfying
Salad Meal Recipe

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 4 President's Message: Marilyn Kaufman
- 5 From The Desk of Naomi Rosenfeld,
Executive Director
- 7 From The Desk of Edna LeVine,
Director Of Community Engagement
- 8 AJF Scholarships
- 9 The Centre For Israel and Jewish Affairs
(CIJA) Report
- 11 Camp Kadimah News
- 13 Family News
- 15 Campus News
- 27 The Abraham Leventhal Memorial
Scholarships
- 39 Rabbis' Corner

AROUND OUR REGION

- 27 Halifax: The AJC Board
- 26 Halifax: Abe Leventhal z"l
- 29 Halifax: Limmud FSU Atlantic Labs
- 30 Prince Edward Island: A Snapshot of
the Jewish Community in Charlottetown
100 Years Ago
- 32 Cape Breton
- 33 Newfoundland
- 35 Fredericton
- 37 Moncton
- 38 Saint John



From The Desk Of **MARILYN KAUFMAN**

President of the Atlantic Jewish Council

As Rosh Hashanah approaches, we find ourselves once again reflecting on our life of the past year. It is a time of renewal, a celebration of life, and the seeking of forgiveness for past transgressions. As my term as President of the Atlantic Jewish Council comes to a close, I remain hopeful that our Atlantic Regional Community continues to stay strong and united in times of adversity, and continues to thrive within its own diversity, for we know that our community flourishes when others flourish.

We find ourselves once again, on the cusp of confronting the oldest form of hatred in the world. Antisemitism. Hate and violence are no longer knocking at our door. They are kicking it down.

We have the right to live openly as Jews, free and secure, and it is the state's duty and responsibility to protect its citizens.

Therefore, it is not only the collective voice, but individuals, who must step forward to make their voices heard, taking on those who would malign us with antisemitic acts and verbal slurs.

It is recognized by Jews across Canada, that not only in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver are we being negatively impacted by these incidents, but also in other small communities across our country. We have been personally touched by these seeds of hate, within our schools, universities, at our businesses, and on public streets. The AJC placed an OP-ED in the Halifax Chronicle Herald and stood in solidarity with other Canadian Jewish organizations across the country. Thank you to all who took the initiative to write, phone, and meet face to face with MLAs, MPs, municipal councillors, and school administrators/officials. We all have an obligation to confront these acts of hate and bring those responsible to account.

It is a must, that we recognize the importance of educating community members of all ages, as to the indigenous rights of Jews to the land of Israel within its historical context. Judaism is twice as old as Christianity and three times as old as Islam.

Many great empires have fallen, yet the Jews still survive. With 80% of the population of

Israel being Jewish, Israel is the "collective Jew," so it has become and remains the target for Jew hatred. Antisemitism has been allowed to foment in the mainstream of society using the language of human rights to give it legitimacy. From both the political left and the political right, we have felt the repercussions. This is a global battle which cost Europe 29 million non-Jewish lives in WWII, 29 million reasons for non-Jews to help in our fight against global antisemitism. For as we know all too well from Jewish history, it is not just the Jewish world that is threatened.

The importance of the Atlantic Jewish Council to the Jews of Atlantic Canada has never been more evident than over the last, almost three years of my tenure. Who expected that a COVID pandemic would create chaos in our midst? Certainly not me.

Communities have had to be creative, adapting to the health guidelines of the pandemic. This is where Zoom globalization came into being, keeping us connected, not only to one another locally, but enabling us to access the world without leaving home. Thank you to all the presenters on Zoom who have given of their time to keep us connected to our yid-dushkite and thank you to all the individuals who supported the various Zoom programs from a variety of Jewish sources. It is ironic to know that a people who had been scattered to the four corners of the earth could be brought together through Zoom.

Our PJ Library program continues with strong support and participation from our families across the region. Maya Loton, Director of Youth & Young Family Engagement has had an opportunity to engage with some of our families online and will hopefully be able to follow up in person. Ran Ben Shabat, as Hillel Director and Next Generation Engagement, will be looking to hook up with university students face to face, especially those outside of Halifax. We have had a successful launch to our Life and Legacy Atlantic initiative by our Executive Director, Naomi Rosenfeld. Under the direction of Edna LeVine, Director of Community Engagement,

Holocaust Education has expanded and I am pleased to see that the Jewish Film Festival this November will be a hybrid program. The "Honouring Ruth Project" is to be unveiled at Pier 21 in October, thanks to the efforts of Howard Conter and his wife Karen. Although Camp Kadimah was unable to open this summer, a big thank you to Michael Pink, Michael Soberman, Sarah Atkins and the camp committee for persevering in their efforts to find an alternative solution. Meanwhile, I know that they continue to prepare for next year's season.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, members of the Atlantic Jewish communities for your support. To members of my Board: Michael Argand, Arik Druker, Pavel Jaloudovski, Aviva Rubin—Schneider, Jennifer Jacobson, Michael Pink, Jeff Webber, Howard Conter, Jon Goldberg, Victor Goldberg, Mark Rosen, Derek Brett, Daniel Taieb, Francis Weil, Joseph Glass, Meital Or, Susan Lubin Isaacs, Shayna Strong—thank you for your guidance, dedication and the work that you do for the Jews of Atlantic Canada. Svetlana and Edna, your support in the office and with ongoing programs has been invaluable, particularly through the pandemic and move to the new office. And to our Executive Director, well... there is only one Naomi...creative, determined and fearless in pursuit of enhancing life for all Atlantic Jewish Canadians. No task is too great nor too small. It will get done.

So when Rosh Hashanah comes around this year, we ask for only one thing from G-d. Zochreynu l'chayim—"Remember us for life": The chance to instill our core Jewish values within our children, for this will be our legacy for generations to come.

The late Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks (z'l) once said, "Politicians move the pieces, teachers change lives, and the world we build tomorrow is born in the education we give them today."

Let us work together in hope, strength and courage, continuing to build a better world and future for all. Best wishes to the new incoming president and executive. May they have every success in their endeavours.

Kativa V"chatima Tovah, Marilyn



From The Desk Of NAOMI ROSENFELD

Executive Director

COMBATting ANTISEMITISM IN ATLANTIC CANADA

Since our last edition of Shalom Magazine was published, we have seen a disturbing rise of antisemitism in Atlantic Canada the likes of which we have never seen before. While this onslaught of antisemitic incidents was surely instigated by the 11-day conflict in May between Israel and Hamas, these incidents far surpass what can be considered legitimate criticism of Israel. Even worse, they did not end with the resolution of the violence in the region. When speaking of these antisemitic incidents, I find it useful to sort them into two categories: *overt* antisemitism and *subtle* antisemitism.

Incidents of overt antisemitism are those that we have written about in the media and those that we have reported to the police. These acts are astonishing in their boldness. Over the last few months, we have seen the following examples of overt antisemitism:

- Horrific images of Hitler and the Holocaust posted on social media with captions like “now I know why Hitler did that,” and “Hitler made a huge mistake leaving (any Jews) alive”;
- Comments on social media such as: “I have no idea why Hitler didn’t burn all [Jews] and wipe you out of existence”;
- Signs and chants at multiple rallies proudly proclaiming “From the [Jordan] River to the [Mediterranean] Sea, Palestine will be free”;
- Local Jewish-owned businesses targeted for boycott and their advertisements targeted for vandalism with Nazi imagery;
- Public property, such as schools and sidewalks, defaced with Nazi imagery and phrases such as “Zionism is genocide”;
- Visibly identifiable Jewish community members verbally harassed;
- The windows of a synagogue purposefully shattered;
- Death threats made towards community members solely because they are Jewish.

However, for every single incident of overt antisemitism, there were several incidents of subtle antisemitism. These incidents, while

not nearly as brazen as their counterparts, are in fact more worrisome to me. They exemplify the changing nature of antisemitism in the culture around us. They are harder to identify, and thus harder to fight. They can be summarized as all resulting in one thing: **Fear**—fear of identifying or being identified as Israeli, Zionist, or even Jewish, causing people to hide outward symbols of their identity—kippahs, *magen*-David necklaces, and mezuzahs; fear of political, economic, or reputational retribution keeping people silent; and fear for emotional and psychological safety, causing community members to stay away from what should be safe spaces. Over the last few months, we have seen the following examples of subtle antisemitism:

- Posts comparing Jews and Israelis to Nazis all over social media;
- The use of terms such as “white supremacy,” “settler colonialism,” “ethnic cleansing,” and “apartheid” to refer to Israel in the media and educational settings;
- Progressive organizations barring self-identified Zionists from participation;
- One-sided statements from community organizations and university student unions that place 100% of the blame for the Arab-Israeli conflict on Israel, and do not acknowledge the role of terrorist organizations such as Hamas or suffering incurred by Israelis;
- An Atlantic Canadian MP tweeting about the recent conflict between Israel and Hamas by saying “there are no two sides to this conflict, only human rights abuses”;
- The publishing of an op-ed in a prominent Atlantic Canadian newspaper claiming that our lived experiences of antisemitism were “a deliberate distraction” from Israeli indiscretions.

Here at the AJC, we take our role in combating antisemitism seriously. As we were made aware of each of these antisemitic incidents—whether overt or subtle—the AJC took swift action: we helped facilitate

the appropriate police reports, we ensured that any physical damage to property was quickly rectified, we worked to support Jewish business owners who had been targeted, we published op-eds and letters to the editor, we explained our concerns to ministries of education, principals, heads of school boards, businesses, student unions, and community organizations responsible for these incidents.

However, we know that we need to be proactive—not just reactive—in our fight against antisemitism.

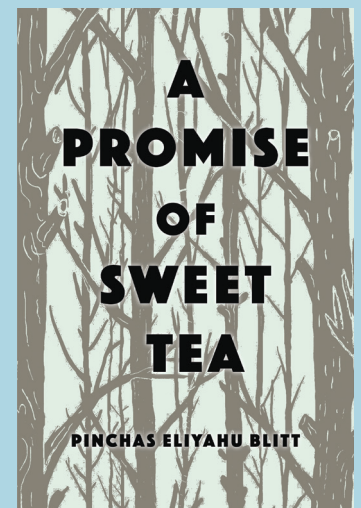
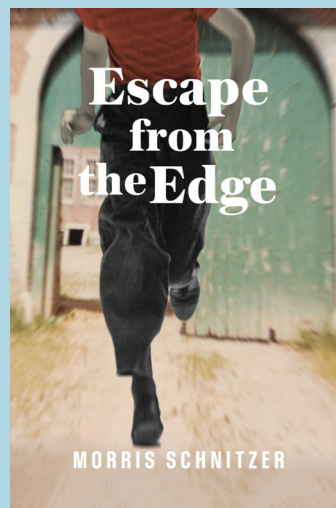
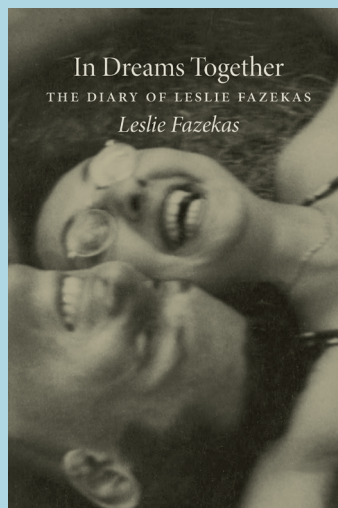
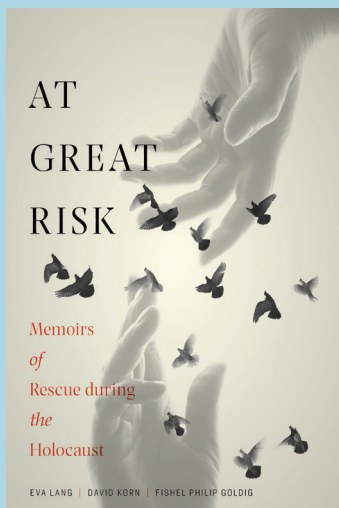
That is why, over the last several months, we have also met with elected officials from all levels of government across our entire region, educating them on the serious nature of antisemitism. In Nova Scotia, in anticipation of the recent elections, we met with the leaders of all three major political parties: the Honourable Gary Burrill, New Democratic Party; the Honourable Tim Houston, Progressive Conservative Party; and the Honourable Premier Iain Rankin, Liberal Party. At each of these meetings, we advocated for the following priorities for the next Nova Scotian government: adopting the IHRA Definition of antisemitism, increasing antisemitism education and Holocaust Education in the Nova Scotia school system, and including the Nova Scotian Jewish community in all anti-racism initiatives. Finally, on behalf of our community, I was proud to provide testimony to the federal government at the recent National Summit on Antisemitism. During my testimony, I illustrated the types of antisemitism facing our Jewish community here in Atlantic Canada and proposed concrete solutions that our government can take.

While there remains much work to do to combat antisemitism, I am confident that the AJC is well-positioned and ready to take on this challenge. Here’s hoping for a sweet, healthy, and antisemitism-free 5782.

Shana Tova! 🍀

As we celebrate a sweet new year, we share this year's new books: an anthology focused on people who risked it all to save the lives of others, a Holocaust survivor's diary and love letters that uncover life in captivity, a young man on the run from the Gestapo who vows to never end up in a concentration camp, and an irrepressible boy with a vivid imagination who wrestles with his fears and his faith as he and his family flee the Nazis in the forests of Eastern Europe.

Dip into history this fall with these incredible true stories.





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

This spring virtual programs continued to be offered in Atlantic Canada as we entered another COVID-19 lockdown. As summer progressed, with many people fully vaccinated, Nova Scotia moved into Phase 4 of the pandemic re-opening schedule, and the focus shifted to organizing in-person events in Halifax, in accordance with the NS Health guidelines, as well as continuing to offer virtual programs.

David Korn participated in a virtual book launch of his memoirs on May 2, as part of a series of Holocaust survivor testimony, published by the Azrieli Foundation. The opening program for Holocaust Education Week (HEW) on November 1 will feature an in depth talk with David Korn, followed by a book signing and reception. This program is presented in partnership with the Azrieli Foundation and the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21. Through our HEW student outreach program David will share his story with junior high and high school students. The program will be streamed to schools in Atlantic Canada, registration is required, and students must complete a classroom assignment prior to attending. Please contact me to register. The complete HEW program schedule will be posted on HolocaustEducation.ca and shared in our AJC newsletter.

We were excited to support Liberation75, to mark the 75th anniversary of the liberation from the Holocaust. This event was organized in Toronto, with participating organizations from across Canada, and presented virtually from May 4 – 9. Survivor testimony, keynote

speakers, panel discussions, and film screenings, were live-streamed. Many of the programs were recorded and are available to view for free, as part of a Virtual Holocaust Library: www.liberation75.org.

One of the films presented during Liberation75, *Cheating Hitler: Surviving the Holocaust*, featured three Canadian survivor stories, including Maxwell Smart. Maxwell's journey of survival was published by the Azrieli Foundation (*From Chaos to Canvas*), and his 2018 presentation in Halifax riveted us with stories of the frightful years he spent alone, hiding in the woods. One of his most captivating stories recounted how he and Janek crossed a frigid river to rescue a baby girl from the arms of her dead mother—the entire family had been gunned down by Nazi soldiers. This experience haunted Maxwell and he decided to whole-heartedly seek answers to the identity of the baby, and to find the family of Janek, who died of hypothermia shortly after rescuing the baby. “Cheating Hitler” follows Maxwell on his quest as he travels to Israel to meet Yad Vashem researchers, discovers the identity of the baby, and connects with Janek's surviving relatives, a truly heartfelt journey.

Limmud FSU Labs Atlantic Canada is a grassroots year-long program, with the aim of building local Jewish community leaders. It continues to be a pleasure to support Halifax-based program initiator Yulia Elgin. For an update on this inspiring program please refer to the article on page 29 in this magazine.

Out of the Cold, a Halifax-based community organization that provides shelter and meals during the winter months to people who are



Long-standing Atlantic Jewish Film Festival committee members Rosalind & Philip Belitsky moved to Toronto this summer and their participation in organizing the AJFF will be deeply missed. For eight years they have been the backbone of our committee, providing valuable insights on growing and developing the AJFF. We are grateful for their years of creative and practical contributions, guidance, and effort, including their important work organizing the 2021 festival.

homeless or precariously housed, received additional funding to continue to operate during the summer. The spring COVID-19 lockdown disrupted their regular deliveries of hot meals and baked goods, however, our community members rallied, and we regrouped to meet their needs.

Our 8th annual Atlantic Jewish Film Festival (AJFF) November 18 – 21, will offer moviegoers in Atlantic Canada the opportunity to view international films virtually, and in theatres in Halifax. Cineplex Cinemas will host our opening night film, and on Saturday night, at Pier 21, we will watch a film and delight in a gala celebration. Our modest 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. Please see the inside back cover of this magazine, or AJFF.ca, for information on how you can support the 2021 festival.

Wishing you and your family a sweet year filled with good health and peace, Shana Tova. 🍩

**THANK YOU FOR
COOKING, BAKING,
PROVIDING MEALS,
AND HOME-BAKED
SWEETS TO OUT
OF THE COLD**

Inbal Bahar & family
Nancy Cieplinski
Daniel Drory
Suzanne Funnell
Sara Greenblatt
Dave Hanson
Angela Henderson

Andrea Hilchie-Pye
Greg Hirsch & family
Paige MacPherson Marsh
Solomon & Zev Nagler
Lynn Rotin
Sondra Rutman
Gregory & Olga Shepshelevich

Jane & David Schlosberg
Linda Schroeder
Marta Smith
Schuyler Smith
Sharon Waxman
Myrna Yazer



The Atlantic Jewish Foundation

SCHOLARSHIPS

All applications must be received by March 31, 2022

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 executivedirector@theajc.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.



Canadian.
Jewish.
Advocacy.

SIX FEET APART BUT CLOSER THAN EVER

Rosh Hashanah is a time for renewal.

This past year was challenging for our community.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced all of us to be physically distant from our loved ones, while many faced grave illness or terrible loss. In May of this past year, we also witnessed a dangerous surge in antisemitism that struck at the heart of our communities. Peaceful pro-Israel protestors were pelted with rocks in Montreal, Toronto saw a fivefold spike in antisemitic incidents. This surge in antisemitism attacked every corner of our country including Atlantic Canada.

And this increase in antisemitism was not limited to physical incidents. A shocking rise in online antisemitic memes, graphics, and messages flashed across the computer screens of our children and grandchildren.

However, notwithstanding the past year's challenges, Jewish Canadians stood tall, proud, and resilient – and united in our shared history, diversity, and strength.

Over the last year, together as a community, we made significant gains to preserve and protect Jewish life in Canada.

We secured emergency funding for Jewish institutions to help them continue to serve our community throughout the pandemic.

We stood shoulder to shoulder as tens of thousands of Jewish Canadians — including hundreds of residents of in Atlantic Canada – and many others of good conscience everywhere joined CIJA and secured an Emergency Summit on Antisemitism – an important initiative to discuss and develop actions to combat that vile, age-old scourge.

We made gains with the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance

definition of antisemitism in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and in many municipalities across Canada, building on our nation's adoption of the IHRA definition in Canada's anti-racism strategy. The IHRA working definition – the most widely respected definition in the world – is an important educational tool to identify and address antisemitism.

Despite this year's challenges, we made progress. And we did these things, and many more, because of you.

Next year, 5782, presents an opportunity not only for reflection but also renewal. The future is never certain, but of this I am sure: if we rededicate ourselves to our community, advocacy, and to one another, we will continue our progress and build a better tomorrow for our children.

As we look ahead and plan for the new year, we at the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) want to hear from you about what you consider the most important issues to you and your family, what you want to say to elected officials about antisemitism in Canada, and what you would do to strengthen our community's advocacy efforts. Input from Jewish Canadians across Canada is a vital measure informing our advocacy in the coming year. **We cannot do it without you.**

Please visit cija.ca/you and tell us what you think.

We wish you and your families a sweet, healthy and happy 5782.



Judy Zelikovitz

Vice President, University
& Local Partner Services

Centre for Israel and
Jewish Affairs (CIJA)



WE ARE LOOKING FOR **JEWISH SOFTBALL PLAYERS**

To represent Team Canada at the 21st Maccabiah Games
Israel - July 2022



The Maccabiah Games are an international sports competition held every four years in Israel. Unbeknownst to many, it is the third largest athletic games in the world! At the last Maccabiah, held in 2017, over 10,000 athletes competed, proudly representing 80 countries.

Our goal is to assemble top level Jewish athletic talent to compete in the Games for all age categories.

- **Junior Girls:** U18 (2004-2007)
- **Open Women:** 19+ (2003 and prior)
- **Open Men:** 19+ (2003 and prior)
- **Masters Men:** ages 35 & up

To be eligible to tryout all athletes must first submit an **on-line athlete application**.

It is truly an experience of a lifetime you don't want to miss!

For additional information:
Morrie Frydberg
morriefrydberg@gmail.com
(647) 393-9031
www.maccabicanada.com

CAMP KADIMAH

BY SARAH ATKINS, DIRECTOR

2021—Staying together, even when we are apart

Although this summer marks the second summer in a row that we were not able to open the gates at Camp Kadimah, we are taking a positive approach, seeing this summer as an opportunity to keep our family connected and to invest in relationships and community building that will propel us into 2022.

KADIMAH

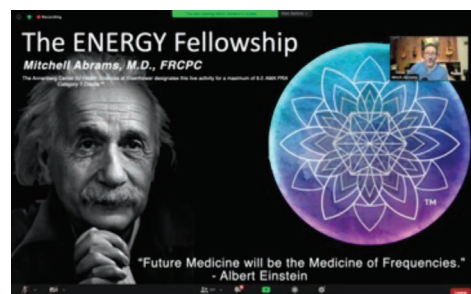
ON EXCHANGE
EST. 2021

KADIMAH ON EXCHANGE

Our social media outlets (CK Instagram & Facebook) are highlighting what our campers and staff are up to while they are not with us this summer. It is our hope that our staff and campers will have a safe and enjoyable experience elsewhere this summer and will be able to bring a wealth of new ideas (and perhaps even some new friends) to CK 2022!

CK FAMILY OUTREACH

During the summer months, our professional team will be reaching out to every CK family to check in on the campers and see how and what they are doing this summer. We will continue to invest in building relationships with our families as that is the foundation upon which camp is based.



The Science of Consciousness: Understanding Energy, Meditation, and our Interconnectedness as the Foundation for Healthy Communities.

CK ALUMNI CONTINUE TO GIVE BACK

We were so grateful to have Dr. Mitchell Abrams, a Canadian Radiologist, past Department Chief of Diagnostic Imaging, an Associate Professor at Michael G. Degroote School of Medical Sciences, and most notably, a Kadimah Alumnus lead an amazing staff training program earlier this spring. This session was tremendously well-received by our staff and has given them tools for working with campers, peers, and year-round success!



During this program, CK Staff were introduced to:

- Meditation as a means of reducing anxiety, depression and burn out
- Meditation as a means of personal transformation to create long lasting joy and satisfaction in life
- The physiological benefits of meditation for improved well-being
- The art and science of self-care

B'YACHAD CAMPAIGN UPDATE

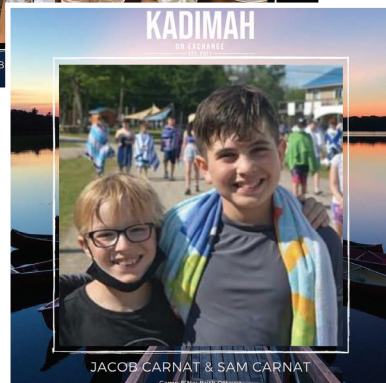
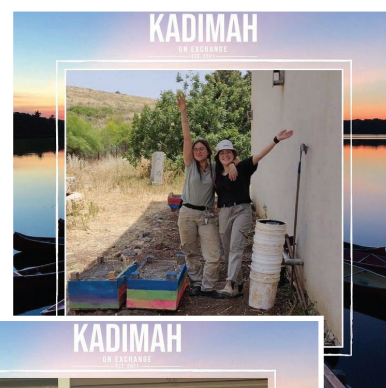
When we launched the B'Yachad Campaign in 2019, our focus was on raising funds for critical major capital and infrastructure improvements. Then the unthinkable happened: a global pandemic forced camp to close for the first, and then second time in its 78-year history resulting in an enormous loss of camper fees and placing sizable financial strains on camp. Although Kadimah has arguably never gone through more challenging times, it has been incredible to see our close-knit community step up with amazing generosity to keep our camp strong.

REMARKABLY, WE HAVE ALREADY RAISED OVER \$2.3 MILLION SO FAR!

This is truly an incredible accomplishment and says so much about our camp and our community of generous donors. In the coming months you will learn how you can become a part of this exciting initiative.

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

CampKadimah campkadimah



נתקדם

As our name suggests, נתקדם—"we will move forward". Despite the challenges and obstacles that have come our way, we are determined to ensure that Kadimah will emerge from COVID-19 with strength. Thanks to our generous donors, CK will continue to play a critical role instilling in our campers and staff strong Jewish values and a powerful connection to Israel.

Sometimes, you need to go away and look at things from a different vantage point to deeply appreciate what you have. These new perspectives will lead our community to return next summer with a renewed appreciation of Camp Kadimah. You can take the camper out of Kadimah, but you can never take the Kadimah out of the camper!

2022 יאללה קדימה! Yalla, Lets Go Kadimah 2022! 🌟

NOW INCLUDES 1 BOOK PER CHILD PER MONTH!



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

TELL THEM TO SIGN UP FOR PJ LIBRARY!

PJ Library is a program that sends free, award-winning books that celebrate Jewish values and culture to families with children from birth 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 9 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 9-12—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!*



Sign up for FREE as a PJ Library Grandparent!

**Grandparents must have a grandchild with a current
PJ Library subscription**

Great News! Grandparents can now receive the gift of PJ Library, too (for free!). Grandparents will not receive monthly books but will receive two PJ Library books, monthly emails with great resources, updates on the books and activities their grandkid(s) are receiving, and more!

*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*

YOUTH AND FAMILY NEWS

BY MAYA LOTAN, DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & YOUNG FAMILY ENGAGEMENT



DEAR PJ LIBRARY FAMILIES AND READERS,

Before the summer began, hot news came to us from Israel. Following Operation Guardian of the Walls, anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism arrived in Atlantic Canada as we had not experienced it for some time. As an educator, I was called upon to think about how we can prepare our youth for dealing with modern issues against Israel and Jews. I have started, in collaboration with Joanna Wexler, a 5-part course that aims to help people learn through both lecture and discussion because knowledge gives us the ability to analyze the situation and present it better. I hope this is just the beginning of the programs we can offer our youth on how to prepare themselves for talking about Israel and our connection as Jews to it, even when the situation is complex.

When COVID restrictions finally eased, we had the opportunity to meet and start planning in-person outdoor programs—a perfect fit for summer weather. Picnics, Rosh Hashanah activities, and smaller gatherings for teens and youth were held during the summer to rekindle old relationships (and create new ones) with members of the Jewish community. We hope that we will continue to take care of each other's safety. It will allow such meetings even when the weather gets cooler and programs move indoors.

New babies are being born and joining our *Shalom Baby* program all of the time. It is fun to see our community grow and greet each of its little ones and their parents with a welcome-to-the-world gift and a PJ library book. In addition to giving out these small gifts, we have created opportunities for parents to meet and get to know other Jewish parents who want to give their children a connection to their Jewish roots. These programs are also an opportunity to learn together about baby nutrition,



Maya Lotan

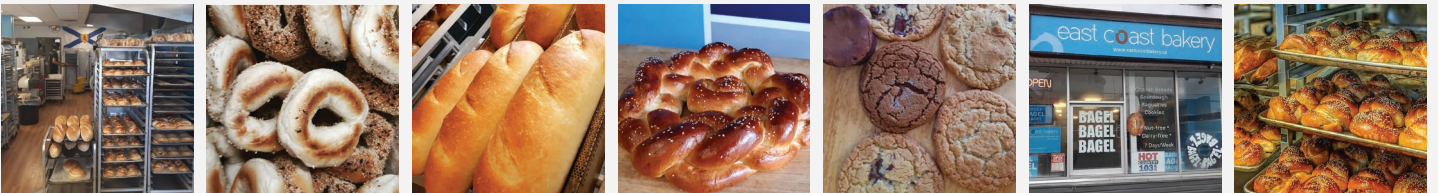
movement, and song as a community. The programs are held via Zoom to allow new parents in all provinces to take part in activities offered. We hope to hold in-person meetings soon as well to strengthen the bonds formed between the new parents.

I want to wish you a shana tova and an autumn full of colour and cuddling in a pleasant blanket with a good PJ library book. ☺

east coast bakery

FRESH. DAILY. DELICIOUS.

Just one bite and you'll be in love with our fresh-baked bagels in Halifax.



Bagels • Challah bread • Challah hot dog and hamburger buns • Challah raisin bread • Kosher pareve • Cookies • Brownies

PEANUT-FREE, NUT-FREE AND DAIRY-FREE FACILITY

eastcoastbakery.ca | 6257 Quinpool Road | 902-429-6257 | Hours: 7:00 am-3:30 pm daily

“ I will always be a Maritimer. I grew up in Moncton and attended Dalhousie University for my Law and MBA degrees. I spent 19 summers at Camp Kadimah and continue to spend my summers in one of my favourite places, Shediac, New Brunswick. I am always happy to connect with my fellow “East Coasters” to see how I can assist them with their legal and business needs. ”

—LEIGH LAMPERT



A FULL SERVICE BUSINESS LAW FIRM



Corporate &
Commercial Law



Real Estate
& Leasing



Employment
Law



Corporate
& Governance



Privacy &
Compliance

lampertlawgic.com | LL@lampertlawgic.com | 647.948.8872

CAMPUS NEWS

BY **RAN BEN SHABAT**, DIRECTOR OF HILLEL AND NEXT GENERATION ENGAGEMENT

Preparing for the Upcoming Year

MY SUMMER

As you know, our beloved students are on their summer vacation during this time of the year, and that means that we are not running any programs or activities. I decided to take this time to work on my professional development as a Hillel Director and improve several aspects of our operation at Hillel Atlantic Canada that usually we do not find the time for, during the year itself.

I attended a training program, run by Hillel International, for new solo professionals to enhance my abilities and acquire new tools for my work as a director and a solo pro. I invested my time in expanding my network and connection with other Hillel directors across Canada and learn as much as I can from their experience and knowledge. And finally, I created my own strategic plan for Hillel Atlantic that consists of a budget and a fundraising plan for next year.

I am excited to announce that Hillel Atlantic Canada will be a part of the Jewish Learning Fellowship (JLF)—a 10 week program and the JLF Israel: “Home & Homeland”—8 to 10-week programs. We have applied for a grant, and we are in the process of being approved for it. The Jewish Learning Fellowship is an experiential, conversational seminar run on campus for 8-10 weeks consecutively. Through the delivery of a curriculum that speaks to students’ abiding questions, JLF provides not only Jewish inspiration but also a social basis for Jewish communal involvement.

One of our goals this year is to expand our operation to other campuses such as: UNB, Memorial, Acadia, and others. To do so, I need to establish connections with students that attend those universities. During this summer, I tried to find students (individually) and interest them in participating and running a Hillel branch on their campuses. Hopefully, I will find 5-6 students on each campus that will be willing to create a Hillel branch with our help and guidance.

ANTI-ISRAEL = ANTISEMITISM— REFLECTIONS ON THE TOPIC

Antisemitism all over the world has undeniably been on the rise due to the escalation in Israel/Gaza during the military campaign in May. I must say that I was surprised by the intensity of the incidents in Atlantic Canada. Of course, it did not take long for the dramatic rise in antisemitism to reach college campuses across North America. Jewish college students have been attacked and threatened on online forums for expressing their values. Student governments have posted one-sided statements placing full blame for the conflict in the Middle East on Israel or accusing Israel of “ethnic cleansing”.

Variations of the phrase “Hitler was right,” were circulating all over the social media. Does freedom of speech have limits? Should it have? Well, I do not know. What I do know is that most of the social life of our Jewish students rests in those social networks. Students learn, work, and socialize online, and with the physical isolation, virtual life has become real-life for many of them.

I cannot even imagine what goes on in the mind of a Jewish student, receiving a post or a tweet from one of their colleagues or even someone that they consider a friend, that says, “Hitler was right”. Or the feeling of a Jewish student who gets an email with the latest student union statement that is clearly one-sided—fully blaming Israel and those that support Israel for the situation. I know how I would feel. I would immediately feel unwelcome and unseen by the actions of my student government who have rushed to release one-sided statements on the conflict and unsafe as a result of the spread of misinformation by peers and educational institutions.

We must be reporting online hate to ensure that misinformation does not spread, so that antisemitism and incitements to violence, threats, and hate are taken down.

Hate must be reported no matter where

it is encountered, privately or publicly, and whether you know the person or not. But it is not enough. We must move on from being Re-Active to being Pro-Active.

We must build coalitions with other student societies and find common ground on which we can collaborate together, such as fighting Antisemitism other forms of racism and hatred. We need to educate university administrators and student leaders about the serious threat antisemitism poses.


I do not expect to eradicate the anti-Israel mentality that exists in academia. But I do believe that we can educate others, promote awareness of the truth, and continue to empower the next generation of student leaders to ensure that our voices are heard.

I would like to say a big thank you to those students that chose, bravely, to raise their voice, and to act against this reality. We were off-guard at first, but we will be better prepared next time, I promise!

LEVENTHAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Last, but not least, I am excited to get to know our student recipients of the Leventhal tuition scholarships. During the summer, I met in-person with these students for introductory conversations and to give them the opportunity to join our Hillel community.

I sense that a great thing can grow from this group of students. I see in them the potential of bringing Hillel activities and programs closer to our local students, who might otherwise feel that Hillel is more suitable for students from away. I believe that every Jewish student can find a place for themselves in our Hillel community!

I would like to send all students reading this best wishes for the new academic year. Let us welcome this brand-new year with new energies and new hope—to experience new things and to learn things that you never knew before. Shana Tova to all! 



RAN BEN SHABAT

SHANA TOVA

FROM EVERYONE AT CIJA

As we look ahead and plan for the New Year, we want to hear from you. Which issues are most important to you?

▶ For more information visit cija.ca/you

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs is the advocacy agent for the Jewish Federations of Canada



MOSKOWITZ
CAPITAL Alternative Mortgage Lender

A PROUD SUPPORTER
OF THE ATLANTIC
JEWISH COUNCIL

Brian Moskowitz
416.781.6500
brian@moskowitzcapital.com
moskowitzcapital.com

Hebrew class with our teacher

ILANA CLYDE

in Atlantic Canada

BY GILLIAN KING

For the next 50 years! Our teacher Ilana's answer to the question "how long will our Hebrew classes last?" Her persistence, patience, determination, and support are all demonstrated in that one response!

When I first saw the notice circulating in the weekly AJC newsletter, announcing there would be Hebrew classes made available for those who wanted to sign up, I thought "should I or shouldn't I?". It had always been on my mind that I would love to learn Hebrew because as a child growing up in England, my parents thought it more important for my brothers to take Hebrew classes in preparation for their Bar Mitzvah's, but not a consideration for girls.

So this late in life, as for others in the class, here is one more item to cross off that list—not that learning conversational Hebrew is ever done, but a long, long work in progress. In our weekly class, led by our wonderful teacher Ilana, we have many reasons for participating: wanting to connect with family in Israel, wanting to be closer to our Jewish culture, wanting more of a sense of community in a spread-out society, wanting to achieve what we may have started earlier. Most of us are from Atlantic Canada, with the occasional Montrealer, Ontarian, and Californian.

It is amazing how a sense of community can be achieved through Zoom, especially when the pandemic has been on our minds and created social isolation for many months.

Initially, Ilana started us off with relatively easy assignments, learning the alphabet, learning to write in block letters, learning to make the sounds correctly especially those that do not exist in English, learning to count. Little by little we make progress, always moving forward under her guiding hand, with humour, warmth, lots of homework, and the opportunity to ask questions. You also have to be ready to be

asked on the spot to read the next lesson, to pronounce the next assignment and to be on your toes. There is no snoozing in this class! She corrects us gently and with humour and story-telling. She imitates Israeli's speaking English with a delightful accent, just to show us how Hebrew expresses an idea differently than we would in English. It is so interesting to see how the culture of a people is expressed through language. We learn so much more than Hebrew; for example, we may learn the etymology of a word, the biblical frame of reference, or a more traditional and a more modern expression of a similar idea.

Ilana's teaching style is unique— we are enraptured by her story-telling which demonstrates a point made in class, we have to think through concepts that do not exist in English, her memorable demonstrations of exaggerated accents to make a point, and her gentle manner of correcting us. As Stephen P. says "She teaches with gusto and encouragement and creates excitement in learning." And from Rosalind M., "Learning Hebrew is not only a course in discipline, but also one with great enjoyment and coming together as a community"

From Sandra H. "Ilana teaches wholeheartedly while embracing each and everyone of her students with close attention and encouragement. She makes us feel like one of the family.

More than just teaching language skills, she impacts a wealth of cultural, historical and linguistic background about Israel and the Hebrew language." According to another classmate, Judy S., "This lady is a marvel, dedicated, extremely knowledgeable, encouraging, positive and lots of fun! Marcia S. asks if this is magic and answers no, it is hard work, she is committed and she expects her students to work a little bit too, to study each week, do the homework and try."



Ilana teaches 42 students per week over 5 different classes, as well as a number of students through private lessons.

Sylvia M. has described the challenge and gaining confidence with Ilana and benefitting so that when she next goes to Israel she can surprise her family and friends there with her newly-found Hebrew! Phyllis M. tells us of the amazing journey, learning, laughing and lots of encouragement along the way to appreciating the Hebrew language.

We have learned about Ilana's colourful background, in the IDF, then as a professional ballerina in an Israeli troupe, travelling the globe to perform, as a dance teacher, then as a choreologist putting dance movements to music. She moved to North America and adapted to become a Hebrew teacher. She clearly loves to teach and I believe I speak for the class in saying we love to learn from her.

With appreciation for the input from my fellow Hebrew learners for their thoughts in writing this article. 🌟

Gillian was born and raised in London, England in a traditional extended Jewish family. She moved to Montreal with her immediate family and graduated from Concordia University. After a long career in the corporate world, focussing on the human aspects of leadership and management, she completed the graduate program at Royal Roads University, B.C. in Leadership and Executive Development and then opened her own consulting business focussing on clients in Atlantic Canada. After retiring several years ago, she has focussed on gardening at her home on the ocean near Halifax Harbour, Jewish genealogy, enjoying a book club which she started with friends and now studying Hebrew. She is married to Dr. David King and they have one son, Daniel, living in Brooklyn, NY.

Taste of Homeland

Eastern European and Israeli Kosher Grocery Store



Large selection of Kosher products, and we are continuously expanding our Kosher sections to meet our customers' needs.

We offer a scheduled home delivery service, once every three weeks, from Moncton to the Halifax area—we deliver frozen, fresh and dry products directly to your doorstep.

Canada-wide parcel shipping is available. This service has some restrictions on sending frozen or fresh products, and rates vary according to package size.

We make our best effort to support our community by supplying kosher products throughout the year, including special products during the holidays.

Please contact us with any questions: sales@tasteofhomeland.store | Orders submitted through: www.tasteofhomeland.store

1201 Mountain Rd., Moncton, NB E1C 2T4

Studio 14 gifts & Gallery

Custom Framing expert
with over 25 years experience.
In home art consultation
and appraisals available.

Unique gifts with
complimentary giftwrapping.
Atlantic Canadian and
Indigenous Art.



2698 AGRICOLA STREET, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA | 902-407-1414

JEWISH HATE IS WHAT IT'S ABOUT

BY LARRY FINKELMAN

I'm not surprised
by the recent rise
in antisemitism,
for our nation's tale
is no smooth sail
since ancient bible times.
Now it won't abate
so say it straight,
stand and shout
and call it out,
Jewish hate
is what it's about,
Jewish hate
is what it's about.
Who woulda known
rocks were thrown,
cursed and spat
hit in our habitat.
That even here
one would hear,
people scream

we should disappear.
So realize
and let's be wise,
no surprise,
it's not protest
when threat's expressed.
And adding ugly to the fire,
murking up the mucky mire,
they stir the pot
make it hot,
blind-eye-guided
lop sided,
news reports.
When Asian hate
rose in our gate,
we didn't wait
nor tolerate
but made sure to advocate
and demonstrate
against this wrong.
Let's not play dumb

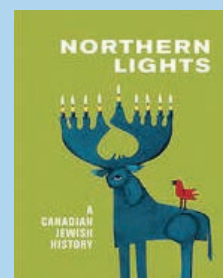
nor succumb
but overcome
and recognize
not turn blind eyes
or accept it in disguise.
Don't hesitate
to educate
about the blight
and join the fight
to condemn
this antisem-itism.
So . . .
you got the gist
we exist
we won't fade,
don't throw us shade,
let's persist
and find a way
to co-exist.
And make the news
how we respect

each other's views,
otherwise,
we all lose.
In Canada, we got the best,
have been blessed,
let's not fail
to pass this test,
for how we treat minority,
measures our morality,
and reflects on our humanity.
So stand and shout
and call it out,
Jewish hate
is what it's about,
Jewish hate
is what it's about.

Larry Finkelman resides in Fredericton, NB. To read more of his poetry and/or to contact him please go to his website: Larry's Lines of Poetry (larryslineofpoetry.com)

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.

What I Do Not Understand About Our World

BY MORRIS GIVNER

As my journey through life is governed by the human concept of time, I thought it would be interesting to identify some of the observations beyond my understanding:

- Why would anyone want to climb Mount Everest and risk his life?
- Why would anyone keep accumulating vast quantities of money despite the reality that his life nears its end?
- Why would the world buy cars despite the fact they cost lives, injuries and wealth to the individual and society?
- Why would a sprinter devote his early life to beating someone in a meet by less than a second?
- Why would people volunteer to kill total strangers in a war?
- Why would the German nation in the millions follow a sexual deviate by the name of Hitler and kill millions of totally innocent Jewish men, women, and children?
- Why would the Spaniards cheer a matador who kills a bull?
- Why would the antisemites of the world hate Jews who have enormously benefited them by their unique and incredible contributions in every branch of learning, medicine, science, philosophy, music, literature, and religion?
- Why would owners of clubs encourage their players to inevitably injure themselves by throwing a baseball over 100mph, hitting a soccer ball with his head, and body to body collision as in football?
- Why would hunters kill totally innocent animals and call it a sport?

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



In a previous edition of Shalom, we mistakenly referred to this bakery as "Mothers Bakery". We apologize for the error.

We Are Standing With Israel

Bridges for Peace represents thousands of Christians, in Canada and nine other nations, who are standing with Israel, praying for Israel and advocating for Israel. We are also standing with the Jewish people worldwide who are enduring an avalanche of hatred, triggered by a twisted narrative concerning the conflict with Hamas.

BRIDGES
FOR peace

... Your Israel Connection®
גשרים למען השלום

In Israel, our volunteers and staff are sharing in the danger as they continue to operate our many programs of practical aid to the people of Israel. These programs include:

Crisis Assistance Program—bomb shelters for schools and communities, ambulances and medi-cycles for the Maagen David Adom, and emergency help for a variety of crisis situations

Victims of Terror Fund—cheer baskets and visits to the wounded in hospitals and to the bereaved sitting shiva—meeting special needs, such as wheelchairs, food vouchers and financial assistance for medical bills for those in long-term rehabilitation

Food Projects—we continue to distribute nine tons of food every week, to 22,000 needy Israelis, through family adoption programs, adopt a town, feed a child and also supplying 55 other organizations who care for the poor in Israel

For more information go to www.bridgesforpeace.com

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.



ADVERTISE IN Shalom MAGAZINE

Contact **Edna LeVine**
Director of Community Engagement
engagement@theajc.ca

Shalom magazine is published three times a year
FALL (high holidays), **WINTER** and **SPRING**

AD TYPE	SIZE (INCHES)			CONTRACT	
	Horizontal	Vertical	Full Page with Bleed	1 Issue	3 Issue
Outside back cover	7.5 x 9	N/A	8.5 x 11 (8.75 x 11.25)	\$1,250	\$2,060 (45% discount)
Inside front or back cover	7.5 x 10	N/A	8.5 x 11 (8.75 x 11.25)	\$900	\$1,485 (45% discount)
Full page	7.5 x 10	N/A	8.5 x 9.675 (8.75 x 9.8175)	\$550	\$905 (45% discount)
1/2 page	7.5 x 4.875	3.625 x 10	N/A	\$350	\$630 (40% discount)
1/4 page	7.5 x 2.875	3.625 x 4.875	N/A	\$200	\$480 (20% discount)
1/8 page	3.625 x 2	N/A	N/A	\$125	\$335 (10% discount)

WINTER 2022 EDITION: AD DUE DATE: December 24th, 2021



LIFE & LEGACY[®]

IN ATLANTIC CANADA

Securing our Jewish Future

About LIFE & LEGACY[®] in Atlantic Canada

THE PROGRAM	A COMMUNITY EFFORT	LEGACY GIVING
LIFE & LEGACY [®] in Atlantic Canada is a two-year partnership between the Atlantic Jewish Council, Camp Kadimah, the Beth Israel Synagogue, the Shaar Shalom Synagogue, and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation (of Agawam, MA) to promote and support legacy giving to benefit the Atlantic Canadian Jewish community. Participating organizations are receiving training and coaching along with financial incentives to secure legacy gifts.	Since the LIFE & LEGACY program is a cooperative and collaborative community-wide effort, the whole community will benefit. Legacy team members' conversations are focused on what is important to the donor; thus, the conversation can result in multiple commitments. Most Jewish community members support more than one Jewish cause or organization annually and will likely support more than one Jewish cause or organization with a legacy gift.	A legacy gift is a way for members of the community to express their passion, purpose, and commitment to valued Jewish organizations. Legacy gifts are either current or after-lifetime commitments to organizations' endowments. Strong endowments are proven to help sustain Jewish organizations and make them resilient—and thus will secure our vibrant Jewish community for the next generation and beyond.

Legacy Giving to Benefit the Atlantic Canadian Jewish Community

By leaving your legacy gift to one or multiple Jewish institutions in Atlantic Canada, you can assure that the traditions and institutions that mean so much to you today will exist for future generations.



Beth Israel Synagogue



QUESTIONS?

Please contact Naomi Rosenfeld at executivedirector@theajc.ca or 902.422.7493 to learn more or to make your commitment.





Some Ways to Make a Legacy Gift

BEQUEST (A GIFT IN YOUR WILL)

The most common legacy gift, a charitable bequest, is a donation made through your will. You can choose to leave a specific piece of property, a pre-determined sum of money or a percentage of your estate. A gift like this costs nothing today, and if it is a percentage, it will adjust over time as your circumstances change. By carefully planning your will, you can eliminate significant taxes payable upon your death.

LIFE INSURANCE

A gift of life insurance is a creative way for you to build our community's long term financial strength without diminishing your own—even a relatively small commitment can provide significant benefits. You can leave a percentage of the policy to your selected Jewish organization(s) while leaving the majority to your family to take care of their needs.

OUTRIGHT GIFT

You may gift money or other assets now that will provide funding for your preferred Jewish organization(s)'s endowment(s). The endowment funds will be invested and the income generated each year will support your preferred organization in perpetuity.

THERE ARE MANY WAYS FOR YOU TO MAKE A GIFT USING LIFE INSURANCE:

- You may donate a paid-up life insurance policy that has now outlived its original purpose by naming your selected Jewish organization(s) as the owner and beneficiary of your policy and receive an immediate tax receipt for the cash surrender value of the policy.
- You may gift an existing policy on which premiums are still being paid by transferring ownership to your selected Jewish organization(s) and receiving tax receipts for all future premium payments.
- You may make a gift by purchasing a new policy on your life, naming your selected Jewish organization(s) as the owner and beneficiary and receiving tax receipts for all future premium payments.
- You may also choose to retain ownership of your policy and name your selected Jewish organization(s) as the direct beneficiary and, upon your passing, your estate will receive a tax receipt for the value of the policy.

RETIREMENT PLAN FUNDS (RRSP/RRIF)

Your retirement funds are amongst the most heavily taxed assets you own. However, when your selected Jewish organization(s) is designated as a direct beneficiary of a registered retirement savings plan (RRSP) or registered retirement income fund (RRIF), these taxes are offset at the time of death. Your gift will be treated as a charitable donation in the year of death and your selected Jewish organization(s) will issue a tax receipt for the full amount being transferred to it. The gift is simple to make—you name your selected Jewish organization(s) as a direct beneficiary on the plan document and advise the institution holding your retirement account of the change.

Disclaimer: When considering a legacy gift, it is important to assess your own unique financial circumstances. You should always consult your financial advisor when making a gift so you can choose a strategy which best provides you or your estate with the largest tax savings while fulfilling your charitable goals. We strongly recommend that you seek professional advice to ensure your financial goals are considered, your tax situation reviewed and your planned gift is tailored to your circumstances.

Frequently Asked Questions

What if I already give money annually? Thank you. Your gifts are so appreciated. Regular giving is an important part of how nonprofits keep their doors open. But what happens to the organizations you've supported after your lifetime? Your support continues with a legacy gift to their endowments.

What if I might need my money? It's true, you might. And it'll be there for you if and when you do. This type of gift is made after your lifetime, once you no longer need your assets.

What if my children are getting all of my money? Parents want to help their children become financially secure, and we aren't asking you to ignore your children! Consider leaving just a portion of your assets to charitable causes that are important to you. You'll be demonstrating to your children the importance of helping build a better world. Additionally, with tax benefits associated with certain legacy gifts, there are ways to leave money to the endowments of Jewish organizations that you care about without taking a penny away from your children!

If the organization dissolves, so will my money? It's hard to predict where any of us will be in 10, 20, even 50 years. If you're concerned an organization might not be around when your gift is made, you can name an alternative cause.

Can only older people leave a legacy gift? Anyone—no matter your age—can support the causes and organizations you cherish with a legacy gift. If you have assets, you'll want to decide how they'll be divided.

What if I've already finalized my will? There are several ways of making a legacy gift that don't involve changing your will. Consider directing a portion of your retirement fund or life insurance policy to your favorite charitable beneficiaries. The AJC can also connect you with a local lawyer to draw up a codicil to your existing will, free of charge.

Do I have to be a millionaire to leave a legacy? The beauty of legacy giving is you can make a gift of any amount. Whether your estate is worth a few shekels or a few million, your gift is your legacy. And your legacy should live on!

JAMES ROLFE AND VOCALYPSE PRODUCTIONS PRESENT: O GREENEST BRANCH IN HALIFAX

OCTOBER 21-24

BY PEGGY WALT

Many of us have been missing live music during the pandemic (especially Jewish music since the last Gilsig Series in Jewish Arts and Culture event). Peggy Walt chatted with composer James Rolfe about his new song cycle, O Greenest Branch, debuting in Halifax this fall.

No stranger to Halifax audiences and musicians, James Rolfe has written new works for pianists Simon Docking and Barbara Pritchard “that should have been premiered by now.” He’s hopeful that these postponed premieres will happen this fall. His opera *Beatrice Chancy* (set in 19th century Annapolis Valley) with writer George Elliott Clarke premiered in 1999 in Halifax, and, he’s collaborated with Halifax soprano Janice Jackson.

Jackson, who is producing Hildegard von Bingen’s opera, *Ordo Virtutum* (c. 1151) through her Vocalypse Productions organization, invited the prolific composer to write a companion piece, for which he mingled Jewish texts with texts by von Bingen, the composer nun, philosopher, mystic and writer who was canonized by the Roman Catholic church.

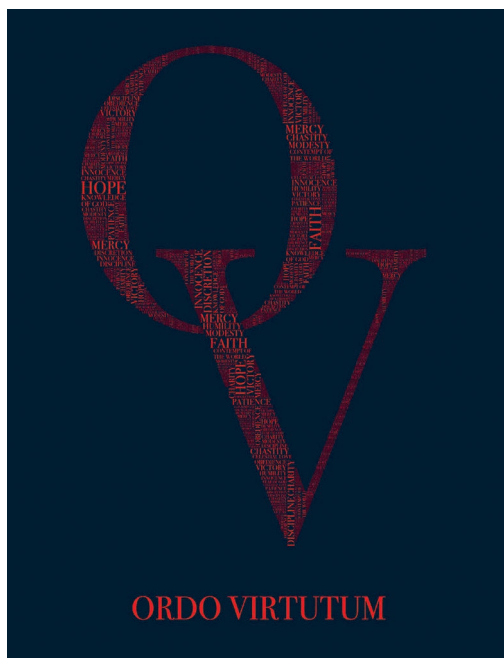
“I really like Hildegard a lot,” Rolfe said. “Her music has a real glow from within. I don’t know how else to put it. There’s a real spiritual strength and presence to it, that transcends the fact that it’s close to 1000 years old.”

He also loves the mix of early and modern music: “It’s a natural match for me. I love concerts where you mix different styles. I kind of like the contrast. They speak to each other.”

Ordo Virtutum is one of the first morality plays, and perhaps one of the first operas. Full of nature imagery, the music stands in stark contrast to events of the time period. “The beauty and devotion of Hildegard’s music are still fresh today; yet, at the same time and in the same place it was created, mobs were murdering Jews in the name of Christianity. To try to reconcile the jarring dissonance between these stories, I have set to music two mediaeval Hebrew poems—which mourn the Jewish victims of Crusader massacres which occurred during Hildegard’s lifetime—alongside three texts of Hildegard and a 20th-century lament by Chaim Nachman Bialik.”

The composer explains his juxtaposition of these dissimilar worlds, mentioning the inspiration that he drew from his own family’s history. Rolfe didn’t know he was Jewish until he was eight or nine. He remembers his mother asking him, “You know you’re Jewish, right?” He replied, “No.”

His mother was born in Berlin, with parents from Leipzig and



Frankfurt, who all had to flee in 1938. They got to England where his mother married a British man; the family immigrated to Canada in 1955. His mother’s family “had been secular for generations,” she lost older relatives to the Holocaust. Rolfe’s mother went back to Germany a couple of times, but “it creeped her out.” The composer has also visited Berlin, finding it “very loaded.”

Rolfe remembers his grandmother as a very warm person and a wonderful cook who was culturally Jewish; he associated Judaism early on with generosity and food. Asked if he personally identifies with Judaism, he replies, “I do think of myself as Jewish, but it has taken a while to get my head around that. I got more in touch when my daughter decided to do her bat mitzvah, and we went to synagogue during that time, and I found myself very affected by the music, especially. I was in tears often, and just really moved. The composer

part of me was thinking, this is interesting, this is important. I don’t know if I’m more observant, but I’m much more in touch. I’ve learned how to chant Torah from the scroll and as you get older, it’s nice to take on a challenge of that nature.”

Although he’s composed other works on Jewish themes, the new piece stands out for him, and he hopes will resonate with audiences. “This work opened a door for me to deal creatively with my family history: I am descended from Rhineland Jews who survived centuries of exile and violence, from the First Crusade in 1096 through to the Holocaust. We all live in the shadow of genocide, whether it took place in Canada or elsewhere; I hope that what is personal for me will also connect to listeners.”

Reflecting further, he says, “I thought, my ancestors on my mother’s father’s side come from the Frankfurt area, quite close to where Hildegard was operating, and because they were Jewish, they had a very difficult perspective on living in those times. They suffered through various pogroms, and I thought it was very striking to me that these things happened at the same time. I came across these poems from the time by German Jews, written in Hebrew, they recounted these episodes, and how the Jews dealt with them, spiritually, I guess, and it was really a striking contrast with the Hildegard texts.”

Another poem in *O Greenest Branch* is by famous Jewish writer



James Rolfe



Chaim Nachman Bialik (*On the Slaughter*), recounting the massacre that Bialik lived through in 1905 Bialystok. “It’s such a powerful poem, obviously

by somebody who has seen it, and is in the red-hot grip of sorrow that it had produced.” The composer worked with a translation he’d found, but ‘massaged’ it in order to “make it sing.”

The twenty-minute work is funded by the Canada Council for the Arts and scored for women’s chorus, soprano, organ and percussion. Rolfe wrote it in 2018-19, and it incorporates a chanting of the *Shema*. The performance takes place in late October at St. Patrick’s Church in Halifax’s North End.

Asked about the choice of location, Rolfe said, “It doesn’t matter to me what the venue is. The thing is, that classical music, so to speak, its roots are in the church, there’s no way around that. To me a church is a spiritual place, and it’s a particular acoustic, and for the Hildegard and for the parts of my piece that are strongly related to the Hildegard, it kind of makes sense to belong in a church. The roots of this music are there, the ways of perceiving it sonically. The acoustic is very much what I had in mind, something which has a warm, resonant sound.”

He admits that attending performances in a church can be challenging for some.

“I’m partially Jewish and partially Christian, in terms of my background, I think it’s kind of a nice idea that there can be a dialogue. It could be played in a synagogue, and that would be great as well. You are dealing with the Crusades, things being done in the name of religion contrasting that with the gentle message of Hildegard. Things seem so charged these days when we talk about “The Church.” The word reconciliation is being booted around a lot. From the Jewish point of view, we’re going to this Christian place, and putting something Jewish out there as well. It puts it in a bigger cultural context.”

Rolfe has visited memorials in Germany, particularly struck by one in Frankfurt composed of a wall of small rectangles of alphabetized names of victims; “I found the names of people I knew. That was very, very striking. I went to Sachsenhausen, where a great uncle had been sent. It’s a very profound, turbulent kind of feeling going back. It’s getting to be so long ago, but I knew the people who lived through it, my mother is still alive (now 93), and I knew my grandparents. To put myself in their shoes, I can’t even imagine.”

We talk about Edmund de Waal’s *The Hare with Amber Eyes* and his latest *Letters to Camondo*, in which the ceramicist and author revisits family history and the great homes that his Jewish family lost in Vienna and Paris. Rolfe can relate. “He comes from a wealthy family in Vienna; my family was also wealthy but in Leipzig.” He finds it hard to imagine having “to flee. And to leave behind all these wonderful things. They were art collectors, (my grandmother) had Kadinskys and Klees, she had some really nice paintings, which she stored in a warehouse in Hamburg, which turned out not to be a great move, because of the fire-bombing. Not to mention the people who were lost.”

But this great loss sparked ideas for the new work. “It’s a tremendous loss, a financial loss, the people who were lost, there’s a loss of community, a cultural loss. From my selfish point of view, I don’t have access to this culture, this language, and so on, these things were taken from me. On the other hand, it gives me a blank slate to imagine what it might have been like, and in a sense this piece is a kind of an act of imagination, an example of that.”

The last time Rolfe travelled was to Halifax to collaborate with Dalhousie University’s Fountain School of Performing Arts, and his “fingers are crossed,” that he’ll be able to attend October’s premiere. After that, he can’t wait to hear more live music and resume travelling, and plans to visit Berlin again to collaborate with a cousin “who is writing poems about some of the relatives who didn’t survive.”

During the pandemic, Rolfe has become even more aware of the importance of live music, composing and recording songs and singing duets with his composer wife, Juliet Palmer.

“Singing is a joy....I was writing for myself. So I had to provide the performer and the audience myself. That was a good lesson to learn, I sort of knew it already, but it was a very good lesson for me. You realize how much we do as composers depends on the performer and on the audience. It’s a three-way equation. Without the other two, it was much harder...In some ways you have it over the Internet, but it’s not the same. Live music is very special, but you don’t realize how special until it’s gone.” 🎵

Peggy Walt is a recipient of the AJC’s Abraham Leventhal Memorial Scholarship and completing an MFA in Creative Nonfiction at King’s University.

Ticket information: www.vocalypse.ca
or www.vocalypse.ca/events/bingen-rolfe-project

SEND A Partnership2Gether GIFT CARD TO CELEBRATE!
HELP SUPPORT OUR VALUABLE PROJECTS IN NORTHERN ISRAEL

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

REMEMBERING ABE LEVENTHAL Z"L

BY JONATHAN WERBITT, STUDENT, KING'S SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

Abe Leventhal may not have had kids of his own, but he was still a true family man.

The Waverly Inn proprietor left nearly \$8,000,000 to the region's Jewish youth through a bequest to the Atlantic Jewish Foundation. He also left millions more to Jewish and general charities across Atlantic Canada.

His decision to leave the residue of his estate for local university and Camp Kadimah scholarships should come as no surprise. While Abe Leventhal kept a relatively low profile as owner of the Waverly Inn, word of his generosity spread throughout the Jewish community. A successful and gruff businessman, the depth of his pockets seemed squarely matched with a drive to give their contents away.

CAMP KADIMAH FUNDING

Summer camp is a well-established fixture of North American Jewish culture, and the phenomena as we know it today harkens back to the late 19th century. As a fourteen-year camp veteran myself, I can tell you it played a fundamental role in the development of my identity, not merely as a Jew, but as a maturing young man who lived ten months of the year in a major city.

There is no understating the importance of Camp Kadimah.

"It is the biggest piece of infrastructure that the Atlantic Jewish Council operates," said Victor Goldberg, a long-time family friend of the Leventhals. "It's our crowning glory and accomplishment and it allows Jewish children in Atlantic Canada to go and meet other Jewish children." He is confident Leventhal understood what Kadimah means to the local Jewish community.

Though he was never a camper himself, Leventhal had his fair share of camp experiences. In the 1930's, he became the first Jewish Cub Master. An Eagle Scout in his younger days, he acquired a taste of camp spirit in a world unrecognizable to Camp Kadimah's contemporary, millennial campers.

In a recent video interview, Larry Freeman, once a cub under Leventhal, reminisced about his days with the scouts under Leventhal's tutelage. "I like to think I was his favorite cub, and here's why," he said smiling, before disappearing out of the frame.

He quickly returned, proudly displaying the "Efficiency Shield" Leventhal had bestowed upon him as a nine-year-old, back in 1958. He remembers events clearly, 63 years later—a simple testament to the endurance of Jewish camp memories, and a story that bears an uncanny resemblance to 21st-century summertime moments of my own.

LOCAL UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

The value of education needs no explanation, but the intention behind Leventhal's scholarship fund runs deeper than simple tuition fees.

"He recognized the importance of helping people afford university tuition and that if people were encouraged to go to universities in Halifax, that they might stay in Halifax," Goldberg said.

University is a pivotal time in a young person's life. For many, it's a rite of passage into adulthood. It's a departure from the family nest and a place for one to plant the first true seeds of their future. By offering to fund the development of our youth within Nova Scotian shores, Leventhal helped maintain the longevity of the small, local Jewish community.

We live in a time when young Jewish kids leave the province *en masse* to pursue Canada's bigger cities, Toronto, Montreal, and so on. The effect on the Atlantic Jewish community has been significant. We are experiencing a

slow contraction as the older and younger generations go their separate ways.

People like Leventhal are giving life to our presence in these provinces. His benevolence has ensured not only that young Jews have the opportunity to experience the staples of modern Jewish life—education, summer camp and community, but that their children will in turn be able to live these same activities in our beautiful corner of Canada.

MENSCHKEIT

Leventhal understood the significance of Tzedakah and as one who truly does, never expected anything in return for what he gave—except maybe a tax receipt. Still, his quiet reputation as a philanthropic figure often brought fundraisers to his doorstep.

Calvin Blades, who helped Leventhal run the Waverly for almost thirty years, recalls a running joke between Leventhal and Ruth Goldbloom, a prominent Canadian fundraiser and one of the co-founders of the Pier 21 Museum. "She would often come to Abe for donations," Blades said. "As soon as she would walk through the door he would say 'sit down, save me the spiel, and tell me how much you need.' And he would write a cheque."

One might say that all living beings share one trait—an inherent motivation to provide security and life for future generations. In the present world, these definitions have taken on new meaning. Parents might open college funds right at birth or buy life insurance policies in case of death. Whether they follow instinct or expectation matters little, the motivation to instill a bright, or brighter day for those who come next is all the same.

For Abe Leventhal, a man with no children, this sense of duty extended far beyond the reach of those living under his roof. Throughout his life, he demonstrated in action that to him, these familial bonds bore roots across the entirety of the Jewish community, and often, far beyond the synagogue steps. 5



AJC BOARD Summer 2021-2023



Past President | Marilyn Kaufman

President | Arik Drucker

1st VP | Adam Conter

2nd VP | Pavel Jeloudovski

Treasurer | Roni Omessi

Corporate Secretary | Aviva Rubin-Schneider

Officer-at-Large | Howard Conter

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Vadim Andrashnikov

Joanna Mirsky Wexler

Ricky Peled

Victoria Volkanova

Marty Wexler

PEI | Joseph Glass

Moncton | Francis Weil

Fredericton | Ricky Peled

Saint John | Cathy Tait

Cape Breton | TBD

Havura (St. John's) | Justin Tobin

Beth El (St. John's) | Barbara Grandy

Camp Kadimah Co-Chair | Michael Pink

Atlantic Jewish Foundation Chair | Mark Rosen

Atlantic Jewish Foundation Vice Chair | Victor Goldberg

EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

Executive Director | Naomi Rosenfeld

Executive Director Emeritus | Jon Goldberg

Legal Counsel | Derek Brett

Observer | Naomi Levine

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 September 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.

In order to receive this scholarship, all successful applicants must agree to volunteer a minimum of 18 hours to a/several qualifying Jewish organization(s) in Atlantic Canada in the 12 months following receipt of this scholarship. Up to 8 of these hours may be spent attending Hillel Atlantic Canada events for post-secondary students. Successful applicants will be provided more details about this volunteering commitment.

Applications available at: theajc.ca/scholarships

Nutritious, Filling and Satisfying Salad Meal Recipe

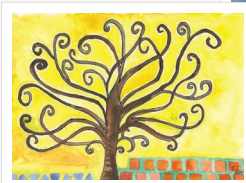
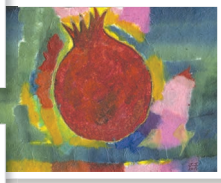
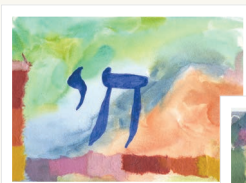
BY MORRIS GIVNER

INGREDIENTS & DIRECTIONS

- > 1 Large eggplant: Cut in half and microwave at 90-power for 10 minutes in a suitable dish, scrape inner contents into a big bowl
- > Dash of salt-free seasoning: add to bowl
- > Dash of pepper: add to bowl
- > Dash of garlic powder: add to bowl
- > Dash of parsley flakes: add to bowl
- > 2 tbsp of apple cider vinegar: add to bowl
- > 2 tbsp of olive oil: add to bowl
- > 1 tbsp of honey: add to bowl
- > Vine tomato: cut into chunks, add to bowl
- > 1 Large carrot: scraped and cut into chunks, add to bowl
- > 1 Large sweet onion: microwave at 90-power for 10 minutes, cut into big chunks and add to bowl
- > 1 Large orange sweet pepper: cut into big chunks, add to bowl
- > 5 dark sweet cherries: cut into pieces, add to bowl

Mix all of the above with a fork, cover bowl with a plastic sheet and refrigerate. Enjoy with a cup of tea or coffee.

Morris Givner is a retired Professor living in Halifax.



ORDER A TRIBUTE CARD FROM THE AJC!

Tribute card designs are from original paintings by local artist Jennifer Baig Jacobson, 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!

PERFECT FOR

- Rosh HaShannah Greetings
- Birthday Gifts
- Wedding Gifts
- Channukah Greetings
- Messages of Condolence and more!

Minimum donation \$18 per individual card or minimum \$50 donation for 5 cards.

You can also order a complete set of 8 blank cards for \$30

THERE ARE 3 EASY WAYS TO ORDER YOUR TRIBUTE CARDS:

Online: www.theajc.ca/tributecards

Email: tributecards@theajc.ca

Telephone: 902-422-7493



Limmud FSU Labs Atlantic Canada Building Community Leaders: Shabbat

BY YULIA ELGIN, PROJECT COORDINATOR, PHOTOS BY ILGAR GRACIE

On July 8, 2021, as part of Limmud FSU Labs Atlantic Canada program, I organized an event with the support of the Atlantic Jewish Council (AJC).

As part of the Limmud FSU Labs Atlantic Canada program, my goal is to develop local Jewish community life and enrich the Jewish knowledge of Russian-speaking Jews in the Atlantic Canadian region.

Since the beginning of my program, I was challenged by the ongoing restrictions following the evolving situation with the pandemic. Having said that; all the events I organized this year, until now, have been a great “virtual” success.

Luckily, this summer the opportunity appeared to host an event offline in one of our local Halifax synagogues, in accordance with Nova Scotia Health guidelines. It was Shaar Shalom Congregation that opened its doors to accommodate my event, and the community, with the support of the AJC.

25 participants had a chance to explore the different parts of the synagogue by playing the game “Selfie Scavenger Hunt”, this part of the program was voluntarily organized by Joanna Mirsky Wexler, chair, of the Shaar Shalom Synagogue. Partakers received a list of the different rooms in the synagogue and were required to take selfies in each room. It was a fun, warm, and friendly game that everyone enjoyed.

After the game we were delighted and inspired by the emotionally driven rendition of Joanna’s singing and playing on the guitar “Shalom Aleichem”, something she usually does with family every Shabbat.

This program initiative was about Shabbat, the hosting and preparation. Participants were pleased to meet with Rabbi Gary Karlin, Shaar Shalom Synagogue, as he introduced the Shabbat services and explained how to maintain Jewish traditions and customs. Rabbi Karlin also described the process of

how he could help a child to have a Bar/ Bat Mitzvah within the framework of the services that Shaar Shalom provides to community members.

The “zimes”, highlight, of the event was making the dough, braiding the loaves, and baking the challah bread, taught to us by the very passionate professional Jewish-Russian chef Evgeniya Grande.

At the closing of the event each person took home their delicious creations to fill their home with the magical smell of two challahs and all the warm feelings that fill Jewish hearts in anticipation of Shabbat evening. To complete their Shabbat bundle, candles and kosher grape juice were supplied to all to accomplish my goal of making a beautiful Shabbat for my community members. 5

This event was captured by professional photographer Ilgar Gracie.

ABOUT LIMMUD FSU LABS ATLANTIC CANADA:

Limmud FSU Labs is a grassroots initiative that contributes to helping develop Jewish community life and enriching the Jewish knowledge of young Russian-speaking Jews.

Yulia Elgin, Halifax, proposed and received a grant to host a Limmud FSU (Former Soviet Union) Labs program in Atlantic Canada. Yulia was inspired to initiate a program to help grow and strengthen the interaction with the local established Jewish community, to build a richer Jewish life, and instill a deeper sense of Jewish identity as well as a connection to Israel, in our local Russian speaking Jewish population.

FOR PROGRAM INFORMATION:

On Facebook: Atlantic Canada-Limmud FSU Labs.
Contact project organizer Yulia Elgin with any questions: Yulia.elgin@gmail.com

Yulia Elgin immigrated to Canada in 2012. She works at Scotiabank, Customer Experience Lead, and teaches, since 2012, at the Halifax Joint Hebrew School, Halifax, NS.



Yulia Elgin (centre) with Evgeniya Grande (L), and Joanna Mirsky Wexler (R).



PEI NEWS

A Snapshot of the Jewish Community in Charlottetown 100 Years Ago

BY JOSEPH B. GLASS, POWNAL, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

If one were to visit Charlottetown 100 years ago, it would have been difficult to find the Jewish community. There was no synagogue and no ground on the Island had been consecrated for Jewish burial. The 1921 Census of Canada listed nineteen Jews living in the city of 10,814.

In this snapshot of the tiny community in 1921, the Jewish denizens are contextualized within Prince Edward Island's political, demographic, economic, and social backdrops. For its small size, the Jewish population figured prominently in the local news, not as a community, but as individuals in various circumstances—business, education, charity, sports, and legal matters.

The Liberal government of John H. Bell held a majority in the provincial legislature since 1919. Bell promoted investment in “good roads” for a province whose ban on automobiles was only fully lifted in 1919. Dr. Leo Frank, a Jewish resident, was an early adopter of the car. He gained notoriety for challenging a speeding charge. He was accused of exceeding the seven and half mile per hour speed limit in Summerside in 1920.

Most Jewish adults were ineligible to vote. Some were not naturalized, and women were not enfranchised to vote provincially until May 1922. Leo Frank, an American citizen, was politically connected. In 1920, he chaired a banquet honouring a Japanese guest. Among the over 100 attendees were the Lieutenant Governor, Premier, United States Consul, Charlottetown Mayor, Attorney General, and prominent businessmen.

A general emigration from PEI continued during the early 1920s. The Jewish population, which number around 45 in 1914, witnessed an outmigration during and after World War One. For example, in 1920 Israel Block, a resident for over fifteen years, moved to Boston with his wife and two daughters. His two brothers and their families remained in Charlottetown.

Six Jewish households were found in Charlottetown in 1921—three married

couples with children, an older married couple without children, and two single men. Six of the nine children were school-aged, and they attended West Kent School.

In 1921, two of Louis and Jennie Block's daughters were mentioned in the *Guardian*. Beatrice made the Grade 5 honour roll for February and Ethel, who was in Grade 7, received a certificate for attendance. Abie and Ethel Block's son Maurice was placed on the Grade 4 honour roll for September. These mentions in newsprint surely made their parents proud.

The province's economy was primarily agricultural with potatoes and seed potatoes taking a prominent place. Jewish merchants traded in hides, wool, horsehair, and other non-perishable items produced in rural areas. Fishing played a significant role in the economy and the silver fox industry flourished after the Great War. Leo Frank owned and operated a silver fox farm in Southport across the Hillsborough River from Charlottetown.

During prohibition bootlegging and rumrunning existed in PEI. Some Jews engaged in the illicit sale and trade of alcohol. Two Jewish persons were charged with violating provincial alcohol laws in 1918 and 1923. Under prohibition Jews were permitted to produce and consume wine for religious practices. Ethel Block, according to her granddaughter, made her own wine which was used for Shabbat and holiday benedictions.

The occupations of the Jewish men were: three traders in junk and scrap metal, one fox rancher, a dry goods store clerk, a livery stable worker, and a business representative who was also a violinist. The women did not work outside their homes in 1921.

In April, Moses Jacobson, a junk dealer, was charged with receiving stolen copper. At a largely attended police court session, a witness testified that some boys had taken the copper from a dredge, entered Jacobson's premises with it, and left without it. Jacobson was

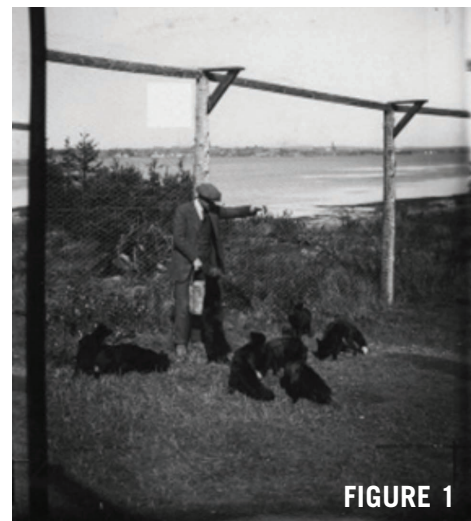


Figure 1: A number of Silver Fox in one pen (Charlottetown in the background). Courtesy of the Keystone-Mast Collection, UCR/California Museum of Photography, University of California, Riverside.

remanded to the Supreme Court for trial. In July, the jury returned a verdict of not guilty.

Leo Frank grew up in Scotland, lived in the United States, and moved to PEI in 1914. He had been active in various aspects of the silver fox industry including exporting breeding pairs to Japan in 1920. He was praised for his promotion of PEI's silver fox industry. He commissioned a series of photographs of the local industry which made their way into newspapers across North America in 1921 [Figure 1]. He was congratulated for “placing dear old Prince Edward Island on the map.”

The Jewish households lived in the central core of the city [Figure 2]. Louis and Jennie Block and their four children lived in a two and a half storey house on Water Street near Pownal Wharf. He had a warehouse for scrap metal and other items. Abie and Ethel Block and their four children lived on King Street, and Moses and Ida Jacobson lived with their three children on Dorchester Street. Jacobson had a junk yard, a small stable, and storage shack on the property. These families had arrived in the first years of the 1900s. The family heads had been peddlers who transitioned to junk and scrap metal dealers and merchants.

The two single men, Leo Frank and Max Cohen, rented rooms in the Queen Hotel and a rooming house on Great George Street, respectively. Abraham and Golda Kahn from Poland resided in a rented house on Union Street. They arrived in Canada in 1890 and were naturalized ten years later. Abraham's occupation was listed as "sick" in the census. No information has been located about the couple before their arrival and after their departure from Charlottetown or the nature of Abraham's illness.

The Island battled various health crises. Only a few years earlier, the Spanish Flu outbreak led to school closures and bans on public gatherings in 1918-19. Despite various measures, some 375 Islanders succumbed to the epidemic. Tuberculosis was a major concern. PEI had highest provincial mortality rate in 1921, 127 persons died of TB that year. Other outbreaks of infectious and contagious diseases in the early 1920s included measles, smallpox, diphtheria, scarlet and typhoid fevers, but mortality rates were lower than those for TB.

Little was uncovered about the Jewish residents' social lives, except for Leo Frank. In January, Louis Block accompanied the Charlottetown Abegweit Hockey Club to Sussex, NB for the Eastern League Championship. Getting to Sussex was quite the ordeal. The car-ferry steamer could not dock at Cape Tormentine, NB due thick ice and strong winds. The determined players jumped off the ferry and trekked across the ice until reaching land. They arrived at their destination but lost the game. During the 1921-22 season the "Abbies" won the championship. The newspaper did not detail whether fifty-year old Louis crossed the treacherous ice with the young athletes.

Leo Frank organized and participated in numerous charity events. Most noteworthy were his efforts on behalf of a four-year-old orphan with a cleft palate. He petitioned the Premier to permit corrective surgery for this ward of the province. Dr. Frank paid the medical expenses and organized a concert to fund a trust for the orphan's future care. Charlottetown's best musical talent enthusiastically volunteered their time, among them was violinist Max M. Cohen, a recent Jewish arrival.

In a glowing review of Cohen's debut performance, a noted Charlottetown music critic declared him a "genius". Born in

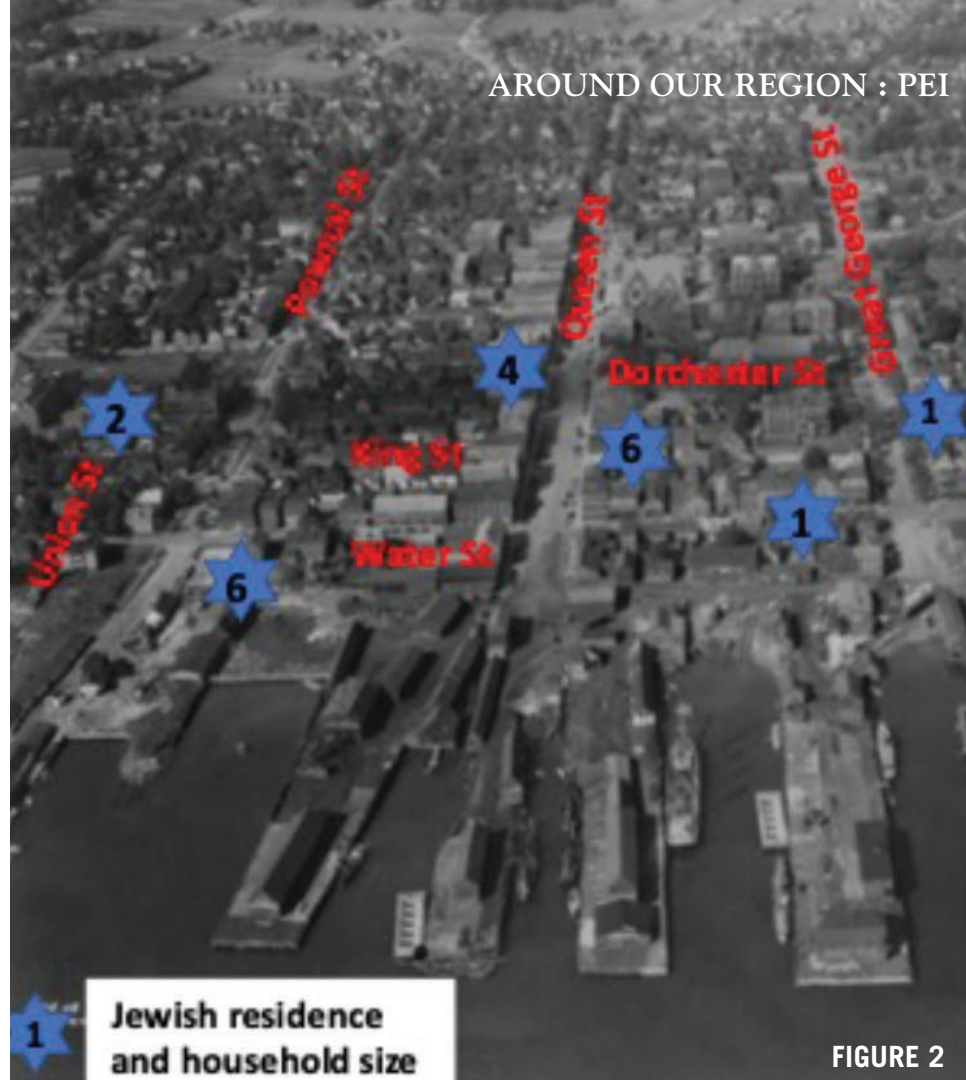


Figure 2: Location of Jewish residences in Charlottetown and household sizes, 1921. Aerial photograph of Charlottetown, circa. 1925. Courtesy of Library and Archives Canada, PA-044010.

Glasgow, Scotland, Max graduated from the Royal Academy of Music in London. His violin, the subject of much curiosity, was a scholarship prize valued at \$2,500. Max immigrated to Canada in 1913. Following the war, Max worked for the Canadian Distributing Company and in this capacity, he relocated to Charlottetown in June 1921. Max died on December 16 from kidney disease, after only six months in PEI. He was buried in Charlottetown's non-denominational People's Cemetery, but no gravestone marks the location of his interment.

The Jewish population in Charlottetown in 1921 was not an organized community. These residents most probably all knew each other, and some were related. They were not necessarily all on good terms. Tensions between some businessmen had resulted in legal actions. In addition, from all indications the Jews of PEI did not follow orthodox religious practices, but some kept dietary laws and celebrated the Sabbath and holidays. Leo Frank and Max Cohen highlighted

their Scottish heritage and not their Jewish identity.

Over the past century, the Jewish community did not establish a synagogue or cemetery. The Jewish population in Prince Edward Island did not increase in size significantly until 1981 with an estimated 90 Jews. The number more than doubled to 185 in 2011. (The results of the 2021 census have not been published).

Formally organized in 1993, the Prince Edward Island Jewish Community (PEIJC) connects and brings together permanent and seasonal Jewish residents. The community regularly gathers for holiday prayers and celebrations, social gathering, and educational activities. So, if one visits Charlottetown today, it is much easier to find the Jewish community. The PEIJC's contact information is: info@peijc.org.

Dr. Joseph B. Glass is the PEIJC representative to the Atlantic Jewish Council. He is researching the Jewish history of Prince Edward Island. He can be contacted at: josephbglass@yahoo.com

CAPE BRETON NEWS

BY SHARON JACOBSON

Who knew 2021 would be one long weekend without Shul?

"Reality is a staircase going neither up or down. We don't move, today is today, always is today."—Octavio Paz

This quote conjured up other thoughts 17 months ago, but today, I stopped, read it again and could see how these pocket-size truths can fit different experiences. Well, here we are in Cape Breton, Post-3rd-Wave COVID, and hopefully rowing into a safe harbour... I put a question out to our e-mail list.

"What have you learned or discovered about yourself by living through the experience of a COVID Pandemic?"

Here are some replies:

"Sadly, I have learned very little." Arthur Zilbert (I hear you)

"Although I always valued my connections, now my relationships with family and friends have taken on a new and greater importance." Eleanor Yazer

"I learned that seeing our children and grandchildren is supremely important; I missed not seeing them for so many months. I missed contact with our social circle, particularly our Synagogue friends here in Florida. Contacts on Zoom helped somewhat but in many ways was unsatisfying. I missed the cultural events that were shut down; the cultural programs, classes and lectures on Zoom did satisfy my needs pretty well." David Schick

"I found it more than inconvenient, as a result, I have developed a deeper level of patience; however, with the above considered, I am ready for this to be over!" Fred Blufarb

"that I can be patient! I thought patience was a virtue that I did not possess. I have discovered otherwise." Bethsheila Kent

"Many things. One of them: I have a much greater appreciation of the system that provides us with consumer goods that we take for granted, and how fragile and fraught with danger that system is. About 90% of what appears on shelves in stores involves transport by sea where ship's crews are away for months at a time, working long hours for little pay under dangerous conditions. Much of what appears in the grocery stores is there through

the efforts of low paid migrant workers and long-haul truck drivers, and throughout the pandemic, we had access to food because cashiers and others came out to work on the front lines." Paula Michalik

"The importance of spending time with friends and family. That we live in the best place in the world here in Nova Scotia." Howard Conter

"I didn't really mind it... wouldn't have got as much done around the house that I otherwise could not have done." David Ein

"I learned that I need my mother to limit my screen time! I got caught up in Friends' Forwards, Munk Debates, Ted Talks, CBC apps, PBS, FaceTime, Virtual programs and more... I was practical, yet wistful. And—COVID has me living in my head. Please indulge me. While making the bed, my mind travels, robustly trying to understand this human place in which I find myself. By the time the bed is made, I have arrived in a "zany world"? For example, I will go from Truth & Justice to Trust and Sources... then to Biases until I find myself on the ledge of Historic Fact, only to fall off and land in a Pit of Obscurity where Fair, Strong and Right are tied to Unfair, Weak and Wrong. Hope pulls me out. (I grew up when movies ended happily?) Yes, COVID has cooked my brain. It is so bad, that after all I see and hear about skin colour, religion and divisiveness, I think people should be described as Pickles, according to their dispositions: Sweet, Salty, Half Sour, Sour, Spicy, Soft, Crunchy, Sweet-Mixed and Bread & Butter for the "hardworking"... "I am COVID-cooked."

Sharon Jacobson

The biggest news this quarter for Jews was of course, "Rockets from Gaza; Rockets to Gaza! "... Scary Stuff... the unfolding of ambassador Michael Oren's interview in real time was like a sideshow as he relayed events. He opened the blind on his window to display the rocket fire; then suddenly blaring alerts and sirens urged him to abort the interview and retreat for cover!

It was terrible for both sides. The children of Sara and Hagar continue to squabble.

Can sibling rivalry ever be settled peacefully in a family when one feels favoured over the other? Each claim unfairness, reacts and over-reacts. Reason cannot simmer the blood that boils. What's a parent to do?

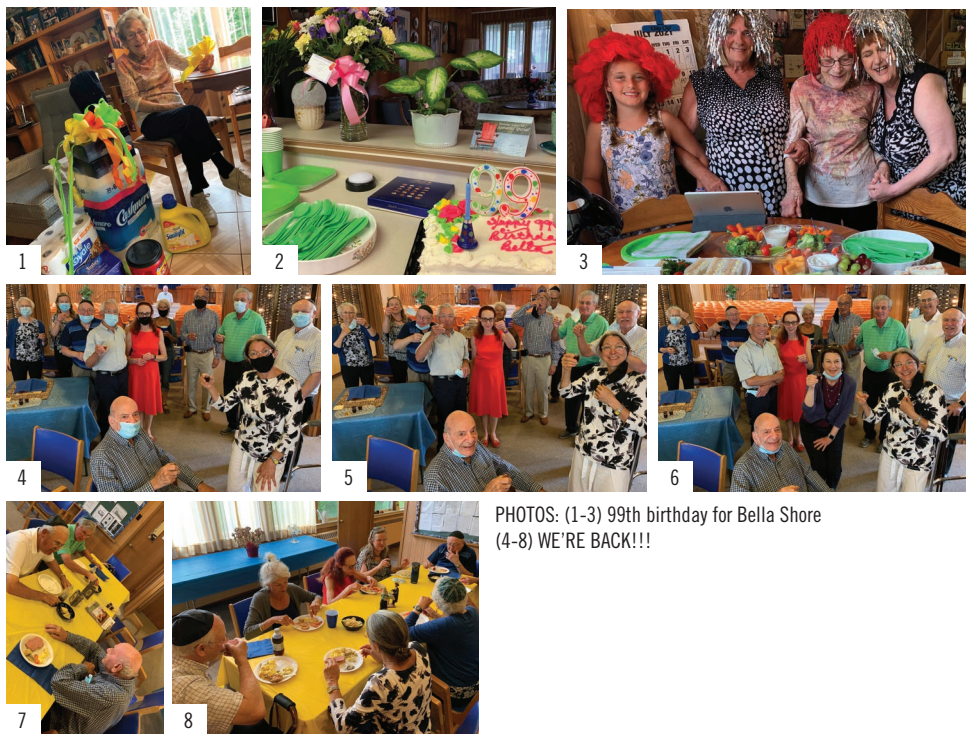
The stronger brother (to protect himself) responds to the taunting brother by knocking him down. Onlookers feel for the "underdog" of the family who seems so unfortunate and sad. What recourse does he have, one sighs. Plates crash, windows are broken, the little sister gets hurt. It's a performance that is repeated in the best and worst of families. Things get out of control. Finally each limps off to his bedroom, feeling... well I showed him!" Mom is left to clean up the mess. Sara and Hagar have their work cut out for them...

Antisemitism reared its ugly head as this news hit the airwaves. Jews in the Diaspora no longer felt safe. Indeed, Civilized behaviour in democratic countries is becoming elusive. Jewish Organizations rallied.

The SOD podcast went viral. In England, amidst the antisemitic flare-ups, a Jewish chap berates his NEIGHBOURS and friends who have rallied around everyone else's causes and yet, NO ONE CALLED ME TO SEE IF I WAS OK? They hit the streets to protest with BLM, demonstrating and speaking out! In this instance we were not one of the chosen.

I had bought the book, THE HARE WITH AMBER EYES many years ago as the result of a suggestion from a British friend whose son was acquainted with the author, Edmund de Waal. Finally got around to reading it with my Google Map App, because I like to know "where I am". It was quite the Saga. The Ephrussi Family was one of several prominent Jewish Banking Families. One knew of the Rothschilds of course, but there were a far greater number than I thought. Understandably, Jews were channeled into commercial ventures as most other venues were denied them, but I now see how the conspiracy theory re: "Jewish bankers controlling the world" arose!

Another subtle notation that displays the "banality of evil" (Hannah Arendt) was the Agency, set up in all its respectability to dispense with the personal effects of the Ephrussi family—not only the grand things but things like a "lamp, a bundle of umbrellas and walking sticks"—Birthday presents, souvenirs, sentimental family stuff. All were carted off to appraisal officers appointed by the Property



PHOTOS: (1-3) 99th birthday for Bella Shore
(4-8) WE'RE BACK!!!

Transaction Office. All very within the new laws. One moment they were citizens; the next, homeless with no legal course of action.

Have Jews survived because of their adaptability or their tenacity to follow the ways of Torah? Whatever the secret combination, we now also have DIY Judaism- Do It Yourself Judaism, new adaptations for the future. So what does flourishing Jewish life look like?

Religious, non-religious; synagogue affiliation or non-affiliation; cultural engagement of diversity, Antisemitism, politics; Connections through family and friends, food.

"What am I getting?" versus just Belonging... What makes us a tribe? How does one identify as a Jew? What is your Judaism?

Sounds like a cafeteria! But these are the popular questions being raised... Apparently, you do not have to be a Talmudic scholar to discover how to configure yourself as a Jew.

FINALLY, RECENT NEWS FROM CAPE BRETON—THE MAZEL TOV CORNER

Mazel Tov to Inez Goldman Schwartz who celebrated being 83 years young.

On July 5, Leon Dubinsky rose again to achieve an 80-year milestone.

Bella Shore will reach 99 years of age on July 15th.

These are wonderful birthdays, not only to have achieved such longevity, but to be back to blowing out one or two ceremonial candles on one's cake!

Barrie Carnat's grandson and Uri and Kelly Carnat's son, Benjamin Charles celebrated his Bar Mitzvah! 13 candles?

UPDATE ON THE GLACE BAY CEMETERY:

When the congregations of New Waterford and Whitney Pier dispersed to places far afield, the Sydney congregation was asked to manage their vestigial functions such as burials. So it has come to pass, (as they say in the Bible) that Glace Bay which has no standing synagogue and only a handful of former members residing in the area, must discuss its future arrangements. Procedures for discussion are underway should any former members wish burial services in the Glace Bay Jewish cemetery. Interestingly, there have been inquiries.

TWO THOUGHTS TO MUSE OVER

One is a truncated quote from Sid Caesar: be aware of your moments... How fast "a now" becomes "a was"...so, never use the word "if" anymore. An "if" is a "never was"... To keep it even simpler: Caffeine makes one see amazing possibilities... "Happiness is just a good cup of Joe!"

NEWS JUST IN- WE ARE BACK!

The Sydney synagogue has resumed services! From the photos, you can see us Masked, then, an Unmasked L'Chaim and finally, a lovely Kiddish Lunch for 15 of us! Zei Gezunt! 🥰

BETH EL SYNAGOGUE NEWS

BY DR. MICHAEL PAUL, PRESIDENT,
HEBREW CONGREGATION OF NL

Greetings from The Hebrew Congregation.

As COVID restrictions were lightened, we began to arrange for Oneg Shabbat services for the Jewish Community. These events were very well attended, with more than 20 people in attendance at each service. These services were led by Elizabeth Siegel-Loder and her father, Arthur Siegel, who with his wife Suzanne, were spending time here from the US. The services were recited in a most melodious manner. Services were followed by refreshments in the community hall.

Every Friday evening, we have Kabbalat Shabbat services, where the children go up to the Bimah to recite the Shema.

Every Shabbat morning there are between 4-6 attendees who spend at least an hour discussing and dissecting the weekly Parsha.

We are well underway with the preparations for the High Holiday services which will once again be combined ones- Hebrew Congregation and Havura—at the Synagogue. A combination of texts will be used.

The members of the Synagogue wish all members of the Jewish community a very Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous Shana Tova for 5782. 🥰



Atlantic
Jewish
Council

TO ADVERTISE IN
Shalom

Please contact the AJC
info@theajc.ca

NEWFOUNDLAND NEWS

News from the far east BY RABBI CHANAN AND TUBA CHERNITSKY

Mazel tov! We welcomed our son Boruch Shalom Chernitsky on April 28th. May he give his parents, siblings, grandparents and the whole Newfoundland and Labrador Yiddishe nachas!

Arranging a Bris is never easy, not to mention during a pandemic. Thank G-d we were able to secure an exemption for Rabbi Altein, expert mohel from Montreal to come to Newfoundland for the day of the ceremony.

It was hard work but we learnt that though we might at times think that we can't do this mitzvah or that mitzvah for X and Y reason, if we work hard, we will prevail, with Hashem's help.

The Jewish Book Club is going strong, with the 3rd installment being sent out at the time of writing this article.

Thank you to Shoshana and Gershon Zhubrak for sponsoring the latest installment.

As Newfoundland announced the new rules regarding visitors from the mainland, we started getting phone calls and emails from tourists. We are looking forward to a busy and safe summer with lots of good company.

Rebbetzin Tuba started a Mommy and Me program in May. Young mothers come to Chabad with their toddlers where they can learn something Jewish, play and schmooze. It's been a great success.

PHOTOS: (1) Baby Chernitsky Brit (2) Angela Oroz-Richt, born in Auschwitz (3) Falafel night



3

On Wednesday June 16th we had the honour and privilege of hosting over Zoom Angela Oroz-Richt. Angela is unique as she is 1 of 2 known babies to be born and survive in Auschwitz (In fact, her mother, Vera Bein, nursed the other baby so he could survive).

Angela shared the details of her birth and how it was to grow up in post war Hungary.

The event attracted 100 Zoom participants and received great feedback.

Angela finished off her talk with a charge to all of the listeners, to make sure we nip hatred in the bud.

On Tuesday June 29th we ran a "Falafel Night". Everyone had to make orders in advance either for pick up or "eat-in" (socially distanced, of course). We recruited some volunteers to help with the gargantuan task of making from scratch and frying over 300 falafel balls and french fries.

Thank G-d it was a resounding success. We even made homemade "Schug" aka "Charif".

A new Israeli couple dropped by and gave the Falafel their approval. 🇮🇱

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.



1



2

Jewish Community Havura of Newfoundland News

BY BETH SCHWARTZ

The Jewish Community Havura of Newfoundland and Labrador is emerging from a period of relative hibernation because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our new Reading Circle has met several times online, and we've taken advantage of the warmer summer weather to host a number of outdoor activities that will continue into the fall. The first was a bonfire on Topsail Beach, not far from St. John's. We had to delay for one day because of high winds but ended up with live entertainment and a beautiful sunset on a perfect evening.

We have also been holding some joint Oneg Shabbat services with Beth El Synagogue and will be collaborating with them on joint services for the High Holidays. We appreciate their hospitality.

And babies! A record number of babies have been born in the Newfoundland and Labrador Jewish community in 2021. It's cuteness overload! The biggest task for the Havura over the next year is rethinking our programming in light of our changing demography. 🇮🇱

You can find more information about the Havura's current activities on our website: www.havura.org. And you can contact us directly by emailing us at info.havura@gmail.com. We'd love to hear from you.

FREDERICTON NEWS

BY RICKY PELED RIFKIN

The past year has been challenging for everybody but there have been a few high points in our calendar I would like to share with everyone in the Atlantic Jewish community.

CELEBRATIONS

Firstly, I would like to congratulate everyone who celebrated their Bar Mitzvah or Bat Mitzvah this year.

We were lucky to be able to celebrate our first Bar Mitzvah in 4 years, in Fredericton last August, when Aviad Rifkin turned 13. Although in the middle of the pandemic, we were able to hold the service at the Sgoolai Israel Synagogue in Fredericton, NB. The service was conducted by Rabbi Yosef Goldman and although only a few people could attend, it was a beautiful ceremony. We were then again able to celebrate the coming of age of Ben Crymble in January of this year. The service was conducted via Zoom and there was a great turn out. Again, Rabbi Goldman did a wonderful job of organizing the whole event. It is celebrations like this that hold together our community, even in these difficult times. I would like to thank everyone who participated in both events for keeping the spirit of the community going throughout the pandemic.



Also, on the 14th of March this year Dr. Israel Unger celebrated his anniversary Bar Mitzvah at the sprightly age of 83. Dr. Unger was Dean of Science at the University of New Brunswick and has been a leading member of the Fredericton Jewish community for many years. We are incredibly lucky to have his leadership and experience in our community. Roughly 100 people gathered via Zoom to congratulate Dr. Unger. Although his daughters, Sharon and Sheila, could not be with him in person due to travel restrictions,

they contributed wonderfully to the virtual celebration.

We would all like to congratulate Dennis Tichanov, youngest son of Yana and Stas Tichanov, who graduated from Leo Hays high School this June, and will be attending the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton this coming Autumn.



This past year we also welcomed Joshua Nelson Bernstien to our small community from Toronto. His family belong to the Shaarei Shomayim Congregation, and he is attending UNB. Currently he is studying his final year of Law and taking a master's degree in business and administration. Joshua is very active in the community and has helped raise awareness of antisemitism through dialogue with local politicians in the Fredericton area. We are lucky to have such a young and energetic member in our small community, we all wish him the best of luck with his studies and for the future.

We also welcome Mark Schwarz from Toronto, (originally Israel). Mark is in the engineering corps at Base Gagetown and will be with us for the year. He is a great addition to our Shabbat services.

GENERAL INTEREST

On May 16th a few members of our Jewish community attended a free Palestine rally outside the Fredericton City Hall. This was an open invitation posted on social media by supporters of the Free Palestine movement. Initial invitations said there would be a free and peaceful discussion between members of the Free Palestine movement and local politicians. Unfortunately, this was not the case. Eight members of our community responded to the invitation and attended the rally. The scene was not peaceful at all. As

members of the free Palestine group shouted antisemitic and hateful slogans in Arabic, local politicians, unaware of the nature of these chants, went on record supporting the protest and the free Palestine movement. Slogans like, "One Holocaust was not enough" and "Death to all Jews," were being chanted while local officials smiled for the camera and shook hands with the protestors.



The situation became difficult when the crowd realized a small group of our community standing across the road from the protest, six women and two men. The protestors quickly began shouting directly at our members in both English and Arabic. This torrent of abuse did not go unnoticed by the Fredericton police and local journalists. Shortly afterwards, the crowd began spitting and became more threatening to our small group. At this point the Fredericton Police asked our members if they would like to press charges against several of the more agitated and threatening members of the protest. We declined. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Fredericton Police Force for their professionalism and dedication to their community. After the protest began to break up, they stayed with our members and escorted them back to their vehicles to ensure that no harm came to them. Thankfully, nobody was hurt. But this outpouring of anti-Israeli and antisemitic hate took our small community by surprise, resulting in some in fear for their safety, removing their Mezuzas from their front doors.



Continue on page 36

Continued from page 35

In response to this rally, our community came together to contact our local politicians and our Member of Parliament. Our president Ivan Levine and Marilyn Kaufman along with Rabbi Goldman coordinated with Eileen Finkelman, Israel Unger, Arnold and Rose Chippin,

David and Edye Besner, Cary Grobeand and myself, to reach out to local officials via e-mail and phone, to set up meetings to discuss the events of May 16th. Unfortunately, most of our requests fell on deaf ears, were ignored or simply refused. The few officials who did agree to meet were unapologetic when shown evidence to

support the fact that they had attended a rally where hateful and antisemitic chants and slogans had been used openly in public.

On the 23rd of June, a panel was organized by the Fredericton Multicultural society to discuss racism within our broader community. This panel consisted of leaders from the African Canadian community, Indigenous population, Arab community, Indo Canadian population, and our representative Dr. Israel Unger. Although the panel addressed many issues, and an engaging debate was held, many of us felt that the topic of Antisemitism was not discussed in depth. Dr. Unger was unable to address many of the issues due to time constraints, and his experience in the Holocaust and lifelong experience of antisemitism was sidelined. We are now working with the Multicultural society to form another discussion group to look at the problems faced by Jewish people across the Atlantic region and Canada in general more closely.

We hope that this open forum will help to bridge the gap between the many varied and distinct communities that now call Canada, and especially Fredericton, home.



EST. *Bishop's* 2003
CELLAR

Visit our recently expanded retail location on the Halifax waterfront. Over 3,300 square feet dedicated to a broad selection of local and imported wine, beer and spirits.

KOSHER WINES FOR EVERY OCCASION

WINE  BEER  SPIRITS
BISHOP'S LANDING | HALIFAX, NS
WWW.BISHOPSCELLAR.COM



Anti-racism Panel Discussion
Collective action: How to address racism in our community

HUSONI RAYMOND ELDER DONNA AUGUSTINE ISRAEL UNGER MANISHA VARMA MOHAMED KHIRALLAH

Wednesday, June 23, 6:30-8:00pm, Zoom


ORGANIZED BY  FUNDED BY 

COMMUNITY UPDATE

We are happy to announce that regular Shabbat services resumed at the Sgoolai Israel Synagogue in Fredericton.

We hope to see you there after this difficult year. Best wishes to Jasmine Kranat for a speedy recovery.

We are pleased to see David Aranoff back at Shabbat services.

Mazel Tov to Marilyn and Seymour Kaufman on their 47th wedding anniversary. 

MONCTON NEWS

BY FRANCIS WEIL

As everyone else in Canada, the Greater Moncton Jewish community (Moncton, Sackville, Dieppe, Woodstock, Riverview, Miramichi, Salisbury, and Johnston Point) is living with the COVID-19 rules imposed by the provincial government.

Since our last article in this magazine we had one holiday—Shavuot. It was observed in the synagogue. Rabbi Yagod was in the U.S.A., his son Pinchas, a Rabbi in training, was the 'Hazzan.

As usual, the bulletins from the congregation can be seen and downloaded from www.tiferesisrael.com. Do not hesitate to go on this website to see more details.

A few sad news—Renee Jacobson, z”l, Max Savage z”l and Lynwood Johnston, z”l, have left us.

Renee Jacobson, z”l, a long-time member, left us on June 14. She was born on September 5, 1927. She will be remembered as a kindly woman always trying to do the right things, a lady of valour who deserves to be honored. She worked for over 42 years at the Robert Jacobson Men's Wear, Miramichi and was very appreciated by her patrons. Her father's Hebrew name was Lazarus.

Max Savage, z”l, passed away on July 1. He started his working career at St. George Food's, then went on to own his own fish market for many years on High St. Later he sold furniture, then had the great pleasure of working with his cousin, Rubin Maklin at Hub Meat Packers, after that he drove for Enterprise until his final retirement. Our condolences to his sister in law, Carole and her family, his cousins the Maklin & the Gaum families as well as his close friend Linda Lutes.

Lynwood Earl Johnston, z”l, left us at Johnston Point on July 16, 2021 surrounded by his loving family. Lynwood worked at CN for over 35 years. He loved Johnston Point. He loved fishing; smelts, clams, oysters, quahogs, and lobster. Moving to Johnston Point over 40 years

ago, he became known as the Mayor of Johnston Point. Our condolences to Goldie, Lee, Linda and their family.

On a positive note, the community is welcoming two new families.

The family of Pauline and David Joshua Fishman from Sackville. They have two children, Philippe and Annalie. David is originally from Montreal and met his wife at McGill University.

The family of David Redouanne Assabbab and his wife. David is originally from the legendary city of Mogador (Morocco) and works in a local hotel.

Two of our children graduated from high school and will soon start new ventures in life.

Rhianna Rinzler-Johnston, daughter of Shawna Rinzler-Johnston and Andrew Johnston, granddaughter of David and Carole Rinzler graduated from JNA Armstrong High School in Salisbury. Her future plans are to do her undergrad in sciences at Mount Allison University in the fall.

Liran Langleben, one of New Brunswick finest young boxers, graduated from Harrison Trimble High School.

Two unveilings will take place in July-August: Bella Rose, z”l, in July and Lillian Schelew, z”l, in August.

In November 2020, the Board of the Tiferes Israel appointed a new Community Engagement Committee under the leadership of Victoria Volkanova. The role of the Committee would be to initiate the process of reflection and revitalization towards building a more welcoming and inclusive community, as well as a sustainable future for our Congregation. The first step in this process was an online survey, which attempted to find answers to our burning questions such as: *What are our members' needs? How can we make our community more vibrant? How could we attract more (or all) Jewish families living in*

the area and make them feel welcome and a part of our community? What future do we envision together?

Both members of the synagogue and non-members (newcomers and other Jewish families living in the area) were invited to submit their responses. The survey ran from April 30th to May 14th and produced almost 70 responses. Many respondents provided detailed and thoughtful comments on such important matters as Jewish Learning, Religious Services, Social Activities, as well as Community Building.

Overall, the overwhelming majority of the respondents, both members and non-members alike, are looking for a sense of community and belonging, Jewish fellowship, spiritual fulfillment and rich social life.

The next steps would include developing recommendations and an action plan that would hopefully allow our community to thrive for many years to come.

Wishing all a very healthy and prosperous New Year 5782. 🍀



**ARE YOU ON THE AJC
WEEKLY MAILING LIST?
FIND OUT ABOUT
LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS!**

**Subscribe online:
www.theAJC.ca**

SAINT JOHN NEWS

BY SUSAN ISAACS-LUBIN

Saint John has been relatively quiet. Other than weekly Services on Friday evenings, we have not had gatherings in the community.

Through the generosity of a long-time member of our congregation, we are now in a position to offer the Acker Awards. These awards are open to the children of members of Congregation Shaarei Zedek, and to qualify, students must combine volunteerism within the community, with an essay, and must be attending or have been accepted to a post-secondary school. The purpose of these

awards is to nurture and encourage our youth to become involved in the Saint John Jewish community.

Our teens are planning a beach outing the end of July. We are making plans for starting our Hebrew School in September.

Our sincere condolences to Sandra Levine, on the sudden death of her beloved husband, Ron. Sympathy is also extended to Ron and Sandy's children, Darren, Candace Davis, and Tammy Earle and their families. Get well

wishes are extended to Janet Holtzman. We hope that her recovery goes well. Mazel tov to Deena Harris-Peiser and Tom Peiser on becoming grandparents.

We wish Stuart Urdang Mazel tov on becoming a grandfather. Mazel tov to former Saint Johner Diane Koven on her marriage to Al Garmin.

Again this year, we have decided not to bring in a Rabbi for the High Holy days. At the time we had to make a decision, the borders were still closed, including from province to province. Last year, we offered Zoom services through a Synagogue in Florida, which were very well received. We will again offer Zoom services this year. [S](#)

REPORT FROM THE SAINT JOHN JEWISH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

BY KATHERINE BIGGS-CRAFT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CURATOR

The Saint John Jewish Historical Museum is open for regular summer hours until Friday, October 8—Monday to Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and during July and August hours are extended to include Sunday afternoon from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

We have four young students from the Jewish community on staff for the summer who have completed training to give tours to our visitors and who are working on a number of archival and educational projects.

Our new exhibit "The View from Damascus Gate: Travels to Israel, 1855-2018" opened on June 14. The exhibit features twenty-four photographs taken by an American missionary, Rev. William Mead Jones in the late 1850s—these images capture what he saw in vivid detail. Rev. Jones returned to the United States with several articles of Eastern style clothing which are remarkably well-preserved and are on loan for the duration of the exhibit. We would like to thank Cassie Stanley of Saint John for introducing us this treasure trove of information and sharing it with our Museum and our visitors.

We have developed a lecture series to accompany this exhibition. The first two

lectures in the series: "Rev. William Mead Jones: An American missionary family living in the Holy Land, 1854-1860" presented by Cassie Stanley and "Life on Kibbutz Degania Bet, 1965 to 1985" presented by Leslie Isaacs Ram—were delivered on Sunday, June 27.

The third lecture in the series will be presented by Teri Levine on Sunday, July 25—"Jewish National Fund Visit to Israel, November 2000 Honouring Senator Erminie Joy Cohen and The Planting of New Brunswick Forest in the Negev."

The lectures are being presented using Zoom and we have reached an audience well beyond Saint John including people in Nova Scotia, Ontario, British Columbia and the United States. It was very exciting to see many people with connections to the Saint John Jewish community in attendance. The lectures are being recorded and will be uploaded to the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum's YouTube Channel.

We have also offered seven lectures in the Judaism in Context series—four lectures in May 2019 and three lectures in April/May 2021—presented by Dan Elman. Dan has



Photograph: Middle Eastern clothing on display in the Museum

explored the connections between Judaism and other religions and cultures. We are pleased to be able to share these as well—they are being uploaded to our YouTube Channel.

Preparations are underway for the Eighth Annual Saint John Jewish Film Festival to be held from October 16 to October 21. As in the past, the opening film will be a gala opening event for our sponsors. We will screen the films in a hybrid format—in person showings at the Museum and online for those prefer to watch from home. For more details about our event and how you can become a sponsor please contact the Museum directly or look for information on our Facebook page.

As restrictions begin to lift and travel becomes possible, we look forward to seeing many new and familiar faces over the next few months. [S](#)

ROSH HASHANAH DVAR TORAH

BY CAPTAIN (RABBI DR) NOTEH GLOGAUER, RCAF—12WING, SHEARWATER, NS

There are many names by which Rosh Hashanah, the New Year, is called. Literally, Rosh Hashanah means “Head of the Year”. Not everyone is aware that Rosh Hashanah is considered the birthday of the world, as it says in the prayers we recite on this day. However, while many might assume that Rosh Hashanah is the commemoration of the first day of Creation, that is not the case at all. Our sages teach, that the 25th of Elul is the first day of creation. Therefore what, or more accurately, whose creation are we commemorating on Rosh Hashanah? This auspicious day is the anniversary of the creation of Adam and Chava (Adam and Eve). As we may be aware, a birthday is considered a day when we reflect upon our past year and look towards what we hope, dream and expect of ourselves in the year to come.

As the eve of Rosh Hashanah is ushered in by the women, one aspect of Rosh Hashanah is represented in the special brocha (blessing) which they recite over the lighting of the Rosh Hashanah candles, a brocha only recited at this Yom Tov. This blessing signifies another of the notable themes as every Jewish woman recites as follows: Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments and has commanded us to light the candle of the Day of Remembrance.

Rosh Hashanah is the Day of Remembering because it signifies the time when Hashem reviews our personal ledgers and recalls the purpose for our creation. We are all aware that Hashem really has no need to have a calendar with significant dates set up as reminders to evoke noteworthy events

in history. In reality, this day was established for us to approach our Maker and ask God “Please, remember me and through doing that, remind me of my mission on Earth so that I may never forget it”.

On the birthday of the world, may I, as well as my beloved family personally wish all of us—that we will be blessed with the strength and vitality to carry out our mission to our fullest capabilities.

K'siva V'Chasima Tova—L'Shana Tova U'Mesuka. May you be written and sealed for a good and sweet new year.—Rabbi Noteh, Chaya-Nesya Glogauer and Family. 5



WE ARE WHAT WE EAT! (PART 2: ANIMALS)

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

According to the simple (literal) meaning of the verses in Genesis (1:29-30; 3:18)—mankind was supposed to be vegetarian (perhaps maybe even vegan, not clear). In addition, the animals were NOT supposed to eat each other, and, most definitely—not humans! All this changed after the Flood! Hashem commands Noah, saying: “every animal (in Old English: critter) will be for you as food, I have compared it to the vegetation that I have given mankind” (Genesis 9:3). There is one condition (which seems to be unfair to me): “I shall demand your blood from any animal that eats you (humans), and from any human-being who kills another” (Genesis 9:5). Why do I consider this unfair? Because, if we are allowed to kill animals, why shouldn't they be allowed to kill us?!

Even before giving of the Torah, and even before the “allowance” of eating meat, Noah (Genesis 7:2-3) was commanded what animals are Kosher, and which are not! When the Torah was given to the People of Israel, Hashem did not give them the reason for absolutely most of the 613 Commandments, dietary laws included. In order to keep the Commandments, we don't need to know the

reason, but it is very helpful if we do! Almost all commentaries who dealt with “TA'AMEI HA'MITZVOT”—the (special) taste of the Commandments—explain that the animals that Jewish People are forbidden to eat—have negative characteristic traits, and therefore ‘no good for our soul’ {not our physical body—the Sifra (K'do'shim) says: “don't say that pork is bad for me (health-wise)—rather, G-d commanded me!}

Examples for these negative “personality” traits are: animals & birds of prey—we don't want to become hunters!; bottom feeders—we should be able to have proper table manners; the parable about the horse seeing its reflection in the water and getting mad—we don't want to be selfish, especially if there is water for everyone! Have you ever asked yourself why this parable wasn't said about a cow or a sheep?! I believe that it's because they don't behave or think that way! Last, the Midrash (Yalkut Shim'oni) tells us that the pig is most despicable, since it shows its split-hooves and “says”: look, I have the kosher symbol—so, it represents/displays the lowest level of being a hypocrite! I can be Kosher on the outside/external, while being impure on the inside/internal! We,

who do not want to become any of these archetypes—must refrain from eating these animals.

One of the most fascinating discussions in Jewish history, was about the nature of the animals in the “end-times” (the days of the Messiah). In order to understand both opinions, we just examined the dietary laws back to creation!

Rabbi Yehuda says on the verse (Leviticus 26:6): “and I will cease all bad animals from the (Holy) land”—this means that they will cease to exist; Rabbi Shimon, however, says—this means that their bad nature will cease to exist, and they will return to the way they were before the Flood!

Maimonides says in his Eight Chapters, that we don't know (for sure) what things will be like when the Messiah comes, but we can hope and pray that the world will be a much better place! I prefer the scenario where my grandchildren won't have to learn about thousands of extinct species—but will be able to pet a “lion and tiger and bear” in a petting zoo, just like they can the sheep & the rabbit! Amen! 5



ROSH HASHANA: A TIME OF REFLECTION

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

Rosh Hashana is a time of reflection on the year past and reorienting ourselves to focus on improving ourselves for a better year ahead. At first glance, it looks like only our routine is different, and vibrantly so.

Rosh Hashana is when we go to shul for half the day, we say the longest Shemoneh Esrei of the year, go home for a Yom Tov meal featuring apples dipped in honey, apple or honey themed desserts, and a main course of fish with the head kept on as a symbol for a good year. In shul we use the high holiday Machzor with a service different from all year, listen to the Yomim Noraim Chazzan lead the davening with familiar tunes special for that time of year, and say various prayers responsively—Shir Hamaalos after Yishtabach, Hayom Tamtzeinu and Melech Elyon.

It's an auspicious, serious day, and at the

same time a happy one. It says about the day that our focus should be “Gilu BiRe'adah”, with means a happiness that's interwoven with a sense of deep awe and reverence. This goes hand in hand with introspection and a reflectiveness on the previous and upcoming years, as is customary at this turning point in the calendar.

The past 1.5 years of dealing with the worsts of COVID and as well thank G-d the global steady recovery from the pandemic as countries the world over got progressively immunized and immune and at last people have not been getting sick with quite a quick pace and have been recovering. As a result, we have discovered what it means to have a great happiness that is simultaneously gravely serious; we are grateful for the decline of the pandemic and the improving state of the

world, the resultant reprieve from constant death and illness now at a vastly reduced percentage; yet aware of how much toll and suffering took place before this decline, and unable to forget.

We take the memories of the suffering and the gratitude of happier times, with us into Rosh Hashana as we pray to G-d for a much, much better year than the last, to keep us in mind for the Book of Life not the Book of Death, the Book of Health and not the Book of Sickness, and the Book of Salvation not the Book of Suffering and Plague. And B'Ezrat HaShem may it be a wonderful, sweet new year dramatically better than the last full of all the blessings we pray for this Yom Tov Rosh Hashana.

Gemar Chasimah Tovah! ❧

A MARRIAGE MADE IN HEAVEN

BY RABBI MENDEL FELDMAN, CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF THE MARITIMES



The 18th day of the Hebrew month of Elul (this year August 26) known as *Chai* Elul, has special significance for several reasons.

In terms of preparation for the New Year it marks the last twelve days of the current year. Based on a teaching of the *Baal Shem Tov*, the last 12 days of Elul, provides us with a final opportunity to correct the shortcomings of the previous 12 months (each day corresponds to a month in chronological order), so that the New Year will begin with a fresh, clean slate.

“*Chai* Elul” (the life of Elul) also marks the birthday of two great luminaries, the birth of the founder of the Chassidic movement, Rabbi Israel Baal Shem-Tov (5458-1698) and the birth of the founder of Chabad Chassidus, Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi (5505-1745). Their teachings subsequently infused new life, joy, and warmth into Judaism.

Our sages compare the relationship of the Jew and G-d to the relationship of a husband and wife. It is no secret that

our current relationship with G-d needs some improvement, and the institution of marriage in today's society is also in need of improvement.

This is where Chassidic teaching has much to offer:

Both marriage and religious observance require deep commitment. Let's begin with marriage. When a couple gets married because they are attracted to each other, and merely anticipate the personal satisfaction and pleasure that they can gain from the relationship, the foundation of such a marriage is fundamentally flawed, as soon as struggles and challenges of real life kick in, the marriage will crumble. A relationship cannot endure on a foundation that is merely pleasure and self gain.

True love is when each partner is totally consumed with the other's needs, no matter the challenge and personal discomfort. A marriage that is based on commitment rather than pleasure is more durable and brings much blessing. So too, in a marriage that is based on deep commitment, the inadequacies of a spouse are forgiven and forgotten.

The same is true of the Jew's relationship

with G-d. To some, life's purpose is to achieve success and personal gain and their commitment to G-d and Torah is conditioned on these life's successes. The level of Jewish observance of such a philosophy is very flimsy, if one's goal is pleasure and personal gain, then what happens when it becomes tough to be Jewish?

Chassidism inspires a Jew to be committed to G-d and His commandments with a love and loyalty that no difficulty can shake. It imbues the Jew with a dedication to the ideals of Judaism, and to contribute to the betterment of the world at large even at a cost of making personal sacrifices.

When our relationship to G-d is based on a deeper commitment, He responds in kind, He forgives and forgets our inadequacies and spiritual failings. *Chai* Elul imbues the month of Elul with *Chai*—life and warmth and allows us to begin the New Year freshly invigorated.

Wishing you and yours a Happy, healthy, and sweet New Year. ❧

LIVING A MEANINGFUL LIFE

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

In the soulful and moving prayer of Unetaneh Tokef, recited during the High Holidays, we proclaim that on Rosh Hashanah it is determined “Who will live and who will die, who by fire and who by water, who by earthquake and who by *plague*”. Throughout my life, this was just an echo from the ancient past. Plagues are what happened in the Middle Ages. They belong in Biblical stories. They were the product of God’s wrath poured forth in retribution for a straying people. It could not and never did happen to us. Until now. Family members, friends and acquaintances were stricken with COVID and many died. Hopefully, this year of isolation and pain will recede into the past but the age-old question of seemingly undeserved suffering and death comes to the fore once again. Just as Holocaust survivors were challenged by God’s role in human suffering and the death of innocents, we are reminded that the question is still a thorny one for a believing Jew. The Talmud and the rabbinic commentators have struggled with this conundrum for millennia. Many have forsaken religion as a result. The attempted answers are numerous. Some blame the victim: We are all sinners to some extent or another and only by God’s grace are we still alive. There are those that attribute our suffering to sins from a previous life. Some

suggest that suffering in this world allows God to give us a fuller reward in the World to Come.

Many of these approaches satisfy some of the people some of the time. To others, it seems like an extended exercise in apologetics. Even to suggest an answer to one who has suffered a tragic loss is often inappropriate and harmful.

Maimonides suggests a different solution. One that does not supply an answer directly but allows one to live with the reality of life. His approach is best suited if contemplated long before one enters an episode of suffering. When emotionally distraught, philosophical approaches are ineffective. The multitude of answers within the realm of apologetics are more effective at moments of despair. However effective, those answers only provide short term benefit. As time passes, these emotionally satisfying answers fade along with the intense feelings of the moment. Maimonides’ approach only works when your rational faculty dominates. When fully understood and integrated into your worldview, it will be valuable when hardships eventually develop.

The ultimate question you must ask of yourself is what is the purpose of your life. If your goal is restricted to the material world, the world of pleasure and pain, you will always be disappointed. No one can avoid

pain or suffering. But if you aim for a spiritual life or a life of ideas and ideals, then pain and pleasure are only tools toward the acquisition of those goals. They are not the deciding factor in the determination of a person’s satisfaction with life and their happiness. This idea lies behind a passage in Plato’s *Apology* and a Talmudic story of Rabbi Akivah. Both Socrates and Rabbi Akivah face death because of their lifelong search for a happiness rooted in ideas; Plato in spreading philosophy and seeking truth and Rabbi Akivah for his study of Torah. Much can be gained by studying and comparing these stories. The one important ingredient in both accounts is the acceptance of their fate and their steadfast determination to be true to their lifelong goals. They transcend the pain and suffering of their material existence. Both understand that no one and nothing can ever remove the ultimate happiness derived by aspiring and hopefully acquiring the goal of their existence, the happiness that comes with living for a higher purpose.

Ultimately, we will never understand why life is full of hardship and suffering. Only God knows why death and dying are the end of all existence. Our obligation is to rise above these painful experiences to the best of our ability and experience the happiness of living a life of meaning. 5



ROSH HASHANA THOUGHTS

BY RABBI CHANAN CHERNITSKY, DIRECTOR, CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF NEWFOUNDLAND

During the year I have plenty of opportunities to “preach” and share Torah-life changing ideas. As tempting as it might be, I strive not to share ideas that I can’t internalize myself. How can I expect someone to be transformed by an idea I myself can’t identify with? The following are a collection of thoughts that speak to me about life in general, but are particularly relevant as we approach a brand new year. A lot has happened in the world this year and a lot has happened in the Jewish world. As we approach Rosh Hashana every year it is most appropriate to make a reckoning of everything we have been through in the year that’s soon coming to an end.

Modeh Ani. As soon as we wake up, we sit up on our beds and say the short prayer “Modeh Ani”.

In English: we give thanks to G-d for restoring our soul within us. This short prayer is supposed to set the tone for the whole day.

Before getting out of bed and starting our hectic routines, we start off with a moment of gratitude. Gratitude is extremely popular nowadays, and guess what? It’s part and parcel of our heritage. There is so much going on in our daily grinds and so much has happened in the world that it’s only natural to be in a state of fear, anxiety and worry. Take a few seconds every day to be grateful for the blessings you

have been granted. I guarantee it will change your day.

The Daily Sheep. The Midrash quotes a fascinating discussion. Which verse in the whole Tanach (The 24 books of the Bible) is the most important?

According to one opinion, it’s the Shema Israel, which affirms the oneness of G-d and is central to Judaism.

According to another opinion, the most important verse is “Veahavta Ler’echa Kamocha”, Love your fellow as yourself.

According to a third opinion, “The first



Continue on page 42

Continued from page 41

lamb you shall sacrifice in the morning and the second lamb you shall sacrifice in the evening.” This is speaking about the daily “Tamid” offering, brought in the Temple twice a day, every day.

The conclusion is like the third opinion. Wait, what? How can this verse hold any weight when you pit it against the other ones? The famous Mahral of Prague offers a fascinating insight into this discussion:

It's all about consistency. One lamb in the morning and one lamb in the afternoon.

Life is full of highs and lows. We love those moments of inspiration when we want to go to shul and daven and do so many good things. We love those moments when our love for our spouse or relative is as strong as ever. Those moments are so important and significant. We couldn't do without them.


But what happens when the excitement and emotion aren't there? Do we stop being Jewish? Do we stop being there for our family and friends?

It is at those very moments, when the going gets tough that the tough get going.

You keep going. Why? Because you

are committed. Because your relationship with G-d and your relationship with other people is constant. Not dependent on the highs and lows of life. It is after those trying moments, when we don't feel like it, that our relationships blossom and become stronger.

It's been a tough year. But you and I can do it. Keep going. You will look back and be happy you did. You will be stronger and better.

Shana tovah! Wishing you and yours a wonderful, sweet, new year. 

FROM TISH'A B'AV TO THE HIGH HOLIDAYS

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

Have you ever been to Israel? If so, the *Kotel*, the Western Wall in Jerusalem, most certainly was on your itinerary. But did you know that the relatively small area of what is today's *Kotel* is but a small part of the original outer wall that encircled the ancient Temple, our *Beit haMikdash*? Over the decades, archaeologists have uncovered other portions of this larger structure. One well-known segment is the Southern Wall, often called Robinson's Arch, named after the American scholar Edward Robinson who discovered it in 1838.

Fast-forward to 2000. Robinson's Arch, having been made usable for public assembly, is designated by Israel as *Azarat Yisra'el*, better known as the *Masorti* (Conservative) *Kotel*, for egalitarian *tefillah* (prayer). This had become necessary since the better-known area of the *Kotel* was functioning as an Orthodox synagogue, with a *mehitzah* (separation) between men and women.

So things stood until Saturday night, 17 July 2021, the beginning of *Tish'a b'Av*, when worshippers began to flock to the *Masorti Kotel*, along with, of course, the main portion of the *Kotel*, to commemorate the destruction of both Jerusalem Temples with the traditional chanting of the book of *Eikvah* (Lamentations) and prayer.

That is, until a group of Jewish activists arrived at the *Masorti Kotel*. According to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, a large group of “Orthodox men disrupted [the] Conservative prayer service ... shouting down worshippers, attempting to block the entrance [to others

wishing to attend] and setting up a makeshift divider meant to separate between men and women.”

Condemnation from some Israeli leaders was swift, and a bill was introduced the next day into the *Knesset* by MK Alon Tal of the Blue and White Party, part of Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's governing coalition, to formalize the *Masorti Kotel* as an official, government-approved egalitarian prayer space (something the previous government had been putting off doing).

Is it a shame that things have come to this? Of course—even more so given that our Sages taught us that the Temple was destroyed for the very same sin: *sin'at hinam*, “causeless hatred.” But *sin'at hinam* isn't a sin because of what is in one's heart, it is a sin because of how one expresses it in action.


In the past, I sometimes thought that the explanation that the Temple was destroyed because of the sin of *sin'at hinam* sounded a bit overly simplistic, even glib. Not anymore, especially after events such as these. Our actions bring consequences, both intended and unintended. And we are inextricably bound up in the events and developments in our State of Israel. We feel pride at Israel's accomplishments, and shame when she doesn't measure up. But feeling shame doesn't do anything constructive. Better to show another way to live together, to get along.

One of the wonderful things about Israel is that it is the one country in the world where Jews can feel that they are not strangers.

There, we are the majority. Jews help define the culture and our national way of life. Shabbat—

whether one observes it traditionally or not—is palpably Shabbat, the calendar hums to the tune of Jewish holidays, and the language spoken in the streets and stores is the Hebrew of our people, the tongue of the Bible and the Mishnah.

But we, Jews of Atlantic Canada, can help our Israeli sisters and brothers remember something important. Even as the State of Israel has grown strong and self-assured, Jews are still a small minority in the world—barely 0.2% of the earth's population. We, Jews of Atlantic Canada, understand that we need to get along together, giving each other the space and freedom to do what we need to do apart, and joining together for the things we share. We respect and support each other, even with some deep differences. That is why we have different synagogues, but one AJC!

As we move from these difficult days of summer into the High Holidays, we should also remember that we will shortly be saying the words from the *Mahzor*, “We atone for the sin which we commit before You with causeless hatred—*v'al het shehatantu l'fanekha b'sinat hinam*.” Let us take this sin, turn it on its head to express *ahavat hinam*—causeless love, and even freely-expressed respect, honour and deference—and communicate it to each other, so that it is taken as an example to the world, even to Israel. 



Atlantic Jewish Film Festival

AN ATLANTIC JEWISH COUNCIL PRODUCTION

8th Annual AJFF | November 18-21

Opening Night: Park Lane Cinemas, Halifax

Saturday Night Gala: Pier 21

Thursday–Sunday: Virtual cinema screenings in Atlantic Canada

This year we invite you to play a leading role as a sponsor of the 2021 hybrid Atlantic Jewish Film Festival.

As always, the 2021 festival offers different levels of sponsorship, and all sponsors receive a tax receipt.

SUPPORT THE AJFF

\$360 Cast Members: Includes virtual cinema festival pass, two opening night tickets, two tickets to the Saturday night screening and reception, all AJFF special screenings throughout the year, and on-screen recognition.

\$180 Film Fans: Includes a virtual cinema festival pass, two opening night tickets, on-screen recognition.

\$90 Supporter: Includes festival virtual screenings from November 18 – 21 and on-screen recognition.

TO SPONSOR THE FESTIVAL AND PAY ONLINE

WITH A CREDIT CARD: AJFF.ca

Your complimentary tote bag will be mailed out to you.

Thank you so much for your generous support and commitment to the AJFF, we could not produce this annual festival without this investment by our community!

2021 AJFF Committee: Lynn Rotin, Chair | Philip Belitsky
Rosalind Belitsky | Jon Goldberg | Anna Hazankin | Linda Law
Edna LeVine | Naomi Rosenfeld | Jordan Schelew | Flint Schwartz
Schuyler Smith | Ann Thaw | Howard Thaw | Peggy Walt



*AJFF canvas tote complimentary
to all AJFF sponsors!*

SUPPORT THE AJFF!

For sponsorship information contact
Edna LeVine, engagement@theajc.ca

FILM LINE-UP ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 1

AJFF.CA



MAKE A WISH. ROSH HASHANAH IS THE WORLD'S BIRTHDAY

What do you wish for? Less antisemitism?
More exposure to Israeli and Jewish
culture? A greater sense of Jewish
community here in Atlantic Canada?

Whatever your wish, the Atlantic Jewish
Council is working to make it real.
Through the United Jewish Appeal of
Atlantic Canada—the AJC's annual
fundraising campaign—we care for
people in need here at home, in Israel
and around the world, and we nurture
and sustain our Jewish community.
That's something to celebrate.

Help us make this the best year ever.

DONATE.
VOLUNTEER.
MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

ATLANTIC JEWISH COUNCIL | 5640 SPRING GARDEN ROAD, SUITE 300 | HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA B3J 3M7 | atlanticjewishcouncil@theajc.ca | theajc.ca