

# Shalom

CONNECTING THE ATLANTIC JEWISH COMMUNITY



WINTER 2021

**MAKE YOUR OWN CUBIST MASK**

**WARSAW:  
A CITY DIVIDED**

**HANUKKAH CELEBRATION  
WITH THE  
CANADIAN FORCES**





## The AJC is one of six new communities selected to participate in an North American-wide Jewish Legacy Giving Initiative

Atlantic Canadian Jewish organizations to receive coaching, training, and incentive grants from JFNA and Harold Grinspoon Foundation as part of a modified two-year program.

After an extensive application and interview process, the AJC was selected as one of six new communities to join 63 others participating in a North American-wide Jewish legacy giving initiative that to date has secured more than 28,000 after-lifetime commitments with an estimated value of more than one billion dollars for communities across North America.

"The Harold Grinspoon Foundation is very excited to be partnering with JFNA and the AJC to establish a culture of legacy giving in Atlantic Canada" said Arlene D. Schiff, national director of the LIFE & LEGACY program. "The time is right. This legacy program will make the most of the generational transfer of wealth, change the language and landscape of giving and provide generous and forward-thinking members of the Atlantic Canadian Jewish community with the opportunity to express their passion, purpose and commitment to their most valued Jewish organizations."

### YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

#### What is the LIFE & LEGACY program?

LIFE & LEGACY is an initiative of HGF which is investing \$30 million dollars over a ten-year period to preserve vibrant Jewish life for future generations by ensuring the long-term financial health of Jewish community organizations in cities across North America, including in Atlantic Canada.

"Providing Jewish communities with proven tools and training to help them secure their long-term financial goals is absolutely vital. Through the LIFE & LEGACY program, I'm hopeful that we will be able to help sustain vibrant communities that allow future generations to enjoy our rich Jewish culture and heritage," said Harold Grinspoon, the founder of HGF."

#### What are the objectives of the LIFE & LEGACY program?

Through LIFE & LEGACY, the AJC will partner with JFNA and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation (HGF) to help start a community-wide legacy giving program, creating a shared goal for our community to work toward. As a part of the collaboration, the AJC will, in turn, partner with local organizations in a modified two-year program that provides coaching, training and incentive grants to ensure that legacy giving becomes integrated in the philanthropic culture of the community.

#### How will our community benefit from the LIFE & LEGACY program?

"Acceptance into JFNA's small community cohort of HGF's LIFE & LEGACY program is a once in a lifetime opportunity for the AJC and the Jewish community of Atlantic Canada as a whole" said Naomi Rosenfeld, Executive Director of the Atlantic Jewish Council. "This experience has the potential secure the Jewish future of Atlantic Canada for generations and generations to come."

As a participant in LIFE & LEGACY's Small Federation Cohort 2 (2020-2023), the AJC will receive support from both JFNA and the Grinspoon Foundation to provide participating local organizations with the opportunity to receive unrestricted incentive grants based on meeting legacy commitment benchmarks.





## 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  
5670 SPRING GARDEN ROAD SUITE 309  
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA B3J 1H6

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

[www.theajc.ca](http://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

WINTER 2021  
VOL. 45 | NO. 3  
TEVET 5781

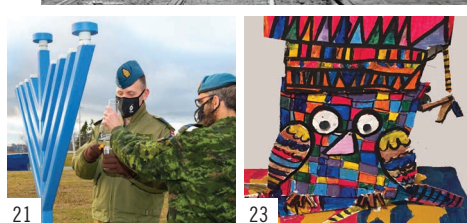
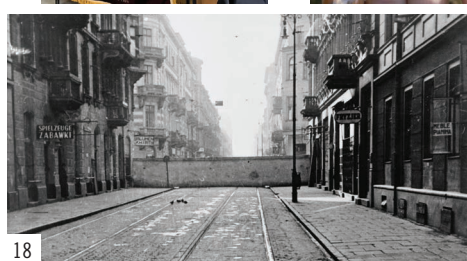
## COVER ART



## Nesting Dolls by Margarita Fainshtein, 2020

Wooden nesting dolls; inkjet hydro dripping technique. Size: Small to large: 2.5x1.2cm; 4x2.2cm; 6x3.2cm; 8x4.2cm; 12x6.5cm. Familial documents were used to cover nesting dolls, asking question about generational trauma, memories and history. The use of traditional Russian dolls (shapka), which meant to be inserted one into another points out to the events experienced separately by each generation and forming one complete piece of identity. Photo by: Ilgar Gracie

Born in Ukraine, Margarita Fainshtein earned a BFA from University of Haifa, Israel and MFA from School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Exhibitions include: Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, Chicago (forthcoming); Art Bank NS acquisition show; Chicago Art Department; Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax; and venues in North America and Europe. Fainshtein's work reflects the complexity of multi-cultural citizenship and immigrant status as it intersects with personal, political, and cultural relations. What relation do political movements have with individual histories? Is there a global citizen? "From Ukraine, I repatriated to Israel, and immigrated to Canada. I'm Nova Scotian, however, I have other cultural identities, which intersect and define who I am". Fainshtein lives and works in Halifax, Canada.



## FEATURES

- 11 Message From Jewish Federations of Canada United Israel Appeal
- 12 The Abraham Leventhal Memorial Scholarships
- 21 My Hanukkah Celebration With The Canadian Forces Base Halifax
- 22 Make Your Own Cubist Mask
- 24 AJF Scholarship Information
- 25 Biography of Dr. Jayson Greenblatt
- 26 Remembered and David Rubin's Legacy Gift

## HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

- 14 The Importance Of Shoah Education
- 16 Speculative Cartographies—Exhibition Of Counter-Monuments At The Halifax Public Library
- 18 Warsaw: A City Divided

## 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
- 9 The Centre For Israel And Jewish Affairs (CIJA) Report
- 12 Campus News
- 13 Camp Kadimah News
- 39 Rabbis' Corner

## AROUND OUR REGION

- 30 Halifax
- 34 Cape Breton
- 35 Moncton
- 36 Prince Edward Island
- 37 Saint John
- 37 Fredericton
- 38 Newfoundland



# From The Desk Of **MARILYN KAUFMAN**

President of the Atlantic Jewish Council

The digital media has become a major influencer in our daily lives. Its impact on our Jewish connectivity has been widely felt both domestically and globally. What a delight to celebrate Chanukah with other Jewish communities and friends from coast to coast for the 5th Chanukah Candle Lighting on the Hill! With over 400 people joining our virtual celebration, co-hosted by Quebec MP Hon. Anthony Housefather and Ontario MP Hon. Ya'ara Saks, featured guests were Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, NDP leader Hon. Jagmeet Singh, Green Party Leader Annamarie Paul and Deputy leader Hon. Marie Gautreau of the Bloc Party. Hon. Erin O'Toole, Conservative Party leader, hosted a candle-lighting earlier in the holiday by Zoom, as did many local communities around the Atlantic Region. Many of us also participated in CIJA's global program, Light Across the Middle East.

Chanukah is a celebration of hope and resiliency. A catastrophe befalls the Jews with the destruction of the Temple. Led by Judah Maccabee, they rise up against the Assyrians and proved to be victorious. *Nes Gadol Haya Sham... A Great Miracle Happened There.* The lighting of the crude oil meant to last one day lasts for eight. How appropriate that this holiday be called The Festival of Lights. This year the world sought to overcome the challenges of COVID-19. At this time, the discovery of a new vaccine which is hoped to be a major breakthrough in this disease, is currently moving us "out of the darkness and into the light." Hope, determination and perseverance has hopefully brought relief to our Atlantic Bubble which continues to expand and contract like a rubber band as we continue to work at flattening the curve. And by all accounts, we are doing better than the rest of Canada.

Many of our secondary and post-secondary institutions have gone to online or hybrid teaching models. Most of the programs we have offered through the AJC and through other organizations have been virtual. It is, therefore, important that one have access to

the internet and have the knowledge to access these programs. For many, the digital media has opened up a whole new world of travel, journeying long distances and visiting various established Jewish communities around the world, Ashkenazi and Sephardic, where we can learn of ancient Jewish cultures and traditions without leaving home.

I participated in the LIMMUD North America e-festival, which offered several sessions on Jewish learning. The session of Curry and Kreplach took us to unique Jewish communities around the world from Cairo, Mumbai, Myanmar, Bali, Phuket Island and Fairbanks, Alaska, to mention a few. A tour of Synagogues and their history within the greater historical context of their countries and communities was most interesting.

Rabbi Harvey Meirovich lectured on his book *Catastrophe of Hope: Five Voices of the Bible* and discussed the 5 Magilot. It is well worth reading followed by discussion. Another session I attended was "Are We Beyond Zionism equals Racism?" which traces the origins and development of Russian antisemitism.

Light Across the Middle East presented an update of the Abraham Accords and the strengthened ties with the UAE. Meanwhile Morocco and Israel are formalizing relations as well as Bhutan. The strengthening of ties with Arab countries is proving to be advantageous for Israeli trade and tourism and vice versa.

The World Jewish Congress has hosted a number of speakers on topics such as antisemitism, the impact of COVID on Israeli life and the adoption of the IHRA definition by various countries worldwide. Congress has also made their disappointment known at the EU's decision to ban the religious slaughter of meat for Jews and Moslems, leaving the decision to the discretion of each member state.

The University of Virginia which has a number of public lectures during the year, hosted a public lecture on Ruth Bader Ginsberg—Jews and Religious Freedom in

the US. As well, Jewish Federations of North America has a number of public online lectures, and documentaries which can be accessed via the internet for those interested.

Locally we have had Martin Rutte from PEI on CBC radio(Mainstreet)—who did an interview about Chanukah. Joanna Wexler (Halifax) participated on Maritime Noon, a Maritime radio program which highlighted holiday celebrations in December.

Halifax held another successful Jewish Film Festival and Holocaust Education week led by Edna LeVine. Meanwhile, the Jerusalem Film Festival may be accessed now.

Chanukah Israelit: Light Up The World, a program of Klezmer and Ladino and Israeli Music and Jazz was offered to us online. JNF, led by Sue David held their campaign this year virtually, featuring the comedy duo of Yidlife Crisis. We were able to tap into the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra for an evening of music. Hebrew classes from PEI are continuing online. Shabbat services are continuing at our shuls.

So you see, the internet is a window to the world around us. It offers you a varied menu from which to choose—something for everyone—Hebrew classes, lectures/documentaries, arts & entertainment, gourmet cooking classes, political updates, books clubs and a variety of speakers locally and outside of our domain.

I would like to thank Naomi Rosenfeld, Perry Romberg, Svetlana Ratchinski and our AJC Board for their efforts in our UJA Atlantic campaign. And a sincere thank you to all our donors who make it possible to keep our programs running for the benefit of all. As Prime Minister Trudeau said, "Community will always be our light in dark times."

On behalf of the AJC Board, Mazel Tov to those who are able to celebrate simchas during these times of restrictions.

Our condolences to those who have lost loved ones.

Be well and keep safe.—Marilyn 5





# From The Desk Of NAOMI ROSENFELD

Executive Director

## GRATITUDE IN THE MIDST OF A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

Ten months and counting into a pandemic that most of us thought would be over in three, or at least after we all so diligently did our part to 'flatten the curve', there is still plenty that we can rightfully agonize over: some of you reading this have lost loved ones, others have suffered through this debilitating illness yourselves. Some of you have lost jobs and too many of you have suffered significant financial hardships. For others, like myself, an inability to travel and restrictions on visits to long-term care facilities have meant very long stretches of time away from loved ones. The list goes on and on.

Yet, in the thick of all this turmoil, and amidst so much sadness and despair, I am repeatedly amazed and taken aback by the astounding acts of kindness and generosity that I have been privileged to witness on a daily basis as the Executive Director of the Atlantic Jewish Council. Therefore, for this edition's Shalom magazine article, I feel compelled to share my gratitude.

### THANK YOU TO THE AJC'S STAFF MEMBERS

Thank you to Edna LeVine, Svetlana Ratchinski, Victoria Michels, Bill Chernin, and Julia Lisker for your extraordinary dedication, loyalty, and incredible efforts over the last 10 months. With a combination of hard work and ingenuity, the five of you seamlessly pivoted this organization and its

many initiatives into COVID-safe endeavours while ensuring they remained just as meaningful and impactful—if not more—as always. Instead of in-person events for the Atlantic Jewish Film Festival and Holocaust Education week, we had virtual ones. Instead of regular Hillel Shabbat dinners, we had Shabbat Dinners "to-go". Instead of regular holiday kids programming, we had virtual events paired with goody-bags filled with DIY holiday crafts and activities. The creativity displayed was truly remarkable.

### THANK YOU TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ATLANTIC JEWISH COUNCIL

Thank you to the officers, community representatives, chairs of standing committees, and members-at-large that make up the 20 members of the AJC board. Month after month, this group of extraordinarily committed volunteers provides the policy and strategic direction that allows this organization to not just survive, but to thrive. At no time of year is the commitment of our board members more apparent than during the fall, when these incredibly dedicated board members tackle the lion's share of calls for the UJA Campaign. Thank you for your exceptional commitment to this organization!

*A special thank you Esti Barlevy of Saint John, New Brunswick who resigned as a member-at-large from the AJC in October after 2+ years of service.*

### THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO CHOOSE TO PARTICIPATE

Whether it's reading our weekly emails, signing up for a virtual program, or coming to an in-person program, each and every person or family who makes the choice to be part of our community makes this community what it is. A special shout out to those who join us from afar as part of our diaspora. You continue to believe in the AJC. Whether you are in California, Israel, Ontario, Montreal,

Europe, Asia, or everywhere in between, we know you are there, we love hearing from you, and we are forever grateful for your ongoing commitment to your Atlantic Canadian roots and to the AJC. If I've learned anything over the last five years, it's: *once a Maritimer, always a Maritimer.*

### THANK YOU TO THE AJC'S VOLUNTEERS

People always ask me how an organization with such a small compliment of staff manages to get so much done. The answer is easy: our amazing volunteers. And there are many, across all spectrums. From those who helped out with the UJA campaign to those who delivered hannukah gifts/baskets to those that prepped and delivered meals out of Spencer House on Christmas day, our community is what it is because of our volunteers. While these past 10 months have redefined 'getting together', and the term Zoom takes on new meaning, I continue to be genuinely warmed by the dedication of this group in our community that offers so much and asks nothing in return. While many may consider us 'small' by most standards, we are definitely mighty in proportion, and for that I can only thank you, our volunteers.

### THANK YOU TO THE DONORS OF THE UJA CAMPAIGN OF ATLANTIC CANADA

Our community only exists because individuals like you invest in us year after year. No matter the amount, this symbolic investment literally fuels our existence. As the pandemic continues to wreak havoc on the financial security of all of us, the generosity displayed by so many of you that allowed us to successfully raise the dollars needed to support our community is beyond exceptional, and for that I am thankful.

All the more so in hard times like these, I am very grateful to so many for giving this community so much. Here's hoping that 2021 brings with it nothing but happiness and health. 🌟



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

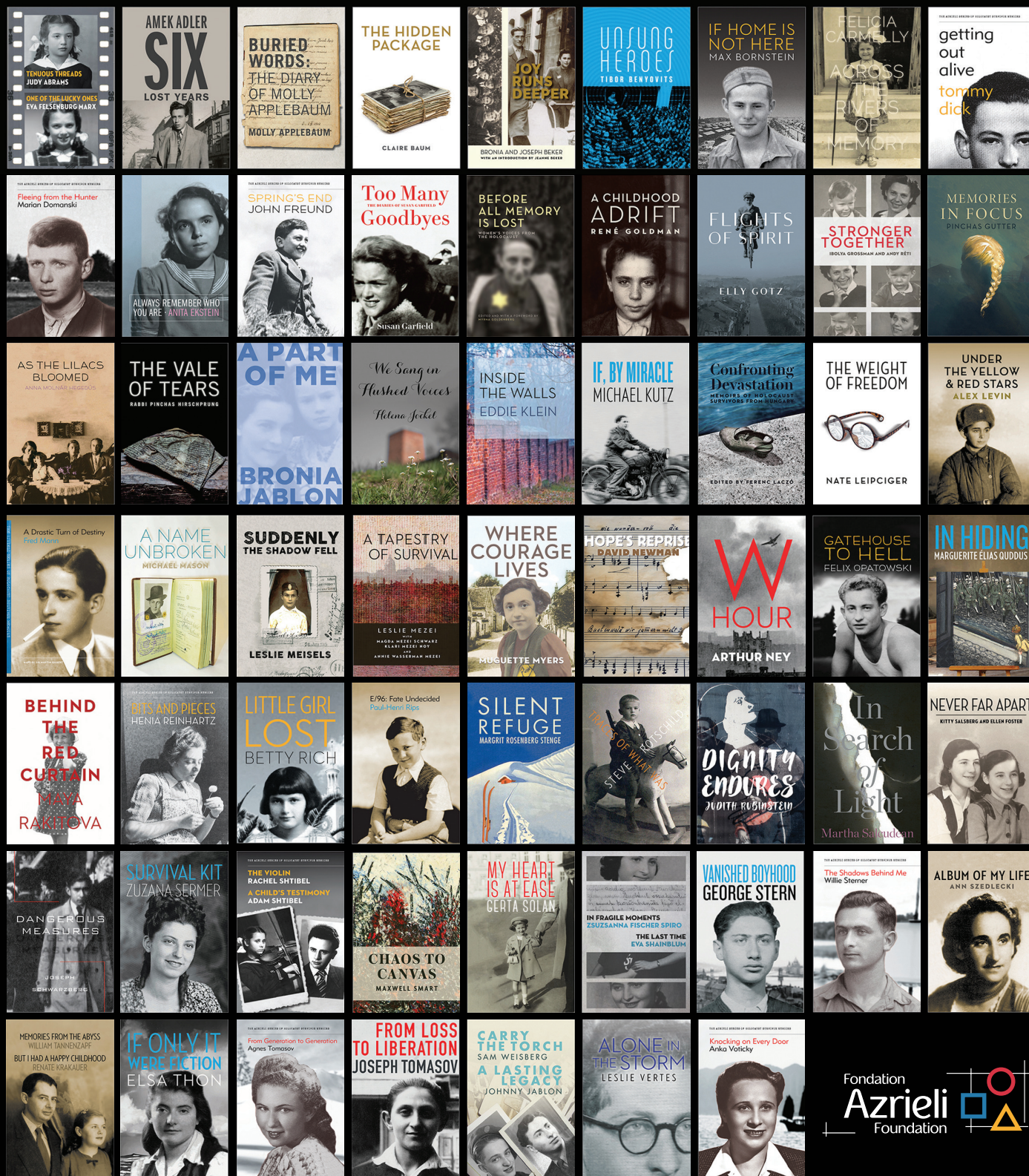
**Subscribe online:  
[www.theAJC.ca](http://www.theAJC.ca)**



# COLLECTING, PUBLISHING AND TEACHING SINCE 2005

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

<http://memoirs.azrielifoundation.org>







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

Across the country virtual programs remained the norm and reflected our need to continue to stay safe during the pandemic. A benefit of the virtual platform is that it enables us to expand our audience and offer programming to all in Atlantic Canada.

The 17th annual Holocaust Education Week (HEW), October 25 – November 8, presented virtual programs to challenge and encourage conversation. This year our opening program combined the film “Bogdan’s Journey” with an insightful zoom discussion about history, social issues, faith, and personal suffering, between Bogdan Bialek, Poland, and Dr. Dorota Glowacka, University of King’s College, Halifax. Bogdan’s Journey is a heartbreaking account of the pogrom that took place in the town of Kielce, Poland in July 1946, and the determination of Bialek, a Christian resident of Kielce, to bring his fellow residents to acknowledge and commemorate the atrocity 70 years later.

The search and acknowledgment of unmarked grave sites in Eastern Poland, of victims of the Holocaust, were examined in the HEW program “Speculative Cartographies Poland”. A week-long art exhibit at the Halifax Central Library featured the studio research of five mass grave sites, and an informative zoom talk hosted by the artists detailed their project. Please read the special feature on page 16 for a more in-depth exploration of this topic.

Our student program this year, in partnership with the Azrieli Foundation, attracted schools from across the province. Holocaust survivor Judy Abrams, in Montreal, spoke about her life and the Holocaust, in conversation with Elin Beaumont, Azrieli Foundation, Toronto, via a webinar. Over 1700 students participated in this program. Attendance requirements, to prepare students for this program, included a short assignment and the reading of their complimentary copy of the memoirs of Judy Abrams, “Tenuous Threads”, received from,

and published by the Azrieli Foundation. Students had the opportunity to ask Judy Abrams questions after her presentation. The impact and need for Holocaust education programs for students are highlighted in the article on page 14, “The Importance of Shoah Education”.

The closing HEW program featured the Norwegian film “The Crossing”, an inspiring and deeply moving WWII family drama. The film received over 160 unique views. Holocaust Education partners this year included the University of King’s College, Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, Halifax Public Libraries, and the Azrieli Foundation. Holocaust education programs are made possible, in part, by a generous grant from the Azrieli Foundation.

The 7th annual Atlantic Jewish Film Festival (AJFF) featured virtual cinema from November 19–22 in Atlantic Canada. Given the COVID-19 situation we made the leap online and screened films on the Cineplex Cinemas’ platform. 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. Returning chair Lynn Rotin and the organizing committee, Philip Belitsky, Rosalind Belitsky, Jon Goldberg, Anna Hazankin, Linda Law, Jordan Schelew, Flint Schwartz, Ann Thaw, Howard Thaw, and Peggy Walt, worked diligently throughout the year to provide filmgoers with an engaging virtual festival. While we missed not being able to gather in-person, we were excited to include viewers from all of Atlantic Canada, and we are inspired to continue to offer virtual cinema as part of our festival. A message from AJFF chair Lynn Rotin is on page 32, along with information on our winter festival screening.

Organizing our annual event of serving up some Christmas cheer to the members of Spencer House Seniors Centre, Halifax, was challenging during this unusual year.

We closely monitored the COVID-19 situation and adhered to the NS Health guidelines by not hosting an in-person event and instead offered a delivery-only service. Nancy Cieplinski contributed a cheerfully wrapped bundle of her homemade fudge for each guest. Myrna Yazer, once again, baked a festive cake, and then on December 24th she and Schuyler Smith prepped some of the food to ensure a tasty holiday meal on the 25th. Christmas Day was warm and sunny when the volunteers personalized, packed-up, and delivered the gifts and hot meals. Photos and information on this event are on page 31.

With a few changes, due to COVID-19, we are moving forward with our annual outreach to provide hot meals to Out of the Cold, a Halifax-based community organization that provides shelter and meals during the winter months to people who are homeless or precariously housed. Meal deliveries are required to be booked in advance and if you are interested in participating please contact me: [engagement@theajc.ca](mailto:engagement@theajc.ca).

The Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 designed a new virtual tour entitled “Jewish Immigration to Canada”. Jewish immigrants came to Canada for many reasons and have been part of the fabric of the country since before Confederation. Many fled oppression and persecution; and while they often faced unfair treatment in Canada, they were also able to build a new life. This 45-minute virtual tour draws on memoirs, and oral history interviews in the museum’s collection to tell the story of Jewish immigration to Canada. We are excited to host this guided virtual tour, followed by a Q&A, on Thursday, February 4, at 7pm AST, open to all in Atlantic Canada. Registration is through our AJC newsletter.

For information on our upcoming virtual Holocaust commemorative events, for Atlantic Canada, please see page 15 for the International Holocaust Remembrance Day program “The World War II Jewish Experience in Mauritius” by Dr. Rohini Bannerjee, presented in English and French on January 27; and on page 18, a feature article by filmmaker Eric Bednarski discussing his new film, “Warsaw: A City Divided”, screening as part of our Yom HaShoah program on April 11. Registration is required and details will be posted on [www.HolocaustEducation.ca](http://www.HolocaustEducation.ca) as well as shared in our AJC community newsletter. 📍





Tell us what  
matters to you.

[cija.ca/you](https://cija.ca/you)

**CJJA**

Canadian.  
Jewish.  
Advocacy.



**MOSKOWITZ**  
**CAPITAL** Alternative Mortgage Lender

A PROUD SUPPORTER  
OF THE ATLANTIC  
JEWISH COUNCIL

Brian Moskowitz

416.781.6500

[brian@moskowitzcapital.com](mailto:brian@moskowitzcapital.com)

[moskowitzcapital.com](https://moskowitzcapital.com)

# 2020 CIJA JEWISH ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

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

As I write this column, we have just experienced the shortest day of the year, the one with the most hours of darkness, but even the darkest dark disappears with a glimmer of light. As CIJA reflects on the year that was, we are reminded of the power of our community. As we kick off 2021, let us review a year that was, in so many ways, both challenging and dark and shine a light on a few important achievements during 2020, none of which would have been possible without the support of community members from St. John's to Victoria.

Thanks to the passion of an Ottawa Rabbi, the support of Federations partners, and the participation of thousands of community members across the country, the Canadian Jewish community wrote its way into the history books by hosting the first-ever simultaneous Chanukah candle-lighting across the Middle East. Diplomats and dignitaries in the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Israel, and Canada provided fascinating discussion about what the Accords mean for the region and Jewish-Arab relations around the world. Watch it at [cija.ca/light](http://cija.ca/light).

The moment the pandemic broke, CIJA Federation partners, and the awe-inspiring front-line agencies they support, mobilized quickly to provide emergency relief to the vulnerable, many of whom never imagined they might one day be so described. Thousands of hot meals. Bags of groceries. Countless wellness calls, a hallmark effort here in Atlantic Canada. Support for Survivors. Relief for parents. In consultation with agencies, and Federations, and affiliates, CIJA worked with the federal and provincial governments to maximize COVID-19 emergency funding for Jewish community organizations. So far, \$30M—which means community organizations from foodbanks to day schools and many agencies between have accessed more resources to meet increasing demands. The pandemic is not finished, and neither is CIJA's work on this issue.

In October, Ontario became the first province to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism. 10,000 community members

sent a clear message to Queen's Park: antisemitism is not welcome in Ontario. Queen's Park agreed. As did the many municipalities across the province who also adopted the definition. This was achieved in close cooperation with other national Jewish agencies.

There were times when it looked like it was filmed in someone's basement (it was); other times the humour fell as flat as the host's COVID-19 haircut. But, by profiling 40 dynamic community members, including Naomi Rosenfeld (watch at [fb.watch/2zqvTr0XYy/](https://fb.watch/2zqvTr0XYy/)) over 18 episodes, we demonstrated with our online publication *Canadian Jewish Views* that Canada's Jewish community remains fascinating, diverse, and capable of moving mountains in service of caring for the most vulnerable.

Working closely with our Federation partners, CIJA helped improve security for at-risk institutions across Canada by leveraging and advocating for increased investment in the federal Security Infrastructure Program (SIP), which has played a critical role in protecting schools, places of worship, and community centres, not only for the Jewish community, but for all at-risk communities across Canada.

This year, in partnership with Jewish Federations, CIJA organized community roundtables with federal cabinet ministers during which we were invited to share their concerns about the rise of antisemitism. Lay leaders highlighted the community's ongoing security requirements. The government responded by pledging \$13 million over five years and \$2.6 million ongoing for the SIP, an investment that will benefit all of us significantly.

Reducing online hate is a priority for our community because we know that it can and does turn into real-world violence. CIJA has been talking to the government about this, and they are listening. We expect that, when Parliament returns, legislation will be tabled to address this growing problem. But governments cannot solve this challenge alone. The social media giants have a role, which is why CIJA is part of a broad



*Judy Zelikovitz*

coalition of Jewish organizations around the world engaging directly with these massive corporations. With our partners, we strongly urged Facebook to ban Holocaust denial on their platform, which they did in October. This is a positive step, but more can and will be done.

Forty community organizations form the Maspik! coalition. Inspired by passionate community members, supported by generosity and vision, and powered by CIJA, the coalition is fostering innovative and action-oriented approaches to address the growing challenge of antisemitism in Canada. CIJA will have updates on Maspik! in early 2021.

Our community truly thrives only when we establish strong political relationships. CIJA has enjoyed close connections to leaders and MPs from across the spectrum, as demonstrated at various virtual Chanukah candle-lightings when political party leaders expressed warm support for the Jewish community. At CIJA, we speak to many people across the country about many issues and, every day, staff and lay leaders are reminded of how lucky we are to be part of this community. Though perspectives vary, the thread that knits so many together is your passion and commitment. Jews have persisted for a reason. The reason is community, and we are all stronger together. 5





Maccabi Canada

Qualified team members will be part of the third largest sporting event in the world, and a gathering of 10,000 Jewish people from 80 countries!



## SOFTBALL PLAYERS:

### WANT TO REPRESENT CANADA AT THE 2022 MACCABIAH GAMES?

#### WE ARE LOOKING FOR...

- Junior female athletes born 2004-2007
- Open female athletes, ages 18
- Open male athletes, ages 18
- Masters male athletes, ages 35



Tryouts for all of these categories will take place  
**SUMMER 2021**

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

For questions regarding the softball team, please contact  
**Morrie Frydberg** at  
[morriefrydberg@gmail.com](mailto:morriefrydberg@gmail.com)



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

BY NIKKI HOLLAND, PRESIDENT AND CEO, JEWISH FEDERATIONS OF CANADA—UIA



## CHANUKAH GREETING

Apart from the chanukiah, there is no object more associated with Chanukah than the dreidel. It was used as a way for Jews to study the Torah and learn Hebrew in secret after Greek King Antiochus IV had outlawed all Jewish religious worship in 175 BCE. One could say that this practice was a form of survival. Something to preserve the Jewish faith and traditions and to help entertain and engage. Another view of the symbolism of the dreidel is that each side represents one of the four basic modes of being or life circumstances. These modes depend not only on the person, but also what is happening in their life in a certain day, month or year.

This holiday season is unlike any in our lifetime. Every single person has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in some way. Like a spin of the dreidel, the way it has impacted each of us is different and random. We are all in different modes and circumstances. In communities across Canada we have seen vulnerable populations disproportionately affected by the pandemic. We have also seen an increased demand in social services like food banks and some of those who used to donate are now the recipients of charity. Finally, we have also seen those who can still give, give all they can in tremendous show of tzedakah. We have seen highs and lows and everything in between.

This year, when you spin the dreidel, think about someone who has been thrust into a new mode of being to match to your roll...

Perhaps you spin a Gimmel. When you win and take all, think about those who newly rely entirely on the support of social services to ensure they have a place to live, a warm meal, and a way to recover when this is over.

*This holiday season is unlike any in our lifetime. Every single person has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in some way. Like a spin of the dreidel, the way it has impacted each of us is different and random.*

Perhaps you spin a Heh. When you take half, think about those who have always been the ones to give what they can to charity and now they partially rely on those same organizations to make ends meet.

Perhaps you spin a Nun. When you skip a turn and are left to do nothing, remember that even if you are fortunate enough to be weathering things well, your next spin could be a Gimmel or Heh.

Perhaps you spin a Shin. When you pay into the pot, think about the incredible support the Jewish Community has provided to those who have needed it most. Consider whether you too can help by giving your time or a donation to a cause helping to lift your community.

As important as thinking about the various phases this pandemic has thrust our community members into, it is equally as important to remember that each letter, each phase, is only one side of the dreidel. A single angle, a temporary moment in time.

For me I too have experienced these range of emotions and circumstances. I feel like I have had the opportunity and blessings to “win the pot” and take it all in (GIMMEL?) and I have also watched my son and family sit out and not be together with family during times of celebration and tribulation. These times have made me stronger, allowed me to appreciate what we have and why we

have it and be thankful for to those who have made the moments easier.

Regardless of what you spin this year, and what the pandemic has looked like for you, Jewish wisdom tells us the importance of remembering that while each of the letters have different outcomes, they are still part of the same dreidel. While we continue to face the pandemic largely in isolation at home, we too would do well to remember that no matter one’s individual experience has been, we are all in this community together. And just like in the times of King Antiochus IV, we too can make the best of a game and use it to continue our Jewish learnings and traditions.

Chag Sameach 🕊

# CAMPUS NEWS

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

Hi Atlantic Canada! I am so excited to be joining you as the AJC's new Hillel Director.



I was born and raised in Israel where I also did all of my schooling. I attended the Beit Berl Academic College for five years and earned a Bachelor of Education Degrees and a Teaching Certificate.

Education is a big part of my adult life. I have been a member of the Dror Israel Movement for 15 years. "Dror Israel" was founded by graduates of the Israeli Youth Movement, "Hanoar Haoved Vehalomed", who served together in the IDF, and shared a belief in the founding principles of Zionism. They recognized the power of education to change society and aimed

to create a just and equal society through education.

Later I joined the Yigal Allon Center of Education at Kibbutz Ginosar located on the majestic Sea of Galilee (Lake Kinneret). I started as the Manager of the children's and youth department, and, after a year, become the Content Director and Pedagogical Consultant for all the educational activities of the center.

Last but not the least, I had the honor of working for the Jordan River Village, a unique overnight camp for children living with chronic, genetic, or life-threatening

diseases and children with special needs. I was the Gap year Program Coordinator there for two years.

Recently, I moved from Israel to Halifax Nova Scotia. As you can probably guess, everything is very new for me and I am thrilled to be a part of both the Hillel and Atlantic Canadian communities. I am excited to discover and learn all about Jewish life in Atlantic Canada!

Looking forward to meeting you all! Want to get in touch with me? Reach out at [hillel@theajc.ca](mailto:hillel@theajc.ca) 📧

## The Abraham Leventhal Memorial Scholarships

The Atlantic Jewish Council invites applications from residents of Atlantic Canada for Abraham Leventhal Memorial Scholarships towards tuition fees for future post-secondary studies in the Halifax Regional Municipality. The award will normally be to a maximum of \$5000.00 for each application. The biannual application deadlines are May 31st (for studies beginning the following September, or later) and November 30th (for studies beginning the following January, or later).

Applicants can apply once in any 12-month period.

Abraham Leventhal Memorial Scholarships may be used towards either part-time or full-time studies.

Starting in January of 2021, 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 of Atlantic Canada events for post-secondary students.

Successful applicants will be provided more details about this volunteering commitment.

***Applications available at: [theajc.ca/scholarships](http://theajc.ca/scholarships)***

# CAMP KADIMAH

BY SARAH ATKINS, DIRECTOR AND  
MICHAEL PINK & MICHAEL SOBERMAN, CO-CHAIR

With this article being written in late December 2020, we have just concluded Chanukah, the festival of lights, a time when we celebrated and marked the miracle of Chanukah and the resilience of the Jewish people. As we enter 2021, we all hope and pray for a modern miracle, one that will see the world slowly return to normal, and one where Camp Kadimah 2021 will become a reality, with the joyous sounds of children enjoying camp once again filling the air.

Over the years, the Kadimah family has had so many miracles to be thankful for, and while this past year has been difficult, it has truly shown the strength and resilience of our deep connection and common bond. The Kadimah community extends far beyond the physical boundaries of our second home in Barss Corner and remains strong, even when we are kilometers, countries and oceans apart.

Every member of the Kadimah community represents a spark that together lights up even the darkest of times, and gives us hope during this challenging period. This past year has helped all of us to appreciate and cherish this gift all the more.

As we begin to ramp up for CK 2021, we are hopeful and enthusiastic that we will be reunited again. While the future remains uncertain and ever changing, we can be sure that the Kadimah family will remain connected, united, and committed to supporting a strong Jewish community amongst our campers, staff and alumni.


This “time away” has given us the opportunity to plan strategically for our future, and ensure that Camp Kadimah remains healthy, vibrant and viable for years to come.

Importantly, Kadimah is in need of major capital and infrastructure improvements. Like so many other organizations, camp has not been immune to the challenges created by COVID-19. These unprecedented times have created new challenges, including suffering a significant loss of camper fees due to the closure last summer.

To that end, we are embarking on *B'Yachad! The Camp Kadimah Partnership Campaign* where Kadimah's alumni and families living outside Atlantic Canada are being asked to join together in partnership with families from Atlantic Canada to ensure the continued strength of our precious camp. The *B'Yachad Partnership Campaign* will help Kadimah navigate its way through COVID-19, upgrade outdated and inadequate infrastructure, and create much needed space for programming.

The *B'Yachad Campaign* is being led by Camp Committee Chairs, Michael Pink & Michael Soberman, Campaign Chairs Toby Abramsky, Howard Conter, Jared Goldlust, Mark Rosen & Jeff Wolman. Honourary Campaign Chairs are Shirley Abramsky, Victor Goldberg, Ralph Medjuck, Jim Spatz & Andrew Wolfson.

The goal is to raise \$2.5 million and we are thrilled to announce that we have already raised \$1.5 million in family leadership gifts, and we are only just beginning!

*B'Yachad...* together we will ensure the future of the camp for years to come and inspire the next generations of Jewish leaders. Stay tuned for updates on this exciting new initiative in the coming months. Wishing our Kadimah family a wonderful start to 2021. B'Shalom. 

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



*“It only takes a little spark  
to bring light into the darkness”*



Maritime Judaea



Camp Kadimah Staff 1962: (front row, L-R) Leonard Levine, Maizie Block, Linda Offman, Mrs. Goldstein, Stanley Jacobson, unknown, unknown, Sandy Tanzman, Melvyn Brown, Simon Gaum, Fred Ross, Jack Yablom, Mr. Eisner, Myrna Jacobson, Gloria Jacobson (2nd row, L-R) Ellen Lefson, Barbara Newman, Rhona Levine, Sandy Budovitch, Audrey Attis, Rozzi Davis, Loretta Budovitch, Tamara Stone, Shirley Attis, unknown, Valerie Levinson, Harriet Pascal, Barbara Goldfarb, Marcie Brill, unknown, Bonnie L. (3rd row, L-R) Ira Abraham, Morty David, David Kate, Joel Pink, Lloyd Barron, Mark Offman, Norman Ross, Jamie Levitz, Frank Medjuck, Willy Strug, Norman Hamburg, Jeffrey Schelew, Norman Rose, Peter Stone, Martin Frank (4th row, L-R) Elliot Jacobson, Jon Guss, Brendon Yazer, Joel Kirsh, Gordon Yazer, Harold Yazer, Leslie Dubinsky, Arnold Budovitch, Andrew Wolfson



Camp Kadimah Staff 1964: (front row, L-R) unknown, Annelee Kohler, Fred Ross, Jack Yablom, Mrs. Horowitz, Herb Horowitz, Yarech \_\_\_\_, Norman Ross, Jamie Levitz, Joel Pink, Mr. Goldstein, Barbara Goldfarb, Frank Medjuck, Ezra Eisner (2nd row, L-R) Nina Zilbert, Bonnie Fine, unknown, Myrna Jacobson, Marlene Goldfarb, unknown, Audrey Attis, Janice Guss, Janice Zatzman, Miriam Green, unknown (3rd row, L-R) Jon Goldberg, Dave Feinstein, Joey Trager, unknown, Martin Frank, Loretta Budovitch, Jon Guss, Enie Dubinsky, Joey Strug, David Silver, Irwin Mendleson, Ivan Levine, Gail Ru-bin, Lynn Jacobson, Arnold Budovitch, Andrew Wolfson, Keith Ross, Jeffrey Lubin, Bil-ly Mosher



# THE IMPORTANCE OF SHOAH EDUCATION

BY JOE BISHARA



Joan O'Neil, Elin Beaumont, Pinchas Gutter, Dorothy Gutter, Joe Bishara



A display of religious articles and artifacts from the Agudath Achim Society Synagogue in Yarmouth



Pinchas Gutter



The sign from the Agudath Achim Society Synagogue



Judy Abrams and her memoir, *Tenuous Threads*



In the fall of 2019, I was made aware of a partnership between a rural school in the Tri-County Regional Centre for Education, the Atlantic Jewish Council (AJC), and the Azrieli Foundation.

I was informed that a teacher at Islands Consolidated School, Joan O'Neil, had learned about the Azrieli Foundation from Edna LeVine, AJC, whom she met at the Nova Scotia Social Studies Teachers Association's professional conference, hosted by the Nova Scotia Teachers Union. After learning about the Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program, Joan made contact to arrange to participate in the AJC's Holocaust Education Week student program, presented by the Azrieli Foundation. In November, Holocaust survivor Pinchas Gutter would come to the school and tell his story of living through the Shoah as young boy. For Mr. Gutter to make this trip in person meant a flight from Toronto to Halifax, followed by a 3 ½ hour car ride that would take him, his wife, and Elin Beaumont from the Azrieli Foundation to a ferry that runs on the bottom of each hour from the mainland of Nova Scotia on Digby Neck to the village of Freeport on Long Island where the school was awaiting them.

To place more perspective on this remarkable event, Islands Consolidated School, located on Long Island is arguably one of the most remote and rurally positioned public schools in the province of Nova Scotia. Being so, it is a shining star of how unique, successful, and beautiful rural education can be. The school educates students from pre-primary to Grade 12. In 2020, its graduating grade 12 class was comprised of three students. The entire school enrollment is 96 students. When the group arrived, they were met by Mr. Bobby Morgan, Principal of the school and Joan O'Neil, the organizing teacher. Both were thrilled that this visit was unfolding after much preparation by the school and its staff.

The educational context that Mr. Gutter was entering might be best explained like this. The knowledge base of the average student in Nova Scotia on the topic of the Shoah is minimal save mention of the event in history texts as a horrific event embedded in the greater history of World War II. Moreover, knowledge of Judaism as a religion and the myriad of cultural expressions globally that hold its truths and

traditions as their own is arguably less. It has been said that ignorance breeds fear, fear leads to anger and anger to violence. Although simplistic, is this not what was at play in Europe during what is now commonly called the Holocaust? Is this not the same formula, accompanied by ill informed ideologies, that gives rise to antisemitism today? This reality still experienced by many Jews around the world, including Atlantic Canada, in no small part is why the memoir program, as provided by the Azrieli Foundation is of such importance to the education of children everywhere.

As opposed to my generation (those in their mid 40s), who had the experience of connecting with family and/or community members that witnessed and survived those war years, the current generation is detached by time for the opportunity to connect with and understand those years and their events in any authentic way. Regrettably, such history can be easily forgotten; thankfully, and with optimism, this is not the case when youth have the opportunity to connect with individuals who lived it as youth themselves and are willing to connect in a tangible and relational way through example and story. Such was the power of Pinchas Gutter's presence and his generous, heartfelt sharing of personal experience as a survivor of the Shoah with this school community.

During the week of Mr. Gutter's visit, a display was set up in the foyer of Islands Consolidated school. The display was comprised of religious articles and artifacts from the Agudath Achim Society Synagogue in Yarmouth, NS. The shul was the heart of the Jewish community of Yarmouth and its surrounding areas from 1906-2007. With its closing, the majority of the sacred contents of the synagogue, including its Torah scrolls were entrusted to Shaar Shalom Congregation in Halifax for use and safekeeping. Many items of lesser import, but still of great cultural and historic value, were gifted to and reposited at the Yarmouth County Museum and Archives for archival and educational purposes. These items made for a wonderful springboard into talking with students at the classroom level about Judaism as a religion. During class discussions, much demystifying and "debunking" of stereotypes took place in the classroom that week. The darkness of the ignorance referenced above was replaced with the

light of knowledge that displaces fear, making the unfamiliar known and understood. It was comforting as an educator to see conversations led by the students find an organic “centering” in the realization of the beauty of diversity within a common humanity.

Fast forward to this year, again through the leadership and facilitation of the AJC, the Azrieli Foundation was once again to offer Holocaust education for what I thought would be one or two schools. This year Ms. Judy Abrams was to share her experiences living through the Shoah as a child. With Covid-19 public health protocols at play, it was impossible to have her come to a school and present in person and what was to come from this reality was an unexpected blessing. The Azrieli Foundation pivoted to provide a virtual presentation that allowed access for schools across the province of Nova Scotia to participate in the sharing. For us in the tri-county area, which comprises all of Digby, Yarmouth, and Shelburne counties, this delivery method allowed us to connect with Ms. Abrams live memoir and provide Holocaust education to multiple classes in 10 schools in our region with one school choosing to make the presentation a school-wide event.

In the days that followed both Ms. Abrams’s and Mr. Gutter’s presentations, the responses from educators and students were similar. Being able to connect with a Holocaust survivor who shares a firsthand account of their lived experience before, during and after the Shoah is a humbling privilege not to be taken for granted. It is the relational aspect, whether experienced virtually or in person, that make real the stories of living through the Shoah and deepen the listeners understanding of the destruction of, and impact on, millions of lives then and now. Through the memoir program, many intimate details

about those years that would otherwise be lost to time are made real and accessible for those who cannot fully comprehend such terror and loss. From a positivistic stance, in hearing these memoirs we are reminded of the resilience, perseverance and commitment of previous generations (Jews and gentiles) who teach us well the lessons of the Shoah. We and all of our children are taught through these memoirs that although the past can be a painful teacher, to not heed its lessons is to make room for repeated atrocities. It is a message that must be entrusted to each generation going forward if we are to maximize our human capacity to engage in acts of compassion, acceptance and love while minimizing our equal ability to engage in acts of hatred, distrust and destruction.

Professional staff, educators and students of our region are indebted to the leadership and generosity of both organizations mentioned. Specifically, Elin Beaumont of the Azrieli Foundation whose dedication and professionalism in moderating these presentations help to make them such a success. Our gratitude as well to Edna LeVine of the Atlantic Jewish Council, who we hold as being our regional partner in organizing and facilitating.

Most of all, and most sincerely, our deep and heartfelt thanks go to Mr. Pinchas Gutter and to Ms. Judy Abrams. Baruch Hashem, for your strength to speak your truth, your willingness to share of your time and experience and for being a light that dispels the darkness cast by the Shoah without compromising the truth of what took place to over six million innocent souls. Baruch Hashem. 🕊

*Joe Bishara is a registered counselling therapist and Regional Equity Consultant for the Tri-County Regional Centre of Education.*

**JANUARY 27**

## International Holocaust Remembrance Day Virtual Program

### THE WWII JEWISH EXPERIENCE IN MAURITIUS



Presented in English: Wednesday, January 27, 7 pm

#### **The Jewish Experience in Mauritius During World War II**

Presented in French: Wednesday, January 27, 8:30 pm

#### **L'Expérience juive à l'Île Maurice pendant la seconde guerre mondiale**

Dr. Rohini Bannerjee presents, in English and French, a program on “The WWII Jewish Experience in Mauritius”. A presentation on the role of Mauritius in the life-saving detainment of over 1,500 Jewish refugees from Europe during World War II. With opening remarks by Dr. Robert Summerby-Murray, President and Vice-Chancellor, Saint Mary’s University.

Dr. Bannerjee will host the program in English from 7 – 8pm, and then in French from 8:30 – 9:30pm, with a Q&A following each session.

*Dr. Rohini Bannerjee, born and raised in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada, daughter of immigrants from Himachal Pradesh, India, is an Associate Professor of French and Francophone Studies in the Department of Modern Languages & Classics at Saint Mary’s University. Rohini is a woman scholar of colour who serves as a Faculty Member in the Asian Studies and Graduate Women & Gender Studies programs and as Graduate Coordinator for the International Development Studies program.*



This program is presented by the Atlantic Jewish Council, the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, and Saint Mary’s University. To register for program in English and/or French (Canada-wide): [HolocaustEducation.ca](https://HolocaustEducation.ca)



# SPECULATIVE CARTOGRAPHIES

## EXHIBITION OF COUNTER-MONUMENTS AT THE HALIFAX PUBLIC LIBRARY

There is a great deal of media attention to public monuments, specifically, those that commemorate difficult or contested histories. Within the world of public art, the concept of the “counter monument”—as it has been advanced by artists in post-war Germany—has provided a fertile terrain for art practice that engages in and contributes to these public debates. To understand monuments as contested sites is to debate their meaning and to accept that meaning is not fixed at the moment of a work’s creation but will change over time and with new audiences.

In collaboration with the AJC in November 2020, during Holocaust Education Week, a group of artists, curators and scholars of genocide and memory studies explored this idea of counter-monuments in the exhibition *Speculative Cartographies—Mapping Five Unmarked Mass Graves in the Forests of Eastern Poland*. This work was both a physical exhibition nested within the architecture of Halifax Central Library, and a permanent virtual exhibition that can be accessed here: [www.countermemoryactivism.ca/speculative-cartographies](http://www.countermemoryactivism.ca/speculative-cartographies).

This work was completed in collaboration with The Zapomniane Foundation, Poland ([zapomniane.org/en/about](http://zapomniane.org/en/about)), who research unmarked mass-graves of Jews murdered during the “Holocaust by bullets”, at locations other than death camps such as forests, villages, or rural areas.

Direct excavation is prohibited by Jewish Halacha (religious law), therefore all data about these sites are collected using non-invasive technologies such as LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging), GPR (Ground Penetrating Radar), along with archival research and oral histories. The work that we created is dedicated to drawing out knowledge archived in landscape. Working with different ways of

### ANGELA HENDERSON

*Angela Henderson is a Canadian artist and educator based in Kijipuktuk (Halifax, Nova Scotia). Her work often explores transitional spaces where more-than human ecologies emerge within urban interstices. Freed from the economy of production, Henderson explores these spaces as temporary spaces for site-specific durational activities that include embodied mapping, installation, sculpture, and radical pedagogy.*

### SOLOMON NAGLER

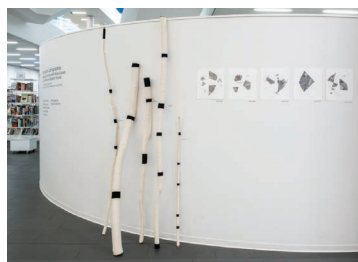
*Traversing the borders of narration and abstraction, Solomon Nagler’s film work invites us to explore the inner-selves of the characters he presents. Landscapes and symbols are continually blended, raising questions of identity and internal memories. His work also includes 16mm celluloid installations that engage with experimental architecture in galleries and public space. He currently lives in Halifax where he is a professor of film production at NSCAD University.*

mapping that use data produced by non-invasive archeological tools, as well as 16mm film, traditional archives and subjective maps drawn from local oral histories, the works in this exhibition all engage in alternative approaches to memorialization. Material traces of violence recorded in the landscape simultaneously reveal connections between human conflicts and transformations of the natural environment.

The following is a description of the works that were presented during this exhibition. Further photo documentation and full videos that were presented in the exhibition can be viewed on the above website. All photos of works installed in the library were taken by Steve Farmer. 5

### FORAY | ANGELA HENDERSON | Materials: Cotton String, Fallen Branches, Graphite, Cotton Paper

This research with the local ecology in the forested sites of human trauma queries how nature can bear witness. How can artistic processes mark these locations? Can sculptural work function as both an artwork and a tool to map these spaces? Often the first step in identifying the precise location of mass graves is walking with a witness. They appeal to landmarks that were present at the time of these atrocities. Building on these processes of situating oneself and looking for landmarks, this work begins with the identification of witness trees. By consulting with a researcher from the Zapomniane Foundation and using the arm span of her body to mark these trees, Henderson circumnavigated these sites using string. In this way a border was created to demarcate these sacred spaces, while also providing a visual record of these sites. Foray lays out the coordinates and circumference of each site’s witness trees in black string, while white string marks the distance between each of the witness trees. Henderson uses perspectival drawings and found objects from the forests of Nova Scotia to configure these first-person maps.





**FIVE NON-SITES OF MEMORY | ANGELA HENDERSON****Materials:** Oak | **3D rendering and model technician:** Mohammad Hossein Khodabakhsh

Non-invasive technologies play an important role when investigating and mapping unmarked mass grave sites. Satellites are utilized for photos, while LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) creates 3D representations of the surface with light. Embracing the shift from macro to micro perspectives in our research materials, Angela Henderson transforms these landscapes into handheld sculptures. Topographical data has been CNC sculpted into wood forms.



FIVE NON-SITES OF MEMORY

**ARCHIVE | Curation:** Kayla Rudderham | **Design:** Alexia Mitchell

Included in the exhibition is a selection of visual research of site-specific works, research-creation activities, photos and data from the archives of the Zapomniane Foundation that have been curated by Kayla Rudderham. Non-invasive technologies such as LiDAR (Light-Detection and Ranging), GPR (Ground Penetrating Radar) and satellite images are reconfigured and exhibited in a site-specific location in the Central Library to create a public intervention that reflects on processes of uncovering our shared difficult history in unexpected public spaces.



ARCHIVE

**FIRST PERSON FILM MAP | ALEKSANDRA JANUS AND ALEKSANDER SCHWARZ****Materials:** Hand-processed 16 mm Celluloid Film

This 16mm, hand processed film documents the roads leading to each of the five locations that are researched in this exhibition. The filmmakers focussed their filming on key reference points that allow them to identify the site and document the terrain. This includes old trees, forest path crossings and the forest edge—reference points often used by researchers and witnesses when attempting to identify the possible locations of unmarked mass grave sites.



FIRST PERSON FILM MAP

**PHYTOGRAMS | SOLOMON NAGLER | Materials:** Celluloid, Forest Flora

In each of the places visited, the vegetation is different, depending on the location, sunlight, or soil type. To document this vegetation in-situ, Solomon Nagler made phytograms—an alternative process of exposing celluloid film, which transforms the internal chemical structure of plants into textures of light. The local plants, after soaking in a bio-developer, were laid on film and exposed to the natural light available in the location of the mass grave. This process resulted in camera exposures that express the biochemical particularities of each site of trauma.



PHYTOGRAMS

MATZEVOT FOR EVERYDAY USE

**MATZEVOT FOR EVERYDAY USE | ŁUKASZ BAKSIK | Photography**

Photo documentation of pillaged Jewish tombstones in Matzevot for Everyday Use explores the ubiquitous, yet invisible spatial presence of these hidden objects of difficult heritage. By exhibiting a photomontage of urban and rural infrastructure such as barns, urban pergolas and pathways assembled from fragments of sacred Jewish objects, he suggests that at their structural foundations Polish cities and towns are built on the ruins of an irrepressible trauma.

**LANDSCAPE/DEATHSCAPE | ALEKSANDRA JANUS, ALEKSANDER SCHWARZ AND ŁUKASZ BAKSIK | Video**

The contemporary landscape of Poland contains both tombstones taken away from Jewish graves they were supposed to mark, and graves that were never marked with a tombstone. The video *Landscape/Deathscape* is based on the elements of Łukasz Baksik's photography project *The Matzevot for Everyday Use*, fragments of a film called *First Person Cartography* by Aleksandra Janus and Aleksander Schwarz. There is also photo documentation of uncommemorated sites of burial of the Jewish victims of the Holocaust, located by the Zapomniane Foundation. This film aims to look at the landscape of Poland as containing various traces of the past violence—some visible to the naked eye, some hidden, others impossible to spot without the forensic tools.



LANDSCAPE/DEATHSCAPE

One of the most poignant forms of memorialization of the Holocaust are survivor testimonies. Organizations such as the Azrieli Foundation publish Canadian Holocaust survivors' memoirs and make them readily available to schools, public institutions, and regional public libraries. There are also independent publications of survivor testimonies available at your local library including those of Simon Spatz, z"l, and Philip Riteman, z"l. The recording and distributing of these stories become more urgent as we consider the age of Holocaust survivors. Oral histories, specifically untold personal stories of how someone lived and survived genocide not only provides an important means of nurturing empathy and understanding, but also can create a unique form of memorialization that is embedded in the mind of the reader. With regards to our exhibition, the documenting and archiving first person accounts of witnesses to genocide contributes to both a documentation of personal encounters with the Holocaust, while also aiding in researching locating and eventual counter-memorialization of these unmarked mass graves.

# WARSAW: A CITY DIVIDED

BY ERIC BEDNARSKI

This year, my documentary film “Warsaw: A City Divided” will make its Atlantic Canadian premiere as a part of the AJC’s April 2021 Yom HaShoah Holocaust Memorial observance. It is an honour for me, as a native Haligonian, to be contributing to this important occasion.

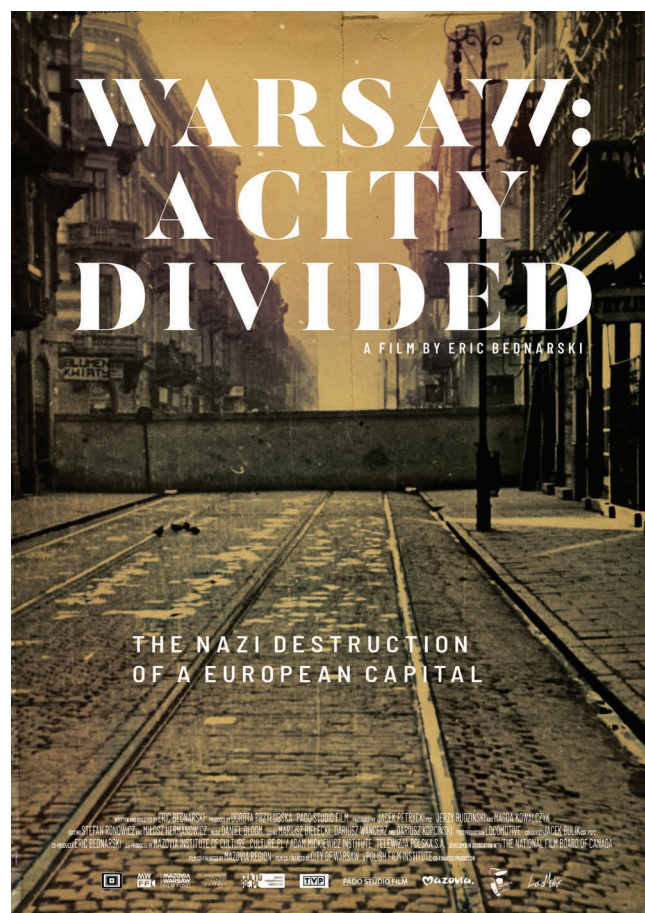
Although I was born and educated in Nova Scotia, my strong family connections to Warsaw mean that I have always felt close to this city. I am half-Polish, and although I am not aware of any Jewish roots, I am deeply interested in Polish-Jewish history and culture. As a filmmaker, I have frequently been inspired to explore topics and issues relating to the history of Warsaw.

I learned at an early age how over the course of the Second World War, and in the years that followed, the city was divided and destroyed by one totalitarian force (that of the Nazis), then nationalized, re-designed and re-built by another (that of the Soviets). I have long been keenly aware of the tragedy of the Warsaw Ghetto. My father is 92 years old, so he remembers pre-War Poland. He survived the Nazi occupation and destruction of Warsaw and has many vivid memories. As I was growing up, his stories about the War and the Holocaust had a profound effect on me.

About fifteen years ago, I unearthed ten minutes of remarkable 8mm Polish amateur footage shot in the Ghetto in 1941, soon after its creation by the Nazis. This footage was completely unknown at that point. When I took it to Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center and Memorial in Jerusalem, scholars there described it as the missing link in the visual history of the Warsaw Ghetto.

The material shot by the Polish amateur photographer differs in significant ways from the well-known footage later produced by Nazi German propaganda film crews in 1942, footage on which we have depended until now for visual documentation on the Ghetto. We are shown quite different locations. We discover the Ghetto in a much earlier phase of its existence. Above all, we are not seeing it through the eyes of occupiers and perpetrators.

With my discovery of the footage came a strong sense of responsibility. I knew I had to study it and properly identify its contents, and I knew I had to show it to the world. My goal was to incorporate the 8mm footage into a documentary that would provide a context for it and help the viewer to appreciate the significance of



what it contains. The story of the Ghetto is already widely known, but I hoped to explore that story from new angles.

The initial development of the film was carried out in collaboration with the Atlantic Centre of the National Film Board of Canada, beginning in 2010. During this phase, I read widely on the subject, met and talked with survivors and witnesses in Warsaw, and consulted with institutions and historians in the U.K., Israel, Poland, and Canada. Work on the film continued over the next few years in Poland, where it was eventually shot and produced, and where it premiered in Warsaw in 2019. Since then, the film has been screened widely at international events and festivals. It will be broadcast on television in Germany, the Czech Republic and Poland later this year.

“Warsaw: A City Divided” is a film about the history of Warsaw and its horrific consequences. The main focus is on the creation and ultimate liquidation of the artificially established Ghetto, and the murder of its inhabitants. But the Ghetto is not treated in isolation. It is seen in relation to the city of which it had once been a living part and from which it was brutally severed.

The film foregrounds the stories of the protagonists—survivors and witnesses, Jews and non-Jews—who still call Warsaw their home, and interspersed throughout it are scenes of the anonymous people in the historic 8mm footage itself, almost all of whom would undoubtedly have perished before many months had passed. This is the film’s human face.

But my goal was also to shed new light on the actual process of division and destruction set in motion by the Nazis. The film





stresses architectural and urban aspects of Nazi actions, exposing what amounted to a brutal and premeditated assault on the city as a functioning physical and social entity. By drawing attention to little-known German documents, my intention was to illustrate the insidious connections between Nazi ideology and bureaucracy, between seemingly banal urban and spatial restructuring decisions and genocide.

Throughout the film, scenes excerpted from the 8mm footage are juxtaposed with shots of corresponding present-day sites. The main intention here was to identify and pinpoint those locations for the contemporary viewer. But by interweaving past and present I also wanted to explore the idea of memory. The film shows just some of the ways in which the Ghetto is being remembered in Warsaw today, both at a personal and a collective level, and it stresses the particular

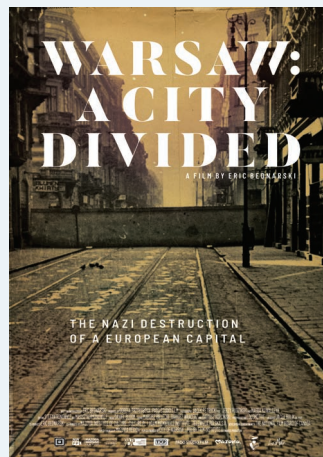
difficulties associated with remembering a world which has almost completely vanished, through wartime destruction and post-war redevelopment.

After viewing my film in April and seeing the remarkable and moving 8mm found footage, I hope Atlantic Canadians will have a better understanding of the tragedy that befell Warsaw and its Jewish community. I worked on this film on and off for more than a decade, and by the time it was in its final stages, xenophobia, racism and anti-Semitism were once again on the rise all over the world. In such a world, the task of sustaining the memory of tragedies such as that of the Warsaw Ghetto is more urgent than ever. I see “Warsaw: A City Divided” as one small contribution to the process of keeping that memory alive 🕊

**APRIL 11**

**Atlantic Canada  
Virtual Yom HaShoah  
2021 Program**

**“WARSAW:  
A CITY DIVIDED”  
WITH DIRECTOR  
ERIC BEDNARSKI**



In this story of a city, Ghetto survivors and witnesses, who still call Warsaw their home, recount their extraordinary memories, while architects, urban historians, and the Chief Rabbi of Poland examine the chilling Nazi vision for Warsaw. Making use of little-known German documents, “Warsaw: A City Divided” sheds new light on the insidious Nazi process of division and resettlement that culminated in the near total destruction of this once vibrantly multicultural city, and in the death of hundreds of thousands of its inhabitants. At the same time, it shows a thriving modern city still coming to terms with a traumatic period of its history. By interweaving rich material from the past with glimpses of present-day Warsaw, both its human face and its urban fabric, it affirms the importance—and the difficulty of remembering.

**Sunday, April 11, 2021, 2 pm AST | Documentary | 2019 | Poland | 71 minutes | English; Polish with English subtitles**

Presented by the Atlantic Jewish Council in partnership with the University of King's College and the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21. Register at: [HolocaustEducation.ca](https://HolocaustEducation.ca)

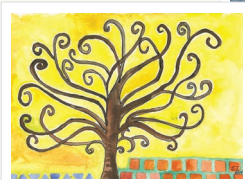
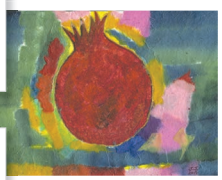
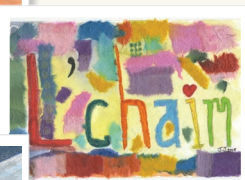
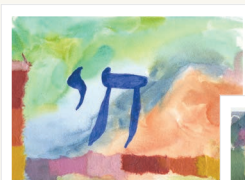




Custom Framing expert  
with over 25 years experience.  
In home art consultation  
and appraisals available.  
Unique gifts with  
complimentary giftwrapping.  
Atlantic Canadian and  
Indigenous Art.



2393 AGRICOLA STREET, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA | 902-407-1414



### 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](http://www.theajc.ca/tributecards)

Email: [tributecards@theajc.ca](mailto:tributecards@theajc.ca)

Telephone: 902-422-7493



# MY HANUKKAH CELEBRATION WITH THE CANADIAN FORCES BASE HALIFAX

BY ILANA DOMB

While sifting through the multitude of online offerings from the Atlantic Jewish Council available to the community during the COVID-19 pandemic, I learned that not only a Rabbi, but a Chabad Rabbi, became the only non-Christian Chaplain posted to the Canadian Forces Base Halifax. As this is the third rabbi to join the Canadian Armed Forces since the Second World War, it was a tremendous gift that Rabbi Glogauer was sent to us.

Unfortunately, I saw the Atlantic Jewish Council's mail about the conversation with Rabbi Glogauer one day too late! Feeling excited, I contacted Naomi Rosenfeld, expressing my amazement that we now have a Rabbi and enquiring if I was the only Jewish member of The Canadian Armed Forces in Halifax. Naomi immediately connected me with Rabbi Glogauer and confirmed that according to the Rabbi, there were in fact other Jewish members here.

When I spoke to the Rabbi, I relayed how happy I was and yet surprised that we got a religious Rabbi for such a small number of Jewish members compared to some other cities. I recall Rabbi Glogauer telling me that his role was to make me be proud to be Jewish.

On December 10, Rabbi Glogauer invited me to take part in a ceremony along with 12 Wing Commander Colonel Hawthorne, Chief Warrant Officer Poirier, Major (Padre) Marshall and Sub Lieutenant Bromhead to light a 6-foot outside menorah, which he had had sent from his previous posting in Winnipeg. The lighting took place on the Air Force Base, 12 Wing Shearwater. There were some touching speeches made and I was happy that our religion, although small in numbers, was nonetheless given tribute, by the leaders of the base. I was proud to be a part of the Canadian Armed Forces commitment to diversity and inclusion.

The Stadacona Band, of which I am a member playing the French Horn, has been recording many videos during the COVID-19 pandemic to carry out our mission. One of our projects was to record videos to provide music for different faith groups, each creating its own holiday service with the common message, "Many Voices—One Hope".

Rabbi Glogauer led a presentation explaining the history of Hanukkah, the miracle, and the resulting customs we celebrate. He said that Hanukkah represents our faith, lighting up the world at the darkest times, mentioning not only the winter season but the losses which Nova Scotia has endured this year. Rabbi Glogauer explained that one tiny spark can dispel much darkness and reminded us to add acts of goodness and kindness into our daily activities. He stated that this is seen in the manner in which the shamash remains bright as it illuminates the other candles. "May the light of the Menorah illuminate the darkness and shine a light on a better tomorrow."

While my colleagues in the Jazz Combo of The Stadacona Band were preparing to record the music for the Hanukkah video, I was

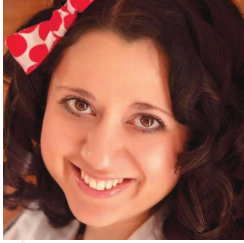


consulted not only with musical questions but also about traditions. A colleague from the Production Department studied our holiday, learning that Hanukkah begins and ends at sundown. In celebration of this, The Stadacona Band released "Ma'oz Tsur" at the beginning of Hanukkah and "O Hanukkah, O Hannukah" at the end. I had entered the rehearsal room the day before the recording to listen and sang a verse of "Ma'oz Tsur" with the group—when I was invited to record it the next day! These recordings are available on the Stadacona Band Facebook page. The enthusiasm of my colleagues to play this music and their love for Klezmer was touching. I was thrilled to join my colleagues Petty Officer 2nd Class Krisanne Crowell, Petty Officer 2nd Class Nadia Pona, Sailor 1st Class Jack Brownell, Sailor 1st Class Mark Morton and Sailor 1st Class Andrey Smirnov for this occasion!

I felt proud to celebrate Judaism and share it with my supportive colleagues at The Canadian Forces Base Halifax this holiday season. 5

*Ilana Domb is a member of The Stadacona Band (Sailor 1st Class) and the Head of Brass and Percussion at The Maritime Conservatory. Bachelor of Music, The Juilliard School, New York. Licentiate, The Royal Academy of Music, London.*

# MAKE YOUR OWN CUBIST MASK



BY MARGARITA FAINSHTEIN

Born in Ukraine, Margarita Fainshtein earned a BFA from University of Haifa, Israel and MFA from School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Margarita Fainshtein resides in Bedford, Nova Scotia.

<http://margaritas.space>



WEeping WOMAN, 1937 BY PABLO PICASSO

## NON-OBJECTIVE ART

Art that is not representational, containing no recognizable figures or objects. The elements of art (lines, shape, colour, etc.) are the main subject.

## CUBISM

Cubism was a 20th-century art movement that revolutionized European painting and sculpture and inspired related music and literary movements.

This period is characterized by emphasizing the process of construction and converting the represented forms into the essential geometric shapes: the cube, the sphere, the cylinder, and the cone.

## CUBIST ARTWORK

In cubist artwork, objects are broken up, analyzed, and re-assembled in an abstracted form. Instead of depicting objects from one viewpoint, the artist depicts the subject from a multitude of viewpoints to represent the subject in a greater context.

## HOW TO MAKE A CUBISTIC MASK

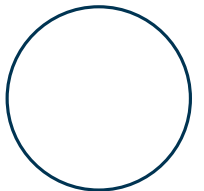
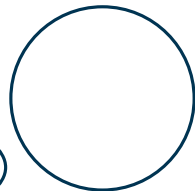
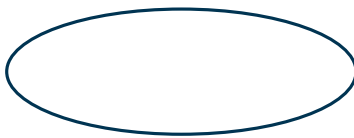
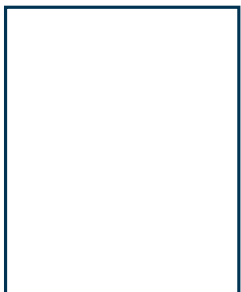
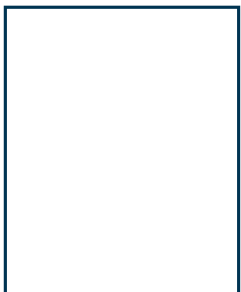
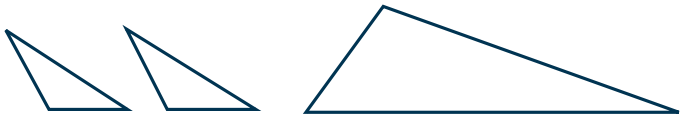
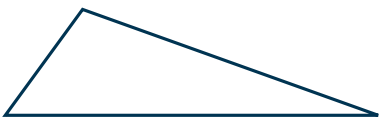
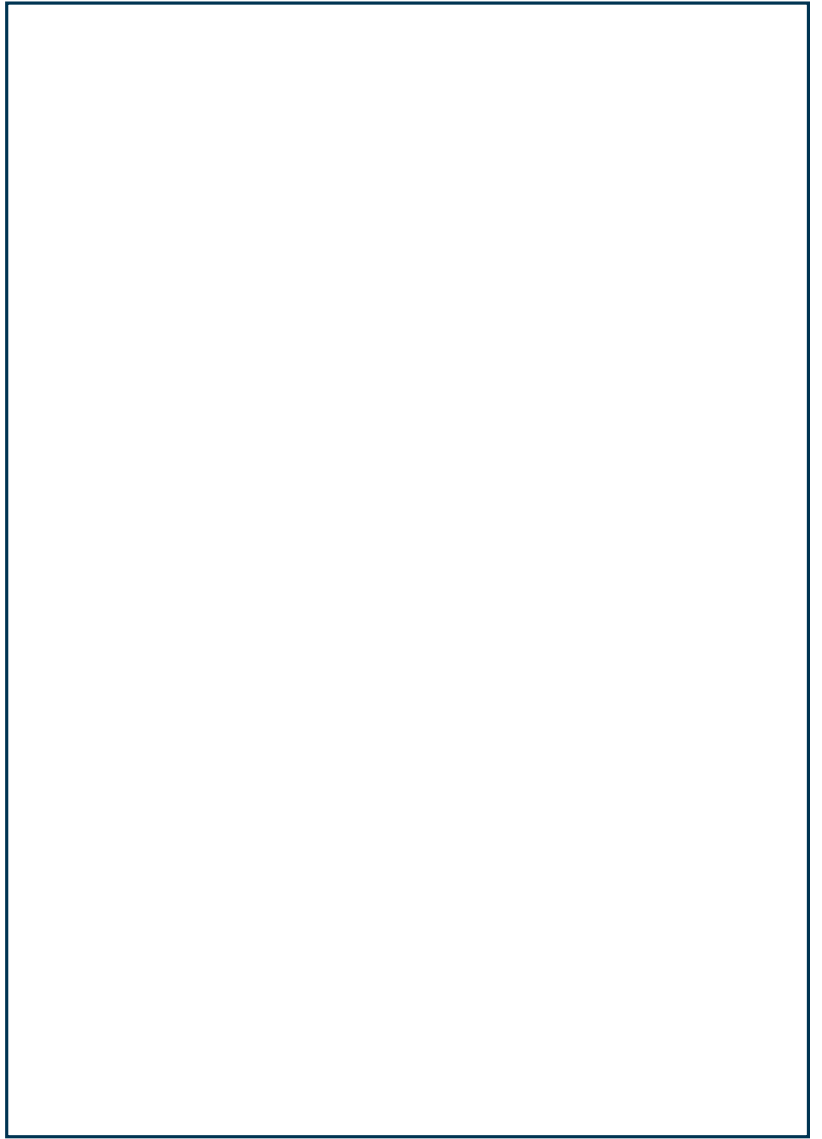
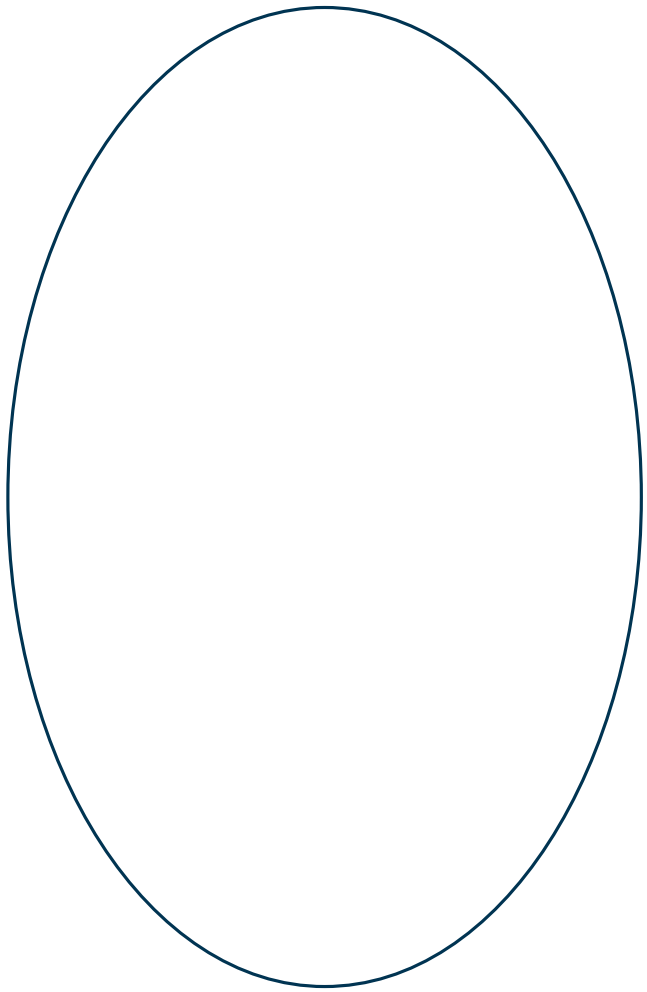
1. Colour the shapes using pencil crayons or markers.
2. Add texture and patterns using a darker colour to the coloured shapes.
3. Cut out the shapes.
4. Assemble a cubistic mask—see the examples below for inspiration.
5. Glue the shapes together. You can add your own shapes and make many more masks and unique creatures! 🧐

## EXAMPLES OF MASKS FOR REFERENCE

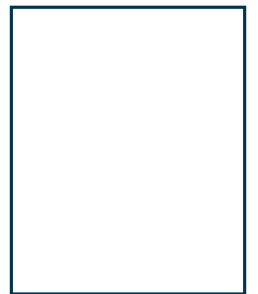
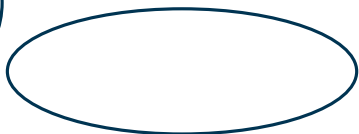
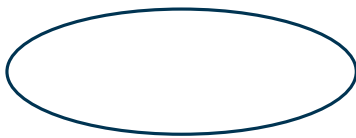
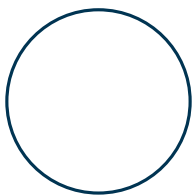
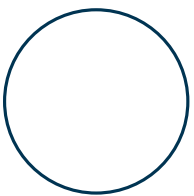
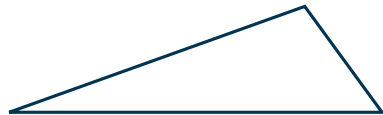
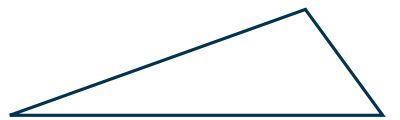
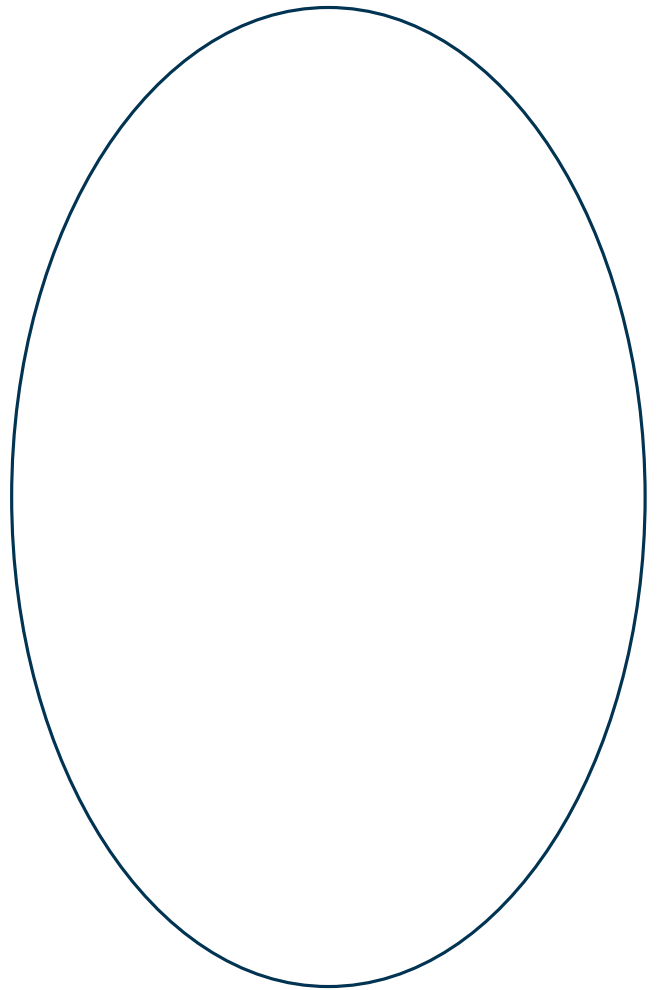
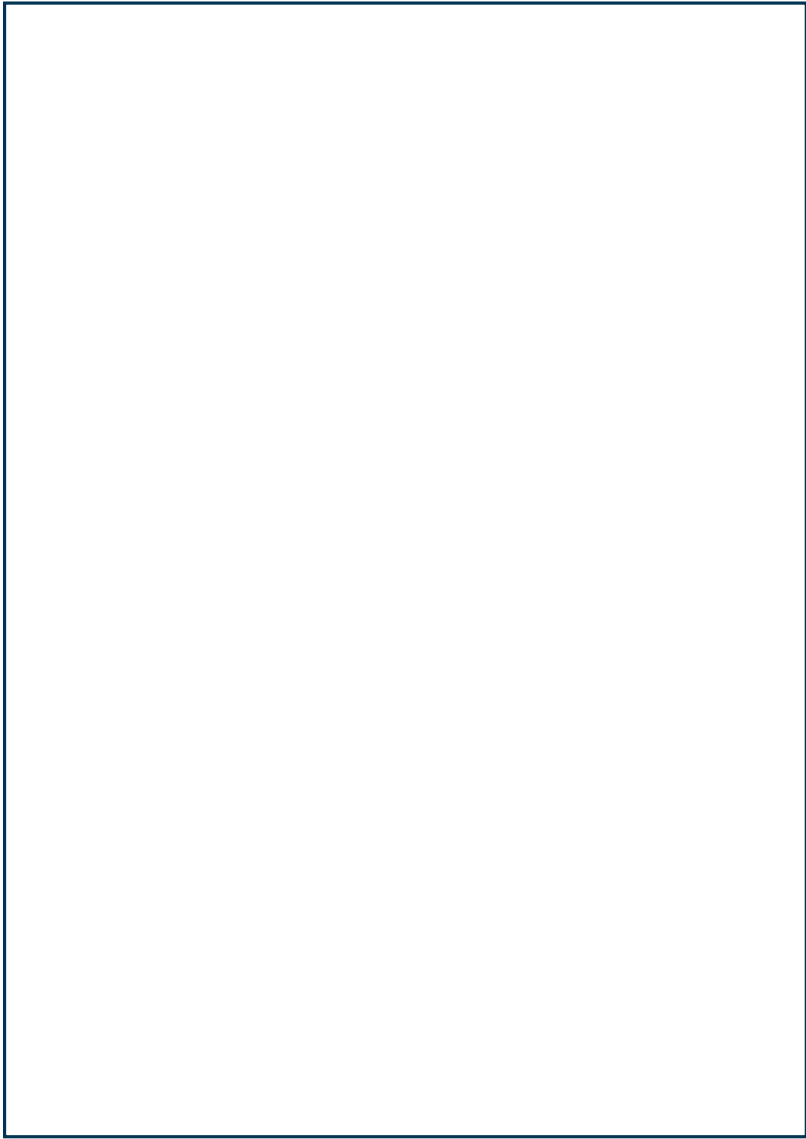




# MAKE YOUR OWN CUBIST MASK

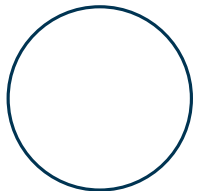
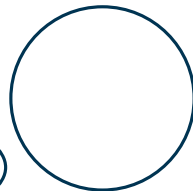
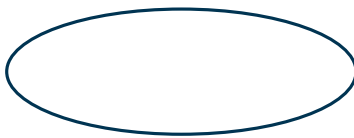
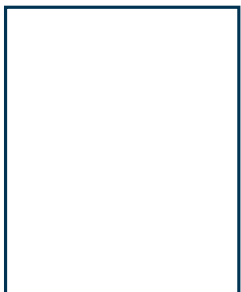
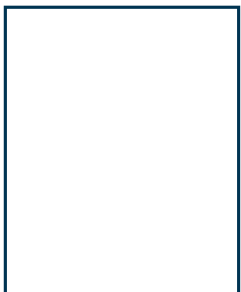
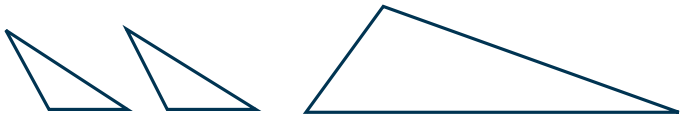
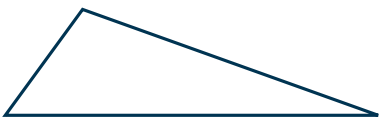
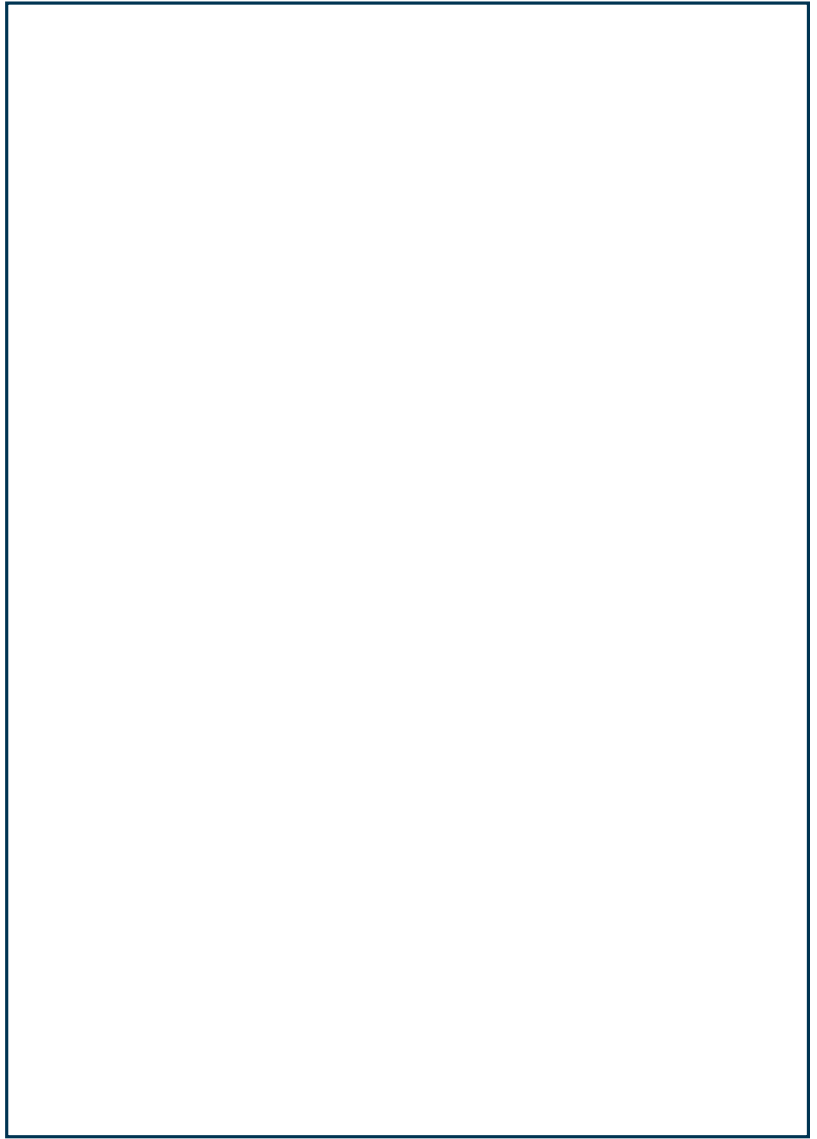
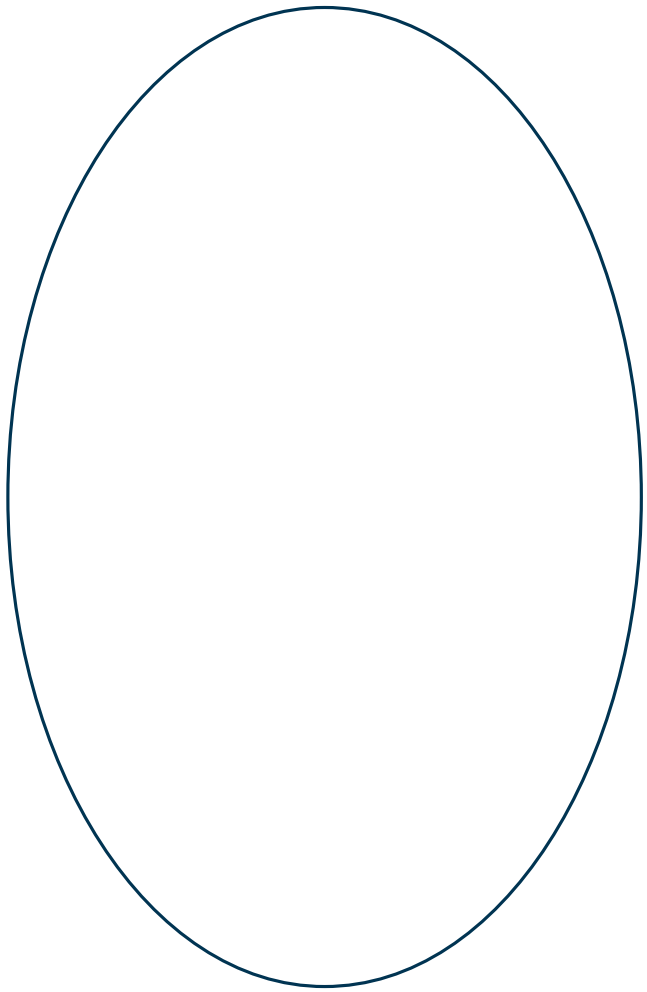


# MAKE YOUR OWN CUBIST MASK

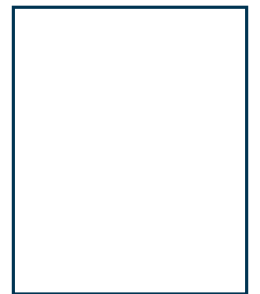
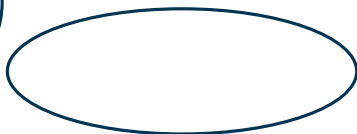
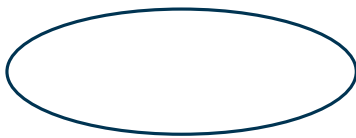
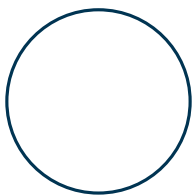
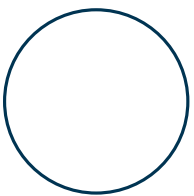
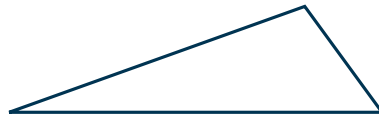
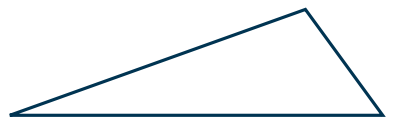
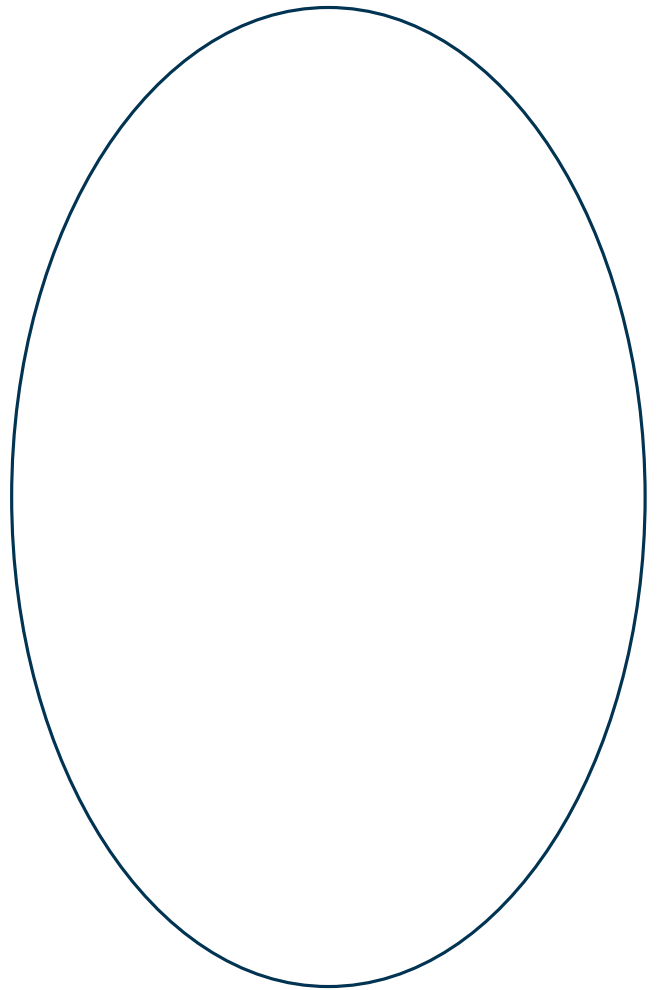
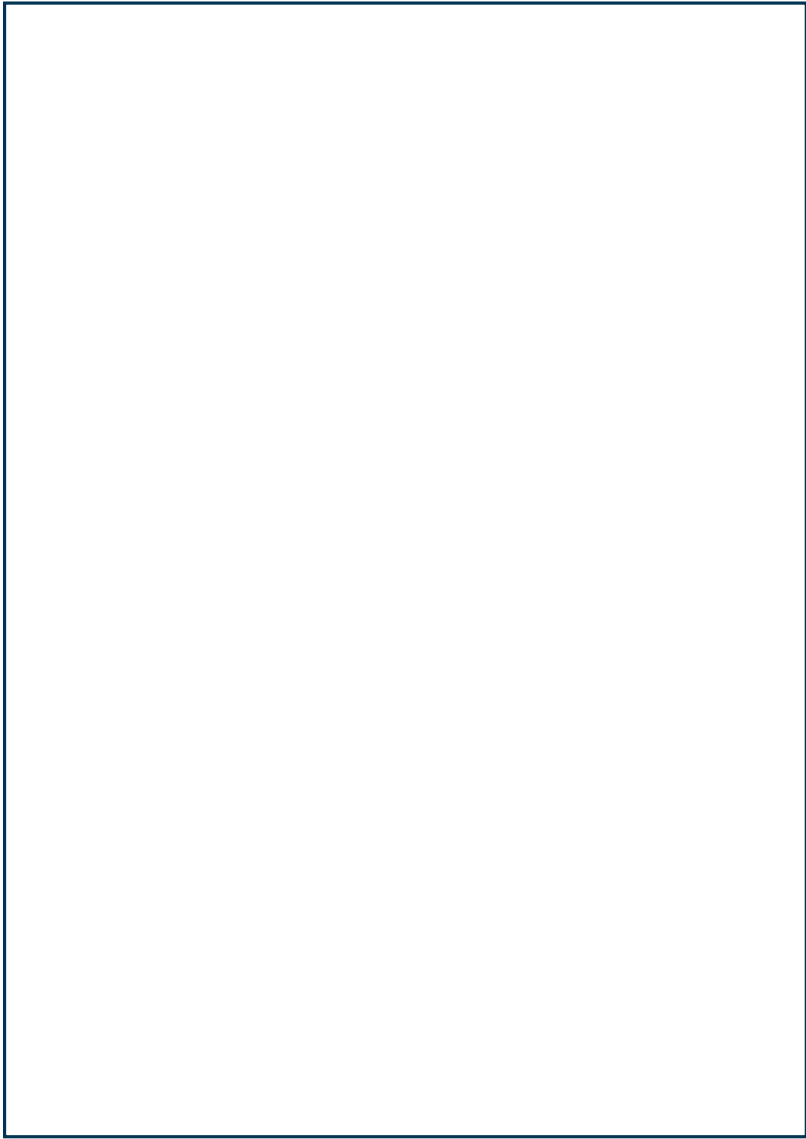




# MAKE YOUR OWN CUBIST MASK



# MAKE YOUR OWN CUBIST MASK





**NOW INCLUDES 1 BOOK PER CHILD PER MONTH!**



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

**TELL THEM TO SIGN UP FOR PJ LIBRARY!**

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

*Signing up is free, easy, and takes less than  
3 minutes. Go to **[pjlibrary.org](http://pjlibrary.org)**!*



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

**TELL THEM TO SIGN UP FOR PJ OUR WAY!**

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

*Signing up is free, easy, and takes less than  
3 minutes. Go to **[pjourway.org](http://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](http://pjlibrary.org/grandparent-enrollment)**  
to sign up the grandparents in your life for special mailings and  
emails from PJ Library*

# The Atlantic Jewish Foundation

## SCHOLARSHIPS

All applications must be received by March 31, 2021

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

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

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

Applications available at: [theajc.ns.ca/scholarships](http://theajc.ns.ca/scholarships)

## The Noa & Sarah Heinish Scholarship

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## The Miasnik-Rein Trust

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

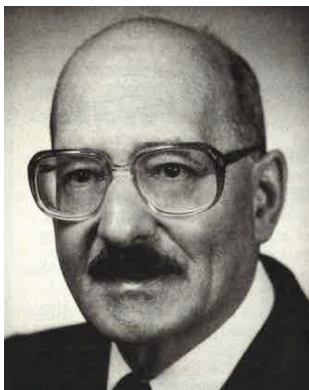
**Miasnik-Rein Trust—\$2000 each. Maximum 5 scholarships per year.**

## Halifax Endowment Fund (Jayson Greenblatt Bursary)

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

**Jayson Greenblatt Bursary—\$500 each.**





## BIOGRAPHY OF DR. JAYSON GREENBLATT

While a man of faith and religion, Dr. Jayson Greenblatt was also one of science and scholarship

While a man of faith and religion, Dr. Jayson Greenblatt was also one of science and scholarship. He was a founding member of the Beth Israel Synagogue and served a number of terms as President of the Baron de Hirsch Congregation. However, his commitment to the synagogue went beyond attending services in the sanctuary every Saturday and on High Holidays and volunteering as a Minyan Mensch several days a week. He knew the physical workings of the building inside and out. On Christmas and New Year's Eve, when the janitor was on leave, Dr. Greenblatt would make midnight rounds of the synagogue to inspect the furnace and boilers and ensure that there were no break-ins. Dr. Greenblatt's dry sense of humour was evident, when, in the 1960s, he was called upon to rewrite the librettos for a number of synagogue musical productions. Although the music remained intact, the words and plots of *GiGi* and *My Fair Lady* were wittily readapted to reflect events in the synagogue and the activities of its very vibrant Sisterhood!

Dr. Greenblatt was born in Montreal and grew up in Moncton, New Brunswick, where he and his future wife, Ann Mendelson, were childhood friends. He earned a Ph.D from McGill University in physics and chemistry and commenced his long and productive career with the Canadian Federal Government Department of National Defence during World War II

at Valcartier, Quebec. He was transferred to Halifax in 1948 to assume his position at the Naval Research Establishment in Dartmouth and was subsequently promoted to the Dockyard Laboratory in Halifax. From 1948-1970, Dr. Greenblatt was engaged in important experiments and assignments: developing non-corrosive paints for ship's hulls, as well as collaborating on the design and construction of the Canadian navy hydrofoil. This busy professional life coincided with a very active family one, because Dr. Greenblatt and his wife were raising two children, Paul and Sara. In 1962-63, he was the youngest candidate to attend the prestigious and demanding course at the National Defence College in Kingston, Ontario. The curriculum had a global dimension and Dr. Greenblatt travelled to such exotic places as Turkey, Pakistan, India, Thailand, Malaysia and Israel. In 1970, he was transferred to Ottawa to assume a new Canadian Government Defence position involving Earth Sciences, which might be regarded as a forerunner to Climate Change. During the long summer daylight hours, Dr. Greenblatt would lead teams to the furthest point north at Resolute to conduct tests, measurements and experiments of Arctic ice. He was also responsible for planning and cooking the breakfast, lunch and dinner menus for his scientific cohorts, claiming that his food never "repeated". The years 1975-1981, when he served as a

senior Diplomat at the Canadian Defence Liaison Staff in Washington, D.C., were the most memorable ones for Jayson and Ann Greenblatt. Dr. Greenblatt cooperated closely with US, British, Australian and New Zealand counterparts in defence research collaboration and travelled to destinations in the Orient, as well as Australasia.

Upon his return to Halifax and retirement from the Canadian Government in 1982, Dr. Greenblatt became an adjunct Professor at the Technical University of Nova Scotia, where he taught environmental studies in the Department of Chemical Engineering. He was involved in the design and construction of environmentally friendly coal combustion boilers and travelled to India on several occasions to introduce and train Indian scientists in applying this technology. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, Dr. Greenblatt served on the Halifax Chapter of the Weizmann Institute of Canada and cooperated closely with the Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation and the Faculty of Medicine in fostering scientific exchanges with the Weizmann Institute in Israel. In keeping with his commitment to scholarship and Judaism, Dr. Greenblatt created a lasting legacy in the form of a bursary to assist Jewish students in Atlantic Canada in pursuing Judaic studies in Israel or in the Diaspora. ③

# DAVID RUBIN'S LEGACY GIFT

David was a long-time member and supporter of the Atlantic Jewish Council, and we are thrilled that his legacy of generosity lives on in this way.

The family of the late David Rubin, z"l, have generously funded the purchase of a Bone Scalpel Surgery System at Ziv Hospital in Tzfat (Israel) in David's memory through the Atlantic Jewish Council and our national partner, Jewish Federations of Canada-UIA.

Ziv Medical Center is a general hospital located in Tzfat (Safed), a city in the AJC's Israeli partnership region ("Etzvah HaGalil" or the region north of the sea of Galilee). For the past 110 years, Ziv Medical Center has been serving the health needs of the region. Ziv Medical Center also provides medical services to the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and UN personnel along with many Israelis

visiting and vacationing from the center and south of Israel as well as to international tourists. The patients of Ziv Hospital reflect the diversity of Israel—Jewish, Muslim, Christian, Druze, Circassian and Bedouin. This diversity is also reflected in the staff who proudly work side by side.

The donation of the Bone Scalpel System will enable Ziv Hospital to continue providing optimal treatment to all of their patients, both those who live in the area or citizens from across the border who need



their help, such as Syrian citizens who they have treated in the past and casualties from Lebanon who they have offered to treat after the explosion in Beirut. 5

## REMEMBERING MOLLY RECHNITZER Z"l

Passed away peacefully on April 1, 2020



Due to COVID-19, only ten people were able to take part in Molly's funeral, and her closest family members were unable to physically attend. It was a sad, dreary day; those ten people could not hug or console each other, and had to stand six feet apart. This distance was in stark contrast to the tenor of Molly's life—filled with activity, hugs, greetings, laughter, energy, love, and *joie de vivre*.

To her friends, Molly Rechnitzer was the "Energizer Bunny". She was always on the go, pursuing her myriad interests, number one of which was her family, followed closely by Shaar Shalom. She belonged to two book clubs, held numerous volunteer positions, and studied Tai Chi; she walked and hiked, cooked and hosted dinner parties, and was an avid traveller. Molly enjoyed crossword and Sudoku puzzles, and was an excellent proofreader.

Molly practiced social work at the Diabetes Management Centre at the QEII until she retired in 2001. After that she saw individual clients in her home on a part-time basis for private and marital counselling sessions.

Until a few years ago, Molly was the

Shaar Shalom Membership Chairwoman, recruiting and welcoming new members, as well as the Correspondence Secretary, writing thank you cards to people donating to the synagogue. She ordered leaves for the Tree of Life; was a member of the Chevra Kadisha and Bereavement Committees; and sat on the Board for more years than many of us can remember. Molly was a touchstone for Shaar members, providing consistency and context, and helping to shape many of the policies and decisions that are in place today. She volunteered at the Chanukah Fair and the Yard Sale, and proofread countless New Year's Bulletins. And as though all that wasn't enough, she was also a Tu Bishvat Telethon canvasser for 11 years.

The focal point of Molly's life was the Shaar, where she regularly attended both Friday night and Saturday morning services. Having grown up Orthodox, and later regretting that she had not had a Bat Mitzvah, her wish was fulfilled in June 2004 when she celebrated a B'not Mitzvah with nine other women.

Molly and her late husband, Ricky (a Holocaust survivor), had two sons, Bernie

and Stuart. Molly doted on her grandchildren Alexandre, Melanie, Diana, Arielle, Matthew and Nae. Over the years, Molly enjoyed travelling with Stuart, his wife Corinne, and their children to Argentina, Costa Rica, California, Nevada, Louisiana, and Martinique, and on an African safari.

A memorial for Molly will take place when it is possible for her family to visit Halifax, and when large gatherings are once again permitted. At that time, we will come together to honour and celebrate the life of a very special woman who dedicated her life to her family and her community.—Sharon Waxman 5





# ON THE LIFE OF JANA WIEDER Z"l

22 October, 1949 – 9 October, 2020



Helping thousands of patients live better lives, supporting her family's transition from post-Holocaust Europe to peace in Canada, and delighting in the academic and personal success of her daughter (Yolana Wassersug) were the hallmarks of Dr. Jana Wieder's life. On October 9, much too early, Jana died, after a life filled with tremendous purpose. She will be missed.

Jana was born in 1949 in Znojmo, a small town in southern Czechoslovakia. Her parents, Emil and Helena Jockel, both Holocaust survivors, had experienced immeasurable loss and intense suffering. They encouraged Jana to study and take advantage of any opportunity to improve her life. When she was 18, Jana was working in Austria when the Soviet Union invaded Czechoslovakia. Her parents urged her to remain there, but love for her family drew her home, and she returned to Czechoslovakia for her medical studies. Twelve years later, she immigrated to Canada, arriving in Toronto to establish a new life. Her English was rudimentary and her early years here were lonely and hard.

In 1984, Jana moved to Halifax where she established many deep and lasting friendships. She was particularly devoted to the local Jewish community and the congregation at Shaar Shalom Synagogue. She finally started to feel at home. When Yolana was born, Jana transitioned from her medical speciality to general practice, and started her work at Family Practice Associates.

During her 30-year career as a family doctor and obstetrician, she guided her patients through the milestones of their lives. She delivered babies, offered advice and support to new parents, and helped innumerable patients manage chronic illnesses, overcome addictions, and live well. It was the whole patient she cared for—giving equal attention to mental health and physical wellness. Many of the babies she delivered grew up, and had children of their own who also became her patients. Jana had a deep, personal understanding of the challenges newcomers face in Canada, and she provided care and advice to the families of countless immigrants and refugees, going above and beyond what people expected from their doctor.

Her home was in the south end of Halifax and Point Pleasant Park was her refuge—a place for long walks and talks with her friends. She listened and watched the CBC and world news with passion; discussing political and social issues became a vital part of her life. She never took what Canada offered for granted. Among her patients and her friends, Jana was respected and known as an excellent listener, a source of clear and candid wisdom, and the best possible person to have around during a crisis or emergency. A meal of her favourite Czech dishes, provided to family and friends, was an added bonus.

About 20 years ago, Jana was diagnosed with a rare autoimmune disorder that caused severe pain, yet she continued to work. Her

illness gradually affected her lungs, and she developed interstitial lung disease. When she could no longer talk to her patients without coughing, it became clear that it was time for her to retire. She left her work reluctantly, and missed her patients deeply. She truly loved to practice medicine.

The only thing Jana loved more than her work was her family. After settling in Nova Scotia, she could assist her brother, Pavel Jockel, his wife Klara, and their two energetic sons, Tom and Dan, to settle in Halifax. They were as devoted to Jana as she was to them. The family began to grow with Yolana's marriage to Sam Worthington and Tom's marriage to Pimsiree Phromwong. Tom and Pimsiree's little son, Henry, was a source of utter delight for Jana ("Bubby Jaja"). Her family was with her on a daily basis during her last few weeks.

Jana's parents also immigrated to Halifax with support from Jana. Her mother, a former teacher, became a renowned Holocaust Educator. Both have predeceased Jana. Jana was buried on Friday, October 9, at the Shaar Shalom Cemetery. The family will continue sitting shiva at 5881 Spring Garden Road on October 13 and 14, welcoming visitors from 5:00-7:00 pm. Should you wish to honour Jana's memory, these two causes were important to Jana: the Lung Association of Nova Scotia ([ns.lung.ca](http://ns.lung.ca)) or the Atlantic Jewish Council's fund for Holocaust Education ([theajc.ca](http://theajc.ca)). ☺

# ON THE LIFE OF HAROLD DAVIS Z"l

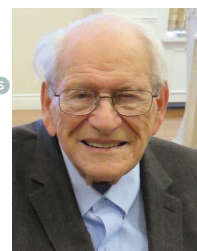
Passed away on  
January 18, 2020

DAVIS, Harold Wolfe. Harold Davis, age 93, passed away in Toronto on Saturday, January 18, 2020 surrounded by family. He was pre-deceased by his wife of 72 years, Evelyn Moraff Davis. They resided in Sydney, Cape Breton most of their lives and were active members of Temple Sons of Israel, including the Chavra Kadisha. They moved to Toronto in 2013. Harold is survived by daughters Lynne Davis (Cameron Brown), Beverley Davis (Patrick Taylor), grandchildren Shira Taylor (Paul) and David Taylor (Kim) and great grandson Jackson. He was interred next

to Evelyn at Pardes Chaim Cemetery, Community Section, Maple, Ontario. ☺

*Note from the family: Our parents Evelyn Moraff Davis and Harold Wolfe Davis were well known in the Jewish community in Cape Breton.*

*Mom was born and raised in Sydney and owned Moraff's Yarns and Crafts. She was very active with Hadassah. Mom and Dad were joined at the hip and were a model of partnership.*



## ON THE LIFE OF JOSEPH KOHN Z" L

Passed away on November 29, 2020

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved Joseph Kohn, on Sunday, November 29, 2020, peacefully after a brief stay in hospital.


Born in Poland in 1928, Joseph was a courageous survivor of slave labour and Nazi concentration camps during World War II. Though most of his family was stolen from him at that time, he had the spirit, love and courage to create his life anew. He married the love of his life, Sulamit, on December 12, 1948 in London, England. They emigrated to Canada in 1949, first settling in Montreal, and then moving to Moncton in 1958. Joseph proudly owned and operated Moncton Draperies for many years.

After retirement, Joseph volunteered his time preparing boys and girls for their Bar and Bat Mitzvahs. Over the years, he participated as a Board member of the Synagogue, and often led the community in prayer during regular and High Holiday services. He was well known in the community as a kind, charitable and generous man. While his children were growing up, he volunteered his time with the Moncton Figure Skating Club and served as Show Chairman and President.

Joseph enjoyed keeping up with and discussing politics and current events. He and Sulamit shared a love of classical music and opera. Sulamit passed away in 2013.

Joseph will be sadly missed by his daughter

Caroline, of Grande-Digue; his son Harold and daughter-in-law Nancy, of Ontario; his devoted caregiver, Josephine Cabilin and her family; and his nieces Sylvia Aisenstadt Ovadia of New York, and Sylvia Kohn, of British Columbia.

Funeral services will be held at Tiferes Israel Synagogue, 56 Steadman St., Moncton, on Monday, November 30, 2020 at 1:00 PM. Social distancing and masks are required. Interment will be at Tiferes Israel Cemetery in Dieppe. Fergusons Funeral Home, 1657 Mountain Road, Moncton (858-1995) is in charge of funeral arrangements. Online condolences for the family can be shared at [www.fergusonsfuneralhome.com](http://www.fergusonsfuneralhome.com). 

## ON THE LIFE OF NAOMI JUDAH Z" L

Passed away peacefully on October 14, 2020



Naomi Judah (Kollet), aged 90, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, October 14, 2020, in Halifax. Born in Poona, India, she was the eighth child of Menahim and Abigail Kollet, members of the Bene Israel Jewish community.

Naomi leaves behind a legacy of great care for her community, neighbours, friends, and family. She was a proud Canadian who immigrated in 1963 with her husband, Dr. Joseph Judah, and their two oldest children, Jonathan and Sherry. The family settled in Halifax not long after, where their youngest child, Joshua, was born. Here Naomi became a beloved figure in the local Indian and Jewish communities, as well as beyond.

She worked for more than 30 years as a nurse in India, the United States, and Canada. As a nursing instructor at the Victoria General Hospital, she trained many of the nurses who continue to provide care in Halifax. She spent the last decade of her career serving and educating the province as

a public health nurse.

Naomi was a dedicated volunteer and supporter of countless groups, including the Museum of Natural History, the Indo-Canadian Association, the Red Cross, and the Organization for Rehabilitation through Training (ORT). She was a long-time member of Shaar Shalom Synagogue, where she will be deeply missed.


Friends and family will remember Naomi as a source of laughter, warmth, and welcome, a keeper of stories, giver of treasured gifts, lover of the arts, talented painter, and unrivalled cook of delicious food.

Naomi was predeceased by Joseph Judah, her husband of over 40 years until his death in 1995; her siblings, Elisheba, Asher, Judah, Mary, Rachael, Ruth, Jonathan, and Isaac; and her beloved grandson, David. She leaves behind her brothers, Raphael and Shimon; sons, Jonathan (Evelyn) and Joshua; daughter, Sherry (Rob); grandsons, Aaron

and Daniel (Catherine); granddaughter, Eden; niece, Yael (Gus); as well as a large extended family.

The family would like to extend their gratitude to the staff of Parkland at the Gardens and all who were involved in Naomi's care. Donations may be made in her memory to ORT ([www.ort.org](http://www.ort.org)), or a charity of your choice.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, a graveside funeral service will be held at the Shaar Shalom Cemetery on Connaught Ave this afternoon, Thursday, October 15, at 2:00 PM. If you cannot attend the funeral at the cemetery, you may do so via Zoom. Due to COVID, shiva will be observed virtually.

*Ha-Makom ye'nachem—May God comfort Naomi's family among the other mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.* 

# ON THE LIFE OF STEPHEN RUKASIN Z"l

Passed away on November 11, 2020



It is with deep regret we announce the passing of Stephen Rukasin, on November 11, 2020 (Remembrance Day). A day now, we as his friends will always be able to remember.

Stephen was born September 16, 1947 in Montreal but grew up in Glace Bay, N.S from the age of 1. He was a Devoted son to Ellen and Rubin Rukasin.

He was a graduate of Morrison Glace Bay High School and Dalhousie University where he obtained his Bachelor of Commerce degree. At Dalhousie Stephen was a member of the Campus police. He had a deep and honest respect for members of the military and law enforcement.

Growing up in Glace Bay, Stephen could always be counted on for a minion to make up the 10th man. While most of us would not want to answer the phone near sundown as we knew what the call was about, Stephen could always be counted upon.

Stephen always had a smile on his face and would do anything for you. Growing up in Glace Bay we were all into sports. Stephen was always willing to join in. As remembered by Sheldon Cohen, he would never complain if he struck out when we played baseball behind the Shul, or fell on the ice playing hockey on early Sunday mornings, as he was not a good skater. He would get up, shake it off, and continue playing.

Around Purim and Halloween, Sheldon would organize a House of Horrors in the basement of the Talmud Torah and Stephen's

job was to lay in and old coke machine and when people walked by, he would jump out to scare you. Jack Shore remembered being scared by Stephen, myself, David Cherun and the late Robert Ein, when he was a little kid, all in fun of course.

Stephen's favorite past time was going out for lunch. He was always calling one of us to meet at his/ours favourite restaurant. From Times Square diner, California Sandwiches, Pickle Barrel or Tim Hortons, Stephen always had the time to meet and schmooze about the economy and current affairs around the world. He loved going to The Keg, where Marni (Shore) Mednick, Sol, I, and Stephen would celebrate our birthdays together as we were all born around the same time.

Stephen was extremely well-informed politically especially on American and foreign affairs and had a terrific memory for names, which was very impressive. He always wanted to see the good in people.

From his early years in Young Judea, Stephen became a strong supporter of Israel. As he matured so did his knowledge and advocacy for Israel on a personal and International level. Stephen wanted to share his current information with Jews everywhere. One of the things that concerned him the most was the fake news about Israel and the current rise of antisemitism. He subscribed to many daily news services from which he would select the most important articles to share with many of us. He provided this

personal news service for almost 25 years. Unfortunately; we do not know who will perpetuate the life line Stephen tried to maintain singlehandedly.

In his early 60's Stephen was diagnosed with Prostate Cancer. He did a lot of research on whether to have the prostate removed or treat it with radiation. He chose radiation knowing that there was a 5% chance it could come back. He was part of a study at Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto. For a while it seemed he had beaten the disease but unfortunately in the last few years it came back. Stephen had very positive attitude about trying to beat this disease.

A Special debt of gratitude is owed to Dr. Arnie Ein who was Stephen's doctor who sent him to the top specialists in Toronto to help him win this war.

A Special thank you goes out to Marni (Shore) Mednick and Sol Mednick who opened up their home to Stephen when he was in Toronto. They gave him a place to stay, took him to Dr's appointments, and emergency visits to the hospital. Marni was always baking his favorite cookies and he always left the cookie jar empty.

Stephen was a true patriot. He was always respectful of others and appreciated his roots in Glace Bay.

Stephen was a real Mensch. He was my best friend and he will be greatly missed by all of us. May his memory be a blessing and inspiration always—Barry Lipkus. 🕊

## The AJC invites you to join a special virtual tour

"Jewish Immigration to Canada"

by The Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21

Thursday, February 4, 7 pm AST

Registration information is through our AJC newsletter



Canadian Museum of  
Immigration at Pier 21  
Musée canadien de  
l'immigration du Quai 21



Atlantic  
Jewish  
Council





# STUDYING IN ISRAEL

BY NOAH DRUCKER

## THE DETAILS

For the fall semester of 2020 (September to December) I went to Alexander Muss High School in Israel (AMHSI). The school is located in Hod Hasharon, which is only a short drive from Tel Aviv. I'm not sure how many students attend in normal non COVID circumstances but this year there were 74 of us, everyone there was from America, except me. There were two courses that every student had to take, Israel studies/Jewish history and Hebrew. The rest of the classes were up to you. For a school with less than 100 kids there were an impressive number of options, four history courses, six math courses, two languages (excluding Hebrew), three English courses, six science courses, and others I'm probably forgetting.

## THE EXPERIENCE

Because of the current COVID crisis we had to do a two-week quarantine as soon as we arrived in Israel. There was a small amount of online school, but the program didn't properly start until we got out of isolation. Once we were out of isolation, we had a few hours to move into our new rooms, get acquainted with our new roommates, and then get on the bus for our first field trip into Israel. Out of all the teaching staff we definitely spent the most time with our Israel

studies teachers. They were the ones who led us during all the field trips and taught us about the significance of all the places we went and things we saw. In general, we were really close to all our teachers, partly because of the small class sizes, and partly because of the sheer amount of time we spent with them. By the end of the trip, I really felt like I knew all of them, and they knew me.

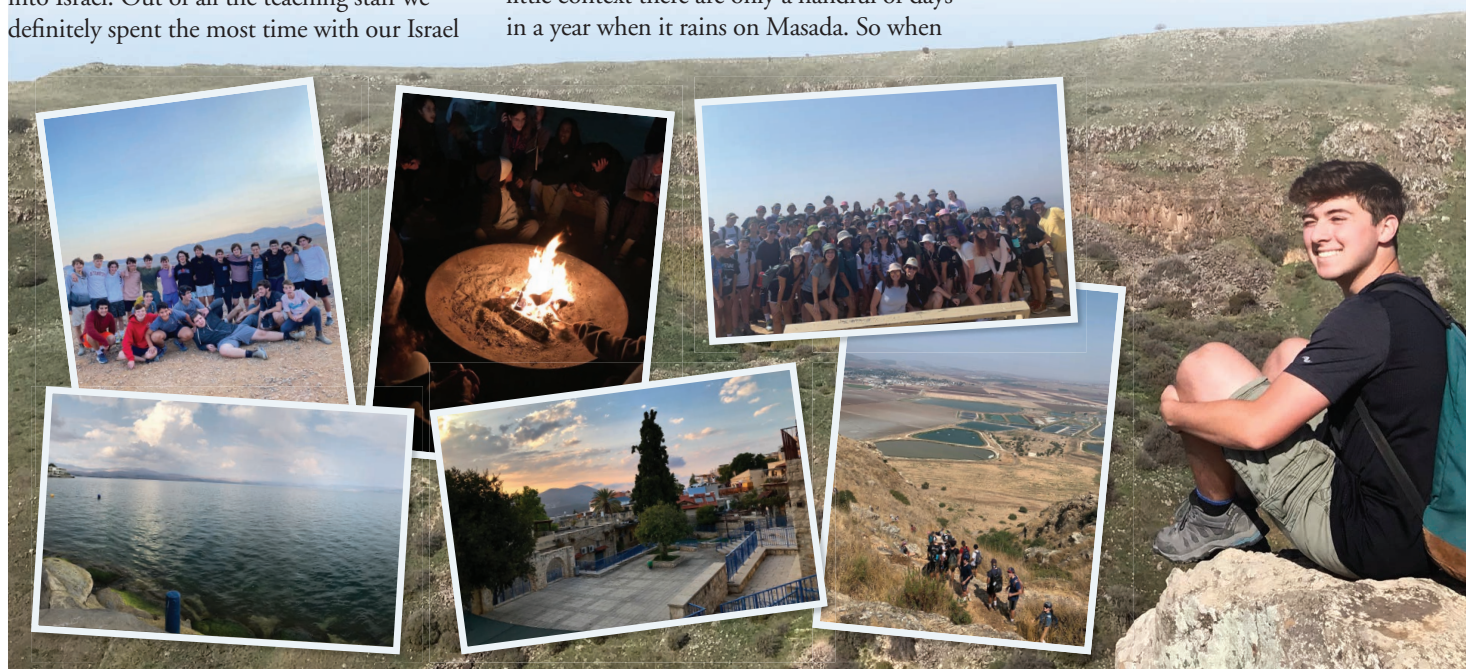
## THE IMPACT ON ME

The four months I spent in Israel at AMHSI have been some of the best months of my life. At points it felt like I was just going to an extended summer camp in Israel. I think the time, bonds, and life-long friendships I made at Muss can be best described by a quote from Winne the Pooh of all things, "we didn't realize we were making memories; we just knew we were having fun." One of my favorite memories which is a perfect example of this was when we summited Masada. Me and the group of guys I was hiking with were the first ones to get to the top, and when we got there it felt like we had conquered the world. That wasn't the best part though. Because it was cloudy, we didn't get the opportunity to see the famous Masada sunrise, what we got was better. For a little context there are only a handful of days in a year when it rains on Masada. So when

someone made the joke that it might start raining, we started doing a rain dance, and it actually started to rain! As goofy as it sounds, the hours we spent at Masada were some of the best of the whole trip.

My time in Israel also had a huge impact on my Jewish identity. From my experience I sometimes find it hard to have a genuine and meaningful connection to Judaism. Especially here where the community is small and we're surrounded by people who aren't Jewish. I remember in Hebrew school that sometimes I found myself having a hard time caring about the historical material being taught. Because they were just stories from thousands of years ago that have no effect on my life today. But in Israel when you could actually go to the scene of these stories and walk the same paths and roads that the prophets and modern heroes did, it suddenly seemed so much more real.

Last of all, I would like to give a huge thank you to the Atlantic Jewish Council for awarding me a Miasnik-Rein Scholarship to support my participation in this program. You have truly made a difference to my life, and I know that your continued support of Atlantic Canadian young adults' participation in similar programs will make a difference for many in the future. 5





# CHRISTMAS AT SPENCER HOUSE

PHOTOS BY EDNA LEVINE AND SCHUYLER SMITH

*Thank you to the volunteers who helped spread holiday cheer during this unusual year:*

*Myrna Yazer / Schuyler Smith / Nancy Cieplinski / Dave Hanson / Lynn Rotin / Gregory Shepshelevich /*

*Flint Schwartz / Kristina McMillan / Sheri Lecker & Mark Evans and children Sam, Joey & Bessie /*

*Rose Noskwith / Jen Pink & Scott Neilson / Vicki & Paul Lipkus / Christie & Ken Hammel and children Laura & Maggie*



Our 9th annual Christmas tradition of serving a festive lunch to seniors, who are socially isolated for the holiday, continued during the pandemic by providing 30+ delivery-only meals and gifts. We deeply missed our in-person celebration and look forward to next year!



## THE 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL SHALOM YOUTH WRITING CONTEST

**We want to hear from you!**

- 🔗 Express your creativity in a short story or poem.  
Topic: Jewish holidays (word count: maximum 800 words)
- 🔗 Share a memory of a Jewish holiday celebration.
- 🔗 Write about an old or new holiday tradition.
- 🔗 Tell us about a change you experienced celebrating during the pandemic.

A surprise gift basket will be awarded to students in each grade and we will publish your submission in our spring issue of Shalom.

**For more information or to submit your piece contact Edna LeVine: [engagement@theajc.ca](mailto:engagement@theajc.ca)**

STUDENTS  
IN GRADES  
1-12

**DEADLINE  
APRIL 2**



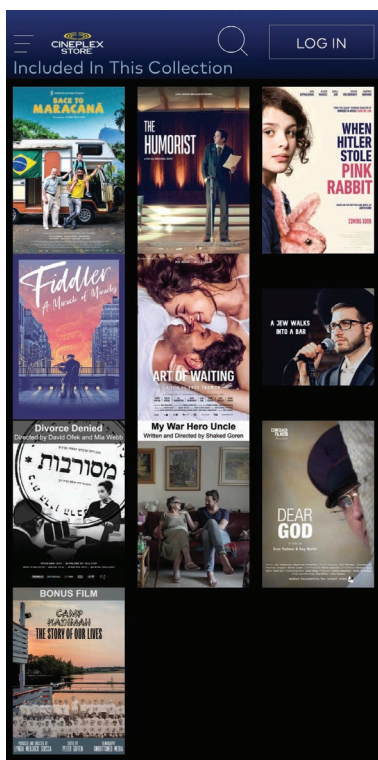
# Atlantic Jewish Virtual Film Festival

AN ATLANTIC JEWISH COUNCIL PRODUCTION

Lynn Rotin, AJFF Chair

## AJFF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Philip Belitsky | Rosalind Belitsky | Jon Goldberg  
Anna Hazankin | Linda Law | Edna LeVine  
Naomi Rosenfeld | Jordan Schelew | Flint Schwartz  
Ann Thaw | Howard Thaw | Peggy Walt



A message from the Chair, Lynn Rotin

The seventh annual Atlantic Jewish Film Festival (AJFF), like most everything this past year, suffered the effects of COVID-19 but, like other festivals and cultural events the world over, the AJFF quickly pivoted, taking the films to the virtual world.



We were the first in Canada to use the Cineplex platform and though it was a learning curve for both the AJFF and the theatre chain with a few glitches here and there and some mild confusion (Edna LeVine manned the phone helping those, like me, who couldn't quite figure it out), we pulled it off. Committee members congratulate yourselves on a fine job. Edna, give yourself a big hand for doing the bulk of the organizing and outdoing yourself during this year of unprecedented challenges. We salute you!

Sure, we missed meeting in person at the theatre, and mingling, and schmoozing, and dressing in all our finery for the Gala but there are some advantages to a virtual film festival. It meant that, for the first time, viewers from across the Atlantic provinces could participate in the AJFF (so nice to have you with us!); that subscribers could stay home on those nasty, blustery late November afternoons and evenings. Every Friday afternoon for the past six years, the weather assaulted us with driving rain and stormy winds. Audience members arrived dripping wet as they raced from their cars to the theatre. I forgot to take note of the weather—I was comfy and warm in my own home, sitting in my reading/viewing chair by the woodstove.

This year our Cast Member sponsors (lounging in their own chairs) could inhale the junk food and imbibe the wine hand-delivered in colourful gift bags by AJFF committee members. Others could nosh unrestricted by Cineplex rules (no outside food!) on their own treats. And we could all invite friends from within personal bubbles into our homes to share a movie night or two. This way many more people than usual were able to see and discuss the films.

*Speaking of discussing the films, the virtual platform also allowed the AJFF committee to add statements and introductions from producers, directors, and others—an added bonus that one could watch or not. Next year, (if we're still an online festival!) we'll figure out a way to have moderated break-out rooms on Zoom at the end so that, together, we can parse the films and share ideas.*

True, there's an energy and a certain communion that passes through a crowd sitting shoulder-to-shoulder in a darkened theatre; a mutual expectation as they wait for the lights to go down; a frisson of excitement when they recognize, at the same time, a wonderful film; there's a bonding when they break out as one into laughter; a communal release, too...especially when it's our Jewish community of friends and neighbours gathering together for our annual AJFF.

We will experience that excitement again when the world is healed. And I don't just mean COVID-19. We all have to take stock of our lives and values and decide what kind of world we want to live in then work diligently towards that. Never giving up. We owe it to our children, our grandchildren, and those that follow us and them...

Let's hope that next year we can sit together, sharing the magic of movies.



## SPONSORED BY



Canadian Jewish Advocacy





# Atlantic Jewish VIRTUAL Film Festival

AN ATLANTIC JEWISH COUNCIL PRODUCTION

## COMING SOON!

The Winter  
"Virtual" AJFF  
for Atlantic Canada



## THE NEW BLACK (SHABABNIKS)

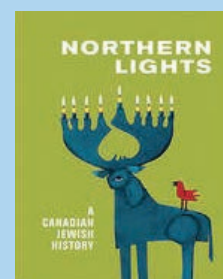
Israel | Series | 2018  
12 episodes/30 minutes each

Dates to be announced on **AJFF.ca**  
and via our AJC newsletter:  
subscribe at: [www.theAJC.ca](http://www.theAJC.ca)

**Synopsis:** The show features a group of four Haredi students who study at a yeshiva in Jerusalem. One of them, Gedalya, is on the straight and narrow, while the other three prefer their Talmud study with a side of hanging out in the park, shopping at the mall and general goofing off. Shababniks is a Hebrew slang word for a Haredi youth who is off the path—but not entirely. There are no tortured heroes or heartbreaking scenes in Shababniks. What you will find in Shababniks is fun, and a lot of it.

## 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](mailto:executivedirector@theajc.ca) to purchase your copy.

# CAPE BRETON NEWS

BY SHARON JACOBSON

I Guess Hindsight is 2020, and it definitely WAS quite a year! Re: the Pandemic: Common Wisdom says it was “our war”, meaning the post WWII generations. So, I suppose it can best be described as “Boots On The Couch”?

Here in Cape Breton, we felt quite fortunate; our bubble floated along. Indeed, my head floated in a bubble as hours, days, and months fused together into one huge continuous timeline with no beginning or end. Where did the half hours go? Consequently, please excuse what may be a muddled reporting of events in no coherent order.

First of all, I must list the participants attending our High Holiday services, if for no other reason than it was delightfully surprising. Rabbi Ellis, of course, with appreciation, conducted prayers. I would love to sing the list that follows to the tune of Offenbach's Can-Can, (if I Could-Could) just to be joyful! Martin & Gail Chernin, Martin & Margaret Karrel, Barry Carnat, BethSheila Kent, Darren & Ethan Strong, Dr. Sandra Wajstaub, Margo Schwartz, Dr. Shelley & Kate Falik from the other side of the Island, Fred Blufarb, Andrew Prossin, the Elman clan, Frank, Joan, Marlene, husband, Skip & daughter, Ariel; Leon and Beth and Ella Dubinsky, Inez Schwartz, Raymond Goldman, David Ein & Paula, Lowell & Bunny Shore, Jerry and Betty Shore, Moe Lief, Leslie & Josine Dubinsky, Noreen & Ian Nathanson, Jacqueline Mercer, Anton Selkowitz, Sharon & Stanley Jacobson.

We must all have some 5000-year-old Cheder coursing through our veins! From anywhere and everywhere we surface at this important time of year to come together—A Jewish DNA! (Daled, Nun, Aleph)? (I would be remiss if I failed to mention Marlene Elman who took charge of our annual Break-Fast with gusto!). We went from a Summer with a bit more breathing room to a Fall from grace. But still, as social-distancing and the duo of kippas and masks became “de rigour”, our services continued. We even had a “miracle minyan.” At the last minute, 2 members could not attend. Unexpectedly, Harold Yazer and Andrew Prossin arrived to round our numbers back up to 10! Do you see

the pattern? There's that Jewish DNA coming to the fore.

Mark Simon sent us a photo of a Torah Cover, designed in memory of his parents, Ruth & Phil Simon and brother Allan, which graces the Glace Bay Torah now a part of a Toronto Shul. It's inscription includes “This Torah proudly served the Glace Bay Jewish Community”. And so it goes.

On Friday, August 22, 2020, the children of Louis Allen, Jonathan, Stephen, Roz and Shayna, came together, despite the difficulties they had to overcome due to COVID, for the funeral of their father. Immediate and extended family members, as well as many friends wanted to be there. His sister, Faye (Tootsie) attended via Zoom. The tributes were warm, funny, and heartfelt. The stories of this native son of Cape Breton and his impact on people's lives grew with the telling. I think he put New Waterford on the map!

Another former resident of CB passed away this season. Stephen Rukasin of Glace Bay, only son of Ellen and Ruby Rukasin. He attended my Cheder. Affable, serious, yet with a winning dimpled smile, he left his Talmud Torah chevrah bereft.

Alas, there were joyful moments as well—Tootsie David turned 92 years young. Moe Lief and Lowell Shore turned 75 years old, and Daniel Carnat and Esther Rhee produced a fine offspring, Alexander Young Carnat.

The Zoom Bar Mitzvah of Ben Strug of California, whose ties to Camp Kadimah come from his Offman-Strug legacy (Halifax) and the Zoom Bat Mitzvahs of Scotia Kuriloff and Mikayla Crocco. Scotia's grandparents, Peshe & Peter Kuriloff reside in Cape Breton every summer and are regular attendees at Shul. The family has also strong Kadimah ties! Ben and Scotia both attend The Camp!

Mikayla, (Ontario) whose Cape Breton connection is her grandmother, Marni Shore Mednick and great grandmother, Bella Shore also celebrated her coming of age! Aunt Bella, aged 98 years was enraptured for 2 hours as she watched the service and spoke to the family! Indeed, Everyone's heart went Zoom! Golly, golly!

For sure, this is Social Media at its best. However, I could now use some “social



PHOTOS: 1. Moe's monumental display in Englishtown a Magen David and Menorah! 2-3. A visit to Harold Yazer's farm in Boularderie. 4. Fish & Chips, outdoor lunch. 5-6: Celebrating in the synagogue.

media-distancing”?! My Apps are growing in number just keeping in touch, while the day disappears? All good, though I did not know solitary confinement could be so convivial!

The fare you will find passed along on social media can be, to use a quote from a distinguished author “pleasant and at times witty” or witty and at times, pleasant.”

I personally have taken to reading old classics. I picked up Charles Dickens' Bleak House from the library. G.K. Chesterton claimed it to be his best work...there are notes of explanation at the back of the book for common phrases and allusions popular in the 1800's. There was one word “gonoph”... I looked it up in the back of the book. It meant “pickpocket”!

Who new the Jewish vernacular had entered the everyday language of British society? (Come to think of it, they say Fagin in Dickens' Oliver was a Jew?)

Beth Sheila Kent could tell Donald Trump a thing or two about “tweeting”. She has been a regular guest on a morning radio show discussing the birds of Cape Breton!

There was a lovely Farm Brunch at Myrna and Harold's On Labour Day. And, Bunny & Lowell Shore have moved to Sydney and it is wonderful to have new members!

# MONCTON NEWS

BY FRANCIS WEIL

## SHMUSH FROM MONCTON

As everybody else, the greater Moncton Jewish community (it includes Sackville, Dieppe, Woodstock, Riverview, Miramichi, and Johnston Point) is living with the COVID-19 rules imposed by the provincial government. Luckily, we were in “zone yellow” during the High Holidays and were able to hold services. Our ‘Hazzan was Pinny Yagod. Rabbi Yagod and Pinny were able to enter Canada 14 days earlier. They spent the quarantine in their Moncton’s house. Due to COVID-19, the services were shortened to reduce the amount of time people were together. But all the essential prayers were made. Rabbi Yagod and Pinny have remained with us ever since.

\*\*\*

‘Hanukah was well celebrated except somewhat differently. We could not light the Menorah at the Hospital, but the ceremony at City Hall took place, although in a different way: Rabbi Yagod was at the Menorah while everybody else was on Zoom. Her Worship, Dawn Arnold, Mayor of Moncton, said a few words and everyone sang Maoz Tzur. Then, on Sunday December 13, we had a beautiful virtual ‘Hanukah gathering on Zoom, featuring Neri Harris a young violin virtuoso from Bangor, Maine, preparing his Bar-Mitzvah. We also had the pleasure to hear two beautiful songs from well know ‘Hazzan Shlomo Brummer, from London, England. It was a pleasure to see the many members come on Zoom, some from the Moncton area, some others from different cities. Many had not seen each other for a while and rejoiced in being able to hear and see old acquaintances.

\*\*\*

Mazal Tov to Betty Rubin and Victoria Volkanova for organizing (with the help of a whole crew—too numerous to mention) a successful ‘Hanukah event: distribution of beautiful and delicious kosher cookies from Mothers Bakery. Thank you, Darlene and John.

\*\*\*

Flora and Fauna with Merry Weather (couldn’t resist the pun on Disney’s little fairies in Sleeping Beauty) is a subject of which she is quite adept on the island. She has led a few of us on trails around the Bras D’Or we had no idea existed.

The Atlantic Jewish Council online newsletter is rather impressive. It announces sundry virtual programmes with streaming ability, such as Remembrance Day. But a very special one shines in my mind... Light Across The Middle East was historic in that ambassadors to two Arab countries celebrated the lighting of the chanukia with Israel! It was a little bridge that I did not think I would see in my lifetime.

Indeed, Chanukah was quite creative this year with many “Viral” messages passed around... the one with the vaccine injections taking the place of the candles in the menorah definitely marked the miracle we have been awaiting... Photos of different families across Canada lighting the candles for a distinct day was requested by JNF. We were asked to light the sixth....and...

Another organization, TimeBank was making a DVD for Seniors who would be spending the holidays alone; they asked participants of different faiths to describe their particular holiday of this season. We were asked to talk about Chanukah!

Moe Lief constructed his own Magen David and Menorah on his property in Englishtown! It was imposing!

A few visitors made it to the Island. Matthew Jacobson drove from Boston to a “Work from Home” situation here in Mira. After quarantining, he hopes to stay about 4 months. Susan Shore Abramovitch made it from Toronto to visit her mother, Bella Shore. Her stay encompasses a month including self-isolating. She is also working from home. I believe Elin and Ella Dubinsky moved here awhile ago? Apparently, this “rite” of return is quite popular and may have been spurred on by COVID. Also, to note, we suspended services as the 2nd Wave of COVID washed over us. Hopefully sometime next year, we shall resume.

This brings me to what some may describe as “the watch that ends the night”. The tumultuous US election. I can only end with a quote from Rumi, a Persian poet, “There is a field beyond right and wrong And I will meet you there...” To a brighter, safer 2021. ☺



We have a special thought for all who are in senior care homes, Rubin, Ann, Max and Ruby. Thank you very much Victoria, Rebbetzin and Anne for taking care of those who need help and supplying them with delicious meals.

\*\*\*

Cheder has continued, interrupted only by the vacations. Rebbetzin Yagod has weekly online lessons with some of the kids. She also has a weekly Yiddish class with a few members. Rabbi Yagod continues to give Dvar Torah and lessons to various members of the community using the Zoom media. To participate to these Zoom gatherings, please send a message to rabbiyagod1@gmail.com.

We are very sad to have lost three great members: Bella Rose, z”l, on August 21: [www.fergusonsfuneralhome.com/obituaries/148311](http://www.fergusonsfuneralhome.com/obituaries/148311); Gordon Rinzler, z”l, on November 4: [necrocanada.com/obituaries-2020/gordon-rinzler-2020/](http://necrocanada.com/obituaries-2020/gordon-rinzler-2020/); Joseph Kohn, z”l, on November 29, the eulogy for Joseph Kohn, said by Irwin Lampert, can be found at: [www.tiferesisrael.com/Docs/BulletinHanukah5781.pdf](http://www.tiferesisrael.com/Docs/BulletinHanukah5781.pdf)

Our most sincere condolences to the families. They all will be missed dearly. ☹

TO ADVERTISE IN

## Shalom

Please contact the AJC  
info@theajc.ca



# PEI NEWS

BY JOSEPH B. GLASS

The Jewish community organized three gatherings for the High Holidays this year. These events were held at the York Community Centre which allowed for proper social distancing. Despite having taken all the recommended public health precautions, people were anxious about COVID-19 and attendance was poor.

\*\*\*

For Sukkot, the Hoerstring family—Raquel, Rafael, Amalia, and Joel—constructed and decorated a sukkah in their backyard in Charlottetown. They opened it to members of the Jewish community to fulfill the obligation of sitting and eating in a sukkah. The sukkah was furnished with a lulav and etrog for visitors to fulfill the mitzvah of blessing them. This year, in adherence to COVID-19 measures, visitors were encouraged to stagger their visits and maintain social distancing. The community usually shares a potluck meal in the sukkah but this year, people were asked to bring their own snacks.

\*\*\*

Unfortunately, we could not gather to celebrate Hanukkah. A few of our younger members prepared video clips for the holiday which were shared with the PEIJC membership. Amalia Hoerstring beautifully sang the blessings for the lighting of the candles on the first night of Hanukkah. Eli Opps provided a delightful piano performance for Hanukkah. Eli's father, Sheldon Opps, added warm greetings and wishes to the community. He shared a special prayer for everyone and for brighter days ahead and the "hope that this Festival of Lights reminds us of how precious life is, how lucky we are, and how delicate the fabric of our lives can be." A special thank you to Eli's and Amalia's Hebrew teacher, Ilana Clyde, for her tremendous generosity and kindness.

Although she is wintering in Maine, we are so grateful for all that Ilana is doing for the community virtually.

Two community representatives were interviewed, and they discussed Hanukkah on CBC Radio. Speaker and writer Martin Rutte talked with Matt Rainnie on the program *Mainstreet PEI*. Martin, a stranded snowbird, enlighten the listeners with his information on the history and traditions around Hannukah. President of the PEIJC, Leo Mednick, chatted with Mitch Cormier on the program *Island Morning*. Leo provided his insights on how Hanukkah is being celebrated differently on PEI due to COVID-19.

The community also shared Hanukkah related photos and posts. The highlights were: Valen, Marley (Miriam Rivkah) Kwitko's son, eating his first latke; Felix and his mother Shamara Baidobonso preparing to light the sixth candle; and Leslee Sack's beautiful display of Hanukkah lights and blow ups. The display, which included a dreidel and two polar bears donning kipahs and tallits, illuminated Stratford and delighted passers-by.

\*\*\*

The PEIJC celebrates that achievements of its members. Our treasurer, Shamara Baidobonso, a provincial epidemiologist, is on Chatelaine's 33 Black Canadians Making Change Now list. CBC *Island Morning* host Mitch Cormier spoke to Baidobonso about making the list. "I was initially quite speechless when I saw the full list and saw the people that are included on that list. Some names that I was familiar with, people that have been doing very high calibre work for decades," she said. "I am humbled that someone thought my work was important enough, that my work should be highlighted."



PHOTOS: 1. Celebrating Hanukkah 2. Valen eating his first latke 3. Felix and his mother Shamara lighting the sixth candle 4. Leslee Sack's beautiful Hanukkah display.

As an epidemiologist, Shamara is interested in how different communities are affected by viruses and has a particular focus on how HIV has a disproportionate impact on members of African, Caribbean, and Black communities.

\*\*\*

Congratulations to J. J. Steinfeld on the publishing of *Morning Bafflement & Timeless Puzzlement* by Ekstasis Editions. The 102 poems continue the dialogue with and a questioning of the human condition as they hover above what the author sees as the absurd, the existential, and otherworldly elements of life, the ordinary and the extraordinary spheres of being, that J. J. Steinfeld embarked upon in his previous Ekstasis Editions poetry collection, *A Visit to the Kafka Café* (2018). These poems once again attempt to make sense out of the way we conduct our lives, to find meaning in our not always meaningful surroundings, to look at individuals caught in the sometimes joyous, sometimes frightening, yet endlessly fascinating moments of existence and being. 🌟

## SEND A Partnership2Gether GIFT CARD TO CELEBRATE!

### HELP SUPPORT OUR VALUABLE PROJECTS IN NORTHERN ISRAEL

Contact Naomi Rosenfeld, executive director: 902-422-7493 | [norsenfeld@theajc.ca](mailto:norsenfeld@theajc.ca)

# SAINT JOHN NEWS

BY SUSAN ISAACS-LUBIN

The Saint John Jewish Community has been really quiet, particularly for the month we were in the “orange” level of COVID-19 activity.

\*\*\*

We did not have regular Shabbat Services during our Orange level, and now that we are back in “yellow”, we have been cautious about gathering.

\*\*\*

Our large Chanukah Menorah was placed outside the Synagogue, but there was no community gathering. Normally we

have a lighting with all of the Saint John community invited, with sufganiot and latkes, and entertainment by the children of the Congregation. This year, Katherine Biggs Craft, from our Museum, lit the candles each night. Hopefully, next year we can celebrate as usual.

\*\*\*

We held our Annual General Meeting in November, and most of our Board members continued with their service. We welcome newcomers, Shelley Cohen Thorley, Meital Or

and Anna Vinizer Morneau to the Board.

\*\*\*

We would also like to thank Dr. Joseph Arditti for his years of Service on the Board. Joe decided that he would not offer for this year, and we are sorry to see him leave the Board.

\*\*\*

Lloyd Goldsmith was the only one of our snowbirds to leave this year. All of the others are here “enjoying” our winter weather! Most of them have not enjoyed winter in many years, and I for one, am not looking forward to the weather in the next few months! Hopefully, Mother Nature will not be too harsh on us.

\*\*\*

We wish everyone a healthy and safe New Year, and may 2021 be COVID-free! 🌟

# FREDERICTON NEWS

BY IVAN LEVINE, PRESIDENT, SGOOLAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

## GREETINGS AND UPDATE

On behalf of the Board and myself, I want to wish you all a Healthy 2021, being an important year for Self-Learning, Acceptance, Harmony and Contentment.

We are all joyous to learn that we are back in the Yellow COVID stage. The stress level lowers as well. I always said for decades, the Maritimes is G-D's Country in our world. How fortunate we are!

\*\*\*

Our Shabbat short COVID services have resumed for Friday night only. We sign the COVID attendance sheet on the front table, use the hand sanitizer and as always respect social distance. I always like to see faces at services that give me confidence that we are well and honouring each other's presence while abiding to Covert guidelines.

\*\*\*

We are so overwhelmed by the response that we are receiving from all over North America for our virtual Fredericton Jewish Museum that will be seen from everywhere latter in the year. Research has dated back to the genealogy of the Ser-Charlap Family 1800's in Eastern Europe/The Pale. Cary Grobe is working diligently on entering all the photos and even putting music to the several categories e.g., History including pictures from 1890,

Events from the 1920s, Holocaust programs, Documents, Hadassah, Sisterhood, B'nai Brith, Hebrew School, Immigration program, Rabbis, Children, Educational, old Board/ Executive, videos, etc. We had to expand north, south and east Provincial borders to Fredericton, as so many small communities' members attended our Synagogue.

\*\*\*

The Museum committee also consist of Robert Brown, Daniel Chippin, Leon Gimelshtein and myself with special thanks to Sydel Grove, Doris Rauch, Edye Besner, Melvin Brown, Marilyn Kaufmann, and Shelley Stephen. Research include The NB Provincial Archive and [www.findagrave.com/](http://www.findagrave.com/) cemetery.

\*\*\*

Also, of interest, we had a Zoom Channukah candle lighting by our Rabbi Josef. The Rabbi and I have had 3 requests of people who recently moved here for menorahs and kosher food due to COVID. We had a very successful Kol Nidre appeal, one of the largest thanks to Arnold and Ruth Chippin. Also, our UIA Appeal was revigorated by Arnold and Judy Budovitch plus Marilyn Kaufman.

\*\*\*

Best Health and Thank you to all for making my task enjoyable and invigorating. 🌟

## SPECIAL AJC MEETING

I had the good fortune to attend the critical Special AJC meeting at the Halifax Lord Nelson September 13, 2020, which had the potential to threaten the viability of our AJC.

First, I want to personally and as President of Fredericton Community, congratulate the Chair, Board, Executive and our proficient Executive Director on the outstanding service to Atlantic Canada Jewry, which I might say is predominately Volunteers. Yacha Koyac!

The Atlantic Jewish Council, is only effective, with a give-and-take philosophy. The issue presented by a minority voice, as to what they can receive from the AJC, should be a mutual agreement, including how they can give of their time and resources to make the council more responsive and effective in fulfilling their desires.

With more than 30 years of involvement, with the AJC, including as past president, my view is that it's vital to our future, that we maintain our democratic and inclusive philosophy. This approach has served the Atlantic Jewish Council well, and it will continue to serve us well.

Faced with this unprecedented public-health crisis, which profoundly affects how we operate, deliver services and move forward, change must come about through the evolution of constructive ideas.

In these challenging times, a dramatic, radical approach would be counterproductive and not in our organization's best interests. A special thank you to Darrel Pink on his presentation of By Laws to strengthen our AJC.—Ivan Levine

# NEWFOUNDLAND NEWS

News from the far east BY RABBI CHANAN AND TUBA CHERNITSKY

## WE STARTED OFF THE NEW YEAR, 5781, ON THE RIGHT FOOT!

Big news! We were able to secure a bigger and better location for our activities. The growing community and interest in Judaism required a bigger space and Thank G-d, with the help of international donors this is now a reality. More details to come!

\*\*\*

We came together for a short service with highlights of the Rosh Hashanah prayers on the 2nd day of the holiday. Rabbi Chernitsky explained the source and background for each of the prayers said and lead the attendees in joyous and traditional tunes all throughout the service.

Rabbi Chernitsky blew the shofar (for the first time this year, since the Shofar isn't blown on Shabbat), made Kiddush and everyone sat down for a socially distanced Rosh Hashanah meal. Did we mention the brisket? Rabbi Chernitsky shared inspirational stories and a Dvar Torah showing how we can bring Rosh Hashana with us into the whole year.

\*\*\*

Not too long afterwards we came together again for Kol Nidrei. At the conclusion of the service Rabbi Chernitsky explained the source and meaning of the Kol Nidrei, ending with the story of Shimon Perez and the lesson of never to give up.

\*\*\*

We came together again for the Neilah service for the conclusion of Yom Kippur. The service was spiced with both Talmudic and contemporary stories together with insights into the prayers.

After the Mariv prayers at the end of Yom Kippur were recited, Rabbi Cherintsky made Havdalah and we sat down for the break fast meal. Not as good as the Rosh Hashanah brisket but there were no complaints!

\*\*\*

Due to COVID restrictions we didn't host a Sukkot program but we drove around town with the Lulav and Etrog giving everyone a chance to fulfill this important Mitzvah which highlights Jewish unity. We look forward to hosting a Sukkah party in 5782!

\*\*\*

Another change due to COVID: We didn't host the usual Menorah lighting at Bannerman park. Instead we put together a drive-in event at the Viking Building on Crosbie road, one of the office buildings here on the Sunday of Chanukah.

About 75 cars joined the event despite inclement weather, snow! Present at the Menorah lighting were The Honourable Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador Judy Foote, Minister Bernard Davis representing Premier Andrew Furey, MP Jack



Harris and St. John's mayor Danny Breen. The Lieutenant Governor light the Shamash and shared greetings, followed by Minister Davis, Mr. Jack Harris and Mayor Breen.



\*\*\*

Richard Rivkin was honoured with the lighting of the four candles of the Menorah and we finished off the ceremony with the singing of "Maoz Tzur". Menorahs and candles were available for whomever needed. Definitely a night to remember!

Best Wishes for a healthy and warm winter!

*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](mailto:chabadofnewfoundland@gmail.com).*

## BETH EL SYNAGOGUE NEWS

BY DR MICHAEL PAUL, PRESIDENT

The High Holiday season was devoted to improving relations between the 2 main Jewish groups in the city- Beth El Synagogue and the Jewish Community Havura. We decided that this would be an opportune moment to have combined High Holiday services. This was accomplished as most

members of both groups saw the valuable necessity of combining forces, especially in the time of the pandemic.

There were several meetings. The main prayer leaders- Elizabeth Loder and Michael Paul worked out a method of combining both Machzorim for the services.

Over both days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, there were minyanim and most attendees who came to the Synagogue, thoroughly enjoyed the services, Divrei Torah and the Torah readings.

We have been fortunate to have been allowed to continue with weekly services on Friday evenings and Shabbat mornings. Since May 2020 we have continued uninterrupted.

Unfortunately, we could not have communal meals over the Rosh HaShanah period, nor over Chanukah, but as soon as restrictions are lifted, both groups have committed to continue combining services and light refreshments.

We are now planning our Passover food orders and possibly see what we can do regarding community seders.

A Holocaust Memorial Service is being worked upon, and it is hoped that a lecture written by retired Memorial University historian and author- Dr Gerhard Bassler, will be published in the local paper on International Holocaust Memorial Day- January 27.



# THE END OF AN ERA

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

This past month, my father passed away after years of being a stranger in his own body. The loving, caring father who chose his words carefully, the rabbi with great oratorical skills, the communal leader who knew when to be silent and when to use just a few chosen words was no longer able to communicate. The power of speech that he mastered in his earlier years had escaped his reach. But with his death, my wife and I, my family and all that knew him were able to refocus on the superior qualities that he possessed as a husband, a father, a rabbi and a communal leader that rarely exists in our world.

This time of year, we begin to read the Book of Exodus. Our attention passes from the personal and individual stories of Genesis to the forming of the Jewish nation. History has taught us that a community and a people have many factors that direct its development. Leadership is an essential ingredient in that process, one that helps shape our communities and the Jewish nation as a whole. In the opening chapters of Exodus, the Torah portrays two models of leaders in the figures of Moshe and Aaron. Moshe is depicted as somewhat aloof. He lives apart from his family and people in the palace of Pharaoh, escapes to a far-off land and lives a solitary life in the wilderness. His family only plays a small role in his story and his children

do not inherit the mantle of leadership. He is a man who meets God on the heights of Mount Sinai. While the people are partying down below, Moshe is described as leading an angelic life, not partaking in food or drink for forty days. When he descends the mountain, he is enveloped by a halo of light and wears a veil to shield the lesser beings from his aura. Although the Torah attests to his humility, it also tells us that he attained the heights of prophecy never again to be reached by another human being. Although, he speaks more than anyone in the Torah, he complains to God that he is not a man of words. Seemingly, he is not describing an inability to articulate speech; rather he is bemoaning the fact that he cannot relate to the common man. He is too elevated, too spiritual, too holy to feel the pain of others, to understand the struggles that we average people experience. His greatness becomes the ultimate weakness and he is not able to lead his people into the promised land.

Aaron on the other hand, is a man of the people. He is a priest but that does not necessarily connote separateness. Rather, we are told that he will bring the word of God to the people and more importantly he brings the people closer to God. His entrance to the holy of holies is reserved for one day a year. The rest of the time he inhabits the everyday world of his people, sees their struggles and

feels their pain. He helps the Jews in the fashioning of the Golden Calf but is not punished for what appears to be a grave sin. Simply, it is because his intention was not a sinful act of rebellion but an attempt to mediate the distance that an average human being feels in relationship to God and spirituality.

My father was that rare individual who personified both forms of leadership. His mind could dwell in the heights of Torah, the intricacies of the Talmud or the rarefied world of philosophy but he was never distant from the problems that often plague both family and congregants. He surely inherited and learned from his own father the beauty of peace. My grandfather, Aaron Kerzner, was a *rodeph shalom*, a seeker of peace par excellence. There was not an argumentative bone in his body. My father possessed that quality but also maintained a dignity and nobility of spirit that set him apart from the average man on the street. You knew you were in presence of greatness but still felt the warmth of a father and the caring of a friend. He was a Moshe and Aaron all wrapped up in one. His presence commanded respect but his words and demeanor drew you into the presence of a warm and loving father. His memory will always be a blessing for everyone who was touched by his greatness, humility and warmth. 🕊



## Mazel tov our Winter 2021 Abraham Leventhal Memorial Scholarship Recipients



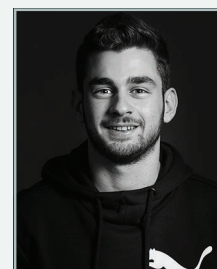
**Ada Denil**  
NSCAD  
*Bachelor of Fine Arts*



**Elias Vajda**  
Dalhousie  
*Science*



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



**Sean Shvartzman**  
NSCC  
*Automotive Service & Repair*

# SELF SACRIFICE—THEN AND NOW

BY RABBI MENDEL FELDMAN, CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF THE MARITIMES

The 10th day of the Jewish month of Shevat (in Hebrew Yud Shevat, this year Shabbat January 23rd) marks the 71st Yahrzeit of the sixth Lubavitcher Rebbe Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak Schneerson (1880-1950) of Righteous Memory.

On the day of a person's yahrzeit, we remember the person and learn from their good deeds. This is especially true on the yahrzeit of a Tzadik (a righteous person).

The Previous Rebbe led a life of *mesirus nefesh* (self sacrifice) and complete selflessness. *Mesirus nefesh* was his motto and way of life wherever he was, first in Russia, then in Poland and eventually in the USA.

## IN RUSSIA

In 1920 the Previous Rebbe accepted the leadership of the Lubavitch movement located in Rostov (Southern Russia) at the time. Three years earlier the Communist Party had wrested control of the Russian Empire, and the party's *Yevsekzia* ("Jewish Section") embarked on a ruthless war against Judaism. Schools, synagogues, and religious institutions were shut down. Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak led the struggle to keep Judaism alive, dispatching his emissaries to the length and breadth of

the land to establish underground schools, *mikvahs*, and supply lines of financial aid and kosher food. Despite terrible hardships, being arrested, imprisoned, and beaten, he still persisted.

## IN POLAND

After his release from prison in 1927 (for spearheading the underground Jewish network), he was forced to leave Russia and arrived in Poland. In Poland, the previous Rebbe had a different form of challenge and self sacrifice.

The previous Rebbe vested much effort, energy and funds creating a network of *yeshivos* in small towns scattered throughout Poland. However, he was confronted by many Jewish leaders there, who did not agree with his approach. They argued that it is hard enough to support and maintain the big *yeshivos* that already exist in the main cities, why spend so much effort and funds setting up *yeshivos* in small, scattered towns. Nonetheless, this did not deter the Rebbe from forging ahead with his vision and goals.

## IN AMERICA

Escaping the war, the Previous Rebbe arrived

on American shores in March of 1940.

Ahead of him lay a spiritual desert, a community of Jews that was assimilating at a rapid rate. America's open society posed no physical threat to Jewish life but made it all too easy for Jews to abandon their spiritual heritage in favor of the America dream.

Despite personal illness and frailty, he made intensive efforts both to save Jews from the Nazi onslaught, and to lay down a foundation for the perpetuation of Jewish life in America. The Previous Rebbe's first statement (and campaign) was: "America is no different!" With enormous *mesirus nefesh*, he persuaded Jews to keep the Torah and *mitzvos* openly and proudly. That paved the way for America to become a haven where Jews practice their Yiddishkeit with pride and joy!

So too, on the very evening of his arrival, he re-established Chabad's central Yeshiva Tomchei Temimim, in New York, there to imbue a new generation of American Jews with the potent spirit of Chassidism.

As we approach the Previous Rebbe's 71st Yahrzeit (this year on Shabbat January 23) let's internalise his message and make an effort to grow in our Yiddishkeit though it may require some sacrifice on our part. 🕒



# PURIM AND THE CORONAVIRUS ERA: A CONTRAST OF TIMES

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

Looking out at the snow through my kitchen window, the scent of fresh bread filling the kitchen, I'm reminded that soon it will be Purim and time to bake Hamentaschen. This brings sharply to focus the memory of last Purim and the contrast in times: last Purim, coronavirus was known but the pandemic hadn't yet been declared, and no one knew what the year would hold in store for us.

We went on with Purim celebrations naturally assuming the national news of coronavirus would soon fade out and be

added to the list of historical news breakers occupying minor space in the global conscious: the Kuwait war, the San Francisco fire, Texan independence, Mt. Sakurajima's eruption. We were blissfully unaware of all that would follow... the declaration of the pandemic, the virus reaching every country in the world, millions of people getting sick and dying, hospitals suffering medical explosions, the workforces everywhere shutting down and people transitioning to do everything from home and the Internet.

The coronavirus has dramatically changed

the world as we know it: everyone conducting daily life on the Internet and people cautious when venturing outside, businesses everywhere employing sanitation protocol, and the entire world conscious of germ spread. Now the year mark and it will soon be the anniversary of the pandemic. And just as 2020/5780 was a year of everything turning over in the most dramatic and unexpected way, May God grant us that 2021/5781 also be a year of everything changing unexpectedly and dramatically for the good. 🕒

# YOUR LIFE, MY AUTOGRAPH

BY RABBI CHANAN CHERNITSKY, DIRECTOR, CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF NEWFOUNDLAND

As told by my colleague, Rabbi YY Jacobson: There's a Jewish lady by the name of Sonya Tumarkin.

She was born in the USSR. She grew up under persecution, starvation and hunger.

She emigrated with her family to the United States in 1989.

Sonya was fortunate to be at the National Constitution Centre in Philadelphia in 2008, where

George W. Bush was awarding Mikhail Gorbachev with the Liberty Medal, the highest honour.

Mr. Gorbachev was being rewarded for his work in ending the cold war, taking down the Berlin wall and dismantling the Soviet Union.

Sonya couldn't believe her eyes. Growing up in difficult circumstances, she never even dreamt she would witness such an event. Mr. Gorbachev was recognized for dismantling the Soviet Union in front of hundreds of people.

Today, Judaism in Russia is flourishing! There are over 200 public Menorah lightings besides the big Menorah that's lit every year in the Red Square in Moscow!

Sonya says that at the award ceremony she needed to use the bathroom. She asked one of the guards how to get there and when she came out, lo and behold, Mr. Gorbachev was standing right in front of her!

She opens her mouth and says: "Mr Gorbachev. I'm so grateful for everything you've done for me, for my family, for the Jews of Russia, the citizens of Russia. Can you please give me your autograph so that I may carry this day with me forever?"

Without missing a beat, Mikhail Gorbachev looked at her and said: "Your life is my autograph".

We sometimes ask: Where is G-d?

The very existence of the Jewish people is G-d's autograph.

Let's face it, without Divine assistance we have no chance and we had no chance of survival.

Look at Judaism around the world today! Over a thousand years after the destruction of the temple, may it be speedily rebuilt, and


Judaism is flourishing all across the globe.

Despite all the suffering, destruction and trauma, here we are to tell the tale.

I have a suggestion. Think about someone else. Once a week or even once a month.

Think about someone whose sun has set. Think about someone that needs inspiration. Think about someone that needs a boost, that needs some help.

Be the light for him or her! Be that inspiration! Reach out to them!

Make their life, your autograph. Have a warm and healthy winter! 



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](http://WWW.BISHOPSCELLAR.COM)





# WHEN THE MESSIAH COMES

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

When I was younger, we would listen to music while cleaning the house and preparing the meals for Shabbat & Passover. We had a selection of cassettes (if you remember what those are, you are older than 25...) and one of them was of Moshe Yess Z"l (OBM) and his band Megama. Most of his music can be found on YouTube, and I highly recommend listening to these beautiful songs! He has a song named: "When the Messiah Comes" which repeats a verse that we say in our daily prayers at least Four times according to my count (3 times at the end of Aleinu, and once at the end of the Song at the Sea). This verse is from Zachariah's last chapter (14:9): "and on that Day—G-d will be One, and his Name will be One".

Last week, in a conversation with my sister in Israel, I said that in addition to all the prophets' promises about the End of Days, I have my own list of things that will change in order to make our world a better place—TIKKUN OLAM! Because, in my opinion, the only reason Hashem will send the Messiah is to have the ultimate place for

mankind to live in peace, and have no fear that something bad will happen ever again, even by mistake! I reminded her that when we made Aliya on the 17th of Cheshvan, 5,736 (October 22nd, 1975) my parents filled out an application to have a land-line (telephone), and we received it almost Nine years later—on her 3rd Birthday!

One of the things on my list that I think will happen when the Messiah comes, is that when people want to buy a car—they will be required to fill out an application, to explain why it is necessary for them, and it will take up to Two years for the answer to come (and you may be denied). Let me give some background information, before you start throwing the rotten tomatoes (or stoning me...). When I was learning how to drive a car in South Florida, 25 years ago, the instructor made sure that we knew that the right to drive a car, is conditioned with the realization that there are many limitations to this privilege. We were told that the Government has the right (and obligation) to confiscate the car if a law was broken using

the vehicle—even if the engine isn't running! For example, making an illegal transaction in the car (I leave it to your imagination), and, of course, if there is any part of the vehicle which isn't functioning at its best. In 1950, the worldwide production of new cars (including all other motor vehicles, such as buses and motorcycles) was 7.8 Million; in comparison, in 2018 production of new cars (excluding other motor vehicles) was 97 Million! I don't want anyone to lose their job in the car industry or in paving wider and safer roads, but I think that it's time for a change. I expect that if my idea for an application doesn't work (for the Messiah), we will be required to drive vehicles that are made of safer and stronger materials, that our cars will not be able to drive above the speed limit (except for first responders); and that we will be much kinder and careful drivers.

May Hashem's promise to us by our Prophet Isaiah (25:8) be fulfilled speedily in our days: "He will swallow up death for *ever*; and the G-d will wipe away tears from off all faces; for the Lord hath spoken it". 5



# A VERY JEWISH ISSUE

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

Peruse the news this past year, and what do you find? Sometimes it seems that all we hear about are two things: COVID-19, and racial and social injustice. Of course, this is not really the case; many other developments and issues are around us, even in our own backyard. Life goes on, and as fundamental as health and *tzedek* (justice) are, we need to listen up to more than the most pressing voices.

Readers of *Shalom* may be aware that on January 18, 2021, an important law is coming to Nova Scotia. "The Nova Scotia Human Organ and Tissue Donation Act" will make it simpler for more Nova Scotians to save lives. Specifically, we will go from an "opt-in" policy to an "opt-out" one, meaning that, after January 18, if you make no decision to withhold, you will be presumed to agree to be a donor, and upon your death, your organs and tissues will be available for

transplanting to others. While Nova Scotia may be on the cutting-edge of this issue, no doubt other provinces will follow our lead toward presumed consent.

This change in law affects all Nova Scotians, and is why it is so important that we become more aware and thoughtful of the many complex issues involved—both in the provincial law, and in Jewish law and tradition—in this important matter.

Just recently, in December, I was privileged to be a part of a small working group that discussed the new Act and how it can be more effectively implemented. Two local Islamic clergy, a research facilitator, a physician well-placed in the NS organ and tissue transplant program, and I discussed how our respective traditions and backgrounds could more purposefully, sensitively, and knowledgeably support the new Act. In two online meetings

(we originally planned for one, but the conversation became so far-ranging and the questions so important that a second was added), we concluded that it would be helpful for everybody—the medical/legal establishment, as well as the local Islamic and Jewish communities—to participate in an open learning and discussion forum on donations and transplants. The consensus was that some of the religious values and laws that both we Jews and our Muslim neighbours face are so similar, that it would be helpful for all of us to come together, and not meet separately, in a larger session with representatives from the provincial medical and government communities.

Keep posted for more news about the *Donation Act*, and about the interfaith forum on religious responses to it. 5



# Atlantic Jewish VIRTUAL Film Festival

AN ATLANTIC JEWISH COUNCIL PRODUCTION

We express our sincere gratitude  
to all our generous sponsors  
without whom the AJFF would  
not be possible.

\* \* \*

The Atlantic Jewish Film Festival  
is proudly supported by  
the HALIFAX Municipality's  
Regional Event Grant.

**HALIFAX**

## FILM SPONSORS

The Azrieli Foundation | The Consulate of Israel | Israel Bonds Canada | Lynda Medjuck Suissa  
CIIA—Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs | Moskowitz Capital | Bishop's Cellar | Bluenose Seafood | In Memory of Dr. Jana Wieder

## CAST MEMBERS

Anonymous | Rosalind & Philip Belitsky | Karen & Howard Conter | Ethel Cooper-Rosen & Mark Rosen | Howard Epstein  
Sharon & Stanley Jacobson | Dawn Frail & Tim Margolian | Marcie-Ann Gilsig | Judith and Victor Goldberg | Roselle Green & Family  
Linda Law & Lloyd Newman | Valerie MacDonald & Jim Spatz | Jo-Anne Nozick & Michael Argand | Debbie Pestell | Rita & Joel Pink  
Victoria & Edwin Rosenberg | Debbie Stover & Jeffrey Schelew | Studio 14 Gifts & Gallery | Lynda Suissa | Ann & Howard Thaw

## FILM FANS

Carol & Simmy Airst | Jane & David Alexander | Nancy & Seth Bloom | The Hon. Myra Freeman & Lawrence Freeman  
Wendy Katz & Alan Young | Lampert LawGiC | Shirlee & Ralph Medjuck | Janet & Alan Stern | Louise & Andrew Wolfson





United Jewish Appeal  
of Atlantic Canada

*Thank you!*  
תודה רבה

Thank you to our  
500+ donors  
for making our  
**2020 UJA CAMPAIGN**  
a huge success!

Your support makes a meaningful impact.

5670 Spring Garden Road, Suite 309, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 1H6 | [theajc.ca](http://theajc.ca)







Dr Melvin Brown  
3 Burmont Rd  
Toronto ON M6B 3E2

Feb. 16, 2021

Shalom  
Atlantic Jewish Council  
Halifax, N.S., B3J1H6

Re: Winter 2021, Page 13, Camp Kadimah.

Re: Camp Kadimah Staff 1962

Since I was the Camp Director 1962, I am  
enclosing the errors and omissions of the  
1962 Camp Kadimah Staff. photograph. (page 13)

Shalom W'vacha,  
Melvin Brown

# Camp Kadimah Staff 1962 (Page 1)

Melvin Brown - Camp Director  
Simon Baum - Boys' Head Counsellor  
Sandra Tanzman - Girls' Head Counsellor  
Ted Innes - Programme director  
Shoshana Innes - Hebrew Song + dance  
Fred Ross - Waterfront Director  
Leonard Levine - Scouting and hiking  
Jack Yablon - Secretary  
Mrs. Mazie Block - Camp nurse  
Mrs. Goldstein - Cook (Agnes)  
Mr. Goldstein - Assistant cook (Zvi)  
Mrs. Mummie - pastery and cookie chef  
Margot MacKay - Arts and Craft  
Ezra Eisner - Camp maintenance & repairs.  
Jamie Levitz - Land Sports + Tennis  
Stanley Jacobson - Assistant Programme Director.  
Hobbies - Martin Frank - Archery  
- Norman Ross - Boating  
- Willy Strug - Basketball  
- Gordon Yazer, Brendon Yazer - Fishing  
- Mark Offman - Football  
- Norman Hamburg - Ping Pong  
- Jonathan Guss - Drama  
- Franklyn Medjuck - Lifesaving  
- Diving - Peter Stone, Ronald Pink  
Linda Epstein, Sidney Wilansky  
Steve Budoritch

(Page 2)

# Camp Kadimah staff continued:

## Counsellors:-

Willy Strug  
Norman Hamburg  
Franklyn Meljuck  
Morty David  
Lloyd Baron  
Joel Pink  
Norman Ross  
Norman Rose  
Peter Stone  
Tamara Stone  
Sandra Budovitch  
Harold Yazer  
Leslie Dubinsky  
Ellen Lefson  
Marci Brill  
Myrna Jacobson  
Jeff Schelew  
Barbara Goldferb  
Arnold Budovitch

David Cale  
Joel Kirsh  
Jonathan Guss  
Elliot Jacobson  
Ira Abraham  
Eve Gail Astroff  
Barbara Newman  
Audrey Attis  
Gordon Yazer  
Brendon Yazer  
Miriam Green  
Valerie Levinson  
Mark Offman  
Loretta Budovitch  
Andrea Shalit  
Roz Davis  
Andrew Wolfson  
Rhona Levine  
Harriette Pascal

Thank you,  
Melvin



Dr Melvin Brown  
3 Burmont Rd  
Toronto ON M6B 3E2