Vanessa Goodman

Dancing with purpose

CYNTHIA RAMSAY

One could be forgiven for thinking there was a Jewish dance festival coming up, as there are so many community members participating in this year’s Dancing with Purpose, which takes place July 2-11.

Adapting to the circumstances of the pandemic, which limits public gatherings, DOTE festival producer Donna Spencer recently announced that, while it won’t be possible to present the initially planned 30-plus live performances, the festival will be offering instead some specially curated digital programming with live-streamed performances, premières of dance films, dance discussions, four outdoor live performances in the Firehall’s courtyard and one dynamic theatre performance at the Firehall Arts Centre theatre (all live performances for very limited audiences with safety precautions in place).

Among the featured dance companies and choreographers are, in alphabetical order, Action at a Distance (Vanessa Goodman), All Bodies Dance (Naomi Brand, with Carolina Bergonzoni), Ben Gorodetsky, Ne. Sans Opera and Dance (Idan Cohen), Radical System Art (Shay Kuebler), the response. (Amber Funk Barton) and Tara Cheyenne Performance.

Action at a Distance is presenting Finiss, a new work created in collaboration with musician Lociel (Scott Morgan).

“I have been incorporating video footage into my work for years, and the recent time at home has provided an opportunity to generate material and experiment with new editing techniques,” said Goodman. “In some ways, this is an extension of our previous work together. Our first video collaboration was for a song on his album, Monument Builders. Since then, we have built four works together for my company Action at a Distance, including Never Still, which was presented by the Firehall Arts Centre in 2018.”

When the pandemic hit, Goodman said, “At first, I found myself grasping for something substantial to hold onto and tried to reschedule all the tours and premières that were being canceled. It was challenging to let go of everything. Eventually, I came to terms with the downtime and embraced the slow pace as best I could.”

When the need to isolate began, she said, “I started making short dance films for myself and my 96-year-old grandmother to help us stay connected. At times, it has been tough to stay motivated during the shutdown, and this was a simple way to stay creative.

There’s no way to compare these sketches to a staged dance performance,” she said. “However, when I shifted my frame of mind and started to approach video as a whole new medium instead of an altered version of an existing piece, I became more comfortable with the idea of sharing work this way. I am very grateful to DOTE for bringing the community together to share work right now.”

Even in such times, arts and culture are “absolutely vital,” said Goodman. “Without them, we’re living in the dark ages. It is essential to have creative outlets for expression. Right now, finding connections through creativity can help cut through the isolation. Art can provide much-needed escape and levity in challenging times, as well as re-framing current issues and inspiring letters to the editor. That’s the Jewish community, right? They are vibrant, they come from all over the place and we want to be able to reflect that.”

Farber and Caillag are well-known figures in the Jewish and larger Canadian scene, which is one of the reasons, they say, that the president of York University reached out to them before releasing a much-awaited report of an investigation around a violent confrontation on campus last November between pro- and anti-Israel groups.

The Record got embargoed exclusive access to the report but other media “It demonstrates how, in a short period of time, we have become a reasonable voice in the community,” Farber said.

The online news and commentary site operates under the auspices of a nonprofit organization and has no money to speak of, other than enough to cover registration fees and miscellaneous costs, said Farber.

“Everybody who wrote and who is continuing to this day to write for the newspaper is doing it pro bono,” he said. “These are skilled, professional journalists who are, for the most part, people who are used to being paid for their work and have chosen to do this as a donation at this time to the community. It really is a grand...
Women sail to Miriam’s Well

GIL ZOHAR

In the annals of the current COVID-19 pandemic, artist Maureen Kushner has a rare happy story—and likely the only one dating back some 3,500 years.

For the last 12 years on the anniversary of the death of Miriam the Prophetess on Nissan 10 in the Hebrew calendar, New York-born Kushner has been chartering a vessel from Tiberias-based Holyland Sailing Ltd. to bring a boat full of women to the spot on Lake Kinneret where, according to Midrash (Bamidbar Rabbah 1:1), the mystical spring known as Miriam’s Well now rests.

Typically, 126 women and children (corresponding to Miriam’s age when she died) equipped with rams horns, violins, harps, drums, flutes, guitars and tambourines have made the maritime pilgrimage. They sail on the Sea of Galilee, also called Lake of Gennesaret, to what Jewish tradition considers the exact spot where the maritime pilgrimage. They sail on the Sea of Galilee, also called Lake of Gennesaret, to what Jewish tradition considers the exact spot where the Children of Israel with drinking water during their 40 years of wandering in the Sinai Desert ended its own journey.

This year, the yahrzeit (death anniversary) of Miriam fell on Friday, April 3, immediately before Passover. Kushner—who is named in Hebrew after the miracle-working older sister of Moses and Aaron—booked the sailing for Thursday, April 2, in order to allow Sabbath-observant women from Jerusalem and other distant cities to join in the fête. All was set for this year’s celebration when Israel’s Health Ministry locked the country down in an attempt to halt the spread of the coronavirus.

Thanks to those regulations, which at their most severe restricted Israelis to remaining within 100 metres of their home and still prevent almost all non-citizens from landing at Ben-Gurion Airport, the pandemic has somewhat abated. Recently, the Health Ministry began lifting its pandemic regulations.

Without any tourists arriving, the pilgrim boats remained moored in Tiberias and at Kibbutz Ginosar for three months. But, on Wednesday, June 3, the ministry allowed Kushner and her social distancing-reduced group of 40 women and children—each bringing facemasks, water, hats, sunscreen and kosher snacks—to make their 135-minute voyage on the lyre-shaped lake. When the vessel King David raised its anchor, it was Holyland Sailing’s first boat trip since quarantine regulations went into effect.

“What a hallelujah for our beloved Kinneret!” said Kushner. “What a hallelujah in honour of our great, great Hakodesh Baruch Hu [the Holy One Blessed Be He], who is filled with goodness and compassion and love and blesses Am Yisrael [the Jewish people] with rain and dew and sustenance and a good life here in Eretz Israel, the good land.”

Kushner was especially excited that this past winter has seen heavy rains that filled Israel’s main freshwater reservoir to the brim, at 209 metres below sea level after five years of drought.

“The Kinneret is full! In great and abundant thanks to Hashem [God], we celebrate with shofarim, drums, flutes and the harp,” she said.

Miriam the Prophetess today has become a popular figure for many Jewish women.

In Jewish texts, this abrupt transition between her death and the lack of water was explained by postulating that a “Well of Miriam” appeared after she died. Further elaboration identified the rock that Moses struck to bring forth water in Exodus 17:5-6 with this well. So powerful was the tradition of Miriam’s Well in Judaism that, even after the spring disappeared into Lake Kinneret some three-and-a-half millennia ago, it has occasionally mira-
This Week

Tikkun Olam
6  Jewish leaders honour Sheikh Dr. Mohammed Al-Issaa for his work in fighting antisemitism.

Milestones
10  Jewish Federation’s 2019 annual campaign raised more than $8.9 million to address community needs.

Holocaust
15  Some 125 groups joined to commemorate the 77th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

A human jawbone and other fossils found in the Mishya Cave on Mount Carmel near Haifa indicate that human migration from Africa occurred during the Ice Age, approximately 200,000 years ago, which is contrary to the popular theory that the freezing conditions and dryness of the Ice Age periods deterred human migration between continents. These recent findings were published in the Journal of Human Evolution by Dr. Lior Weissbrod of the Israel Antiquities Authority and Prof. Mina Weinstein-Evron of the Zinman Institute of Archeology at the University of Haifa, and they build on work previously published by Weinstein-Evron and Prof. Israel Hershkowitz of Tel Aviv University in Science. In addition to the jawbone, Weissbrod said, “The fossils now being investigated were identified as belonging to 13 different species of rodents and small insect eaters, some of which now live in high and cold regions, in the Zagros Mountains of northwestern Iran and in the Caucasus Mountains.” This means that, “in Israel, cold conditions prevailed that allowed such animals to survive. Finding the human jawbone in the same layer where the rodent lived, suggests that these early humans survived under these conditions,” changing existing perceptions on human evolution. (Edgar Asher)

Coming Up…
July 10  Food & Drink
July 24  B.C. Day / Milestones
The festival must go on

CYNTHIA RAMSAY

Since the very beginning, I said not doing the festival was not an option ... because my belief is that the arts are really, really important – I would say essential.

Sharing their appreciation for the vital work being done by those on the frontlines of the COVID-19 crisis, SD Holman, artistic and executive director of the Queer Arts Festival, said, “art is really keeping people alive, in different ways than the amazing health workers that are taking care of folks right now. Even people who say they don’t like art – if you read a book, if you watch Netflix, you take part in the art world.”

This year’s Queer Arts Festival, which takes place July 16-26, will happen mostly online. This is, of course, not all digital. One of the things that have to have a plan. And, right now, which takes place July 16-26, will happen mostly online. This is, of course, not all digital. One of the things that was really important to us, to me, is not all people have a stable wi-fi access, people can’t go to the libraries now if they don’t have computer, they are interactive on some level, or the artists can’t make it to Vancouver.

When asked about the process for choosing festival artists, Holman said, “I talk a lot to people, I try and keep abreast of what’s going on. I always want to support local artists and also bring in folks from away, so that there are great conversations that happen of what’s going on in the world, as well as what’s happening here.”

The festival programmer does research and people can also apply to be part of the festival. As well, Holman said, “There’ll be people that talk to me about wanting to do something, and that usually percolates for two or three years before anything ever happens.”

Holman has been with the festival since its beginnings as a volunteer collective in 1998. “Two spirit artist Robbie Hong, black artist Jeffrey Gibson were the main founders of Pride in Art [Society],” they explained. “I was an artist and then I became involved in the collective in 2005, when Robbie was wanting to step away ... and I called in Dr. Rachel Kiyo Iwaasa because she had approached me about something and I said, ‘Come and join me on this.’ And we spearheaded making it professional, making it a festival. … It was a community visual art show up until that point.... As an artist myself, I wanted to pay artists – too often artists are expected to do stuff for free, and that’s impossible.”

According to the festival website, PiA became a not-for-profit in 2006, mounted its first festival in 2008 and rebranded to become the Queer Arts Festival in 2010, obtaining charitable status in 2012.

“Rachel has finally managed to extricate herself,” said Holman, “because we also both have our own arts practices and it’s very hard to run this organization and also have an arts practice, it might have fallen a bit by the wayside, but Rachel is a concert pianist. [She’s] no longer staff with us, [but] she’s still doing some contract work with us and passing over her organizational knowledge.”

While Holman is a photo-based artist, the festival remains their focus. It is the belief that “art changes people and people change the world” that motivates them, “because it’s important work” – “when a country is taken over, the first people they suppress are the artists.... You take over the media and you get rid of the artists because people can be completely destroyed – the first thing they start doing [to recover] is making art, whether it’s in a mud puddle, making a mud pie, they start, that is, expression; that’s what brings them back.

“Art reaches you on a visceral level,” Holman continued. “There’s this thing called confirmation bias, so we take in more what we already agree with, but art can get you in a way that can transform our ways of thinking.”

For Holman, being queer and Jewish are parts of their larger identity. Holman has self-described, for example, as “a queer pagan Jew” and “a Jewish, butch, bearded dyke.”

“I come from L.A.,” they told the Independent. “I was born and raised in L.A., and I have had several Jewish friends be, ‘Oh, you’re too much for Vancouver.’ And I’ve been here for a long time ... [but] people are, ‘Why aren’t you in New York, why aren’t you in L.A.? Why aren’t you where you can be more?’ I always get this feeling here ... that people are always trying to be. ‘Shh, could you just be a...”

Help Us Put Names to Faces

Recognize anyone from this staff photo from 1989-90?

With over 100 years of history, we need our community’s help to chronicle our past.

Email info@talmudtorah.com or call Jennifer at 604.736.7307, x3474
little bit quieter, could you just not be quite so much?" There’s this too-muchness about Jews. And there’s kind of this too-muchness about queers, too. There’s this assimilation. My family assimilated—I got, from my bubbie and my great-aunt, I would get Christmas cards. We’re Jewish! But we assimilated because that was what was safe for us. And so there’s all this assimilation and erasure that happens with queers and Jews, because also, many of us can pass; we can pass as straight, we can pass as not Jewish.

Despite skepticism about the possibility of Jews being fully accepted—the white supremacist rally in Charlottesville a couple of years ago featured chants of “Jew will not replace us,” for example—Holman is completely out there in her Jewishness and queerness, in a seemingly fearless way. “Oh no, I’m afraid of everything—that’s why I do it,” they said. “Although, that’s not true anymore. Since my wife died [in 2009], I don’t fear anything because the worst thing has already happened to me. But I used to be, I was quite fearful. … [However] I’ve never been able to be in the closet about anything really. And, I guess, for me, that’s kind of Jewishness, being more emotive and not afraid to debate, not always trying to please people. For me, it comes from my Jewish heritage.

Despite the many accolades for their art and for their work with the Queer Arts Festival, including the 2014 YWCA Women of Distinction Award in Arts and Culture, Holman said, “I have been a failure all my life.” Among their reasons for that description, Holman said they are dyslexic. They added, “I’m butch, so that’s a failure as a woman; feminists were called failures as well.” But, they said, they are working with that in their art and, on the positive side, being a failure “frees you up to make your own rules, to make your own rules.”

The theme of this year’s Queer Arts Festival is “Wicked.” The press release quotes Oscar Wilde: “Wickedness is a myth invented by good people to account for the curious attractiveness of others.”

“It’s always really multi-layered the theme and there’s something different stuff out of it,” said Holman. “So, there’s also the book Wicked … because Wicked is about it’s not easy being green, it’s not easy being different. It’s not easy being a Jew, it’s not easy being butch. It’s not easy being an activist. It’s all actually about activism, the book Wicked.

In addition, there is, as Holman writes in the press release, the question, “What do we lose—who do we lose—when we accept induction into the dominant order, and reframe ourselves as a ‘moral minority?’”

“It’s a bit of a double pun, they explained to the Independent. ‘The Moral Majority’ years ago, who were trying to say [what’s acceptable in society], the right-wing, and there’s the ‘model minority,’ the Asian community, whose perceived greater-than-average success and stereotypical politeness are used to downplay the existence of racism. ‘It totally ties in with what was being talked about’—of course, queers are easier; excess and how we, as queers, work towards justice and inclusion.

While becoming “more acceptable,” Holman said, “it’s still, please don’t scare the horses… So, it’s OK if you want to be gay and lesbian and you want to marry and you want to have kids and you want to buy a house and be part of the whole heteronormative framework, it’s OK if you want to be a ‘real woman’ or a ‘real man,’ whatever that is; but people in between are still, ‘Come on, could you choose a side?’

“There’s this whole feeling like, we’ve given you these things, we’ve given you marriage rights, you can have children, you can affirm your gender, you can do those things, but could you now just be nicer to us?” And, I think, we have to be careful of that—being sanctioned by the state of what’s OK because then people get left behind, and that’s what’s happening right now… If you’re Jewish, you have to really care of that, of remembering that not everyone is being treated well.

The QAF opens on July 16. “And we’re going to have a binge party at the end, on the 26th, and there’ll be prizes,” said Holman. “We’re going to play the whole entire festival. I think it’s going to be 12 hours or something—we’re inviting people to get into their best jammies.

“Everything is going to be payday, what you can, by donation. … Pay as much as you can, please, because we want to support the artists.”

Among those artists are Jewish community members Avram Finkelstein, from New York, who helps open the festival (see jewishindependent.ca/political-art-of-living) and locally based Noam Gagnon, whose work This Crazy Show (July 25-26) is described as “a reflection on the quest for love, through revisiting the worlds of childhood, both real and imagined.” In it, he “choreographs and performs, pushing himself to his physical limit to explore and expose the art of artifice in a culture obsessed with preening authenticity. This Crazy Show explores just how precarious and ambiguous identity can be, through the evolution of the body and the self, as both are continuously morphing, unfixed and boldly celebrated.”

For more information on the festival, visit queerartsfestival.com.
Muslim leader an ally
Al-Issa works to make peace a reality for all people.

PAT JOHNSON

During a worldwide virtual event this month involving Jewish leaders and government officials from various countries, one of the leading figures in Sunni Islam was recognized for his work opposing antisemitism and Holocaust denial.

Sheikh Dr. Mohammed Al-Issa is the secretary-general of the Muslim World League and a former minister of justice of Saudi Arabia. The Muslim World League is funded by the Saudi government, is based in Mecca and positions itself as a force for modernization and moderation in Saudi Arabia and the Muslim world. Earlier this year, Al-Issa led an historic trip of senior Muslim clerics and leaders to Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The online event, titled How do Muslims and Jews Can Combat Anti-Semitism Together, featured Muslim world. Earlier this year, Al-Issa led an historic trip of senior Muslim clerics and leaders to Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The online event, titled How do Muslims and Jews Can Combat Anti-Semitism Together, featured Sheikh Dr. Mohammed Al-Issa via video from Saudi Arabia, minister of justice of Saudi Arabia, who is the secretary-general of the Muslim World League. Al-Issa works to make peace a reality for all people.

Not for Jews, not for Muslims, not for Christians, not for Hindus, not for Muslims have a responsibility to feature Al-Issa via video from Saudi Arabia, minister of justice of Saudi Arabia, who is the secretary-general of the Muslim World League.

Al-Issa said in an address that was translated from Arabic. “It can lead to anger, violence and social divisions that help no one. Everywhere in the world, we face challenges in building the bridges of communication, partnership and friendship. But, in a world with many complicated threats, from terrorism to global pandemics, our partnerships are more important than ever.”

He talked about the unifying global fight against coronavirus which, he said, “does not care if a person is Muslim or non-Muslim, Jew or non-Jew, Christian or non-Christian … rich or poor, educated or non-educated.”

That unity is a model for opposing the spread of hatred and intolerance, he said, even as extremist attempts to exploit the current uncertainty to push hatred and division.

He spoke of his visit in January to the death camp in Poland, as well as his numerous visits to synagogues and Jewish museums.

“I stood united alongside my Jewish brothers and said, ‘never again,’” Al-Issa said. “For Jews, not for Muslims, not for Christians, not for Hindus, not for Sikhs, not for any of God’s children,” said Al-Issa. “History’s greatest horror, the Holocaust, must never be repeated… The 1.1 million people murdered at Auschwitz were human beings, just like any other, just like any Muslim. And even though it has been 75 years since the gates of the Auschwitz death camp were torn down, creating a better world for future generations is a constant struggle that we must not give up on.”

He talked about the national community to say, ‘never again,’” Al-Issa said. “We will act together to make just peace a reality for Jews and Muslims, and for all people, religions, civilizations and cultures.”

Downsizing in West Vancouver?
Michael Geller’s Ambleside Mews may be just what you’re looking for

Amleside Mews is for those seeking carefree living without elevators, corridors or underground parking. This unique development offers four special homes on a large corner lot at 12th Street & Jefferson within walking distance of excellent schools and Ambleside Village. The developer is Michael Geller who was responsible for the highly successful Hollyburn Mews and Vinson House Residences.

Two homes are now sold and occupied. The remaining two include the single-level 1390 sq.ft. Garden Suite and a beautifully designed 2810 sq.ft. house at 1177 12th Street.

The Garden Suite is perfect for those seeking a brand-new single level home but not yet ready for an apartment. Accessed from Jefferson Avenue, it offers an exceptionally large kitchen and bright, sunny living-dining area. There are two bedrooms, each with its own en-suite bathroom. Pathways lead to the private garage wired for your electric car.

1177 12th Street offers a thoughtfully designed kitchen overlooking the family room and dining area. French doors lead to a private patio overlooking the shared garden. There’s a separate south-facing living room attached to a sunny porch, powder room and mud-room with direct access to the attached garage. Upstairs are three large en-suite bedrooms, and a fully-equipped laundry room. The spacious lower level offers extra height ceilings, a cozy media room, a fourth ensuite bedroom, a separate office or playroom, and plenty of storage.

Listing agent Clara Hartree says Ambleside Mews is just what West Vancouver has been waiting for: smaller brand-new beautifully designed energy-efficient homes combining the charm and neighbourliness of yesteryear with all of today’s fixtures and appliances and conveniences including home security.

For additional information go to amblesidemews.com or call Clara Hartree at 604 889 9977 or email clara@clarahartree.com.
The death in late May of George Floyd, while he was pinned down on the ground by a Minneapolis police officer, has sparked continuing protests throughout the United States and the world. The tragic incident struck a nerve with Vancouver author and poet Lillian Boraks-Nemetz, and she composed “The Arm,” a poem about racism, in Floyd’s honour.

“The Arm” begins: “Today I am George Floyd / I am a Jew / so I know how it feels / To be stifled / By the arm of hate / That extends toward anyone / Who is different in colour / Culture or creed.”

“Before he died, George Floyd said, ’I can’t breathe.’ When I think of the enormity of the Holocaust and its implications in my life, I can hardly breathe,” Boraks-Nemetz, a Shoah survivor, told the Independent in a recent interview from her home in Vancouver.

“Before he died, George Floyd said, ’I can’t breathe.’ When I think of the enormity of the Holocaust and its implications in my life, I can hardly breathe.”

“While I was found out that my little sister was murdered by a policeman during the war only because she was a Jew—Like poor George Floyd, my sister didn’t survive."

She explained, “They talk about the black injustice, the indigenous injustice. I am talking about the Jewish injustice and the rise of anti-Semitism around the world. It seems as if this topic has been completely omitted from all conversations on racism by both Jews and non-Jews. These incidents, like the killing of George Floyd, touch every survivor of trauma one way or another.”

“The Arm” ends: “As the world burns / From loss, guilt and disgust / May the good people of this Earth / Rise and open their arms / Far and wide to release / Love, kindness and justice for all / Because today each one of us / Is George Floyd.”

The poem comes ahead of the release of Boraks-Nemetz’s new poetry compilation, Out of the Dark, which will be released by Ronsdale Press in the fall.

The 100-page collection offers a cycle of poems in three parts about the poet, who has had to live with the memories of the Holocaust all her life. The first section describes the evils of suffering and prejudice, of war and destruction, and the loss of loved ones, even the loss of self. “This is a ghetto / where humans live in neglected cages / within a fire that burns sleep out of their eyes,” one verse proclaims.

The second section offers “flickers of light” in locating paths to a more fulfilling life, once the poet understands, “We must always seek / new ways / of reaching one another / though each of us is a world unto itself.”

The third section pays homage to the memories of the Holocaust, with this verse: “This is a ghetto / where humans live in neglected cages / within a fire that burns sleep out of their eyes,” one verse proclaims.

The second section offers “flickers of light” in locating paths to a more fulfilling life, once the poet understands, “We must always seek / new ways / of reaching one another / though each of us is a world unto itself.”

The third section pays homage to the memories of the Holocaust, with this verse: “This is a ghetto / where humans live in neglected cages / within a fire that burns sleep out of their eyes,” one verse proclaims.
**DOTE from page 1**

**Cover Story**

Naomi Brand

**All Bodies Dance Project (ABDP) is bringing *His. Air* to the festival. The film was commissioned by F:O:R:MA, Festival of Recorded Movement, last year and is a collaboration between longtime ABDP members: Carolina Bergonzoni (choreographer/director), Peggy Leung (dancer), Harmanie Rose (dancer), Mathew Chytryk (dancer) and Vancouver-based artist Gemma Crowe (cinematographer/editor) and Alex Mah (composer),” said Brand. *His. Air* explores themes of belonging and community dance programming online.

**During COVID times, many dancers have been figuring out how to turn our living spaces into dance studios haven't been an option."**

**"We also started a weekly virtual gathering for our community of dancers in order to prevent social isolation," said Brand. "Many of our projects have been on hold. There is so much about what we do as a company that just isn’t compatible with the necessary restrictions of COVID life. Our work is based on the same time, I now have different bodies, backgrounds, experiences and abilities together to move, share and make in real-time. We’ve been thinking a lot about what kinds of things translate into the digital space and what things just can’t be replaced."**

She added, "Dance is about each of our essential relationship to our own bodies. During COVID times, many of us have learned a lot about our own physical experience of moving through the world and the social choreography of physical distance. There has been so much choreography on the sides walls, grocery stores and, of course, in the streets during the incredible protests during this pandemic."
Amber Funk Barton

Tara Cheyenne Friedenberg

**NEWSPAPERS** from page 1

The Jewish media scene has faced unprecedented challenges in recent years. The emergence of the internet more than two decades ago has undermined print media of all types, with publications for small or niche demographics experiencing particular challenges as well as advantages. The pandemic, which led to an unprecedented global economic shutdown in March, had immediate repercussions. Much of the advertising in the *Independent*, for example, is for upcoming community events, all of which were summarily canceled. Non-essential retailers closed, making advertising extravagant.

The *Independent* has continued publishing on a reduced schedule. Winnipeg’s *Jewish Post & News* announced in April that it was ceasing printing, but started publishing an e-edition again.

The difficulties neatly led to the dissolution of the world’s oldest English-language Jewish newspaper, Britain’s *Jewish Chronicle*, which was saved by a conglomerate of philanthropists. The rival *Jewish News*, which had also announced its liquidation and was set to merge with the *Chronicle* before the surprise bailout, will, however, continue its independent existence.

In an article recently about the state of Jewish journalism, the *Times of Israel* reported that New York’s *Jewish Week* made a dire plea for support and a leader in the American Jewish Press Association — of which the *Independent* is a member — acknowledged that COVID has presented a serious challenge to Jewish media.

The world’s third-largest Jewish community, in France, is in a different boat. In the 1980s, the French government opened radio airwaves to private groups and Jewish radio stations play in that country similar to how the role newspapers play in most other Jewish communities.

The Jewish media scene has faced unprecedented challenges in recent years. The emergence of the internet more than two decades ago has undermined print media of all types, with publications for small or niche demographics experiencing particular challenges as well as advantages. The pandemic, which led to an unprecedented global economic shutdown in March, had immediate repercussions. Much of the advertising in the *Independent*, for example, is for upcoming community events, all of which were summarily canceled. Non-essential retailers closed, making advertising extravagant.

The *Independent* has continued publishing on a reduced schedule. Winnipeg’s *Jewish Post & News* announced in April that it was ceasing printing, but started publishing an e-edition again.

The difficulties neatly led to the dissolution of the world’s oldest English-language Jewish newspaper, Britain’s *Jewish Chronicle*, which was saved by a conglomerate of philanthropists. The rival *Jewish News*, which had also announced its liquidation and was set to merge with the *Chronicle* before the surprise bailout, will, however, continue its independent existence.

In an article recently about the state of Jewish journalism, the *Times of Israel* reported that New York’s *Jewish Week* made a dire plea for support and a leader in the American Jewish Press Association — of which the *Independent* is a member — acknowledged that COVID has presented a serious challenge to Jewish media.

The world’s third-largest Jewish community, in France, is in a different boat. In the 1980s, the French government opened radio airwaves to private groups and Jewish radio stations play in that country similar to how the role newspapers play in most other Jewish communities.

The difficulties neatly led to the dissolution of the world’s oldest English-language Jewish newspaper, Britain’s *Jewish Chronicle*, which was saved by a conglomerate of philanthropists. The rival *Jewish News*, which had also announced its liquidation and was set to merge with the *Chronicle* before the surprise bailout, will, however, continue its independent existence.

In an article recently about the state of Jewish journalism, the *Times of Israel* reported that New York’s *Jewish Week* made a dire plea for support and a leader in the American Jewish Press Association — of which the *Independent* is a member — acknowledged that COVID has presented a serious challenge to Jewish media.

The world’s third-largest Jewish community, in France, is in a different boat. In the 1980s, the French government opened radio airwaves to private groups and Jewish radio stations play in that country similar to how the role newspapers play in most other Jewish communities.
Please support our kosher restaurants, cafés and caterers

Café FortyOne
cafefortyone.ca • 604-563-4141
Open for regular takeout with delivery options, and to eat-in.

Garden City Bakery
gardencitybakery.com • 604-244-7888
360-9100 Blundell Rd., Richmond

Kosher Warehouse
kosherfoodwarehouse.com
604-709-9889
Rear Entrance of 612 Kingsway, Vancouver
Open and business as usual.
Not delivering to North Shore, but for bulk order of meat and chicken (not groceries), they can work with Rabbi Gibbs.

Maple Grill
maplegill.com • 604-568-4885
1967 W Broadway, Vancouver
Open 4-8 p.m. Delivery through Uber Eats.
People can call and order, and they will put it in their car.

Nava Creative Kosher
navacreative.com • 604-676-7632
Regular menu. People to pick up at the Vancouver JCC.
They can deliver (Richmond and North Shore if necessary).
Flexible to help everyone and open to any suggestions.

Omnitsky Kosher
omnitskykosher.com • 604-321-1818
5775 Oak Street, Vancouver
Order online or by phone. Local delivery, or people can drive by the store - call ahead and they will load it into the vehicle with no human contact.
(No delivery to the North Shore.)

Perfect Bite
theperfectbite.ca • 604-325-9132
998 West 26th Ave., Vancouver

Sabra Kosher Bakery & Restaurant
604-733-4912
3844 Oak St., Vancouver
Open 9-30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Serving food to go, and delivering full groceries only (i.e. not falafel) between 1st and 49th avenues between Granville and Fraser streets. For pickup, orders taken by phone; vehicle loaded without human contact.

Star Catering specializing in kosher catering
starcatering@hotmail.com • 604-690-9560

---

Milestones

More than $8.9 million raised

When COVID-19 hit, the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver quickly refocused its organizational resources on closing the annual campaign and addressing urgent community needs. Now, it is circling back to announce some terrific news, which is that the 2019 Federation annual campaign raised more than $8.9 million.

Here is a general breakdown of the funds raised:

• $7.9 million in unrestricted funds to support programs and services locally, nationally and in Israel through the allocations process – an increase of $100,000 from last year;

• $1 million in special project funding from donors who give above and beyond their annual campaign commitments to support programs that meet high-priority community needs; and

• $40,000 to support the work of specific agencies from donors directing a portion of their increased gifts through Federation’s Plus Giving program.

The community’s generosity is making an impact here and around the world. Thirty-two local Jewish families will have safe, stable homes when they move into new affordable housing units this summer. Youth in Israel who were once considered at-risk are now skilled professionals whose expertise is sought after.

Federation gives a huge thank you to everyone who contributed and to everyone who volunteered to make the annual campaign a success, including the more than 250 community members who volunteered as canvassers and team captains.

Federation’s campaign chair, Jonathon Leipsic, once again demonstrated outstanding leadership, energy and passion for community as he led the Annual Campaign Working Cabinet. Kol hakavod and todah rabah to Leipsic and to each of these community leaders, who are on this dedicated team: Shay Keil, major gifts co-chair; Lana Pulver, major gifts co-chair; Michael Averbach, men’s philanthropy co-chair; Daniel Dodek, men’s philanthropy co-chair; Susan Hector, canvasser development; Al Szajman, marketing chair; Alvin Wasserman, campaign advisor; and Catherine Epstein, agency liaison.

The funds raised in this campaign will be distributed locally, nationally and in Israel during the 2021 allocations cycle, which will take place next summer. This is part of the two-year allocations cycle that Federation established after the 2008 economic downturn in order to provide greater predictability to its partners and to provide a measure of protection in the event of unanticipated fluctuations. The prudent contingency planning that Federation has been able to do as a result is part of what enabled it to provide emergency funding in April to community organizations that were hit hardest by COVID-19.

In addition, the community also depends on Jewish Federation to work with donors throughout the year to generate special project funding to meet high-priority needs. Combined with the annual campaign result, the total Jewish Federation raised this year was $10.3 million. While this strong result will help sustain the community, more resources will still be needed to address increased community needs related directly to the pandemic. A healthy annual campaign is just the start. With the challenges we’re all currently experiencing, Jewish Federation’s central role has never been more important.

— Courtesy Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver

MIRIAM from page 2

...as it gloriously appeared in the Diaspora.

According to Chassidic lore, once, just before Yom Kippur’s Kol Nidre prayer began, Yitzchak Isaac Taub (1751-1821), who was the sage of Nagykálló (Kalov in Yiddish) in eastern Hungary, called on his assistant Rabbi Yaacov Fish to harness his horse and wagon. The two set out to Fish’s fields, where they found a small pool. Immediately, the holy man dismounted and immersed himself; while Fish stood by transfixed. After the Day of Atonement, Fish returned to his fields, but the pond had disappeared. Fish asked his master, “Rabbi, as you know, despite our long friendship, I never mix into your affairs. But I beg you to enlighten me about the pool of water that appeared and disappeared so mysteriously in my fields.”

The holy man, who founded the Kaliver Chassidic dynasty, smiled: “If Rabbi Yaacov had had the sense, he would have dipped himself the same as I did, for, at that moment, Miriam’s Well passed by.”

Many passengers short, because of COVID-19 restrictions, 40 women were still able to sail on the King David across the Kinneret to Miriam’s Well.

— Courtesy Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver

Gil Zohar is a writer and tour guide in Jerusalem.

Most of the information provided comes from the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver, jewishvancouver.com.
On April 27, Premier John Horgan and Anne Giardini, chair of the BC Achievement Foundation, named this year’s recipients of the BC Achievement Community Award. Among those honoured were Jewish community members Dr. Paige Axelrood and Ivan Sayers. “These days more than ever, our communities are made stronger by British Columbians who go above and beyond,” said Horgan. “Thanks go to all of the BC Achievement 2020 Community Award recipients for helping build a better province for everyone.”

“It is an honour to celebrate the excellence and dedication of these 25 outstanding British Columbians,” added Giardini. “On behalf of all of us at the BC Achievement Foundation, I thank each of them for strengthening their communities and inspiring others to community action.”

As the founder of the Scientist in Residence Program, Axelrood developed and built an educational program to support teachers and help students discover their inner scientist. Elementary students across the Vancouver School District have experienced real science and discovered the natural world through the Scientist in Residence Program. Axelrood’s vision to partner teachers with scientists to facilitate hands-on, inquiry-based lessons has helped change the delivery of science education.

Sayers is the honorary curator of the BC Society for Museum of Original Costume and curator emeritus, Museum of Vancouver. Specializing in the study of women’s, men’s and children’s fashions from 1700 to the present, Sayers has produced historical fashion shows and museum exhibitions all over western North America. A lecturer and mentor, his fashion shows have supported countless nonprofits over the years.

The BC Achievement Foundation is an independent foundation established in 2003, whose mission is to honour excellence and inspire achievement. This year’s selection committee members were Mayor Lee Brain of Prince Rupert, Mayor Michelle Staples of Duncan, and past recipients Lolly Bennett, Aart Schuurman Hess and Andy Yu.

The recipients of the 2020 Community Award will be recognized in a formal presentation ceremony in Victoria, in the presence of Janet Austin, lieutenant governor of British Columbia. Each recipient receives a certificate and a medallion designed by BC artist Robert Davidson. For more information on the award and its recipients, past and present, visit bcachievement.com.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

In light of the economic impacts of COVID-19, the Jewish Independent reached out to the community for help - and the community is responding generously. Thank you to all of you! We need and value your continuing support.

Thank you to the advertisers in this issue:

Moshe Denburg, piano tuning  Jewish Museum and Archives of BC
Dexter Realty  Jewish National Fund-Pacific Region
Factory Optical  Keil Investment Group
Famous Foods  King David High School
Famous Players Band  Latham’s
Michael Geller  Vancouver Talmud Torah
JB Newall Memorials  Web exPress Inc.
JFS Vancouver  ZLC Financial

Thank you to the donors towards multiple issues:

Anonymous  Barbara Heller  Elizabeth Nicholls
Gary Averbach  Faith Jones & Winnifred  Avril Orloff
Paige Axelrood &  Tovey  Marion Poliakoff
Frederick Glick  Sharon Kates  Geraldine Schwartz
Jeffrey Barnett  Kevin Keystone  Perry & Shelley Seidelman
Donna Becker  Gerry Kline  Ralph & Linda Shulman
Marg Borthwick  Robert & Marilyn Krell  Bernie Simpson
Lilian Broca & David  Ron & Estarisa Laye  Heather Sirlin
Goodman  Gerald Lecovin  Renee Switzer
Gina Faigen  Shanie Levin  Barry & Ronnie Tessler
Chris Friedrichs  Seymour & Alberta Levitan  Neri Tischler
Gregg Gardner  Fraidie Martz  Thomas Tsang
David Goldman  Julie Martz  Muriel Vallance
René Goldman  Rachel Mayer  Jerry Wasserman
Gershon Growe  Michelle & Eli Mina  Catherine Youngren
Sylvia Gurstein  Alan Morinis  Cathy Zbarsky
Rahel Halabe

And thank you to:

• All of our longtime subscribers
• The many new subscribers who have signed up
• Everyone who has bought a gift subscription (or two)
• Past advertisers for giving us a good financial base to deal with the crisis

You can find jewish indie on

Facebook  Twitter  Instagram
Unlocking the door to real estate possibilities

Vancouver’s Original
Natural & Bulk Food Store

- Bulk Grains, Flour, Beans, Herbs, Spices & More!
- One Stop for Baking Ingredients
- Gluten-Free Options
- Organic, Non-Medicated & Grass Fed Meats
- Fresh Produce with Organic Choices
- Natural Health & Beauty Section
- In Store Deli & a Huge Selection of Cheese

1595 Kingsway, Vancouver • 604-872-3019
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK • 8am-8pm
www.famousfoods.ca
The complex skin we're in

JOANNE SEIFF

As a young adult, I was often criticized for being too blunt. I didn’t always be the way that my friends adored me. I would call people out when they were being inappropriate. This got me into trouble. And, to be honest, that didn’t always bother me.

Others made me feel embarrassed — because my job, throughout my teenage years, was to behave properly. It made me see those who “needed training” in the student teaching by replacing teachers who “needed training” in the classroom supplies. They often just were African-American or from immigrants.

In those classrooms, I saw how people were being taught to be the “others.” I was told, for example. I was told that I shouldn’t be running with the black, as my friends put it. It might also be time to ditch the “ladylike” models in favour of those talismanic wise women, who make change happen, cool things down during a hot summer and find ways to do it while mostly abiding by the rules.

The rules themselves, whether talismanic or modern, are still largely made by men. It’s time to recognize that the “others” — Jews and members of other minority faiths, women, those in the LGBTQ+ community, people of colour and everyone who still faces discrimination and racism — deserve the equality and justice we are all due.

The D.C. public schools were unpoliced, for example. Instead, there were frequent arrests, for things like “driving while black,” as my friends put it. This pandemic year has been a hot summer of finding ways to do it while mostly abiding by the rules.

Joanne Seiff has written regularly for CBC, Manitoba and various Jewish publications. She is the author of three books, including From the Outside In: Jewish Post Columns 2013–2016, a collection of essays available for digital download or as a paperback from Amazon. Check her out on Instagram @yrnspinner or at joanneseiff.blogspot.com.

Please note that due to the COVID pandemic, the J! will be publishing twice a month as follows: July 10 Food & Drink • July 24 B.C. Day / Milestones • Aug. 21 Back-to-School • Aug. 28 Milestones
Studying the “love hormone”

During the pandemic lockdown, as couples have been forced to spend days and weeks in each other’s company, some have found their love renewed while others are on their way to divorce court. Oxytocin, a peptide produced in the brain, is believed to promote social bonding and cooperation by increasing trust and empathy. It is released during physical intimacy, breastfeeding, and social interactions, and has been shown to reduce stress and anxiety.

New research suggests that oxytocin may also play a role in the resolution of conflict. Scientists from the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel have developed a new method to study the effects of oxytocin on social behavior. They used a compact, lightweight, wireless device to manipulate the production of oxytocin in the brains of mice. By remotely controlling the release of oxytocin, they were able to observe changes in social behavior.

The researchers found that increasing oxytocin levels led to an increase in prosocial behavior, such as spending more time with a partner, and a decrease in aggressive behavior. They also found that oxytocin could be used to mitigate the effects of stress on social behavior.

Oxytocin, a peptide produced in the brain, may bring hearts together – or it can help induce aggression. This conclusion arises from research led by Weizmann Institute of Science researchers in which mice living in semi-natural environments resulted in reduced aggression. But our work shows it does not improve social behavior in a complex environment. Only then can we begin to translate our findings to human behavior, she said.

Participating in this research were scientists from the Max Planck Institute for Psychiatry in Munich, including research students Asaf Benjamin and Stoyo Karamihalev, staff scientist Dr. Julien Dine and postdoctoral fellow Dr. Devin Forkosh of the Chen lab. Prof. Shlomo Wagner and postdoctoral fellow Dr. Hala Harony-Nicolas of Haifa University; Prof. Inga unich, including research students Asaf Benjamin and postdoctoral fellow Dr. Hala Harony-Nicolas of Haifa University; Prof. Inga

Other musical performances included a Yiddish rendition of Leonard Cohen’s “Hallelujah,” adapted and performed by pianist and singer Daniel Kahn; “Over the Rainbow,” from the 1939 film The Wizard of Oz, as composed by Harold Arlen with lyrics by Yip Harburg, two friends from the Lower Eastside of Manhattan, against the spectacular backdrop of “Es Breet” (“In Flames”), a musical crie de coeur written in 1936 by Mordechai Gebirg after what he viewed as the world’s indifference to a pogrom in the Polish town of Przytyk.

Andrew Cuomo, governor of New York, spoke of his father, the late former New York governor Mario Cuomo, who helped ensure the creation of the Museum of Jewish Heritage, the world’s third-largest Holocaust museum. One of the other presenting partners, the National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene and the Lang Lang International Music Foundation. The program, which runs approximately 90 minutes, is available for viewing at wearehere.live.

The program, which runs approximately 90 minutes, is available for viewing at wearehere.live.

The Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre and the Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver were among 125 partners presenting a global commemoration of the 77th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising recently. Beginning and ending with stirring renditions of the “Partisans’ Hymn,” the online event, which also commemorated the end of the Second World War 75 years ago, featured a long list of singers and performers from Hollywood, Broadway and elsewhere, including Dr. Ryan and singer, Mayim Bialik, Whoopi Goldberg, Adrien Brody, Lauren Ambrose and dozens more.

We Are Here: A Celebration of Resilience, Resistance and Hope, which took place June 14, was produced by the Museum of Jewish Heritage: A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, Sing for Hope, the National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene and the Lang Lang International Music Foundation. "Zog Nit Kemen Mol" ("Never Say") is generally called "The Partisans’ Song" or "The Partisans’ Hymn" in English and is an anthem of resilience amid catastrophe sung at Holocaust commemorative events. Written in the Vilna Ghetto by Hirsh Glik after he learned of the six-week uprising by Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto, its stirring concluding lines translate as, “So never say you now go on your last way / Though darkened skies may now conceal the blue of day / Because the hour for which we’ve hungered is so near / Beneath our feet the earth shall thunder, ‘We are here!’”

Other musical performances included a Yiddish rendition of Leonard Cohen’s “Hallelujah,” adapted and performed by pianist and singer Daniel Kahn; “Over the Rainbow,” from the 1939 film ‘The Wizard of Oz,’ as composed by Harold Arlen with lyrics by Yip Harburg, two friends from the Lower Eastside of Manhattan, against the spectacular backdrop of “Es Breet” (“In Flames”), a musical crie de coeur written in 1936 by Mordechai Gebirg after what he viewed as the world’s indifference to a pogrom in the Polish town of Przytyk.

Andrew Cuomo, governor of the state of New York, spoke of his father, the late former New York governor Mario Cuomo, who helped ensure the creation of the Museum of Jewish Heritage, the world’s third-largest Holocaust museum. One of the other presenting partners, the National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene, is the longest continuously producing Yiddish theatre company in the world, now in its 105th season. It was founded to entertain and enlighten the three million Jews who arrived in New York City between 1880 and 1920.

Sing for Hope, another partner, believes in the power of the arts to create a better world. Its mission is to “bring hope, healing and connection to millions of people worldwide in hospitals, schools, refugee camps and transit hubs.”

The Lang Lang International Music Foundation aims to “educate, inspire and motivate the next generation of classical music lovers and performers and to encourage music performance at all levels as a means of social development for youth, building self-confidence and a drive for excellence.”

The program, which runs approximately 90 minutes, is available for viewing at wearehere.live.