Shalom



CONNECTING THE ATLANTIC JEWISH COMMUNITY











35 DAYS IN ISRAEL















MAKE ISRAEL YOUR INVESTMENT DESTINATION WITH ISRAEL BONDS!

Your RRSP and TFSA statements will always show financial value. By adding Israel bonds, your financial statements can also make a statement about the values you believe in.

Ask us how you can add Israel bonds to your RRSP and TFSA.



Canada-Israel Securities, Limited is registered as an Exempt Market Dealer.

Israel Bonds/Canada-Israel Securities, Limited does not give tax advice. Israel Bonds are eligible for Self-Directed Tax-Free Savings Accounts and Self-Directed RRSPs. According to CRA, your TFSA contribution room is calculated based on your cumulative TFSA room since 2009, provided you were over the age of 18 in 2009 and lived in Canada as a resident for all those years. If both of these conditions are met, your total contribution room will be \$88,000 CDN as of January 1, 2023, less your contributions plus your withdrawals. E/OE. Photo: depositphotos.com. Dec. 2022



SHALOM MAGAZINE

President ARIK DRUCKER

Executive Director YORAM ABISROR

Editor EDNA LEVINE

Graphic Designer
MEGHAN RUSHTON

Advertising **EDNA LEVINE**

Address all correspondence, including advertising enquires, to:

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

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

www.theajc.ca

This publication is printed by: HALCRAFT PRINTERS INC.

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

NOTE TO OUR READERS

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

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

Shalom

WINTER 2023 VOL. 47 I NO. 3 SHEVAT 5783

ON THE COVER



Paintings from the series 35 Days in Israel by Tom Forrestall.

Watercolour on paper, 2010, 15" x 22", \$4100 each, framed (plus delivery).

These beautiful, original watercolours by renowned artist Tom Forrestall are available for purchase from the Atlantic Jewish Council office. Please contact Yoram Abisror, AJC Executive Director: executivedirector@theajc.ca

"The watercolours I did in Israel are, I feel, some of my finest efforts. I was honoured and delighted for the opportunity to work and travel throughout this beautiful country."

—Tom Forrestall, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, March 2011







FEATURES

- 19 A Charlottetown Hanukkah with Kafka by J. J. Steinfeld
- 20 New England Patriots Owner Robert Kraft and His Nova Scotia Connections
- 23 Holocaust Education Week
- 26 The Ninth Annual Atlantic Jewish Film Festival
- 27 A Committee to Combat Antisemitism
- 28 Hybrid International Conferences on Antisemitism
- 30 Remembering Shirley (Wolfson) Chernin, O.N.S. Z'L and Joel Jacobson Z'L
- 32 Poetry by Larry Finkelman

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 5 President's Message: Arik Drucker
- 5 The Atlantic Jewish Foundation Scholarships
- 7 From The Desk of Yoram Abisror, Executive Director of the AJC
- 9 From The Desk of Edna LeVine, Director Of Community Engagement
- 11 CIJA News
- 13 Campus News
- 15 Camp Kadimah News
- 16 Youth and Family News
- 17 Jewish Family Services
- 32 The Abraham Leventhal Memorial Scholarships
- 43 Rabbis' Corner

AROUND OUR REGION

- 33 Halifax
- 34 Fredericton
- 34 Cape Breton
- 36 Saint John
- 38 Newfoundland
- 39 Prince Edward Island
- **41** Moncton

theAJC.ca WINTER 2023 Shalom

3

EST. Dishop's 2003



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 \bigcirc BEER \bigcirc SPIRITS BISHOP'S LANDING | HALIFAX, NS

WWW.BISHOPSCELLAR.COM





From The Desk Of

ARIK DRUCKER

President of the Atlantic Jewish Council

Shalom dear friends and members of the Atlantic Jewish community. I would first like to again extend a warm welcome to Yoram Abisror, our Executive Director, who has taken lead in October.

We are nearly finished counting our annual fundraising campaign, and thus far we have already exceeded the past one. All of us at the AJC would like to thank you for your contributions, volunteer work, and support.

As we welcome the secular New Year, I wish you and your families much, health, success, and *naches*.

The Atlantic Jewish Foundation Scholarships

All applications must be received by March 31, 2023

Scholarships will be awarded on financial need, merit, and on the availability of funds. Submitting a scholarship application does not confirm automatic receipt of a scholarship. Priority will be given to first-time applicants. Scholarships are only available to residents of Atlantic Canada. Applications available at: theajc.ns.ca/scholarships

The Noa & Sarah Heinish Scholarship

Throughout their lives, Noa and Sarah Heinish devoted themselves to the betterment of their community, their house of worship and the state of Israel. Passover of 1943 found Noa and Sarah assisting in the preparation of a Seder for hundreds of young Jewish servicemen stationed in Halifax before shipping out to Europe.

At the end of WWII, Noa was one of a group of interpreters who met the ships which brought Holocaust survivors from Europe to the shores of Halifax. Speaking in Yiddish, he helped them transfer to the trains which took them to family members waiting their arrival in upper Canada. Noa Heinish was one of the founders of Shaar Shalom Congregation and served as its first president.

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

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

To carry on their good works, the Heinish family established the Noa and Sarah Heinish Foundation.

This charitable foundation has provided endowments supporting Jewish educational and health care institutions in Canada and Israel.

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

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

The Miasnik-Rein Trust

A limited number of scholarships of \$2,000 each are available to worthy students, one or both of whose parents profess the Jewish faith. The scholarship is open to students of the Atlantic Region for the purpose of establishing or continuing exposure to their Jewish heritage by means of an organized Jewish experiential education program that includes study, travel, community service, or other suitable activities. Examples of appropriate programs include Holocaust Education tours, organized Israel trips, Jewish teen tours, Jewish summer programs etc.

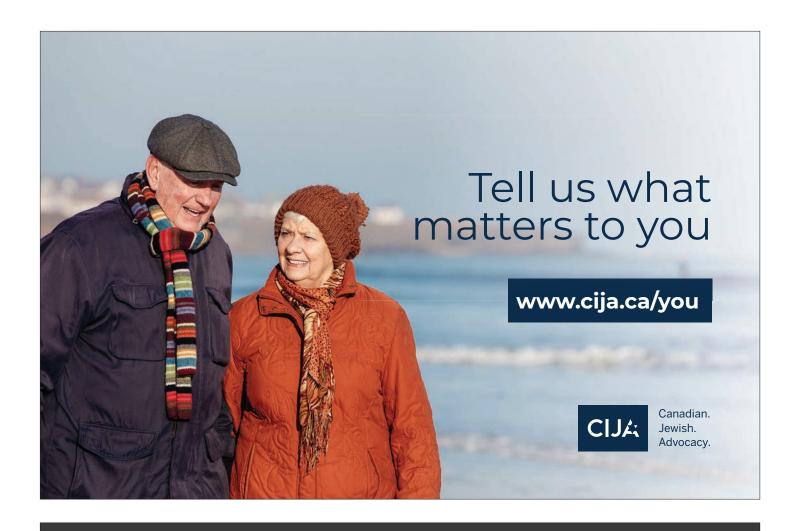
If you are unsure about the eligibility of a program, please contact executivedirector@theajc.ca for more information.

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

Halifax Endowment Fund (Jayson Greenblatt Bursary)

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

Jayson Greenblatt Bursary—\$500 each.



Sometimes the difference between a good relationship and a great one is subtle.

Cox & Palmer makes the difference crystal clear - that's why Atlantic Canadians have relied on us for more than 165 years.

Our lawyers draw on a deep understanding of their clients' needs to provide strategic legal advice when it matters most.

At Cox & Palmer, great relationships lead to great results.





From The Desk Of

YORAM ABISROR

Executive Director of the Atlantic Jewish Council

Hello everyone! My name is Yoram Abisror, and I am thrilled to have joined the team at the AJC, as Executive Director.

While I come to you from Montreal, I originally grew up in Israel. I spent my early years working at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, where I regularly coordinated with Canadian students.

I continued working with the Canadian Jewish community for ten years through the Canadian Zionist Federation, the Jewish Agency, and B'nai Brith. In the following years, I came to Canada to direct two Canadian Young Judea summer camps in the Montreal area—Camp Kinneret and Camp Biluim. Over the years, I have had the pleasure of working with Jews of all ages, motivating them to be more deeply involved in their communities. Before my professional career and following my military service, I spent a summer at Camp Kadimah as a Rosh Machar. After all these years, I am delighted to be back in Atlantic Canada and to be part of our wonderful community once again.

Take a moment to reflect on what community means to you. It means welcoming and helping people in a way we couldn't as individuals. I write these words during our UJA 2022 campaign, the days of Hanukkah, and the forming of a new government in Israel.

I will open this first article by acknowledging that the AJC staff leading this year's campaign know how committed many of you are to our community. The liveliness and vibrancy of our community are made possible thanks to our dedicated members and generous donors, who give back year after year. Thank you all for every contribution and donation you have made. Thank you to all the volunteers who took

the time to reach out to our community by phone or in person. The campaign was a success, and we accomplished many goals. We will continue planning for years to continue supporting our community for a better future.

Hanukkah is a time for Jews worldwide to reflect on our people's strength and resilience. The Jewish people have historically overcome hardship and stood together in peril. Regardless of circumstance, Hanukkah has always been a unity time for Jews.

At this year's Hanukkah party at the Shaar Shalom synagogue, I met with many of our community's young adults who renewed their passion for Jewish communal life by sharing their celebratory cultural traditions. For some, like myself, this was the first time celebrating Hanukkah with our community. For others, it was their first Jewish holiday celebration altogether. We had the opportunity to taste a variety of delicious foods, observe the lighting of the Hanukkia, and sing songs that Jewish people from all over grew up singing in their homes. Thank you to all the good people and students from our community that volunteered and worked diligently to ensure the success of these celebrations.

At the AJC, we seize every opportunity to strengthen our community by bringing together families, teens, and adults, connecting them not only to each other but to our community and their Jewish identity. The AJC team has been committed for years to fostering this interconnectedness in every part of our programming. We plan to continue developing and promoting our annual Atlantic Jewish Film Festival, the annual Holocaust Education Week, Yom Hashoah programs, and Hillel events with multi-session educational programs about Israel and Judaism. We continue to support our Jewish Family Services, Youth and Young Family programming and the PJ Library,

and develop new programs for the future.

Our beloved Camp Kadimah is receiving registrations and getting ready for another unforgettable summer, for a second consecutive year, after having to shut its doors for two years. I took the time to watch the Kadimah movie-It was beautifully done, and I highly recommend it to everyone in our community: www. thekadimahmovie.com. I had the chance to speak with Lynda Medjuck Suissa, the mind behind the movie—we discussed how even though I did not grow up in this community and only spent one long-passed summer here, I felt incredibly close to the story of the Kadimah family. The movie is an excellent opportunity to know better our community's history and the larger Atlantic community.

This is also a time in which Israel is forming a new government. These Israeli elections focus on homeland security, the cost of living, and national and international relations. Regardless of views and outcomes, maintaining excellent relationships between Diaspora Jewish communities and Israel is paramount, as these relationships are integral to our shared Jewish identity.

At home, our communities face familiar challenges, such as a resurgence of anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism. Over the past several years, Jewish communities have experienced rising external and internal hostility to an extent unsurpassed in recent memory. Jewish communities and institutions worldwide continue ceaseless efforts to combat anti-Jewish and anti-Israel sentiments. We must continue sharing our people's heritage and shedding light on today's resurging and all too familiar anti-Semitic societal trends. Our educational programs and continued efforts to build and strengthen relationships with our

>> page 46

PASSAGE TO SWEDEN

Film screening with a Q&A to follow with Director Suzannah Warlick (California), and Participant Chana Sharfstein (Israel), via livestream

RAOUL WALLENBERG DAY TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 6:30 P.M.

Bronfman Theatre, Canadian Museum of Immigration Pier 21, 1055 Marginal Road, Halifax

2021 USA 58 minutes | English and English subtitles

Passage To Sweden tells the lesser-known story of events occurring in Scandinavia and Budapest during WWII. It focuses on the heroic actions of ordinary people and diplomats, including Raoul Wallenberg, who saved the lives of thousands of Jews and fellow countrymen.

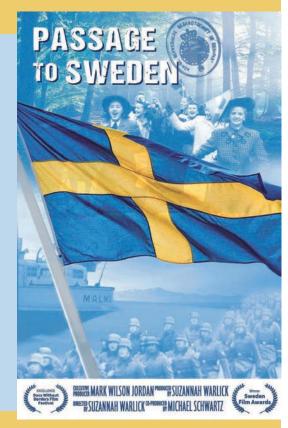
"Warlick tells this story of persecution, rescue and redemption succinctly and competently."—The Times of Israel

SPECIAL GUESTS via livestream

Suzannah Warlick—Director and Owner of Bubble Soup Productions. She films, edits, and produces on a freelance basis. Previous documentaries include *The Queen's Court, Supporting Actors* and *Match & Marry*.

Chana Sharfstein—Noted author, educator, lecturer, and tour guide raised and educated in Stockholm, Sweden.

This film screening is presented in honour of Raoul Wallenberg Day by the Atlantic Jewish Council in partnership with the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 and the Azrieli Foundation.



This program is free to attend. Register at **HolocaustEducation.ca**



INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 12 P.M.

Bronfman Theatre, Canadian Museum of Immigration Pier 21, 1055 Marginal Road, Halifax

VAN VLIET BACHMANN ENGLIN LOST TRANSPORT APPLIES SASKIA DIESING



FILM SCREENING LOST TRANSPORT

2022 | Netherlands, Luxembourg, Germany 98 minutes | Dutch/German with English subtitles Distributor: Menemsha Films

In the spring of 1945, a train deporting hundreds of Jewish prisoners gets stranded near a small German village occupied by the Red Army during the last days of WW2. The soldiers, villagers and concentration camp survivors all have to come to an arrangement—low on food and medicine, with mistrust and disease spreading. But an unlikely friendship grows between three very different women: Russian sniper Vera, village girl Winnie, and Jewish-Dutch woman Simone. This multilingual and complex drama, based on true historical events, touchingly explores survival, trauma and absolution themes.

To Registration



This film screening is presented in honour of International Holocaust Remembrance Day by the Atlantic Jewish Council in partnership with the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 and the Azrieli Foundation.

The cost is FREE, but the entrance does not include admission to the Pier 21 museum exhibitions.



From The Desk Of

EDNA LEVINE

Director of Community Engagement

Our 19th annual Holocaust Education Week (HEW) in Halifax presented a combination of in-person programs and livestreamed events in Atlantic Canada.

* * *

Lyra Carr, U.S. Consul General, Halifax, opened HEW on November 1 at the Central Library, with remarks that emphasized the relevance and importance of Holocaust education. The program featured Menachem Kaiser, prizing-winning author of "Plunder, A Memoir of Family Property and Nazi Treasure" in an interview with Olga Milosevich, retired CBC radio broadcaster. The program was livestreamed and is available to view on the AJC's Holocaust Education YouTube Channel @holocausteducation1815.

HEW events during the week included filmmaker Laurence Siegel's short film, Footprints (Labnyomok), a contemporary dance filmed in Budapest at the site of the "Shoes" sculpture on the Danube. At the screening Siegel, Toronto, introduced and engaged the audience in a discussion with Rebecca MacKenzie-Hopkins, Public Programs Manager, Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21. The film pays tribute to the nearly half million Hungarian Jews murdered during the Holocaust.

The closing program at Rowe Hall, Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, featured Holocaust survivor Fishel Goldig, Montreal, who shared his story of survival in an interview with Elin Beaumont, Facilitator of Education and Community Initiatives, The Azrieli Foundation, Toronto. Attendees received a complimentary copy of Goldig's memoirs from The Azrieli Foundation, and enjoyed a reception, book signing, and socializing with Goldig following his talk.

Our student HEW program with Fishel Goldig accommodated over 300 students at Rowe Hall, Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, and attracted schools from across Nova Scotia to the livestreamed event. Michelle Sadowski, Educator, Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program, The Azrieli Foundation, Toronto, interviewed

Goldig and presented students with a short history lesson to provide context to Goldig's story. Working with The Azrieli Foundation, each student received a copy of Fishel Goldig's memoirs and completed a classroom assignment prior to attending the program.

We are grateful to our local HEW partners for their support and contribution in presenting HEW programs: Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, Halifax Central Library, University of King's College, Consulate of the United States, Halifax, and Hillel Atlantic. All HEW programs are made possible, in part, by a generous grant from The Azrieli Foundation.

* * *

The annual Nova Scotia Social Studies Teachers Association Conference was hosted at Saint Mary's University. This conference offers us the opportunity to meet with teachers and present the AJC resources and valuable Holocaust educational tools. 300+ teachers from across the province attended the all-day conference. We partnered with The Azrieli Foundation, and Marc-Olivier Cloutier, The Azrieli Foundation's Manager of Education Initiatives, Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program, Montreal, presented a double session on teaching the Holocaust. Educators were grateful to take home books, lesson plans, manuals, and activities designed by The Azrieli Foundation to use in a classroom setting. Teachers were keen to engage and register for our HEW student program with Holocaust survivor Fishel Goldig.

Our 9th annual Atlantic Jewish Film Festival (AJFF) November 17 – 20, hosted screenings in Halifax and a virtual film package in Atlantic Canada.

David Cohen, United States Ambassador to Canada, provided opening remarks at the festival on November 17 at the screening of the Israeli rom-com, One More Story (Cineplex Cinemas, Park Lane) sponsored by the Consulate General of Israel. Cohen warmly greeted the audience and expressed his enthusiasm for films, and Israel Consul



AJFF opening, United States Ambassador to Canada David Cohen, centre right; with, Israel Consul General Paul Hirschson, centre left; and from right to left: Lynn Rotin, AJFF Chair; Lyra Carr, U. S. Consul General, Halifax; Edna LeVine; Yoram Abisror, AJC Executive Director.

General Paul Hirschson was delighted to introduce the event and support the festival.

The Saturday night AJFF gala event with filmmaker Tamás Wormser, Montreal, offered the audience the opportunity to discuss Wormser's documentary, Shalom Putti—A Long Way to Jerusalem. Wormser captivated the audience with fascinating background stories including the hardship of Jewish life in rural eastern Uganda.

Our closing film, Rose, sponsored by the Consulate of France, and introduced by France Consul General Johan Schitterer, Moncton, charmed the audience with Rose's journey to redefine herself.

I am fortunate to work with a dedicated AJFF committee throughout the year to produce a festival that shares our values and culture with the broader community. Please stay tuned for information to commemorate our upcoming 10th AJFF, and how you can be a part of this exciting milestone in our community.

Our 11th annual Christmas lunch at Spencer House Seniors Centre, Halifax, returned to an in-person event with a joyful party for seniors who are alone during the holiday. Myrna Yazer and Schuyler Smith organized the kitchen and volunteers rallied to entertain and serve-up a delicious home-cooked meal.

Thank you AJFF committee members for your dedication, time, and creativity—the festival would not be possible without you.

Lynn Rotin, Chair | Jon Goldberg Anna Hazankin | Linda Law | Jordan Schelew Flint Schwartz | Schuyler Smith | Ann Thaw Howard Thaw | Kristina Wakfer | Peggy Walt



REPORT FROM THE CENTRE OF ISRAEL AND JEWISH AFFAIRS

BY JOANNA MIRSKY WEXLER, CIJA NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS, REPRESENTATIVE FOR ATLANTIC CANADA

Joining the CIJA National Board last year as the Representative from Atlantic Canada, has been a huge learning curve and an incredible opportunity to learn more about our communities in the region, the challenges we face, and how we might address them together.

As you may already know, the AJC is one of the Federations under UIA. CIJA is the advocacy arm of UIA, supporting our region by providing resources and guidance to help us fight antisemitism in its many forms. CIJA provides the tools to design and implement strategies to ensure that leaders in government and civil society consider Jewish perspectives in developing public policy. AJC staff work with volunteers, like me and you, to help keep our communities safer through these efforts.

Advocating for Jewish perspectives to be heard is, in many ways, about building relationships with other communities, with government officials, and between our communities. If we can partner with schools to educate about antisemitism, we can increase awareness amongst administrators, teachers and students to help our kids navigate being a minority in the classroom. When we work towards stronger ties with Police, we are better able to address hate crimes or incidents when they happen.

When we connect with Israel, through our partnership region, or with the Israeli Embassy here in Canada, we strengthen our voice as advocates for Israel and the Jewish people worldwide. After the sharp rise of Antisemitism in 2021, we see that what happens in Israel can directly affect us here. We can make a positive impact when we strengthen and build partnerships between Israel and Atlantic Canada, socially, economically or academically.

Perhaps the biggest opportunity of all is the chance to connect with other communities

in the region, volunteers with volunteers. In October 2022, AJC staff Maya Lotan, JAFI Canada Yaron Deckel and I travelled to Saint John NB. JAFI shared an interesting presentation, Maya ran a fun program with Saint John youth, and we were able to meet with the community and set the stage for more conversations to address community needs. Members of the Saint John's community in Newfoundland have already been working on a strategic plan, and it has been a pleasure to get to know this community better. I am looking forward to working with our new Executive Director, and hopefully visiting the regions to learn more.

Sometimes we can feel a bit powerless in the face of Antisemitism or feel like we are unprepared to have the conversation. I believe that coming from small communities, we face different challenges from those in large centers. CIJA can provide resources, training, and guidance, but these are tools best wielded by those of us who live here. It's my goal to build regional advocacy teams in communities across Atlantic Canada over the next year, so that we are prepared to act. If you are interested in being part of these initiatives in your region, please reach out. Think of what we might accomplish together!









PHOTOS: (1) Craig Upshaw, Hate Crimes Unit Halifax Police Department, Joanna Mirsky Wexler and MP Andy Fillmore, at the Federal roundtable on Online Hate at the Black Cultural Centre, October, 2022; (2) Nova Scotia MLA Brian Wong (Minister of Advanced Education), Nova Scotia MLA Susan Corkum-Greek (Minister of Economic Development), Consul General of Israel, Paul Hirschson, Joanna Mirsky Wexler, November, 2022; (3) With Col. Amiram Jakira, IDF Attaché, Israeli Embassy at a Shabbat dinner and informal reception in Halifax, October, 2022; (4) Yaron Deckel (JAFI Canada), Maya Lotan (AJC), Bruce Washburn, Joanna Mirsky Wexler, Saint John, New Brunswick, October, 2022

Shalom WINTER 2023

GLIMMERS OF HOPE AND DETERMINATION TO KEEP GOING

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

As we turn our calendars from an eventful 2022 to the New Year, it is important—while understanding much is left to do—to consider some of the progress made, even in the difficult contexts of the war in Ukraine, the lingering pandemic and an alarming surge in antisemitism right here at home.

It was two years ago now, on December 14, 2020, that, in recognition of the official signing of the Abraham Accords—a series of joint normalization statements between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain on September 15, 2020—CIJA hosted the first-ever simultaneous Chanukah candle-lighting ceremony across the Middle East. This historic event brought Middle Eastern diplomats, dignitaries, and faith leaders together with our community across Canada to celebrate the most significant diplomatic development in the region in decades.

Indeed, early optimism has been validated. The Abraham Accords have paved the way for comprehensive partnerships on issues related to security, business, the environment, innovation, tourism, and other key sectors.

Participating governments continue to view the Abraham Accords positively—as a genuine, practical means of advancing their national interests. In the past two years, for the first time, an atmosphere of Arab-Israeli rapprochement pervades the region. The Abraham Accords have:

- Significantly increased regional integration and economic cooperation between Israel and its regional neighbours
- Opened new opportunities for defense and security cooperation, especially among Israel, Bahrain, and the UAE
- Started a major reconfiguration of the political and security makeup of the Middle East by broadening the scope of Israel's allies in the Arabian Peninsula
- Offered additional possibilities for cooperation on shared interests, including energy, food and water security, health, and other issues through the establishment of the Negev Forum, the chief aim of which is to coordinate members' collective

- efforts and advance a common vision for the region
- Enhanced security cooperation in the Red Sea Littoral with Saudi Arabia and agreements permitting overflights of its airspace for Israeli civil aviation as well as accepting direct travel for Hajj pilgrims from Israel

These developments offer significant and new glimmers of hope for coming generations. They represent an alternate trajectory for the future of a region that has historically suffered conflict, instability, and economic hardship. If more Arab countries were to join this movement, the Abraham Accords will indeed have a lasting impact on the political, economic, and social order throughout the Middle East.

While the Abraham Accords promise hope for peace in Israel and among many of its neighbours, the women of Iran have been demanding freedom, revolting anew against the brutality of the regime that has been in place since 1979, when Ayatollah Khomeini first took power.

Since the tragic death in September of 2022 of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Iranian Kurdish woman taken into custody by Tehran "morality police," shouts of 'death to the dictator' and 'woman, life, freedom' and other acts of defiance have reverberated across the country and even onto the football pitch at the FIFA World Cup later that year.

These protests are not calls for the end of Islam. They are calls to end the abuse of state power, calls to which even religious Iranians have added their voices. Activists have taken to the streets to challenge a regime steeped in a rhetoric of harshly interpreted morality rather than governing to protect the best interests of the people. Now facing rising prices and unemployment following years of

sanctions, Iranians of all backgrounds have increasingly lost faith in their government, no longer subscribing to oppression cloaked as "restoring moral order."

Taking place in more than 50 Iranian cities, today's Iranian protests in Tehran and beyond are signs of bravery and a cause for hope. The women—the people—of Iran are not giving up. Protests now happen in broad daylight and the world is waking up to the fact that what is happening in Iran is the simple expression of desire for equality, for dignity, for life without fear. These protests are seen as long-awaited rays of light, giving many inside and out of Iran reason to hope that change will come.

As we acknowledge the bravery of those fighting brutal oppression, in Iran, Ukraine, and elsewhere, let us nevertheless celebrate that hope is dawning where it has been scarce in recent years. With this hope brings determination to continue the fight for that cherished Jewish value of freedom, equality, and respect for all.

Output

Description:





A Canadian Storybook Lender

PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE ATLANTIC JEWISH COUNCIL

Accepting new Accredited investors

Contact Brian Moskowitz to become an investor



www.moskowitzcapital.com



brian@moskowitzcapital.com



416-781-6500

Exempt Market Dealer # 65540 Net annualized returns of 8.8% since 2006

CAMPUS NEWS

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

Wow! It's already January...

It always amazes me how fast time passes, it feels like September was only yesterday! The fall semester is behind us, and here we are starting a New Year and the opening of the winter semester. Hillel had some beautiful programs so far and I would like to share some highlights from the past four months with you.

During the summer, we moved the Hillel house to a new location at the Shaar Shalom Synagogue after three years at the Beth Israel Synagogue apartment. Moving from one place to the other was not an easy decision because we had a great connection to the Beth Israel community. I was looking for a sufficient space to host our students and provide a greater horizon to conduct Hillel Atlantic activities, events, and programs. I was convinced we could get more students if we had a much more suitable space. For example, now we can host 50+ students at a Shabbat Dinner instead of 20-30 students. We needed to reach our full potential and make room for more students to be involved and at this point the move has proven to do exactly that.

The academic year started with a BBQ back to-school event. I was hoping to get 20 students at most, only to realize that 65 Jewish students attending the event. This event was very successful and led the path for all the upcoming event there after. Moving to a new space was the right decision! We were able to reach many more students this year. Soon after, we celebrated the Rosh Hashanah together, which brought out a record 75 students, this was an exceptional experience. We continued our high holiday programming with a Yom Kippur after the Fast dinner and a sukkot event that were very effective. We have hosted our regular monthly Shabbat dinner with 50-60 students and still seeing new faces who are discovering Hillel as a Jewish life hub for Students in Atlantic Canada. The Shabbat dinners are an excellent opportunity to engage with new and returning students and a great place to get to know one another.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

This semester I have focused on two extended educational programs: Kol Yisrael-Zionism and Israel Book Club.

Kol Yisrael—Zionism curriculum is a sixsession program that presents the dilemmas and challenges of the Zionist movement from the beginning until the establishment of the state of Israel. And how every strand of the Zionist movement (Political, Labor, Revisionist, Religious) had a different approach toward the reality they encountered. By learning about the past, we can understand the present challenges that Zionism and Israel face today.

The second program is the Hillel Atlantic Israel book club. This time we went back and read a book published 120 years ago by a long-forgotten author. Theodore Herzl's AltNueLand (old/new land) is a utopian novel by the founder of political Zionism. The book outlines Herzl's vision for a Jewish state in the land of Israel. In those sessions, we explore the ground-breaking ideas and actions of Herzl's political life, which lasted only nine years until his early death in 1904 at the age of 44.

We will continue presenting new educational programming during the winter semester; look for more information at Hillel Atlantic Canada on Instagram.

MEETING UNIVERSITY'S PRESIDENTS AND ADMINISTRATORS:

During this upcoming January, Scott Goldstein, the Director of Government and University Relations for the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, and I will hold some meetings with the University Presidents and Administrators staff from Dalhousie, Saint Mary's, University of Kings, and Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. The goal of those meetings is to familiarize the institutions with some of the critical and innovative work Hillel is doing to support Jewish students on campus as well as to use the opportunity to debrief them on the frightening incidents of antisemitism over the past few months



in Halifax and elsewhere, and how they have affected university students. We will ask them to ensure that Jewish students feel safe on campuses and see the AJC and Hillel as partners in handling antisemitism incidents on their campuses. Also, we will discuss collaborating on producing an education program on antisemitism during training week for first-year students and new University staff employees.

HILLEL ATLANTIC VOLUNTEERING PROJECT:

We are excited to re-start the Hillel Atlantic "Challah for seniors" volunteering project this January. Twice a month, we will be baking Challahs and putting together a Shabbat kit that we will deliver to seniors in the community. We team up with the Shaar Shalom kitchen, and we bake delicious challahs. Each time, ten students will be volunteering to help with this initiative.

I wish you a wonderful winter break; I look forward to seeing you in the next semester.

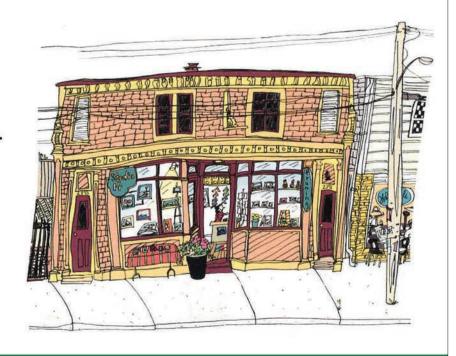
SEND A
Partnership2Gether
GIFT CARD
TO CELEBRATE!

HELP SUPPORT OUR VALUABLE PROJECTS IN NORTHERN ISRAEL

Contact info@theajc.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.



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

ONE FAMILY MANY FACES







CAMP KADIMAH

A LIGHT UNTO THE NATIONS— אוֹר לַגּוֹיִים

BY SARAH ATKINS, DIRECTOR

Jewish camping has become an industry in the not-for-profit world of Jewish Education.

Once upon a time, summer camp was not seen as a serious educational setting and was largely ignored by foundations and institutional Jewish organizations, who favoured investing in more formal Jewish education, such as dayschools. Over the past two decades, this paradigm has drastically changed, and Jewish summer camp is now seen as a serious experiential educational opportunity that has the power to build strong Jewish communities across North America and around the world.

Recently, we have seen a professionalization of the field of Jewish camp, and newly-established organizations whose sole mandate is to support the field of Jewish camp are quickly becoming leading educational innovators. The JCamp 180 initiative of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and the Foundation for Jewish Camp (FJC) are the leaders in the field and Camp Kadimah is proud to be able to partner with both of these creative organizations who have contributed to the success of Camp Kadimah in a meaningful way.

JCamp180 and FJC have provided us with tools, professional development, innovation grants and matching funds to ensure our success. They have been a tremendous support, especially during the two years of the pandemic.

So how does our small camp community in Barss Corner, Nova Scotia help contribute to the field of Jewish camping? While we are recipients of these organizations' support, we have also contributed to the field and become "A light unto the camping industry". We were able to embark upon our own ambitious B'Yachad Campaign in large part thanks to the support of these organizations. However, this fall at two international Jewish camping conferences, we were asked to share our

success with our peers. We were asked to work with other camps and demonstrate how they too could embark upon successful fundraising campaigns. The students had become the teachers!

We are very proud of what we have accomplished at Camp Kadimah, and we are even more proud to be able to share our success so that other camps can be inspired to set the bar higher. While we are physically isolated in Eastern Canada, we are blessed to be a part of the international Jewish camping community, a place where we learn, create networks, and inspire others to be the best version of themselves.

Judaism places an emphasis on both the betterment of oneself, as well as the improvement of one's community. The broader Jewish camping community has taught us how to better serve our own camp community, and in turn we were able to offer our own experiences as lessons for other camps to improve upon. We look forward to our continued involvement in this dynamic CHECK OUT CAMP KADIMAH ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM FOR GAMES AND MORE!







and thriving global camping community.

We wish our entire Kadimah family a warm and safe winter, and we can't wait to see you back at the Barss in the summer of 2023!

יאללה קדימה Yalla, Let's Go Kadimah 2023! ©



Sharon Friedberg, Sarah Atkins, and Peter Svilik, Kadimah's professional staff, and Michael Soberman, Kadimah's Co-Board Chair, attending FJC's 2022 Leaders Assembly

YOUTH AND FAMILY NEWS

BY MAYA LOTAN, DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & YOUNG FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Hello community members across Atlantic Canada!

A lot have been going on in our department since the beginning of 5783. We went apple picking together to celebrate the beginning of the year with apples and honey, we set up a community sukkah in honor of Sukkot and held a joint dinner to celebrate the mitzvah of sitting in the sukkah.

We concluded the Tishrei holidays by opening the activity of our youth movement Young Judaea led by youth and young adults from the community. About 40 children and teenagers came to the first program and we hope to see attendance growing in the following programs to come.

In addition to these activities, we hold a regular baby group meetings—our PJ littles club, that meets once every two weeks and allows parents to meet, drink coffee together, talk with other parents at a similar stage in their lives and meet professional from the community who present relevant topics such as baby nutrition, sleep and other topics that occupy parents at the beginning of their life as a family.

We continue to distribute our Shalom baby gift to every baby born in Atlantic Canada and invite you to tell us about it so that we can reach as many families as possible. Unbelievable that in the last year and a half over 70 packages were distributed. it is exciting to see how we grow as a community.

Those babies in our community grow up and reach other Jewish moments in their lives. Recently, we established a group for a Mitzvah year in an Israeli spirit in which families go through a community process of a mitzvah year that explores the process of growing up in the Jewish world, the ceremony of adulthood in Jewish life and the text the we are so connected to. It is lovely to see how when opportunities present themselves, the community finds additional points of connection to take part in programs that connect them to Jewish life.

Our Hanukkah community event invited everyone to join a candle lighting together and the finally feel after a few years that we are back to life in person, planning and meeting in community events.

I want to invite the members of the



Maya Lotan



various communities to continue to contact me with community initiatives. We are here in Atlantic Canada are happy to create a community experience for any group across our federation that wants and needs help creating content for families and children.



Now includes 1 book per child per month!



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

TELL THEM TO SIGN UP FOR PJ LIBRARY!

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

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

Know any kids ages 9 TO 12 YEARS OLD living in Atlantic Canada?

TELL THEM TO SIGN UP FOR PJ OUR WAY!

PJ Our Way is a program that offers the gift of exceptional chapter books with Jewish themes to kids ages 9-12—books that they choose themselves! Every month, kids visit the PJ Our Way website to choose a book from a selection of four high-quality titles that have been reviewed by a panel of PJ educators, parents, and kids.

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

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES in Atlantic Canada





Shira D. Zipursky

BY SHIRA D. ZIPURSKY, DIRECTOR OF JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

Happy Channukah! It is hard to believe that four months have passed since the High Holiday Season and that we have now entered into Channukah, Festival of Lights season. I choose to look at this time as a sign of hope, encouragement, and strength. We all know the story of Channukah, the oil that was not supposed to last and miraculously lasted for eight days. *Nes gadol hiah sham*—"A great miracle happened here". We don't always know what will be and what is to come, but sometimes we have to have faith and trust that what will be, will be. Believe in yourself, your instincts, and know you are doing your best.

This is even more important, as we again are being challenged with the growing concern by the news of the numbers of those sick and in hospital, battling either RSV, Influenza, or COVID, which may lead to us wanting to keep our bubbles small and alter how we celebrate holidays and gather with loved ones. No matter what resonates with you, it is important to remain true to yourself and do what sits well with you. Constantly

we are adapting and redefining our "new normal". This can put strain and stress on our mental health. When our mind is not well this can intern cause our physical health to be out of alignment.

This last quarter I have tried to focus more on this aspect of our health and have shared resources along with inspirational messages to support a more balanced overall well-being. I have also encouraged exploring new ways to cope and adapt to daily challenges and stressors, as well as ways to give back (or pay it forward) to the community through "Mitzvah Days". Additionally, programs and workshops were shared in the hope community members would participate and empower themselves with knowledge and new resources. Hopefully this allowed for meaningful Channukah gatherings and opportunities to create special lasting family memories.

Sharing these educational materials, led me to hear from some community members requesting to be connected with specific resources, or wanting to know where and who to turn to in a time of need. I commend you for coming forward and asking for help!

While this past quarter we did not see the same volume of financial requests, there was an increase in service navigation requests. Individuals and families who needed assistance, whether it be from temporary housing, employment services, mental health services, or long term support services, we were able to provide this assistance. I thank the community's ongoing commitment and support for this position and for those in need, being brave to come forward to ask the hard questions. I believe knowledge is power and we all deserve a vote of confidence, care, and compassion.

In closing, I am excited by the educational opportunities being offered by The Network in 2023, which will further allow for professional growth and to learn of new ways to further support the Atlantic Canada Jewish Community. I look forward to sharing this knowledge and potential new resources.



Sign up for FREE as a PJ Library Grandparent!

Grandparents must have a grandchild with a current PJ Library subscription

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

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

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



LAMPERT LAWGIC

A FULL SERVICE BUSINESS LAW FIRM



—LEIGH LAMPERT

Corporate & Commercial Law



Real Estate & Leasing



Employment Law



Corporate Governance



Privacy & Compliance

A Charlottetown Hanukkah with Kafka by J. J. Steinfeld

Nightfall, first day of Hanukkah serene, safe, embraced by memory I stand in front of my old menorah brought from Europe by my parents an indestructible artifact Hitler missed my father would say, a little sarcasm with forceful historical allusion an objet d'art a century old my mother would say, a little nostalgia with much ongoing warmth the shamus candle in my adult hand sensing my little boy's long-ago grip I ready to light the first night's candle. As I stumble with the Hebrew words of a candle-lighting blessing I wonder if Kafka as a boy ever lit a Hanukkah candle connecting to the past celebrating the miracle

of one day's menorah oil lasting eight days in the Temple liberated by Judah and the Maccabees. I remember myself as a boy year after hopeful year gathering in a little Hanukkah gelt spinning the playful dreidel with its four Hebrew letters lighting the candles eight days of observance thin colourful candles their box proclaiming dripless dripping to my childhood delight in random dreamlike designs nurturing imagination even then pursuing other worlds and fanciful creatures as if Hanukkah were a holiday to be celebrated every day.



Poet, fiction writer, and playwright J. J. Steinfeld lives on Prince Edward Island, where he is patiently waiting for Godot's arrival and a phone call from Kafka. While waiting, he has published 24 books, including *An Unauthorized Biography of*

Being (Stories, Ekstasis Editions, 2016), Absurdity, Woe Is Me, Glory Be (Poetry, Guernica Editions, 2017), A Visit to the Kafka Café (Poetry, Ekstasis Editions, 2018), Gregor Samsa Was Never in The BeatAes (Stories, Ekstasis Editions, 2019), Morning Bafflement and Timeless Puzzlement (Poetry,

Ekstasis Editions, 2020), Somewhat Absurd, Somehow Existential (Poetry, Guernica Editions, 2021), Acting on the Island (Stories, Pottersfield Press, 2022), and As You Continue to Wait (Poetry, Ekstasis Editions, 2022).



"A Charlottetown Hanukkah with Kafka" from Morning Bafflement and Timeless Puzzlement (Ekstasis Editions, 2020) by J. J. Steinfeld, and first published in Snow Softly Falling (Edited by Richard Lemm, Acorn Press, 2015).



New England Patriots Owner Robert Kraft and His Nova Scotia Connections

BY BOB DOHERTY

20

Nova Scotia football fans will soon be trekking to Gillette Stadium in Foxboro for their annual excursion to see their beloved New England Patriots. But few will know or realize that the Patriots franchise builder and owner, Robert Kraft, has a strong connection to Nova Scotia and the Atlantic provinces that even played a pivotal role in the creation of the Patriots dynasty. That connection still exists today, and Kraft is proud of his heritage that began here.

Robert Kraft's mother Sarah Bryna (Webber) Kraft was born and grew up in Halifax, N.S., and Robert Kraft made his first major business investment in Newfoundland and Labrador.

It is often said that most, if not all, of us stand on the shoulders of those who came before us. That certainly applies to Sarah's family and the Kraft family as well. The story begins in Lithuania and Poland where Sarah's parents grew up during a period of economic hardship and persecution of Jews. They later immigrated to Saint John, N.B., in the late 19th century. Sarah's father, Abraham Sivovlos Webber, was one of eight brothers and an entrepreneur. He immigrated to New Brunswick in 1886 and set up a millinery shop, selling hats and clothing items in Saint John. Sarah's mother, Elizabeth Leby Godine (Godinsky) Webber, immigrated to Saint John in 1890. They married in 1893 in Montreal.

They had six children in Saint John, with the youngest (Henry) dying shortly after childbirth. They moved to Nova Scotia in the early 1900s after Abraham's brother Copel Webber and two of his other brothers immigrated to Halifax in 1899. Abraham set up another millinery shop on Gottingen Street. The family lived on Brunswick Street just south of Cornwallis Street and St. Patrick's and St. George's churches. It was about a mile from the Narrows where the Angus L. Macdonald Bridge was built in the 1950s.

Four more children were born to Abraham and Elizabeth in Halifax, and Sarah, born in 1911, was the second youngest of her nine siblings. The family home on Brunswick Street near the Narrows would seem to have been in the destructive path of the Halifax Explosion on the morning of Dec. 6, 1917. Sarah was temporarily blinded by the explosion and according to Kraft remarkably had her sight restored



by a Halifax veterinarian. Other than Sarah's temporary blindness, it appears that all of her siblings and her parents survived the explosion that claimed the lives of some people who lived on Brunswick Street.

Kraft noted in a recent phone interview from his office at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro, Massachusetts, that he only heard about her experience in later years after she immigrated to Boston.

"She was always sensitive about her eyes, and explained to me that her experience during the Explosion was the reason," he added.

Dr. Jock Murray, a prominent Halifax neurologist and former dean of the Dalhousie University Medical School, has extensively researched the assistance provided by medical and other professionals to the survivors of the Halifax Explosion.

"The majority of injuries from the explosion was in flying glass getting embedded in the heads and eyes of people," he said.

"They divided the city into eight districts and each had a medical station established in a house or other building, staffed by nurses, other professionals and volunteers like the women of the Volunteer Aid Detachment (VADS). It is conceivable that a veterinarian could be a volunteer, and initial care for eye injuries would be provided at a medical station for soot, blood and debris affecting sight. If surgery was needed it was provided by 15 eye surgeons at the major hospitals. "

Prominent family

The Webbers became one of the largest and most prominent Jewish families in the city and in 1915 built the first Jewish synagogue (the Webber Schul) on a parcel of land owned by Abraham on what was then known as Proctor Street near what is now Scotia Square. The synagogue continued as a landmark in the Halifax Jewish Community as late as 1936 before it closed.

The synagogue and the land it rested were donated to the Baron de Hirsch Benevolent Society, a Jewish philanthropic organization. The Society had by that time already established a synagogue on Robie Street where O'Regan's car dealership is now. This congregation later split into what is now Beth Israel and Shaar Shalom synagogues. The Webber family also had a private cemetery on Windsor Street adjacent to the first Jewish cemetery established in Halifax in 1893. They later donated that parcel of land to the Baron de Hirsch Benevolent Society as an addition to the existing cemetery.

Sarah's father, Abraham, died in 1923 and her mother passed away in 1931 at the height of the Depression. Sarah had visited the United States a few times before her mother's death and decided to immigrate to the US. travelling by train and crossing the border with her younger brother Alfred at Vanceboro, Maine, that same year. Her older sister

Shalom WINTER 2023 the AJC.ca

Photos: (Opposite page) New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft, left, and his son Jonathan at a Patriots game. *Contributed*; (Left) Robert Kraft celebrates his first of six Lombardi trophies during avictory parade in Boston following the New England Patriots victory in Super Bowl XXXVI over the St. Louis Rams in 2002. *New England Patriots*; (Right) Sarah Bryna (Webber) Kraft and her husband Harry Kraft. *Contributed*





Zelda had already immigrated to Boston and Sarah and Alfred joined her there living in an apartment in the Brighton section of the city. Sarah continued to return to Halifax between 1931 and 1934, but those visits temporarily halted after she met and was courted by Harry Kraft, whom she married in 1935. She became a U.S. citizen in 1937. She and Harry had three children with Robert Kraft, born in 1941, being the middle child with an older brother and younger sister. All of Sarah's siblings at one time or another immigrated to New England, settling in Boston and other towns and cities, including Danvers Mass., and Portsmouth N.H.

Four of the siblings of Sarah's father seem to have remained in Halifax and had a variety of businesses and shops and many of their direct descendants continue to live in the city now. They owned such businesses as the former New York Dress Shop at the corner of Gottingen and Cornwallis Streets and Maxwell's Plum, which originally existed at the corner of Grafton and Sackville Streets.

While the early years in the Boston area must have been challenging for Sarah Webber, Kraft implies that his mother made it all somehow work.

"My father was not someone of great financial means, but he was a man of great integrity, learning, and character and was always looking out for others," he said.

"He always told me that before I went to sleep at night, I should ask myself how I made someone else's life richer that day," Kraft added.

"My mother was much more practical," Kraft said with the strong implication that it was her husbandry that carried them through those years.

He speaks fondly and with great nostalgia about his mother and her influence on his life, exemplified by the credo she would send him off to school after breakfast every day.

"She would tell us, 'work hard, persevere, and look out after others,' he said

That this philosophy stuck with him is fairly obvious both in his business career and his marriage to his late wife Myra Nathalie (Hiatt) Kraft, a kindred spirit and partner in the various causes that their philanthropy supported over many years.

These included donations totalling in the hundreds of millions of dollars to higher education, health care, child and women-related causes, youth sports, and American and Israeli causes.

New England Patriots

Kraft is well known as the owner of the New England Patriots, and as a successful owner of the Kraft Group of Companies. What is not as well-known is how much of a role the Atlantic provinces played in his business success that ultimately led him to purchase the New England Patriots.

His business career began with part ownership in the Rand and Whitney Group, a paper and packaging products firm run by his father-in-law Jacob Hiatt in Worcester, Mass. That led him to the Maritime provinces and later to Newfoundland and Labrador, doing business with paper and packaging companies.

"I was doing business with a paper products company in Halifax and flying into Halifax quite regularly and then moving on to Saint John, New Brunswick and the Irving paper company," Kraft said.

Then in 1972 at the age of 31, he launched his first major business venture by buying an option to purchase, and later buy, the International Forest Products Mill in Stephenville, N.L. This initial venture catapulted his career in business to the point where Kraft Enterprises now owns several companies (including a paper mill in Ontario), sports franchises, including the Patriots and Revolution, as well as Gillette Stadium where the team plays. In fact, in a National Post story in February 2017 on the eve of Superbowl LI, Kraft indicated that his business success starting in Newfoundland provided the wherewithal for him to purchase the New England Patriots.

"My mother always considered herself a Nova Scotian and a proud Canadian. I have always regarded myself as part of a Nova Scotia brotherhood as well," he said.

It was obvious throughout the interview with Kraft that by taking the time amid a busy schedule at the age of 81, he was proud of what his mother gave him in terms of guidance, but also his family and business roots in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador.

"Maritimers are private people," he said. "But if you make a connection with them, and they see that you are genuine, then you can gain some lasting friendships with them", he added.

Yes, Mr. Kraft, I think you got us right. ©

Sources: Wikipedia, N.S. Archives, Pier 21 Immigration Museum, Halifax Regional Municipality Archives, Beth Israel Synagogue, "A hopeful City and a Canadian Connection" by John Kryk, National Post February 1, 2017, "The Dynasty" by Jeff Benedict, Dr. Jock Murray, Halifax Historian Blair Beed, the Atlantic Jewish Council, and a personal interview with Robert Kraft.

Bob Doherty is a freelance writer and author living in Halifax.

Reprinted with permission of the author of the story which appeared in the Chronicle Herald's "Nova Scotian" section—October 3, 2022 edition

What would life look like if you couldn't go to school?

education disrupted

a digital exhibit

COMING JANUARY 2023

Photo by Julia Maio



Holocaust Education Week

OPENING REMARKS FROM U.S. CONSUL GENERAL LYRA CARR

Central Library, Halifax, Nova Scotia, November 1, 2022





PHOTOS: (L-R) Menachem Kaiser, centre, with U.S. Consul General Lyra Carr, left, and Olga Milosevich, right; Menachem Kaiser speaks with Lezlie Oler while signing a copy of his book.

Good evening. Thank you, Edna, for inviting me to join this event. It is deeply meaningful for me to speak to you all as part of tonight's program. I want to applaud the important work of the Atlantic Jewish Council, which is as vital today as it was when it was founded in 1975. While all aspects of the Atlantic Jewish Council's mandate are important, ensuring the public is educated about the horrors and atrocities of the Holocaust gives voice to those who evil tried to silence.

Sharing Holocaust history is critical to ensuring that the historical fact of the Holocaust is made tangible to new generations, and that its lessons continue to be taught and understood. We must not forget such evil.

Each and every one of us has a moral obligation to educate ourselves on this darkest of humanity's chapters. By doing so, we honor the victims and bear witness for future generations so that we can make real the sacred vow: "never again."

We must ensure that as the years pass and we lose the firsthand witnesses to the horrors of the Holocaust, that we all ensure their voices are preserved and continue to be heard by future generations. We must safeguard their testimony, so that truth is not permitted to die. The world must never forget. The world must never deny. The world must never downplay the Holocaust. We must remain ever on guard, and we must do far more to teach the lessons of the Holocaust and apply them in our own time. We must counter hate and lies with compassion and truth. And we must stand up for human dignity and freedom wherever they are imperiled.

This is not an easy task. I am here today representing the United States government, but I am also the mother of two young boys, and within my family, we have had difficult conversations surrounding the Holocaust. I have attempted to educate my sons about these actions of incomprehensible horror, and I am certain we shall discuss it many more times. While it is never easy to speak about an evil chapter of humanity's recent past, to not do so is

simply not an option.

This work will continue for generations, and as we look around the world, it is clear that there is so much yet to do. History tells us that rising acts of antisemitism around the world are often a harbinger of dangers to come. They foreshadow trouble not only for Jewish people, but also for any potentially marginalized group, and, if left unaddressed, could be a precursor to violence, atrocity, or even genocide. We must all remain vigilant against efforts to rewrite history. We must protect the facts of the Holocaust. We must speak up against manifestations of hate against any and all groups, wherever such hate appears. And we must do everything in our power to stop conflicts before they start.

As we begin Holocaust Education Week, I know the Atlantic Jewish Council has organized a robust series of events to mark the occasion. Each event in its own unique way gives voice to a choir of remembrance and explanation. Education takes on many forms and we all can—and in this case, we all must—serve as individual educators.

Before introducing our stars of the evening, I would like to highlight words from President Biden earlier this year:

"We cannot redeem the past. But, on this day, as we mourn humanity's capacity to inflict inhuman cruelty, let us commit to making a better future and to always upholding the fundamental values of justice, equality, and diversity that strengthen free societies."

With that, I turn to welcoming our special guests for this event Menachem Kaiser and Olga Miloscovich.

Although currently based in New York, Menachem Kaiser grew up on this side of the border in Toronto. He earned a BA from Columbia University, an MFA from University of Michigan, and was a Fulbright Fellow to Lithuania. His fiction and nonfiction have appeared in the Wall Street Journal, The Atlantic, New York, BOMB, Vogue, and elsewhere. In 2022, he received the Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature for *Plunder: A Memoir of Family Property and Nazi Treasure*.

>> page 24

<< page 23

Interviewing Menachem is Olga Milosevich, who studied music at the University of British Columbia, and Broadcast Journalism at the British Columbia Institute of Technology. In 1983, she moved to Halifax for a position with the CBC. While with the public broadcaster, she hosted two CBC Radio network shows, "Weekender" and "Music Alive" and worked as host and producer of the regional arts show "Connections" and produced a daily arts report for "Mainstreet".

She retired in July 2012, and in November of that year she received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal from the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia in recognition of her tireless community service. Everyone please join me in welcoming Menachem and Olga.

§

This program was livestreamed and is available to view on the AJC's Holocaust Education YouTube Channel: @holocausteducation1815.

Lyra S. Carr assumed her duties as Consul General of the U.S.
Consulate General in Halifax in July 2021. In this role she represents
U.S. interests in the four Canadian provinces of Nova Scotia, New
Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Prince Edward Island.
She also provides consular representation to the French Territorial
Collectivity of Saint Pierre and Miquelon.



Holocaust Education Week Speaker Discusses Quest to Reclaim Ancestral Property

BY MICHAEL LIGHTSTONE—REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM CITYNEWS HALIFAX

Photo: Menachem Kaiser speaks at a Holocaust Education Week event on November 1, 2022.

Menachem Kaiser never knew his paternal grandfather, a Polish Jew for whom he was named.

His grandad was the only one in his family to have survived Nazi Germany's invasion of their homeland and the genocide that followed.

Kaiser, the grandchild of this man—a Holocaust survivor who died before the expatriate Torontonian was born—went on a yearslong pursuit to try to reclaim an apartment building in Poland his grandfather owned prior to the outbreak of the Second World War.

His saga turned into a self-described weird story of family history, self-reflection, government bureaucracy, Nazi treasure hunters, legal-system navigation and changing expectations along the twisty road through his reclamation project.

Kaiser's tale sparked a well-received book, published last year, called *Plunder: A Memoir of Family Property and Nazi Treasure.*

At a public talk in Halifax Tuesday, he said his story was not written by someone who grew up in a Jewish household steeped in Holocaust tutelage. Being the grandchild of survivors wasn't an active part of his identity growing up.

"On some level, my grandparents chose to put (their wartime ordeal) behind them," Kaiser said, at a Holocaust Education Week event at the Central Library on Spring Garden Road. The 19th annual week is being put on by the Atlantic Jewish Council.

Kaiser said his dad has no memory of his parents discussing what

they went through in order to survive.

The writer's appearance was presented in a question-andanswer format with interviewer Olga Milosevich, a retired CBC broadcaster. Asked by an audience member what his goals were, with respect to getting his grandfather's building back in the family, Kaiser said they're complicated.

He acknowledged working on his book ended up becoming a primary factor, a memoir he said that was "kind of a love letter" to his family. (Kaiser described the story he tells in Plunder as essentially a series of setbacks.)

"It was really a gift in disguise," he said, of writing the book. "It forced me to interrogate my own motivation."

When the Nazis occupied Poland, in 1939, about 3.3 million Jews lived there. By the end of the Second World War, Holocaust experts have said, some 380,000 had survived in Poland or other parts of Europe.

Kaiser, who lives in Brooklyn, N.Y., first visited his grandfather's old building about 11 years ago.

It was not some neglected relic from the war—there were tenants living there, "good people with real lives," says a 2021 book review in The New York Times.

Later, following his visit, Kaiser's father faxed him many documents connected to the property.

What he read showed his grandfather attempting over decades,

"On some level, my grandparents chose to put (their wartime ordeal) behind them," Kaiser said his dad has no memory of his parents discussing what they went through in order to survive.

and failing, to get it back.

After he reviewed the material, a sudden realization took hold of the young man.

"I really felt really for the first time in my life a sentimental connection with my grandfather," Kaiser said in a Boston radio interview in 2021. "I saw that he had failed for 30 years trying to get back his building, and I was in this unique position to resume his quest."

When Kaiser started his reclamation task, "he thought it would take him 18 months at most," the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, an international news service, reported last year. That was an underestimation.

At the library talk, Kaiser said his claim regarding the property in Poland remains unresolved.

With respect to learning about Nazi bloodletting involving Jewish people, he said he's read a lot of Holocaust-related books and other material.

Kaiser said his personal interest in Holocaust education is hooked more to academic/intellectual elements than emotional or psychological ones, and has heard from readers who felt his book was disrespectful to victims and survivors.

Nazi rule under Adolf Hitler began in 1933; the Second World War took place between 1939 and 1945.

During the war, Nazi control on the European continent was extensive and the Germans' ruthlessness extended beyond mass imprisonment, slave labour and murder.

The Nazi regime carried out an organized, ambitious looting of European art, cultural artifacts and property. (In 1938, a Nazi law had already forced Jewish owners of property and assets in Germany and Austria to register holdings worth more than 5,000 Reichmarks.)

"Following the . . . property registry, Jewish citizens faced an increasing number of economic laws that chipped away at their livelihood," the Smithsonian Magazine reported in 2018.

According to The Canadian Encyclopedia, about 35,000 Jewish Holocaust survivors and their dependents resettled in Canada between 1947 and 1955. Many arrived in Halifax, on ships from postwar Europe.

In 2011, officials at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, in the city's south end, unveiled a memorial to Jewish refugees fleeing the Nazis in 1939 who were on a ship denied entry to Canada.

Designed by Polish-born architect Daniel Libeskind, the son of Holocaust survivors, the Wheel of Conscience was inspired by the story of the MS St. Louis and is a sobering reminder of a notorious chapter in this country's history.

Michael Lightstone is a freelance reporter living in Dartmouth.







PHOTOS: (1) Holocaust survivor Fishel Goldig chats with Anna Fried at his book signing and reception, closing program for HEW; (2) Filmmaker Laurence Siegel presented his short contemporary dance film, Footprints (Labnyomok), at the Bronfman Theatre, Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21. Siegel provided the audience with information on Footprints, filmed in Budapest at the site of the "Shoes" sculpture on the Danube. The film pays tribute to the nearly half million Hungarian Jews murdered during the Holocaust; (3) Elin Beaumont, Facilitator of Education and Community Initiatives, The Azrieli Foundation, Toronto, interviewed Holocaust survivor Fishel Goldig at the closing Holocaust Education Week program, at, and in partnership with, the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21. All attendees received a copy of Fishel's memoirs, The Survival Story of a Six-Year-Old Boy, compliments of, and published by, The Azrieli Foundation. A book signing and reception followed the program; (4) Victor Goldberg, left, and AJC Executive Director Yoram Abisror, at the reception for the closing HEW program; (5) HEW Student Program: Fishel Goldig with Elin Beaumont and Michelle Sadowski, Educator, Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program, The Azrieli Foundation, Toronto. Michelle provided a short history lesson and interviewed Fishel—300+ students attended the in-person program and schools from across Nova Scotia participated in the livestreamed event where students had the opportunity to participate in a Q&A with Goldig; (6) Dorothy Riteman and son Larry Riteman at the HEW closing program with Holocaust survivor Fishel Goldig, Rowe Hall, Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21.

THE NINTH ANNUAL **Jewish Film**

AN ATLANTIC JEWISH COUNCIL PRODUCTION

Atlantic Festival



BY LYNN ROTIN, AJFF CHAIR

When a small group of people, at the suggestion of Edna LeVine, launched the Atlantic Jewish Film Festival nine years ago, we had no idea what to expect. Not only were those first few years part of a sharp learning curve but we did everything ourselves. And I mean everything.

One year we baked sides of salmon in the Shaar Shalom kitchen rushing them to the party venue straight from the oven. Another year we ordered a variety of Kosher deli meats from Montreal and spread them on platters. Volunteers baked sweets. We cleared the emptied platters and replaced them with more food; cleaned up and filled the garbage bags. But we loved what we were doing and believed in the importance of a Jewish film festival for our community. We still do. Your year-after-year support tells us that you do, too.

But our audience extends beyond the Jewish one. With the steady increase in antisemitic activity, it's vital the AJFF invites even more people from this wider public to share our culture. Familiarity breeds acceptance. And film is the perfect medium. Everybody loves the movies!

This year's festival was a hybrid offering five virtual films in Atlantic Canada and three in-person ones in Halifax.

Films came from Israel, Canada, France, Germany, and the U.S.A. and covered a wide spectrum of Jewish themes. We were honoured with the presence of the United States Ambassador to Canada David L. Cohen who gave an informed introduction to our opening film and expressed his love of film; the Consul General of Israel Paul Hirschson who opened the festival and sponsored the Israeli romantic comedy film One More Story, the Consul General of France Johan Schitterer who sponsored and introduced the closing French film Rose, and special guests the Consul General of the United States Lyra Carr, and the Honourary Polish Consul Jan Skora.

Saturday evening's Gala film, Shalom Putti: A Long Way to Jerusalem, is a documentary following the conversion of residents in a rural Ugandan community to Judaism. One hundred years earlier, the founder of this group chose to adopt Judaism. This generation

wanted to make it official. Filmmaker, Tamás Worsmer, a Montrealer, followed their progress for seven years filming during each visit from the Israeli rabbi who converted them, and his entourage. It was fascinating to watch an American woman from an NGO hand out lollipops to children, and mortifying to witness her interactions with the Ugandan leader. Director Wormser, answered questions post-film and later mingled with Gala guests.

Next year is the Tenth Anniversary of our Atlantic Jewish Film Festival. We've come a long way; committee members haven't had to do either cooking or clean-up for quite a few years. But the quality of the films shown remains consistent; we will always bring you not only the best films but those you might otherwise not have the opportunity to see. Expect a few changes for next year. I can't promise bigger but we will certainly be better: every year is better than the last. Thanks for watching!

Todah Rabah,

LYNN ROTIN, AJFF Chair, for Committee Members:

JON GOLDBERG | ANNA HAZANKIN | LINDA LAW | EDNA LEVINE JORDAN SCHELEW | FLINT SCHWARTZ | SCHUYLER SMITH ANN THAW | HOWARD THAW | KRISTINA WAKFER | PEGGY WALT

Photos: (1) United States Ambassador to Canada David L. Cohen, right, and Israel Consul General Paul Hirschson, left, opened the festival with a warm welcome and relevant remarks at the crowd-pleasing screening of the highly entertaining Israeli rom-com One More Story; (2) Consul General of France Johan Schitterer, centre, greeted the audience and provided a fascinating introduction to the closing French film Rose, pictured with AJFF chair Lynn Rotin and AJC Executive Director Yoram Abisror; (3) Film director Tamás Wormser, right, engaged the audience at the Saturday night screening of his film Shalom Putti, pictured with AJFF committee member Schuyler Smith who provided an enthusiastic welcome to the gala event; (4) AJFF opening, Honourary Consul Poland, Jan Skora, with his wife Teresa, with from r to I, Consul General Israel, Paul Hirschson, and AJC Executive Director Yoram Abisror: (5-7) AJFF Gala

26

A COMMITTEE TO COMBAT ANTISEMITISM

BY LARRY FINKELMAN, CO-CHAIR

In January of 2022, a number of people from our community came together because of concern about the increasing incidence of antisemitism, and a committee to combat antisemitism was established at Sgoolai Israel Synagogue. The committee, co-chaired by Larry Finkelman and Marilyn Kaufman, is dedicated to "... protecting and preserving Jewish life by eradicating antisemitism and hatred in all its forms through education, developing relationships with other community groups, and fostering mutual support and understanding." Members this year have been: Anita Adilman, Ivan Levine, Eileen DuGuay, Shelley Stephens, Ricky Peled, Kelly Newman, Jasmine Kranat, and Rabbi Goldman.

The committee adopted the IHRA definition to guide its work, and endeavors to increase public awareness through education and development of partnerships with other community groups. The goal is stand with others as we face hatred in all its forms, and to empower the larger community to call it out and communicate that hate has no place here. While this is an ambitious objective, we are reminded of the words of Rabbi Tarfon in Pirkei Avot, "It is not your responsibility to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it."

Initially, the committee began by educating ourselves about the issue, and is now centered on carrying forward a number of initiatives of committee members. Jasmine has developed a Holocaust Education Exhibit. Last spring, 220 grade 11 students from Fredericton High School attended and very positive feedback was received from students, teachers, administrators, and elected members. The students also attended a talk by Rabbi Goldman. This year the project is being expanded to four high schools in the

area, as well as a public exhibit at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery. Initial funding for this project was made available through the efforts of Ivan. As well, a number of volunteers helped in numerous ways including designing the materials, installation, and guiding students through the exhibit.

Marilyn and Eileen worked on events related to Jewish Heritage Month (May). Marilyn worked in partnership with the Fredericton Public Library. Although Covid limited the activities that were possible, there was a children's book display on Jewish heritage and the library staff distributed Jewish themed activity kits for kids to take home. Eileen organized a tour of the synagogue with talks by the Rabbi and Arnold Chippin, together with a tour of the Holocaust exhibit.

Marilyn has been active as a member of the city's newly formed anti-racism committee, and has been able to successfully work for the inclusion in the terms of reference of an item regarding antisemitism as a unique form of racism. She is currently building bridges with other cultural and racial communities and is working toward the adoption of the IHRA definition by the city. She and Larry met with a staff member of the Province's Commissioner on Systemic Racism to discuss issues related to the Jewish community and Marilyn followed up by submitting a brief, some of which was incorporated in the commissioner's final report.

Kelly initiated numerous contacts with organizations and government representatives throughout the region, promoting awareness of holocaust education, antisemitism, and Jewish life in general. She is exploring the possibilities of collaborations between

>> page 29

Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion (CCDI) Webinar

Antisemitism: How to recognize and prevent it in the workplace

February 16, 2023 / 2:00 p.m. AST / 60 minutes

Hosted by: Schuyler H Smith, CCDI Manager of Partner Relations, Atlantic Canada

The CCDI sits down with thought leaders in the Canadian Jewish community to discuss what organizations can do to define and combat antisemitism in the workplace and beyond.

AUDIENCE/LEVEL: This is an introductory/intermediate level webinar for individuals to learn how to define antisemitism, and how to combat hatred toward Jews in Canada and the workplace. This webinar is being offered for **free** in English with live French interpretation and closed captioning in both languages.

REGISTRATION: Antisemitism: How to recognize and prevent it in the workplace: CCDI.ca



Schuyler Smith is active member of the Halifax Jewish community and AJC volunteer with Spencer House Seniors Centre Christmas Lunch, Pride Shabbat Dinner & an Atlantic Jewish Film Festival committee member.

For more information about this event or event-related registration, please contact events@ccdi.ca



Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion Centre canadien pour la diversité et l'inclusion

HYBRID INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES ON ANTISEMITISM

BY MARILYN KAUFMAN, AJC PAST PRESIDENT

Hamilton, Ontario, hosted its first ever international conference on antisemitism Nov.12-15/22. The No More Antisemitism Conference, hybrid in nature, was divided into two tracks, one for educators (attended by Marilyn Kaufman) and one for advocacy (attended By Larry Finkleman).

Some might ask, "Why Hamilton?" Well, Hamilton is known as the hate crime capital of Canada where systemic undercurrents of hate in multiculturism are rampant and systemic antisemitism is very pervasive. "If people come after one group, they will end up coming after us all." It is, therefore, important that ethnic and cultural communities dialogue together, to explore common core values in pursuit of harmony. And it is essential that all hate crimes be reported, for it is only after that, that analyses can be done, and proper resources be put in place by law enforcement.

The two keynote speakers opening the conference were Dr. Robert Rozett from Yad Vashem who gave a concise history of the origins of antisemitism in the context of Antisemitism Today, Paradoxes and Challenges. He emphasized the need to always view the context in which we find antisemitism eg., Jews being called Covid, the new blood libel. He maintains that education is a limited tool, but an important one. Legislation is needed. More in depth training and resources in law enforcement are required and hate posts on social media need to be reined in. Action is needed to combat antisemitism and we must all be ready to answer the call.

Dara Horn, author of People Who Love Dead Jews, maintains that everyone requires a Jewish education. We have spent years in various countries around the world memorializing the Holocaust in attempts to prevent antisemitism, but is it really working? The data shows it isn't there. At the Anne Frank Museum in 2017, the Israeli flag was forbidden to be flown. In 2019, a Jewish worker was forbidden to wear his kippah, a decision which on appeal was reversed 4 months later. Jewish Heritage sites such as in Harbin, China and St. Petersburg, Russia have become a marketing ploy with properties seized from Jews during WW11. After 20 years of mandatory Holocaust education in the UK, 8000 students were interviewed. When students were asked why the Jews were targeted, they could only parrot back antisemitic propaganda. It is therefore, understandable, that everyone requires an education in Jewish Civilization, as Jews are fundamental to Western Civilization, Islam, and Christianity—the Torah—its concepts, resistance vs idolatry, and Judaism which pre-dates religion. And take note that the Hebrew language is the only dead language brought back to life.

Jesse Burk (CIJA), a 3rd generation Holocaust survivor, spoke about Understanding the Holocaust. It is important to have mainstream Jewish organizations set the standard vs fringe groups setting the framework, for learning how to combat antisemitism.

For educators there are several resources to access online. Children are not born to hate, it is taught. The Unlearn It Toolbox offered by CIJA (unlearn it.ca) offers several animated videos and guides addressing antisemitism/hate for classroom courses. Margaret's Legacy

28

is an innovative resource available online. It features videos, lesson plans, guides and more, on the Holocaust, social justice and citizenship and provides teacher training for presenting programs to students. The Journeys Curriculum uses the documentary of Margaret and Arthur, their life prior to, during, and after the Holocaust to provide a full year integrative curriculum for students in Middle School (grades 6–8). Other programs/activities are, At Great Risk, which offers 6 books, memoirs with focus on Righteous Among the Nations, i-witness, i-walk, and Hidden Children.

We must be able to understand our core values and the diversity of others in order to see and assess other viewpoints, in order to understand how to approach teaching the Holocaust. There are specific challenges for the youth of today. We have digital nations vs basic nations, time and space perceptions, learning styles (how students learn about the world), skill sets (know better how things work), communicative preferences (know how students like to get their information), motivations, social concerns (born in time of crisis), leadership styles. What is the place of cinema in telling history? Where is the limit of content and technology? What place has memory and history? Reflection?

When teaching students about the Holocaust, material must be age appropriate, be factual and be made relevant to them. Where to start? Perhaps with pictures of a Jews themselves, non-demonizing pictures of Jews.

The Never Is Now Summit held in New York City, Nov.10th sponsored by the Anti Defamation League in the US, was also a hybrid international event which Marilyn attended. The focus of the summit was how to combat antisemitism. According to Jonathan Greenblatt, Chair of the ADL, there has been a 34 per cent increase in antisemitic incidents in the US since 2021, including in non-Jewish areas across the US. One hundred right wing extremists have identified as Christian Nationalists. Anti-Zionists sit in the House of Representatives but claim to love Israel. Antisemitic incidents have tripled over the last six years. Charlottesville in 2017, Pittsburgh in 2018, Poway, NY in 2019, a march in Brooklyn in 2020, attacks on Jews in broad daylight in 2021, and Buffalo, NY in 20222. This escalation is seen by many as a state of emergency.

Protecting the Jewish communities is also about protecting the broader community. Jews want to feel safe when they leave their homes, so security is high on the priority list for their homes, synagogues, community centres and schools. Antisemitism needs to be disrupted before the acts of violence occur. "We have always recognized that for Jews to be safe, all have to be safe. An attack on one is n attack on all." (JG)

We need to start dealing with the disease not just responding to the symptoms. BBYO and ADL have trained about 70,000 teens in the US and other countries before they get to college. ADL engaged businesses successfully. Kanye West was dropped by Adidas and other companies such as the GAP when his relationships with Right Wing

Shalom WINTER 2023 the AJC.ca

Extremists and Proud Boys became apparent. It was the pressure from the public which helped bring these changes about. J-lens, a leading Jewish values-based investor network is coming under the ADL umbrella, giving ADL a voice at the corporate table. This is a positive step as the BDS movement is attempting to hijack ESG (Environment, Social Justice, Governance) with anti-Israel policies targeting the Jewish state.

Christopher Wray, Director of the FBI, said FBI hate crime data/antisemitism data is at an all time high. Of all reported threats, 63 per cent are religious hate crimes. Specific training for new agents has been implemented. The established Hate Crime Fusion Cell Program is producing positive results. It is imperative that all hate crimes be called out and reported for we have seen how online hate has exploded into violence.

Students on campus try to find a balance between free speech and inclusion. Between 2021 and 2022 there were about four thousand antisemitic incidents reported. Freedom of speech does not give one the freedom to slander nor the freedom to hate.

We are fighting misinformation (information unintentionally presented) online as well as disinformation (information intentionally meant to marginalize communities psychologically with things not true, thereby disempowering and disenfranchising them). The fight against antisemitism is on the front line of social media with a rise in cyber threats, specifically harassment which has resulted in an increase of doxing and swatting incidents. And

although in the US the First Amendment protects hate, it gives us an idea of where boundaries are. Lawsuits can be a deterrent because they are expensive, time consuming in terms of preparing depositions and litigation. But think about how many kids take their own lives because of radicalization. Pursuing a lawsuit there has proven to be successful and shows that in the end, someone will be held accountable.

Dr. Albert Bourla, CEO of Pfizer, said, "The Holocaust didn't start with Auschwitz, it started with disinformation." His parents were the only Holocaust survivors from his hometown in Greece. He recognizes how critical it is to identify and speak out against antisemitism, for as he says, "The realty is—it could happen again. Something's true or it isn't. We must continue to speak truth and build trust in science on what can be proven." We have seen from history what resulted from disinformation, ignorance and fear. As Mayor Eric Adams of New York City cited, "If you find yourself in a dark place, you choose whether it will be a burial or a planting. Let it be a planting. You can learn the facts, advocate for truth and what you know is right. Commit yourself to making a difference."

We are the living caretakers of our next generations. Let us be the ones to protect and defend, to give them the strength and courage, to offer them hope for a safe and brighter future. "Never is now, and now matters more than ever!"

<< page 27

different Atlantic economic sectors/ government departments such as tourism, agriculture, culture, and their counterparts in Israel.

Larry developed a power point presentation on antisemitism aimed at increasing understanding of this issue and what can be done about it. The presentation addresses the following questions: What is antisemitism? What is the incidence of it in Canada? What forms has it taken historically, and what is its newest mutation? What are some strategies for combatting this? The presentation takes approximately 40 minutes and is followed by Q & A. It was been given to a variety of community groups and professional organizations.

Individual members of the committee also responded to incidents taking place in the city, such as the use of Holocaust imagery during the anti-vaxer's protest, published letters to the editor, and items appearing on media. Members also were interviewed on local radio and tv and print media, or had letters published in the paper.

All the members of the antisemitism committee have contributed their time and ideas to make the first year highly successful. Yasher Koach to everyone.

§



a call for recipes B'tayavon

The Atlantic Jewish Council food booklet "Breaking Bread" is looking for family recipes with stories and memories.

For more information or to submit: Edna LeVine engagement@theajc.ca

REMEMBERING SHIRLEY (WOLFSON) CHERNIN, O.N.S. Z'L

OCTOBER 23, 1927—SEPTEMBER 10, 2022—Glace Bay, Nova Scotia

With great sadness, we announce the passing of Shirley (Wolfson) Chernin, O.N.S., of Sydney and Glace Bay, N.S. She was 94.

Shirley is remembered for her decades of service to improve the lives of individuals and communities. Although she grew up in Sydney, many of her adult years were spent in Glace Bay where she raised her children and dedicated herself to community service.

As a founding member of the Glace Bay Citizens Service League, she helped to create and sustain almost 20 programs running out of Town House. She chaired the League for 40 years. She was involved in a variety of projects and activities including the Canadian Federation of University Women, Transition House and Holocaust education.

Shirley was a leader in the national and local chapters of Hadassah-Wizo Canada and a fixture at the Cape Breton Bazaar held annually for 42 years. She was particularly proud of her work to preserve the history of early Jewish life in Cape Breton. She

was an enthusiastic organizer of the Kumahaym, a homecoming for the Glace Bay Jewish diaspora to celebrate 100 years of their synagogue. She donated her own photographs and papers to the Beaton Institute of Cape Breton University where they are now archived digitally for all to access.

In recognition of her decades of service, Shirley received the Order of Nova Scotia in 2002 and the Katherine McLennan Award, among others. Shirley was deeply devoted to family. Years ago, she would drive to Sydney multiple times a day to care for her late parents, Abraham and Bessie. Long before cell phones were available, and when landline calls between Sydney and Glace Bay were considered long distance, Shirley spent hours on the phone daily with her sister, cousins and many friends scattered throughout North America. In her role as 'Aunt Shirley', she was a constant in the lives of her many nieces and nephews, and their

families. Her kitchen table was a gathering place for anyone who wanted to trace their history and connection to Cape Breton and for those who were interested, she was



always open to fiercely debate women's roles in modern life. The coffee pot was always on, often accompanied by her unique and delicious chocolate chip cake.

Shirley is survived by her devoted son Mark (Karen Graham). She was predeceased by her husband Joseph and daughter Marta, and her four siblings. Family and friends are left with many rich memories of Shirley especially her warm inviting smile, inquisitive mind, and the colour blue.

Memories may be shared with the family by visiting www.pattenfuneral.com. §



ARE YOU ON THE AJC WEEKLY MAILING LIST?

FIND OUT ABOUT LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS!
Subscribe online: www.theAJC.ca

TO ADVERTISE IN Shalom

Please contact the AJC office: 902.422.7491 x221 or info@theajc.ca

Shalom

30

WINTER 2023

the AJC.ca

REMEMBERING JOEL JACOBSON Z'L

Age 81 of Halifax. On August 18, 2022, Joel passed away peace fully in Oxford, England with his loving wife, Cathy and children, Jason and Debra by his side. Born in Halifax on December 16, 1940, he was the son of the late Samuel S. and Ruby (Zwerling) Jacobson. He attended Sir Charles Tupper, Cornwallis Junior High and Queen Elizabeth High schools, then earned a Bachelor of Commerce degree at Dalhousie University (1963) and a Master of Science in Journalism at Boston University (1964). After a 12-year retail business career at the family department store, Kline's Limited, he worked as marketing and public relations director at Sport Nova Scotia, Dalplex and the Nova Scotia Voyageurs. He joined the Halifax Herald Limited in 1984 and worked as a sports writer, City Hall reporter, editorial writer and business editor before beginning the very popular Bright Spot column in 1992 of which he wrote 2,339 stories of everyday people. In 2001, he started a Sunday Great Kids column, writing another 300-plus articles about wonderful young people in Nova Scotia. During his time with the Herald, he served on the company's Rainbow Haven Board and Pension Investment Advisory committee for many years. He also represented the Herald at many public functions as a speaker and in schools as a mentor. He retired from the Herald in March 2009 but continued to work as a freelance writer, speaker and master of ceremonies until his passing. Open and genuine, rarely speaking a bad word about anyone or anything, he lightened a room when he walked in with his smile, glad hand and kind word. An avid sports fan, he was devoted to the New York Yankees, and would watch or listen to almost any athletic event happening. He had a positive outlook on life, using that, plus a constant smile and corny jokes, to overcome colorectal cancer and live happily with an ileostomy. He loved life, was an avid reader, watched too much television, relished classical music, expressed disdain for rap music and enjoyed good food with good company. He had pride in his time with the Herald slo-pitch team for

which he pitched and, in later years after hip surgery, coached to a zillion Metro Media League championships. Joel is survived by his loving and loved wife of 48 years and best friend, Cathy; son, Jason (Jessica); grandchildren, Samantha and Kyle Jacobson, Toronto; daughter, Debra (Ian Mattingley); grandchildren, Olivia and AJ Mattingley, Wantage, England; nephew, Charles Jacobson (Kim Jacobson), Melbourne, Australia; plus several cousins. Funeral will be held in the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium on Monday, August 29th at 2p.m. Burial to follow in Beth Israel Synagogue Cemetery at the corner of Connaught and Windsor. Shiva (visitation) will be held at the home of Cathy Jacobson with visitation from 7-9 p.m. on Monday. Shiva will continue on Tuesday, August 30th through Thursday, September 1st from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m.

Always community-minded and a willing volunteer, traits he gleaned from his parents, Joel served as president or chairman of the following organizations and events: Dalhousie University, Alumni Association 1980-81, Halifax Progress Club 1977-78, Co-founder (1973) and chair, Canadian Progress Club Kings Meadow Sports Celebrity Dinner 1973-1976. He served on the boards of Beth Israel Synagogue, Nova Scotia Special Olympics, Abilities Foundation of Nova Scotia, United Ostomy Association of Canada, Camp Kadimah, Nova Scotia Rehabilitation Centre Foundation, and Rainbow Haven Opportunities Fund. He was chair of the Central Region selection committee, Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame, coordinator of Induction Night for the Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame from its first date in 1980 to date, media chair, CIS Basketball Championships for 20 years, organizing committee, 2002 national conference in Halifax, United Ostomy Association of Canada; Danny Gallivan Cystic Fibrosis golf tournament committee and banquet emcee for more than 20 years, Pan American Wheel chair Games, Communications Chair 1982, Mayor's Advisory Committee on Community and Race Relations of City of Halifax,

Honourary chair of Big Brothers-Big Sisters-Dartmouth Halifax Bowl for Kids Sake, Secretary, program chair of Metro Halifax Chapter, United Ostomy Association of



Canada, Chair, Halifax chapter UOAC 35th anniversary celebration, Chair, World Ostomy Day Canadian kick off, 2009, Editor, national newsletter, United Ostomy Association of Canada, Atlantic Canada correspondent Canadian Jewish News (Toronto-based publication), major contributor, Shalom Magazine, Atlantic Jewish Council; Volunteer emcee, Provincial Volunteer Awards, Recreation Nova Scotia; emcee Dalhousie Sport Hall of Fame Inductions and emcee of many community events. He received many awards and distinctions for his volunteer and career work including Gordon Archibald Award for community service from Dalhousie University Alumni Association, 2005, James Ellery Award, American Hockey League Print Journalist of the Year, 1987, Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame Volunteer of the Year Award, 1990 and 2004, Nova Scotia Special Olympics Volunteer of the Year Award, 1991, Easter Seals March of Dimes National Award, June 1997, Volunteer Award named after him (2001) for commitment to CIS Basketball Championships, Peter Gzowski Literacy Award of Merit, 2002, presented by ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation, President's Award, Nova Scotia Special Olympics, 2002, Community award as Paul Harris Fellow, Halifax Rotary Club, 2002, Queens Golden Jubilee Medal, 2003, Burleigh Wile Outstanding Service Award, Halifax chapter, UOAC 2009, Community Award, J.L. Ilsley High School, June 2009. Donations may be made to the Halifax Chapter, United Ostomy Association of Canada; Nova Scotia Sport

Sustenance for the Soul

BY LARRY FINKELMAN

Tonight, these lights of Chanukah, provide heat for the heart, sustenance for the soul, and strength for the will.

Throughout our history,
they have girded us against
being Hellenized and Romanized,
Russified and Anglified,
and they remind us,
we have dedicated and rededicated our Temple,
claimed and reclaimed our services and celebrations,
asserted and reasserted our culture,
invented and reinvented our language,
educated and reeducated generations about our laws and values,
and affirmed and reaffirmed,
we are the people of the land.

They also remind us, we stand in solidarity

32

with the 'others' of the world,

because,

we once lived in poverty and persecution, were slaves and strangers in other lands, and suffered exile and extermination.

These few,
flickering flames of light,
shine well beyond their numbers,
to illuminate the night
and bring hope
into the darkest corners of the earth.

And they remind us, we are God's partners in creating a society on earth, where peace, justice, and compassion, find a home.

Larry Finkelman lives in Fredericton, NB and you can read more of his poetry and contact him at: www.larryslinesofpoetry.com

The Abraham Leventhal Memorial Scholarships

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

The award will normally be to a maximum of \$5000.00 for each application. The biannual application deadlines are May 31st (for studies beginning the following September, or later) and September 30th (for studies beginning the following January, or later).

Applicants can apply once in any 12-month period. Abraham Leventhal Memorial Scholarships may be used towards either part-time or full-time studies.

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

Applications available at: theajc.ca/scholarships

Shalom WINTER 2023 the AJC.ca

LIGHTING CANADA'S LARGEST MENORAH

Chanukah was celebrated at Grand Parade in downtown Halifax, outside of City Hall, with the lighting of the largest Menorah in Canada on December 19.

Under the leadership of Chabad Lubavitch Rabbi Mendel Feldman, and sponsored by Chabad Lubavitch, dignitaries attending included Mayor Mike Savage and Lieutenant Governor Arthur J. LeBlanc, who joined with the community in the candle lighting ceremony and the joyful festivities—the celebration included a light show, latkes and sufganiot!













CHRISTMAS AT SPENCER HOUSE

11th Annual Spencer House Seniors Centre Christmas Lunch Christmas lunch returned to an in-person event serving up some Christmas cheer to over 30 members of Spencer House Seniors Centre. Volunteers schmoozed, cooked, entertained, served, & schmoozed some more to create a festive celebration, and delivered meals and gifts to those members who could not attend—a joyful occasion for all!

Thank you to the volunteers who made this event possible:

Myrna Yazer | Schuyler Smith | Jen Pink & Freya | Rhonna Gaum & Tanya Sheri Lecker & Mark Evans & Joey & Sam | David Hanson | Leo Weniger | Inbal Bahar Hannah Novack | Lauren Fineberg | Aviva Rubin-Schneider & Jonathan Schneider Shelley Goulding & Mike Fitzmaurice | Mort Fels & Rebecca



Schuyler Smith and Myrna Yazer

FREDERICTON NEWS

BY IVAN LEVINE, COMMITTEE CHAIR, SGOOLAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

"Happy Chanukah Sgoolai Israel Members" The Fredericton Sgoolai Israel Synagogue and the Sisterhood had approximately 70 people of which 30 were children, the largest in decades, at its Chanukah Celebration on December 18th. We especially want to graciously thank Shelley Stephens, who is our Co-President, with her brother Louie, and her committee and lots of volunteers for making this so successful. Shelley has done an outstanding job, in each of her capacity as Co-President of our Synagogue and President of our Sisterhood.

Our Board recently passed a motion, stating that 50 years old and younger, Pay no Dues, and can enjoy services, functions, marriage, Bar/Bat Mitzvah and Hebrew School, at no cost. Contact myself or Shelley for details. We want to restore the Shul's vibrancy, and centered on children as they are most important, for the Future.

We had three musicians with dancing and singing. The cooks Inball, & Ganit, baked

sufganiyot, Rabbi Yosef Goldman, Shaindy, Fraidy, and Colleen, Shaindy's friend from Ontario made latkes and welcomed Shaindy's daughter Fraidy, visiting from Toronto who prepared Chanukah treat bags with their volunteers, with bagels plus. Inball and Ganit's daughters decorated and assisted with the children.

Thank Rabbi Yosef Goldman for lighting the Chanukah menorah with the Community.

Welcome Josh Stephens visiting from Toronto to spend the holidays with his mother, Shelley Stephens and family. He was an exceptional helper volunteering with the preparing for the party.

Thank you to Brenda Purdy who volunteered on the Registration Desk and others who were accidentally omitted gave of their time. Thank you to Gary Le who joined us from St. John with his wife Buffy and daughter Rachel, volunteered to play his guitar and sing with us.



Chanukah celebration

It is most unfortunate that there was very limited support to meet and greet all the 70 guests to our Shul from our members and Board.

Our next celebration will be Purim March 6, 2023, when you can have a chance to revive our congregation.

CAPE BRETON NEWS

BY SHARON JACOBSON

The Fall Season has come and gone but it did leave its mark—Hurricane Fiona! Redolent of a Biblical fury, did it bring a message for our New Year? In a way it did. Though trees fell and properties were devastated, human life, on the whole, was miraculously untouched; good people helped each other from different provinces and out of country. "Selfishness dwarfs the soul", but soul was big on the island. "Let there be Light; let there be Heat"...and with the GENERATOR and NS Power, there was Light and there was Heat!... but not in the synagogue.

Getting together was tenuous, but we did it! Several miracles followed: we managed to hold High Holiday services with our newly invited and much appreciated Cantor Sid Dworkin who was able to be in attendance;

34

we numbered 21 people on the first day and 25 people on the 2nd day of Rosh Hashanah. Ever dependable, Rabbi Ellis also made it to the Sydney shul. Leon and Leslie and Ella joined Beth Sheila, and Barry in choir with probably others as well...Lisa and Barry Green from Toronto joined us...Cantor Dworkin's Adon Alom was a hit!

Our Kol Nidre attendance numbered 50, and the next evening's Break Fast hosted about 48 people. Some of us were lucky enough to celebrate a pot-luck meal with friends & family. (another "generated" miracle) Ah yes, the past three years have needed miracles.

We lost a monumental figure who had been impacting the Jewish and wider community,

in the person of Shirley Chernin. She "left something important and elegant behind." (A quote that so describes Shirley)

Queen Elizabeth II passed away about the same time and the two women were comparable with their sense of duty and responsibility, and humour. Known and loved in their domains, and due to longevity, they were both "fixtures" throughout our years.

Anton Selkowitz, (Dunvegan,CB) also passed away in the late autumn. He had been a regular on the High Holidays.

As I write this, my cousin, Sybil Shore Fineberg, a Cape Bretoner by birth, just lost her husband, Victor Fineberg. The funeral took place Dec. 21, 2022. Victor & Sybil operated Hali Deli together in Halifax. Sybil had just sent a wonderful photo of son, Max, his wife Kennedi, and wide-eyed Ellia, a beautiful granddaughter, attending an Eagles hockey game in Sydney. The family has

Shalom WINTER 2023 the AJC.ca

recently moved to Hillside Mira where Bubby Bella Shore had resided. The thread continues.

**

We recently met up with Bev Bernick Jacobson, formerly of Sydney, and her husband Fred Jacobson in Altadena, California. Bev is keenly interested in the Sydney community and supports it in many ways.

Moe and Enie Lieff visited in the Fall and decided to spend the Winter! Moe's wooden sculpture of Chanukah torch-like candles set unabashedly on his grounds in Englishtown, lit up the skies!

His challah & bagels could fill a bakery and entice anyone to a Kiddish lunch.

Shoshana Schwartz, a former Sydney resident, also visited her native shul. She was in town, caring for her mom, Diane Schwartz, who had met with an unfortunate road accident. Diane is no doubt recuperating and rehabilitating herself through "sheer force of personality", as her late husband, Harold, once described her to me...

Heidi Schwartz arrived in CB to check her summer home in Englishtown. Neighbour, Barrie Carnat hosted a lunch with Heidi, her mom, Inez and Enie and Moe and Stanley and I who were visiting the Lieffs that day! Beth MacCormick (Dubinsky) dropped in... it was so nice to gather...visiting spontaneously.

We held a special Kiddish to bid farewell to one of our "minions"? Clinton Rice was returning to Ontario to care for his aging father. We will miss him...

Other interesting visitors included Ray MacDonald and his wife, Roslyn Goldman formerly of Sydney. They dropped by the shul one Shabbat morning. Ray & Roslyn are part of Leket Israel, the leading food rescue organization in Israel, rescuing nutritious surplus food for those in need!

Phil David came to town! He was visiting his mom, Tootsie Faye David who was about to celebrate her 94th Birthday! Her niece, Rhea Simon Gold flew in from Toronto to attend a Birthday Dinner at the Cambridge Suites Hotel. Niece, Shayna and Darren Strong were also in attendance. Besides family, good friends, Joan and Frank Elman, Reg Bonnar and Mary and several other of her close acquaintances toasted this incredible woman with her "bon vivant" attitude stirred with humour and intelligence; what a lady she is!

Ellen Adler recently discovered letters and



photos that got her reminiscing about a close relationship she had with Jack & Zelda Yazer. One was dated to the Wulfmans in Oct. 26/96. Like Proust's...Of Things Past, a host of memories rose up in her mind. His kindness to a New Jersey lady and her two little girls coming to shul from Margaree, CB, was warm and exuberant. His generosity extended to Dairy Queen & Birthday Cakes; as the years progressed they lunched at Joe's and Flavor. (he was 101 years young)...she visited him at home with a plate of food after he had missed the second half of the Yom Kippur service, due to his unwieldy oxygen machine. He was distraught. He refused to eat. As she was leaving, he told her: "I'll eat it tomorrow if I don't have Alzheimer's". He was 102.

Ellen and her daughters, Haley & Leah felt very close to Jack. He was a Grandpa to them and One Fine Man at that...

By the way, I believe Kudos should be awarded to Rabbi Ellis' daughters, Leah and Sarah who have been recognized for their work in Environment issues!.

I was fortunate to catch a Chanukah event in San Francisco at the iconic Fillmore Hall. It is an intimate standing venue that has witnessed the legendary Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, The Grateful Dead. Well, the charity event, A Very Jewish Christmas, was a fundraiser for Jewish Family Services. It was Fun. With a huge drawing of an Elephant on the screen behind him, the MC opened the evening with "the elephant in the room?" Antisemitism. You



I found the immediate collective response interesting and surprising. I guess we all hold our breath when we hear this word, no matter where we live.

ONE LAST TIDBIT...

Listening to the Munk Debates, a Friday Focus discussion between Janice Gross Stein and Rudyard Griffiths tackled the topic of a new launch—ChatGBT (Generated pre training) I believe...Janice, who was the Founding Director of the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, explained it thus...It is a new machine learning tool.

For instance, she asked the "Bot'to write a Bar Mitzvah speech for her friend's grandson that incorporated his Haftorah with his favourite sport, Hockey!

The result was more than satisfactory; it proved to be a game-changer!

So, who should be presented with the New Prayer Book at this milestone?

The Bar Mitzvah Boy or The Bot (Mitzvah)? Happy 2023!

S

REPORT FROM THE SAINT JOHN JEWISH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

BY KATHERINE BIGGS-CRAFT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CURATOR

On November 6th, we paid our final respects to Lloyd Goldsmith, Past President of the Museum. In 1999, he brought the Museum back from the brink of closure and remained an active member of the Board ever afterwards, including five years as president. Lloyd brought great wisdom to board discussions throughout the years and introduced new ideas for keeping the Museum active and well organized. Most recently he created the Saint John Jewish Film Festival—we've shown more than 50 world class films in the past nine years and have created a dedicated following for the event. Lloyd will be missed, and his unwavering support of the Museum will not be forgotten.

The Saint John Jewish Historical Museum experienced a much more normal summer season during which we welcomed more than 2500 visitors, with well over half of them coming to visit during September and October via cruise ships. A few of our visitors were returning to explore their Jewish roots in Saint John, including Faith Guss who came with her family all the way from Norway, Sara Lynne Levine with her husband and children from Ottawa, Ruth Brown and her daughter from outside Toronto and Glenn Davis, all the way from Vancouver. Several groups came to see the Museum as well including the Fredericton Garrison Club, the Saint John High School class of 1971 and the board of the Greater Saint John Community Foundation.

The success of the summer would not have been possible without the support of five summer students and a number of new volunteers. All of our summer students—Maya Fisher, Lexi Schwenger, Solly Ross, Ari Van Dam, and Ian Kelly—were working here for the first time and it was an amazing experience to watch them grow as they gained confidence in public speaking, learned a great deal about Jewish culture and the city's Jewish history. Best of all, they all want to come back in 2023!

36









PHOTOS: (1) Summer Students: Maya Fisher, Lexi Schwenger, Solly Ross, Ari Van Dam, and Ian Kelly; (2) Faith Guss and Family; (3) Saint John High School Class of 1971; (4) Wednesday Walk.

We welcomed new volunteers to greet our visitors—we would never have gotten through the busy fall months without the help of Roslyn Harrush, Deena Harris-Peiser, Paulette Gaudet and Juliana Tibbet. They joined our long-time guides Norman Hamburg, Susan Isaacs-Lubin, Phillip Bloom, Lorie Cohen-Hackett and Joe Arditti to make sure that the many visitors to the Museum learned the community's history and had their many questions answered.

The 9th Annual Saint John Jewish Film Festival was held from October 22 to 27 as an in-person and on-line event and met with good attendance and positive reviews for the films that were selected. We were pleased to show Lost Transport as our opening gala film, followed by Haute Couture, The Conference, Trust, Neighbours and Schachten. Committee members presented introductions to each film for the in-person and at home audiences. Planning is already

underway for the 10th anniversary event to be held in October 2023.

Things remained busy even after we closed our doors to visitors in the first week of November with several requests for tours. December turned into a busy month with many class presentations on the celebration of Hanukkah—sharing the story of the holiday, showing them the menorah, and playing many games of dreidel. Even the teachers took some turns at the game. It was a real "menorah-thon"!

The winter months will give us time to catch up on unfinished projects—adding material to the archives, researching and writing—telling family stories, adding to our walking tours featuring former Jewish homes and businesses in the uptown and more stories about those buried in the Shaaarei Zedek Cemetery.

Shalom WINTER 2023 the AJC.ca

After two exciting years of sharing stories of travels to Israel, we are ready to create a new exhibition for 2023—"Coming of Age: Bar Mitzvah and Bat Mitzvah Celebrations". We hope to include photographs, invitations, scrapbooks, cards, telegrams, kipahs, gifts, and other memorabilia—even Bar or Bat Mitzvah speeches if people still have them. Part of the exhibit will be devoted to Hebrew School through the years. If you celebrated your Bar or Bat Mitzvah as part of the Saint John Jewish community, we would very much like to share your memories of Hebrew School and your special day along with any memorabilia or photographs you have. Please contact the Museum to make arrangements to donate or loan your treasures. You can share your memories in a letter or an email—or even by Zoom—contact the Museum for a link and the opportunity to reminisce.

Over the winter, we are planning to share our "Wednesday Walks" program. This was launched this past summer and small groups accompanied Katherine on short walks along the streets near the Museum to learn the history of the Jewish families who lived in the city. The winter version will be done via Zoom and participants will be invited to add their own memories during the presentation. Pre-registration will be required—information on the "walks" will be shared in January 2023. All programs will be held on Wednesday afternoons at 2:30 p.m. The dates for the program will be: February 1—Orange Street; February 8—King Street East; February 15—Leinster Street and February 22—Elliot Row. A second series of walks will take place on March 8, 15, 22 and 29 with more details on content to be announced in February.

The Museum remains available for tours through the winter by appointment and will re-open with regular hours in May 2023. Upcoming Events—Mark Your Calendars New Exhibit for 2023—Coming of Age: Bar Mitzvah and Bat Mitzvah Celebrations Wednesday "Walks" Via Zoom. §

SAINT JOHN NEWS

BY EDWARD VAN DAM AND SUSAN ISAACS-LUBIN

As the weather gets colder and our snowbirds flock to the sunny south, things are really heating up in our vibrant community. After a two-year COVID hiatus, we will be hosting our annual Chanukah Community Candle Lighting and celebration on Friday December 23rd. The event starts at 5:30p.m. with activities for the children hosted by the Hebrew School. There will also be a Shabbat service followed by the candle lighting ceremony and delicious traditional Chanukah treats served up in the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum immediately after. All are invited to participate in what will be a fun family event.

In other community news, our Hebrew School continues to grow. We now have a total of 30 kids attending weekly classes. That number is expected to grow as the school will be expanding its offering in 2023 with an extra class each Sunday.

In November we had our AGM in person at the synagogue. It was great to see so many attend the event and volunteer their time to join the synagogue's board of directors. Bruce Washburn was re-elected as President for another term. Bruce's stewardship is greatly appreciated as the community continues to move forward.

This past quarter we lost two community members. Lloyd Goldsmith and William (Bill) Thompson passed away. Lloyd, married to Francine Calp, and William, married to Cathy Cohen, were long time members of the community who will be greatly missed.

As we light the Chanukah candles and reflect on this past year (2022) in Saint John, we are grateful to be able to gather again as a community. A community that is strong and a community that is indeed growing. This past quarter we have welcomed new families who are calling our region home. We look forward to a wonderful holiday season and an even better 2023. Chag Sameuch and Happy New Year.









Photos: (1) Chanukah 2022 Saint John; (2) Chanukah 2022 Saint John; (3) Delicious Safganyiot; (4) Honouring our caretaker, Arthur Melanson with a candle.

the AJC.ca WINTER 2023 Shalom 37

NEWFOUNDLAND NEWS

News from the far east

BY RABBI CHANAN AND TUBA CHERNITSKY

SHANA TOVAH! HERE IS TO A MOST SUCCESSFUL 5783.

The Chabad community centre was filled to the brim this Rosh Hashana with well over 50 people in attendance. Rabbi Chernitsky started with blowing the shofar, the mitzvah of the day, followed by the traditional Rosh Hashana dinner with delicious brisket.

During the dinner we all had a chance to schmooze and meet many of the new faces that came.

Rabbi Chernitsky left the crowd empowered, as he spoke of every person's infinite potential. This potential might be hidden but each and every one of us possess unique strengths that no one else in the world possess.

For Yom Kippur we were joined by a mix of locals and tourists, most of which joined the Chabad centre for the pre fast meal, Kol Nidrei, Shacharis (morning service), Neilah and the breakfast. It was an honour to be joined by Ditza Auerbach, who was born in St. John's and now lives in Israel.

For Sukkot Chabad hosted a number of different local families throughout the holiday and once again put up a Sukkah on at MUN during the intermediary days of the holiday.

We wrapped up the holiday season with a fabulous Simchas Torah celebration. Everyone was invited to have a bite to eat, dance with the Torah and bring the inspiration of Tishrei, the month full of Jewish holidays into our daily lives.

But what are we going to do until the next holiday?! Not to worry. Chabad had great programs in between Simchas Torah and Chanukah, including the very well acclaimed Ted Talks.

Chabad hosted Kira Hanesly from Drive Electric NL—Kira spoke all about purchasing, owning and maintaining an electric vehicle in Newfoundland and Labrador.

After Kira's talk, we heard from Dr. Joel Eustace about what chiropractors do AND don't. When should one go to a chiropractor? Dr. Joel reassured the crowd that chiropractors are safe and the techniques shown on YouTube aren't quite the ones chiropractors used to realign someone's back.

The Sunday before Chanukah, Chabad hosted a wooden Menorah craft for young children. Mothers and toddlers got to make their very own wooden Menorah. It was so much fun!

The first night of Chanukah we hosted the thrid drive in (six in total) Public Chanukah Menorah Lighting at the Viking Building parking lot on Crosbie road. Over 70 cars drove in for the ceremony.

Our kind volunteers approached each car with complimentary donuts and hot drinks.

Present at the Menorah lighting were The Honourable Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador Judy Foote, Minister John Abbott representing Premier Andrew Furrey, interim NDP leader James Dinn and Councillor Ravencroft representing St. John's mayor Danny Breen.

The Lieutenant Governor lit the Shamash and shared greetings, followed by Minister Abbott, Mr. James Dinn and Councilor Ravencroft. Gil Shalev was honoured with the lighting of the first candle of the Menorah.

The evening finished with a firefighter dropping Chanukah chocolate coins (gelt!) from the bucket of the fire truck! It was something to see.







PHOTOS: (1) Crowd Gathers for Chocolate Coin drop at Menorah Lighting; (2) Leiutenant Gov of NL Judy Foote Speaks at Menorah Lighting; (3) Set up for Rosh Hashana; (4) Shaking Lulav at MUN



Menorahs and candles were available for whomever needed.

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 chabadofnew-foundland@gmail.com.

News from the Hebrew Congregation of NL

The Synagogue and the Havura had joint High Holiday services, for the third consecutive year. On the whole, services were well attended, with good participation. Friday night services continue weekly. On Saturday mornings, the weekly Parsha is

thoroughly discussed by all participants.

The three Jewish communities celebrated Chanukah jointly at the Chabad House. The food was great, and the children enjoyed their activities.

Currently the groups are making plans for

BY MICHAEL PAUL MD, PRESIDENT

an in-person Holocaust Memorial Service the first such service since the start of the Pandemic. We are eager to once again educate the general public about the Shoah. ⑤

PEI NEWS

BY JOSEPH B. GLASS

5783 started in the shadow of Hurricane Fiona, which severely impacted Prince Edward Island on September 23. The following day, some 82,000 households, or 95 percent of the Island's electrical customers, were without power. Police strongly urged Islanders to stay at home and off the dangerous roads, many of which were blocked by fallen trees, electrical poles, and wires. The community Rosh Hashanah prayers and potluck lunch planned for September 26 were cancelled.

After a week without electricity, many residents were forced to trash the contents of their fridges and freezers and found it challenging to cook food without outdoor camping stoves or barbecues. Many of those living in rural areas with private wells did not have running water without power.

The restoration of electricity and the clearing of roads was a long and slow process. Some 16,500 households, or 25 percent of the customers, did not have power ten days after the storm hit. The community went forward with its Kol Nidrei and Yom Kippur services, but the turnout was small.

Martin Rutte, a long-time Island resident, spoke with *The Canadian Jewish News Daily* just as Jewish Islanders struggled to keep high holiday services going following Fiona. Podcast interviewer Ellin Bessner teased the listener with the promo: "You won't believe what happened when he [Martin] met a stranded American Jewish tourist on the island. All these struggles only underscore the importance of his messages of perseverance, altruism, and faith." This highly recommended and fascinating interview is available at thecjn.ca.

There was not a shortage of *schach* for the sukkot on the Island this year, with all the fallen trees. Raquel Hoersting and Rafael Baliardo welcomed the Jewish community into their sukkah for a potluck lunch. The weather was sunny and beautiful for a mid-October day. The lulav and etrog were available for the blessing and those assembled shared a meal following the blessing for sitting in the sukkah. The

forshpeis was Leo Mednick's delicious matzo ball soup (I had two servings!) which was followed by variety of main dishes, salads, and desserts. Thanks to Raquel and Rafael for inviting the PEIJC into their tabernacle.

Hanukkah celebrations kicked off with the second annual lighting of the PEIJC Hanukkah Menorah on the grounds of the Provincial Legislature in Charlottetown on December 18. PEIJC president, Leo Mednick, welcomed those gathered and enlightened the crowd on the meaning and traditions of Hanukkah.

Speaker of the Legislature, the Honourable Colin LaVie, extended greeting to those assembled. He commented that "In the midst of the darkness of winter having eight days of increasing light shining out from this menorah, and indeed from all the menorahs around the world, into our world, is indeed a blessing. Light has always and will always defeat darkness." He thanked the members of the PEI Jewish Community for bringing light into our world. He concluded with a local message. "And, be sure to eat lots and lots and LOTS of latkes.... made, of course, from PEI potatoes...and topped with the best sour cream, also produced here on PEI!" In attendance were the Honourable Peter Bevan-Baker, Leader of the Opposition, and two other Green Party MLAs Hannah Bell and Ole Hammarlund.

The Hebrew blessings for the lighting of the Hanukkah Menorah were chanted by Amalia Hoersting Barbosa. The community and guests joined in the singing of Hanukkah songs in Hebrew, English, Ladino, and Yiddish. Prior to the event the PEIJC e-mailed the lyrics, translations, transliterations, and YouTube links to the songs to ensure that all could join in the melodies. Printed song sheets were distributed at the lighting. Maida Rogerson, Martin Rutte, and Raquel Hoersting Barbosa, with her guitar, led the singing of "Maoz Tsur" in Hebrew, "Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel (I Have a Little Dreidel)" in English, "Ocho Kandelikas (Eight Candles)" in Ladino, and "Oh Hanukkah,







PHOTOS: (1) Leo reciting the blessing over the lulav and etrog in the Sukkah; (2) The PEIJC Hanukkah Trio (left to right): backup dancer Leo, Martin, Maida, Raquel, and page-turner Rafael; (3) Participants at the Hanukkah Menorah Lighting in Charlottetown.

Oy Hanukkah" in English and Yiddish. The intermittent rain did not dampen the spirits of the crowd that raised their voices in song in celebration of the holiday. Thank you to our vocalists, Maida, Martin, and Raquel for their sweet tones and Hanukkah cheer.

Following the lighting of the Hanukkah Menorah, Shamara Baidoobonso and Michael Fleischmann invited the community into their home for latkes, potato piroshki, and a potluck dinner. The conversations were lively, and the dreidels were spinning and flying everywhere as the candles burned bight. Thank yous to Shamara and Michael for hosting the event and to Felix and Max for entertaining the crowd.

On the second night of Hanukkah, the Town of Stratford welcomed the Jewish community and public to the lighting of

>> page 40

the AJC.ca WINTER 2023 Shalom 39

<< page 39

its outdoor Hanukkah Menorah. For the second year, Mayor Steve Ogden welcomed participants. He highlighted the importance of recognizing and supporting cultural and religious diversity in Stratford and across the Island. The blessings over the Hanukkah candles were recited and the attendees joined in the singing of Hanukkah songs. The Town provided light refreshments including the truly Canadian version of sufganiot, TimBits. Our sincerest thanks to the mayor and the staff of the Town of Stratford for again opening their doors for a Hanukkah celebration.

The last day of Hanukkah, December 26, was celebrated in Summerside at the home of Debra Buckler. This annual daytime party was perfect for families, and those assembled enjoyed the latkes and other holiday delicacies prepared by Debra. This was a wonderful opportunity for the Jewish community to meet in Prince County.

* * *

Over the past four months, the PEIJC was busy with several non-holiday related, Jewish themed social activities. On August 21, Leo and Bev Mednick welcomed participants for schmoozing and noshing on pizza before watching "Broadway Musicals: A Jewish Legacy." This engaging, humorous, and provocative film examined the unique role of Jewish composers and lyricists in the creation of the modern American musical. The audience was humming along and tapping their toes to well-known tunes

Former Montrealer Leo Mednick is known locally for his delicious Montreal-style bagels. In early November, he invited PEIJC members into his home to share with them his "secrets" to preparing the perfect

bagel—crispy on the outside, chewy on the inside. Participants were asked to bring non-perishable food items which were donated to the Upper Room Hospitality Ministry Food Bank in Charlottetown. The invitation read: "Come with a bag full of food, leave with a bag full of bagels!"

The first meeting of the *Pirkei Avot*Discussion Group was held in midNovember. This initiative was organized by
PEIJC vice president Lisa Kessler. The group
read together a small section of this tractate
of the Mishna and discussed what it teaches
us and explored how it is relevant to today.
The group is scheduled to next meet in
January

A Kabbalat Shabbat dinner was held in late November with Michal Goldman welcoming guests into her home. According to one of the participants: "Michal hosted a cozy and meaningful Shabbat dinner, her table filled with foods prepared from her own gardens and a roast chicken so grand it could have passed as a turkey!"

On December 24 some members gathered for dinner and a movie. Participants enjoyed a Chinese meal followed by the movie "Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery." Thanks to Lisa Kessler for organizing this Christmas eve activity.

NACHAS NOTES

Congratulations to J. J. Steinfeld on the publication of As You Continue to Wait (and Other Poems Hovering Above the Absurd, Existential, and the Otherworldly (Ekstasis Editions, 2022). The 80 poems of As You Continue to Wait continue the dialogue with and a questioning of the human condition. Steinfeld once again attempts

to make sense of the way we conduct our lives, to find meaning in our not always meaningful surroundings, and in the sometimes joyous, sometimes frightening yet endlessly fascinating moments of existence and being. Steinfeld lives hidden away in Charlottetown, where he is patiently waiting for Godot's arrival and a phone call from Kafka. J. J. Steinfeld's poem "A Charlottetown Hanukkah with Kafka" is found in this magazine.

* * *

The Lefurgey Cultural Centre in Summerside exhibited the joint works of Karin H Melzer and Andrew L Melzer during the months of October and November. Their exhibit, entitled "Canadian Cities and Viking Pottery," combines their respective disciplines of pottery and painting. The Viking pottery portion of the exhibit features the art of Karin, who works in the mediums of textiles, painting and writing and is inspired by her Scandinavian heritage. Andrew, a composer, record producer, writer, and painter, has created the collection Canadian Cities, which is made up of thirteen acrylic paintings on canvas. The paintings are maps of one city from each province and territory in the oppositional geometric style.





MONCTON NEWS

BY FRANCIS WEIL

Since our last article in this Magazine we celebrated Rosh Hashana, Yom-Kippur, Sukkot and 'Hanukah.

First of all, a very hearty Mazal-tov to Betty Hans who has recently entered her 96th year in mid-August. Betty and Alan have celebrated their 72nd wedding anniversary in mid-September. That is quite an achievement! We wish both of them many many more years together.

By comparison, Audrey and Irwin Lampert are prime chicken, but they soon will celebrate their 50th anniversary (end of December). Mazel tov to Audrey, a very active member of Sisterhood in the past, and to Irwin, many times president of the congregation.

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

The synagogue has been able to maintain a minyan every Shabbat morning (with one exception). Ury El, Eitan Izichkis, Rowen Shinder and David Miller have been very generous with their time to prepare the weekly Torah readings. Toda raba to all four.

THE COMMUNITY IS HAPPY TO WELCOME NEW FAMILIES.

Welcome to the Waks, the Slabodar, the Amodeo, the Nasimov, the Dume-Grullon, the Greenberg...There are many children among them and it is a pleasure to welcome these families.

We still hope that some other Israeli families will join us. Quite a number of them do participate in our social events.

On Shabbat Rosh Chodesh Elul (August 27) Noam Shmuely became Bar-Mitzvah. The whole congregation was invited.

The High Holidays were well attended. At Sukkot a few people got together to build and then decorate the community Sukkah.

THREE COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES TOOK PLACE DURING HANUKAH

We had a public lighting of the Menorah in front of Moncton City Hall (the 19th since 2003). We had the pleasure to be welcomed by her Worship Dawn Arnold, Mayor of Moncton. It was on the third night of the festival.

The following day, a similar ceremony took place in front of one of the windows of the Moncton Hospital. It was organised

by Pam Driedger, manager of Spiritual Care.

On the first night, Sunday December 18th, we had a community supper organised by Sisterhood, led by both Betty Rubin-Druckman, president, and Victoria Volkanova, vice-president.

The "Joseph & Gordon Rinzler Hanukah dinner" was a success, by all accounts. The attendance was much higher than expected. More than 110 persons came (extra tables had to be set up at the last minutes). Everyone was able to taste delicious food and desserts. Everybody had fun being together with fellow Jews for Hanukah.

Beside those already mentioned, the people who deserve our appreciation are: the Rinzler's family, for their generous donation of turkeys and groceries, Shayna, Avigail and Liel Izichkis, for cooking, prepping, decorating, Carole and Jen Savage, Rhoda Fransblow, Chef Olivier Weil, Christine Chiasson, Rhonda Rubin, Mitchell Rubin, Dr. Rowen Shinder, Jordan and Hannah Davidson, Joannie Sichel and the helpers who shopped, prepped, cooked, served and cleaned.

The community can be very proud of

>> page 42

















PHOTOS: (1) Delicious Hanukah buffet; (2) Enjoying the celebrations; (3) Singing Hatikvah (4) Victoria, Shayna & Alex; (5) Enjoying the celebrations; (6) Menorah lighting; (7) Menorah lighting; (8) Menorah lighting at Moncton Hospital

theAJC.ca WINTER 2023 Shalom 41

<< page 41

its children. Natalie Arsenault, youngest daughter of Janyce and Paul Arsenault and niece of Rhonda Rubin, has completed all requirements for her Masters in Physiotherapy from Dalhousie University and started a position at the Moncton Hospital in late December.

Unfortunately, some members have left us. We were all shocked to learn on August 14 that Sharon Rubin, z'l, passed away. She was a model of kindness and generosity and was loved by everyone. She will be missed

Mrs. Sylvia Spiegel, z'l, the Rebbetzin's Mother, passed away in early August in Toronto after a bout of pneumonia. She was almost 97.

On November 23rd, Mrs. Arlene Steeves, z'l, who lived in Colpitts Settlement, about 25 minutes from Moncton passed away. Her brother and sister-in-law, Michael and Maureen Friedman, asked us to bury her in the Dieppe cemetery. Not many of us had known Arlene, but we found later that she was a very kind and gentle lady. She was a widow, 70-year-old and no children.

A few babies were born in the past few months. Michael and Rahel Frustaci had a baby girl around the end of October. They now live in Jerusalem.

Rebbetzin & Rabbi Yagod saw their 17th and 18th grand child come into this world: first, in Ithaca, NY, end of September, a little boy Elisha, son of Chumie and Mayer Juni, brother of Yaakov. Then, early in November, another boy, son of Huvie and Binyamin Weinreich, in Bergenfield, N.J.

Mazal Toy!! to the parents and grandparents.

On October 7th, the City of Moncton organised a special ceremony to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the mural on the Rubin's building on Main St. It was a beautiful ceremony with many dignitaries. A commemorative panel was unveiled to recognize the contribution of the Rubin family in the development of the City of Moncton and the commission of the mural created by Jordi Bonet, installed at 720 Main Street in 1962

Wishing all a very healthy and prosperous vear 2023. שנה טובה ומבורכת 💿



AJC TRIBUTE CARDS

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, Birthdays, Channukahs, Wedding, 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.

ORDER YOUR TRIBUTE CARDS

theajc.ca/tributecards tributecards@theajc.ca 902-422-7493



east coast bakery

FRESH. DAILY. DELICIOUS.

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















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

PEANUT-FREE. NUT-FREE AND DAIRY-FREE FACILITY

eastcoastbakery.ca | 6257 Quinpool Road | 902-429-6257 | Hours: 7:00 am-3:3:0 pm daily

THE HIGH PRIEST POSITION

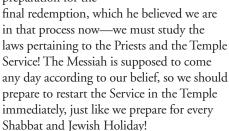
BY RABBI YOSEF GOLDMAN, SGOOLAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE, FREDERICTON, NB

For almost Three years now, I have been praying and studying daily with a few communities across North America on Zoom. On Wednesday mornings, following the services, we study Mishnah with Rabbi Tamar (Beth Jacob Congregation), and I have learned so much by being part of this wonderful group! This week, discussing the laws of Passover, we had a very interesting debate—when the Temple is rebuilt in Jerusalem, speedily in our days, would there be a "fight" among the Kohanim (from Aaron's lineage) who should be the High Priest (Kohen Gadol)? My automatic response to this question was: "since the High Priest is not allowed to leave Jerusalem even for a few hours, because of his daily offering, who would want such a responsibility"?! The Torah tells us (Leviticus 6:12-15) that the High Priest must bring a meal offering "half in the morning and half in the evening (before the Tamid sacrifice)". He is also not allowed to leave the Temple for his parents' funeral and

Shiva, and, last but not least, if he messes up the Service in the Holy of Holies on Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)—he dies! That is why so many of the High Priests died, according to the Talmud, during the Second Temple period!

What always amazes me is how the events in our daily life correspond to the Parasha of the week—the Lubavitcher Rebbe named this phenomenon: "to live within the (influence of the) Torah Portion"! Just a few hours after this discussion, I listened to the weekly Torah class of one of my classmates, Rabbi Sholom Rosner, who talked about the idea of the Egyptians making Yosef run out of Jail in this week's Torah Portion. The S'forno says: "they hurried him—A miraculous deliverance always transpires with haste. So it was when the Israelites left Egypt (see Shemos 12:39), and so will it be when Yisrael is redeemed from the current exile". Adding to this, Rabbi Rosner said that the Aseifat Z'keinim (Rabbi Yisroel Meir Hacohen of

Radin AKA the Chafetz Chayim) wrote about a Hundred years ago, that preparation for the



Last, the Miracle of Hanukkah that we are now celebrating was brought about by the actions of the High Priest and his Five sons, but because of self-glorification (and other problems) the priesthood was very quickly turned into a commodity that one could purchase! That is not the Jewish way! We must take very seriously the position of serving in the Temple, and hope and pray that it happens speedily in our days! Amen! ⑤



NEVER OUT OF FEAR

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

In 2022, the news was full of reports of rising antisemitism. At times it seemed that this was the only Jewish story to be found in the media—in Canada and throughout the world. If we are to go by what we hear around us, we would live in constant fear of being targeted because of who we are.

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

However, I *am* afraid. I'm worried that these attacks on our religion, on our people, and on the state of Israel, will overwhelm the conversation without our Jewish community. I fear that our reaction to the hatred directed against us will come to overly-define what it means to be Jewish at this time.

And I especially dread that our young, who are growing into their identities as Jews, will have their sense of Jewish selves marked as the "persecuted." Or even worse, God forbid,

that they will want to escape an identity that would tag them as a hated minority, or perhaps hide who they are. Even try to avoid the unique and holy heritage they carry.

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

Judaism must never be a legacy defined chiefly by resistance to those who detest the Jew. We cannot let those who seek us harm define the terms of who we are. And we cannot let the haters force us into defending ourselves as a primary act of Jewish living. Fighting antisemitism can never take the place of real Judaism.

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

chooses to leave. We Jews are the heirs of a way of life that has given meaning to the life of our

people — individually and collectively — for three millennia. We are a people who gave ethical monotheism to the world. We have received a Torah that has proven its divinity through its timeless permanence.

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

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

But never out of fear. s

theAJC.ca WINTER 2023 Shalom 43

FIGHTING ANTISEMITISM

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

As winter progresses, we have begun to read the Book of Exodus on a weekly basis. The stories of the Torah are no longer the family sagas of Avrohom, Yitzchak, Yaakov and Yoseph. The story is of the Jewish people. Pharoah does not see a Yoseph or a Moshe; he sees the Hebrews, a foreign entity. When Moshe returns to the palace, he is not the adopted prince who ran away. He is a representative and leader of a people. His actions and demands reflect on his people. The Children of Israel are directly affected for better or worse as a result of his every move and the words he chooses.

In our own lives, we face the same reality. Every word we utter, every move we make and all of our interactions with the outside world become a reflection of the Jewish people in the eyes of all that see us. We cannot escape that harsh reality. When we leave our house, our lives take on a greater meaning and a larger significance. Our experience mimics the story of the ancient Jewish nation when it transitioned from stories of family dynamics to the movement and future of a people. When we walk in the street, make a passing remark to a neighbor or take part in a business transaction, we are no longer individuals who happen to be Jewish. We are Jews first and foremost in the eyes of our surrounding society. It might be unfair and a distortion of reality but it is a fact of life and the reality that we all face.

Antisemitism has been around for millennia. The root of that hatred has many contributing factors. Tribal and racial hatred is a natural tendency. Hatred of the other, a need to compete for rare resources and jealousy of another's success are the probable root causes of antisemitism. When religion is thrown into the mix, the results have been catastrophic.

There are those that argue that antisemitism is in the DNA of many cultures and nationalities. There is a long-held tradition that hatred of Jews with Esau and his brother Yaakov, the father of all Jews, and is now a permanent fixture deep within the soul of every non-Jew. Our only option is to act defensively to stop or mitigate the effects of that hatred.

Personally, I am not convinced that the animus towards Jews is either inexplicable, inbred or impossible to reverse. Hatred or acceptance of Jews has waxed and waned throughout history. We have been welcomed, expelled or tolerated depending on those in power or other circumstances. Vatican II and the Abraham Accords prove that even the deepest hatred can be transformed over time, albeit not at the pace we desire. Nothing is certain except that change will certainly happen. We can only hope that the change will be positive.

Tribal and racial hatred is a natural tendency not unique to the Jewish people. Whether it is the Armenian genocide, Sunni/Shiite hatred or the Rwandan genocide, it is quite apparent that hatred, racism and even mass murder is sadly a human tendency.

There is a great need to fight antisemitism on a communal, organizational and international level and no institution can accomplish anything without the assistance of individuals on a grass roots level. But we still must ask ourselves, how can we as individuals in our everyday lives and interactions help chip away at the hatred that exists.



Jewish tradition has always assumed that hardship and punishments come our way because of our own actions and our failings as a society. This is not intended to exonerate the perpetrators and blame the victims. Rather, the message is that our every word and seemingly inconsequential action have some small effect and cumulatively can make a perceptible change in the attitudes of others. As long as we are identifiable Jews, we have an obligation to ourselves and future generations to be aware that our every move, every word we utter, and all our daily interactions are either a Chillul Hashem (a desecration of G-D's name) or a Kiddush Hashem (a sanctification of G-D's name). The responsibility is great but the benefit can be even greater if we can be a factor in moving the world closer to the messianic ideal of peace amongst all peoples, when we see beyond race or religion and only see another human being created in the Image of G-D. 3





FROM CHANUKA TO PURIM, THE HOLY BOOKENDS OF WINTER

BY RABBI PINCHAS YAGOD, CONGREGATION TIFERES ISRAEL, MONCTON, NB

These beautiful holidays come at times of great dreariness upon the world. How wonderful it is to enjoy the light and the warmth, when the weather outside is chilling, almost forbidding. But what about afterwards? When Chanuka is over, the festivities end, but the morose weather stays.

There is a message which lies deep in our beautiful miracle of the oil, which answers this question. To understand this message, let us review the Talmud's recounting of the story. (Please note: the Talmudic grammar is often different than English grammar. I strove to preserve as much of the original wording of the Talmud as possible, thus any grammar that may seem incorrect, is simply that of a different language, namely an Aramaic type of Yiddish): "What is 'Chanuka'?

It is what our teachers taught: On the 25th of Kisleiv, the days of Chanuka are 8, which are not for eulogizing on them, and are not for depriving (fasting) on them.

For when the Greek (soldier)s entered the Heichal (chamber in the Jerusalem Temple) they tainted all the oils that were in the Heichal. But when the Chashmonai (Hasmonean) kingship overtook and triumphed them, they inspected yet did not find but one jug of oil that was resting with the emblem of the Kohein Gadol (chief Cohen). However, there wasn't any in it except to be lit up for one day. A miracle was made in it and they lit from it 8 days' worth. The next year, they (the Sanhedrin, the Supreme Court of Torah Law) affixed them (the 8 days) and made them special days with Hallel (spiritually poetic songs) and Hoda'a (thankful praises)."—Talmud Bavli, Shabbos 21B

THE QUESTION IS: why all this celebration over a jug of oil which lights a lamp few people ever see?

The message is that the special room in the temple, is compared to our heart, while all of the tainted oil is compared to a big winter's storm. The jug of oil is compared to a spark of hope, while the gap of 7 days from the jug's day of projected burning till the next oil's arrival is compared to our cold, frigid winter days from Chanuka to Purim.

Fom the depths of the coldest storms, one little beacon of hope can always be found, and it can be lit up. The challenge of finding that little spark is not a challenge of having one, but rather bringing it out, for that just as it was destined from above that one jug of oil could never be destroyed, and, indeed, was found, so too, we will never be lacking for this Jewish spark, and we will always be able to find it.

The challenge really is to trust that the spark can keep burning, just as they chose to burn the oil, despite nobody knowing that the oil would burn for a full subsequent week. Thus, even as the winter thickens and chills us, often confining us indoors and withdrawing us from the normally fresh and wonderful outdoors, the challenge is not just to find that spark and to light it up, but also to keep it burning bright, with that strong sense of optimism and hope, untill the winter finishes, and the next beautiful holiday comes our way.

Let me wish you all a very easy, comfortable and wonderfully inspiring winter. Chag Sameach! ©

THE ETERNAL, STOLEN MENORAH

BY RABBI CHANAN CHERNITSKY, DIRECTOR, CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF NEWFOUNDLAND

I recently heard an exceptional story. My colleague, Rabbi Eliezer Chitrik, the Chabad rabbi in Nuremberg, Germany, received a very poignant letter some months ago.

Nuremberg—just hearing the name gives me goosebumps.

The city where the Nazis—may their name be erased—hosted their propaganda rallies.

The city where, ultimately, Nazi criminals were judged and hanged for the atrocities they committed against humanity.

The letter—from a local German—informed Rabbi Chitirk that the author's uncle had stolen a golden Menorah from the main synagogue in Nuremberg just before the Nazis burnt it down to the ground on Kristallnacht, November 9,1938.

His uncle's father, upon finding out of the robbery, slapped him and ordered him to return it.

But...there was no one to return it to—the Jews of Nuremberg had been deported.

Alas, continues the author of the letter, we still have the gold Menorah in our family and now that I see the lights are on in the synagogue in Nuremberg I would like to return it.

And return it he did.

The first night of Chanukah, Sunday night December the 18th, the golden Menorah from the synagogue in Nuremberg was kindled, for the very first time in 85 years.

WOW! Look at this.

This Menorah is a symbol of the eternal existence of the Jewish people.

It's a symbol of resilience, hope, faith and healing.

The flame has gotten dim in the past. Sometimes even close to extinction.

But the flame has never gone out. The

flame is alive! The flame of Judaism lives and thrives and grows from year to year.

The dark streets of Nuremberg, once used for Nazi propaganda rallies are now lit with Menorahs.

Anyone living in Nuremberg in 1938 would have sworn that Judaism was over.

But look! The Nazis are gone and the Menorah is here to stay. The very Menorah that they sought to extinguish.

My dear friends, the lesson here is clear. Never give up hope. Never despair! Things might look bleak. Your trauma might seem unsurmountable! But the fire has never gone out and it never will. Things will get better, with Hashem's help.

Have a wonderful winter, filled with light, hope, love and healing. §

45

the AJC.ca WINTER 2023 Shalom

THE FLAME THAT GLOWS PERMANENTLY

BY RABBI MENDEL FELDMAN, CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF THE MARITIMES

The festival of Chanukah, we all know, commemorates an extraordinary victory of the Maccabees, a relatively small and dedicated force of fighters, against one of the great powers of ancient times.

When Antiochus the 5th ascended the throne, he was determined to impose his values on the Jewish people. He forbade the practice of Judaism, Jews who were caught practicing Judaism were tortured to death. A small group of Jews, led by the elder priest Matityahu and his sons, rose in revolt. They fought a brilliant campaign, and within three years they had recaptured Jerusalem and restored Jewish autonomy. It was, as we say in the Chanukah prayers, a victory of 'the weak against the strong, the few against the many.' The Temple was rededicated; Chanukah means "rededication." This was a remarkable event and an extraordinary triumph.

Yet, the Talmud gives us a very different perspective on the Chanukah festival. "What is Chanukah?" The Talmud asks (Talmud, Shabbat 21b.), the answer given is this:

"When the Greeks entered the Sanctuary, they contaminated all its oil. Then, when the royal Hasmonean family overpowered and were victorious over them, they searched and found only a single jug of pure oil bearing the seal of the High Priest, enough to light the menorah (candelabra) for one day, but miraculously lasted for eight days.

According to the Talmud, the festival of Chanukah is less about the military victory of a small band of Jews against one of the mightiest armies that ever existed, and more about the miracle of the oil. The Talmud focuses exclusively on the story of the oil, hence, when we are commanded to commemorate Chanukah, we light candles each night, no celebration, no festivities and no wine, in stark contrast to the festival of Purim.

This seems strange, the miracle of the oil, it would seem was of minor significance relative to the military victory. Besides, this was a miracle that occurred behind closed doors of the Temple, it was an event concerning a religious symbol without any consequences on life, death, and liberty.

Chasidic teaching explains as follows: During the Chanukah era The Hellenists weren't out to kill the Jews (as Haman in the Purim story), they were out to kill Judaism. They forbade the practice of our religion, a Jew who agreed to abandon their faith was welcome in the Hellenist society. As long as a Jew would follow the Hellenistic regime and gave up Shabbat, Circumcision and the study of Torah, they



would be spared any harm. Our bodies were not in danger, it was our souls that were in jeopardy! Therefore, when the Maccabbes defeated the enemy, the holiday instituted involves not so much the body, (festivities and celebration) but rather more the soul, the mitzvah of Chanukah is spiritual in nature, we light candles which represents the light of Torah and Mitzvah.

Today too, as we kindle our candelabra let these Chanukah lights remind us that we must conquer the Hellenist voice within that constantly endeavours to deter us from performing a Mitzvah and increasing our commitment to Judaism.

<< page 7 (From the Desk of Yoram Abisror)

neighbours, are a few practical tools we can use to combat discrimination. We at the AJC will continue to do our best to fight these elements with the great help and support of CIJA and its outstanding team.

Our communities also face internal challenges, such as a decline in Jewish practice, lingering questions about Jewish identity, and desynchronization between the aging society and younger generations. Community initiatives are a means to address such concerns. Please share your ideas with the AJC and help us bring them to fruition.

I was entrusted with turning my passion into practice as Executive Director. I am delighted to have the privilege of getting to know many of our community's members. Know that you are what makes our community special and unique. We must strive to continue melding our individuality

into a thriving Jewish community. I am confident that we have the strength, wisdom, and ability to continue building our community and face these considerable challenges.

We have an exceptional opportunity to do it together this year, as next April marks Israel's 75th year of independence. The AJC is preparing a large celebratory community event—the date is April 25th, and we will all come together for the festivities at Pier 21. This is a beautiful opportunity to commemorate and connect with community members. Save the date and get your tickets as soon as possible.

Our world is starting to recover from the pandemic, but it has not yet completely healed. The Russia-Ukraine war is still ongoing and leaving its scars. The future is uncertain, but we must hope for positive change and be its driving factor.

As we approach the 2023 programming

year, I look forward to joining you all at our many AJC events. Please know that I am always open to new ideas and welcome feedback. The AJC community has been warm and friendly, and I am delighted to be here with you. Happy and healthy New Year, and best wishes for 2023.



Are you on the AJC weekly email list?

Get all of the latest news from the AJC, right to your inbox!

Subscribe online: www.theAJC.ca



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

2022 FILM PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

The Azrieli Foundation | The Consulate of Israel | Israel Bonds Canada Moskowitz Capital | Bishop's Cellar | Cineplex Entertainment LP Le Consulat général de France à Moncton et Halifax | Alliance Française Halifax With the support of the Cultural and Scientific Services of the Embassy of France in Canada. The AJFF is proudly supported by the HALIFAX Municipality's Regional Event Grant

HALIFAX

DIRECTORS

Karen & Howard Conter | Valerie MacDonald & Jim Spatz

CAST MEMBERS

Howard Epstein | Dawn Frail & Tim Margolian | Katrina Hurley & Arik Drucker | Linda Law & Lloyd Newman Elizabeth & Darrel Pink | Darcie Richler & Leigh Lampert, LawGiC | Lynda Suissa

FILM FANS

Carol & Simmy Airst | Rosalind & Philip Belitsky | Ethel Cooper-Rosen & Mark Rosen Sharon Fraser & Dan O'Connor | Judith & Victor Goldberg | Roselle Green & Family Jordana Hart & John Kimble | Sharon & Stanley Jacobson | Shirlee & Ralph Medjuck Lezlie Oler & David Zitner | Debbie Pestell | Rita & Joel Pink | Victoria & Edwin Rosenberg Debbie Stover & Jeffrey Schelew | Ann & Howard Thaw | Goldie & Morris Trager

SUPPORTERS

Wendy Katz & Alan Young | Saralee Lewis | Judy Pottier | Jack Waller & Ken Saunders, Parkinson Society NS



To our **2022 UJA CAMPAIGN** donors—together we make a difference.

Your support helps care for those in need, builds a safe and strong Jewish community, and impacts the lives of thousands—not only in Atlantic Canada but in Israel and around the world as well.

5640 Spring Garden Road, Suite 300, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3M7 | theajc.ca

