

Jewish

Formerly the
Jewish Western
Bulletin

Independent

90

years & beyond

\$78 FOR HOME DELIVERY, \$28 FOR E-DELIVERY

SEPTEMBER 11, 2020/22 ELUL 5780

jewishindependent.ca
PM 40051198



Premier John Horgan and your MLAs wish you SHANA TOVA

נְשָׂה טוֹבָה

Together we can keep you and your family safe: [GOV.BC.CA/COVID19](https://gov.bc.ca/covid19)

Premier John Horgan
Langford-Juan de Fuca

 Spencer Chandra Herbert, MLA Vancouver-West End	 Judy Darcy, MLA New Westminster	 George Heyman, MLA Vancouver-Fairview	 Selina Robinson, MLA Coquitlam-Maillardville
 Jagrup Brar, MLA Surrey-Fleetwood	 Bruce Ralston, MLA Surrey-Whalley	 Shane Simpson, MLA Vancouver-Hastings	 Garry Begg, MLA Surrey-Guildford
 Ronna-Rae Leonard, MLA Courtenay-Comox	 George Chow, MLA Vancouver-Fraserview	 Mike Farnworth, MLA Port Coquitlam	 Melanie Mark, MLA Hli Haykwhl Wii Xsgaak Vancouver-Mount Pleasant
 Anne Kang, MLA Burnaby-Deer Lake	 Sheila Malcolmson, MLA Nanaimo	 Mable Elmore, MLA Vancouver-Kensington	 Rob Fleming, MLA Victoria-Swan Lake
 Raj Chouhan, MLA Burnaby-Edmonds	 Rachna Singh, MLA Surrey-Green Timbers	 David Eby, MLA Vancouver-Point Grey	 Lana Popham, MLA Saanich South

Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4 | 250 387 3655 BCGEU Local 701

**Best Wishes to Everyone
for a Happy, Peaceful, Healthy
and Sweet New Year**

Jewish
Formerly the
Jewish Western
Bulletin
Independent





Official print media sponsor of:



Advertising Deadline:

Thursday, 3 p.m., eight days prior to
desired date of publication.

Editorial Deadline:

All public and social announcements must
be received by Wednesday, 5 p.m., nine
days prior to desired date of publication.
Obituary notices are \$75 + GST per 100
words or portion thereof.

Subscription:

\$74.29 + GST for one year=\$78;
U.S. subscription \$136 Cdn per year;
other countries \$180 Cdn per year;
e-sub \$28 per year.

PM40051198

**Return undeliverable Canadian
addresses to:**
Circulation Dept., Jewish Independent
P.O. Box 47100 RPO City Square
Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 4L6
Tel: 604-689-1520
jewishindependent.ca

Published by Western Sky Communica-
tions Ltd. Cynthia Ramsay, president.
No part of this publication may be repro-
duced without the written permission of
the publisher.

This Week

Israel

- 4 MK talks about challenges faced by lone soldiers.
- 5 Sheba Medical Centre uses animals in therapy.
- 8 New olim find English-speakers group helpful.
- 8 Torontonians' Israel beliefs challenged on hike.
- 19 Israeli ex-pats rally in support of democracy.

Canada

- 6 BRCAinBC hosts another learning event Oct. 1.
- 11 Jews of Colour Canada brings community together.
- 12 Word Vancouver is set to start, online, Sept. 19.
- 15 Tikva Housing's Dayson Residences now open.
- 20 Schara Tzedek cemeteries receive upgrades.
- 22 Beth Tikvah welcomes its new spiritual leader.
- 23 Ofra's restaurant offers Mediterranean fare.
- 24 Victoria Shoah Project exhibits Terezin book.

Books

- 7 Therapist Avrum Nadigel learns from a master.
- 38 Rachel Mines translates Jonah Rosenfeld stories.
- 40 Unique insight on Israel/Palestine campus tensions.
- 41 Two very different novels are page-turners.

Community Calendar 25

Accidental Balabusta 36

Opinion 42-43

Rosh Hashanah

- 31 Sacred measures
The Jewish calendar is a conceptualization
of time that has evolved, well, over time.
- 32 Creation's anniversary
One of the many names of Rosh Hashanah is
Yom Harat Olam, or the birthday of the world.
- 33 Dangers of certainty
Differences do not undermine social cohesion –
what threatens unity is how we respond to them.
- 34 Time capsule
Reboot's annual 10Q reflection project will include
questions about people's coronavirus experiences.
- 37 Symbolic treats
Sweet desserts for Rosh Hashanah are customary and
they include, of course, various types of honey cake.

About the cover art

I was introduced to the Sephardi and Mizrahi tradition of a Rosh Hashanah seder by a dear friend, at whose home I celebrate most of the Jewish holidays. This New Year's, given the pandemic and that we are not in each other's immediate bubble, I will join their seder on the first night of Rosh Hashanah either outdoors, weather permitting, or on Zoom. Already missing the in-person, happily crowded and chatty table, I was looking, perhaps, to prepare myself mentally for this year's socially distanced gathering, and a Zoom with my family in Ontario, when I thought of the idea for the cover, which is created using watercolour and ink (and surprisingly little Photoshop).



In a Sephardi or Mizrahi seder, special dishes are served of specific foods whose Hebrew or Aramaic names are linked in a blessing to another word that has the same root letters. Puns flourish. So, for example, the Hebrew word for carrot and that for decree have different vowels but the same root letters – gimel, zayin and resh – and the blessing over the carrots translates as, "May it be your will, Lord our God, that that our bad decrees be torn up and our merits and blessings be proclaimed." The word for leeks, chives or scallions – *karti* – is akin to *yikartu*, cut off, so the blessing over these vegetables is, "May it be Your will, God, that our enemies be cut off."

Spinach or beet leaves also symbolize the hope that God will make our enemies retreat and we can "beat" a way to freedom. Dates carry the hope that hatred will end; the many seeds of a pomegranate that our mitzvot will be many; an apple that we will have a sweet year; string beans that our merits will increase; a pumpkin or gourd that God will "tear" away all evil edicts against us, while our merits are proclaimed. You get the idea.

For information on the New Year's seder, I visited, among other sites, theicenter.org/resource/hebrew-and-rosh-hashanah-seder and myjewish-learning.com/article/a-sephardic-rosh-hashanah-seder. Not being adept at puns myself, I will leave you simply with a wish for a happy, meaningful and healthy 5781.

– Cynthia Ramsay

Coming Up...

Follow **jewishindie** on



Sept. 25 Entertainment /
Milestones

Oct. 9 Finance & Law

SHANA TOVA!

ZLC
FINANCIAL
EST. 1946

WISHING OUR CLIENTS AND FRIENDS
A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR.



From your friends at ZLC Financial

With specialists in each field of service, ZLC has you covered.



Insurance & Retirement Solutions
Employee Benefits
Investments
Philanthropic Planning
Business Family Succession
Financial Planning

PHILIP LEVINSON CPA, CA
E: plevinson@zlc.net

BRENT DAVIS
E: bdavis@zlc.net

Shana Tovah from JFS

Wishing you and your
loved ones a healthy, sweet
and peaceful new year.



JEWISH
FAMILY
SERVICES

Israel

Helping Israel's lone soldiers

DANIEL BEN-TAL

Michal Cotler-Wunsh was an 18-year-old new immigrant from Canada when she enlisted for the Israel Defence Forces some 30 years ago. Unlike most of her fellow recruits, she had no home to go to on weekends.

"I was a 'lone soldier,' without close family in Israel. There was no real framework that supported us – but much has changed since then, as this matter has become more acute," she said.

Now a Knesset member (as a representative of the Blue and White coalition faction led by Benny Gantz), Cotler-Wunsh has taken up the welfare of the more than 6,300 lone soldiers lacking family in the country: immigrants, volunteers, orphans and youths estranged from their families.

"In retrospect, serving in the army was the most amazing exposure to Israeli society in many ways," said Cotler-Wunsh, whose father Irwin Cotler was Canada's minister of justice and attorney general from 2003 to 2006. "I did a squad leaders course and served in a very ragged anti-tank base at Nitsanim. The company slept in tents and went on marches in the dunes."

The army gave her rent support and, on weekends, she stayed in a room in a Jerusalem apartment. "I lived with an elderly man who usually went away on weekends, so I was alone in the apartment," she said. "To this day, I have connections with people from the Machane Yehuda market, especially the owner of the marzipan shop and the Tzidkiyahu delicatessen. These two would prepare boxes of food for lone soldiers at the end of Friday business, and we would get to Jerusalem after everything was already closed, go through the market and take the boxes of food prepared for Shabbat. To this day, I don't forget them and they don't forget me."

Beyond material needs, she recalled the psychological hardship of being far from home.

"I know how important it is for lone soldiers to have their parents accompany them," said Cotler-Wunsh, who served in the days before digital communication. "One aspect that has changed is parents' involvement in day-to-day matters. Nowadays, it's possible to convey to the lone soldiers' parents a reality that they do not understand – and there's no chance that they will un-



MK Michal Cotler-Wunsh, right (and inset), with Michal Berman, chief executive officer of the Lone Soldier Centre in Memory of Michael Levin, and Jerusalem Mayor Moshe Leon at the inauguration ceremony in August of a new home for female lone soldiers in Jerusalem.



AVISHAI FINKELSTEIN

YOSSI ZAMIR

derstand – but they're very concerned about. This communication calms both them and the lone soldier throughout their military service."

"Lone soldiers need somewhere to live, a hot meal on Friday night ... things other soldiers take for granted," Michal Berman, chief executive officer of the Lone Soldier Centre in memory of Michael Levin, a nonprofit organization that looks after their welfare.

The LSC, established in memory of an American immigrant soldier killed in the 2006 Second Lebanon War, currently operates nine apartment homes, offering low-rent housing to about 100 soldiers in Jerusalem, Petach Tikva, Herzliya and Ramat Hasharon, as well as social clubs catering to about 1,000 soldiers in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Be'er Sheva. Only financial restraints are preventing the opening of more facilities and programs.

Beyond the social-psychological aspects, soldiers' needs are often prosaic. "They need basic things like clean underwear, a toaster, somebody to look after them when they are sick," Berman explained. "We have hundreds of volunteers who cook and do their laundry for them – many of them former lone soldiers or others immigrants."

The organization's staff also provide advice on how to navigate Israel's bureaucracy, and attend military ceremonies, taking the place of their parents who cannot be there. "They say this means the world to them," Berman said.

"The difficulties continue beyond their army service," noted Cotler-Wunsh, who returned to Canada after studying law at the Hebrew

University of Jerusalem. "After 13 years in Israel and with a small baby, for the first time in my life I missed my family. I was pregnant with my second child and also wanted to do a second degree, at McGill University, and took the opportunity to be close to my parents."

She returned to Israel 10 years later with four children and pursued a legal career that led her to the Knesset, where she has taken up a host of social issues, including the welfare of lone soldiers before, during and after their service.

"Nowadays, when they do have a support system, the loneliness hasn't disappeared – it's just been postponed. It's harder when you're used to an all-embracing system then, suddenly, to find yourself really alone. In any case, getting out of the army is a shock. For a lone soldier, it's even harder to go from a hierarchic system to being an independent citizen who has to make decisions that will affect their life. That's part of the reason why so many young Israelis go traveling after their army service."

Over the High Holidays, the LSC is launching a global crowdfunding campaign to help lone soldiers get through the toughest time of their lives. For more information, visit charidy.com/lsc. ■

Daniel Ben-Tal was a lone soldier serving as a paratrooper before becoming a journalist. Over three decades he has penned hundreds of articles in a host of journals and websites around the world. Formerly an editor at the Jerusalem Post and the English version of Haaretz, he is now an Israel-based freelance writer, editor and translator.

Dogs aiding recovery

Sheba sees success with a variety of therapies.

SHARON GELBACH IMP

Nathaniel Felber is an Israel Defence Forces soldier who suffered a critical head injury in a terror attack in December 2018. He has been slowly recovering, against all odds. After being in a coma for several months, he was moved to Sheba Medical Centre, where he's been receiving intensive rehabilitation. After a brief setback following brain surgery last May, Felber has made remarkable progress, and a lot of the credit goes to Sheba – not only the hospital but its namesake, a trained physiotherapy dog.

“The dog relates to Nathaniel in a nonjudgmental way, happily accepting the food that Nathaniel offers or any other attention,” said Judi Felber, who has been at her son’s side almost constantly since the attack that upended their lives.

Prof. Israel Dudkiewicz, who heads Sheba’s orthopedic rehabilitation program, has noted a marked improvement in compliance, strength and endurance in patients like Felber, when performing physical therapy exercises with the dog.

“The dog takes attention away from the pain and difficulty of the exercise, enabling the patient to try to do more and to do it better,” explained Dudkiewicz. “I’ve watched patients who ordinarily wouldn’t be able to stand for just two or three minutes, but, when they pet the dog, they can be standing for 30 minutes and more without even realizing it.”

Felber builds strength and balance in his legs by standing and petting Sheba. He also throws a ball for the dog to retrieve, a game that repeatedly flexes his elbow, but without the tedium of the standard physio exercises for the same purpose. When brushing Sheba, Felber must exert enough pressure to run the brush through the dog’s fur, but not too much that would cause him pain.

The Felbers made aliyah from Silver Spring, Md., about 14 years ago, settling in Ra’anana with their three children and a dog. “Nathaniel loved our dog, and I think that interacting with Sheba the dog is very healing for him,” said his mother.

Dudkiewicz is delighted with Felber’s positive response to Sheba, as well as the responses of patients working with therapy dogs in general.

“We have seen dramatic improvement in patients performing physical therapy with dogs from both a physical and emotional perspective,” he said. “We aim to incorporate this as another treatment tool, such as hydrotherapy and other nonconventional therapies, for patients who can benefit from it.”

At just seven months old, Sheba is still a puppy, but his performance thus far points to a successful future. Dogs used in physical therapy must undergo a yearlong, rigorous training period. The staff must likewise be trained how to integrate the dog into their rehab programs. In the course of training, the dogs are tested periodically to see that they’re up to scratch. Dudkiewicz explained that different dogs are trained for different types of patients and their abilities. The cost of each dog, including training, is more than \$30,000, meaning that its implementation in the department must be limited; however, Dudkiewicz said the results certainly justify the financial outlay.

“Neurorehabilitation is slower than anything else I’ve ever experienced,” said Judi Felber. “Nathaniel is not walking, or talking, or eating even independently – yet. But I try to focus on the positive: he’s responding to people, to us, his family. He’ll turn his head and give us his hand. He can nod yes and no and show us the number of fingers that we ask. We’ve still got a long way to go, but I’m hopeful.”



Sheba is a trained physiotherapy dog. One of the patients he’s helping at Sheba Medical Centre is Nathaniel Felber, who suffered a head injury in a terror attack in December 2018.

– Courtesy International Marketing and Promotion (IMP)

From your Liberal MPs

Wishing you a healthy, happy, and sweet New Year!

Nous vous souhaitons la santé et du bonheur pour cette nouvelle année!



Terry Beech
Member of Parliament
for Burnaby North - Seymour
604.718.8870
Terry.Beech@parl.gc.ca



Sukh Dhaliwal
Member of Parliament
for Surrey - Newton
604.598.2200
Sukh.Dhaliwal@parl.gc.ca



Hon. Hedy Fry
Member of Parliament
for Vancouver Centre
604.666.0135
Hedy.Fry@parl.gc.ca



Hon. Joyce Murray
Member of Parliament
for Vancouver Quadra
604.664.9220
Joyce.Murray@parl.gc.ca



Hon. Carla Qualtrough
Member of Parliament
for Delta
778.593.4007
Carla.Qualtrough@parl.gc.ca



Hon. Harjit Sajjan
Member of Parliament
for Vancouver South
604.775.5323
Harjit.Sajjan@parl.gc.ca



Patrick Weiler
Member of Parliament
for West Vancouver - Sunshine
Coast - Sea to Sky Country
604.913.2660
Patrick.Weiler@parl.gc.ca

שנה טובה
Shanah Tova!

At press time, the following
Jewish Independent depots were open:

CAVELL GARDENS
(limited access)
GARDEN CITY BAKERY
HILLEL HOUSE UBC
KOSHER FOOD WAREHOUSE
LEGACY SENIOR LIVING
(limited access)
LOUIS BRIER HOME
(limited access)
MAPLE GRILL
MAX'S DELI

OMNITSKY DELICATESSEN
PERETZ CENTRE
PHARMASAVE, OAK & 42ND
REAL CANADIAN
SUPERSTORE
MAIN & MARINE
SABRA BAKERY
SOFRA RESTAURANT
SOLLY'S MAIN + CENTRAL
WEINBERG RESIDENCE
(limited access)



90
years & beyond
jewishindependent.ca

To subscribe: 604-689-1520 or
subscriptions@jewishindependent.ca

Health

Jewish genes and cancer risk

With the growth of ancestry services like 23andMe, we are more aware than ever of our genes and how important they are. What we may not know is how our Jewish ancestry puts us and our children at greater risk for health issues.

Join BRCAinBC for a virtual event Oct. 1, at 7 p.m., to learn about your Jewish genes and the tenfold increased risk for Jewish people for certain cancers, including breast,

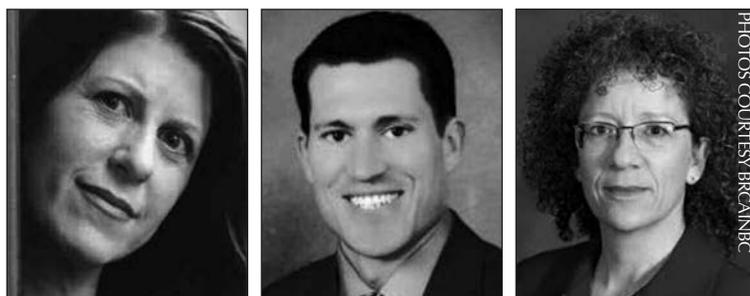
ovarian, aggressive prostate cancer, pancreatic cancer and melanoma. Not only will you learn more about your risk, but you will learn where and how you can get tested and what you can do to prevent cancer.

BRCAinBC is a group of individuals concerned about the effect of the BRCA genes on the Jewish community in British Columbia. The project was born out of the realization that many members of the Jewish community are not aware of the risks of carrying the BRCA genes and the risk of genetically linked cancers – BRCA 1 and 2 is the code for variant mutations of two genes known to increase the lifetime risk of several serious cancers in both women and men.

Your Jewish Genes: A Virtual Learning Event will feature speakers from across North America, including Amy Byer-Shainman, aka “the BRCA Responder,” and author of *Resurrection Lily: The BRCA Gene, Hereditary Cancer and Lifesaving Whispers from the Grandmother I Never Knew*; Matt Seaton, peer navigator with FORCE (Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered); as well as members of the B.C. Cancer Agency’s Hereditary Cancer Program and High Risk Clinic, including Dr. Rona Cheifetz, surgical oncologist, and Allison Mindlin, genetic counselor.

For more information about BRCA genes and BRCAinBC, visit brcainbc.ca. To register for the Your Jewish Genes event, go to yourjewishgeneswebinar.eventbrite.com. Tickets are by \$1, \$18 or \$36 donation towards the BRCAinBC bursary program, which supports access to genetic testing for Jewish people in British Columbia. No one will be turned away for lack of funds. ♫

– Courtesy BRCAinBC



Amy Byer-Shainman, left, Matt Seaton and Dr. Rona Cheifetz are among the speakers to be featured at Your Jewish Genes: A Virtual Learning Event Oct. 1.

PHOTOS COURTESY BRCAinBC



Legacy
SENIOR LIVING
The Leo Wertman Residence

Shanah Tovah!

Happy Rosh Hashanah! At Legacy, discover luxurious air-conditioned suites, personal concierge service, exceptional cuisine, fitness and wellness programming, and a place to call home.

Contact Kathleen or Amber to discover Legacy and book your safe tour today.

Ask About
Our Autumn
Move-In
Special!

604.240.8550

Legacy Senior Living

611 West 41st Avenue, Vancouver

The Leo Wertman Residence

PIANO TUNING

Tunings, repairs and estimates. Honest, reliable and certified.
Call Moshe Denburg at 604-879-8415.



Shanah Tovah!

Dear Friends
The JCC Board & Staff wish you a year of peace,
good health and happy new beginnings.
Your J will always be here for you.

In-Person, Virtually and Everything in-between

Read what we have to offer
in our Fall Digital Program Guide



jccgv.com/guide



Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver
950 West 41st Avenue, Vancouver BC | 604.257.5111 | www.jccgv.com



Read the QR code
with your camera

Want to be a therapist?

Book teaches through master-student exchange.

REBECA KUROPATWA

Therapist Avrum Nadigel's latest book hit the shelves this month. Co-authored with the late Dr. David Freeman, *Where Would You Like to Start: A Master Therapist on Beginning Psychotherapy with Families* is structured as a conversation or interview between veteran therapist Freeman and then-newish therapist Nadigel.

Nadigel is a family marriage therapist based in Toronto. Originally from Montreal, where he had worked for the Jewish community for years, he moved to Vancouver for a spell. It was here that he met Freeman (who passed away in 2010).

Freeman had brought in various therapists to speak on marriage, love and respect at different events. Attending these lectures, Nadigel found what the therapists had to say "redundant and I didn't find it very helpful for me. I had a pretty severe case of fear of commitment, and they all rambled on about the same thing. But, when David spoke, it blew my mind."

About a year after hearing Freeman speak, Nadigel met, online, the woman who would become his wife, Dr.

Aliza Israel. "She is from Vancouver, but was staying in Toronto at the time," said Nadigel. "Now, we're married and have three kids. And that all started because of David's talk in Vancouver. David's talk introduced me to a type of therapy called family systems theory."

Nadigel read many books on the topic, including Freeman's, which made Nadigel rethink his previously held suppositions about relationships and marriage. "I changed the way I practise with my own clients," he said.

Nadigel moved to Toronto when he was accepted into a residency there. He started up a private practice and began to look for someone to mentor him. At his wife's suggestion, he reached out to Freeman in Vancouver, who, although semi-retired, was happy to supervise Nadigel via Skype.

Nadigel recalled some of the game-changing ways in which Free-

man changed his way of thinking. "When I was single, if I felt anxious or not good in a relationship, I was taught that this meant there was something wrong," said Nadigel by way of example. A relationship "should be lovely, giving and with good communication, but, as soon as I get anxious, I bolt. Then, David comes around and goes ...



COURTESY AVRUM NADIGEL



Avrum Nadigel's latest book (inset), which he co-authored with the late Dr. David Freeman, is aimed at people contemplating a career in family therapy.

'Perhaps your own internal states of anxiety have nothing to do with the people you're dating, but with your own internal struggle itself.' It really changed how I saw discomfiting feelings in intimate relationships. It helped me sit with them longer."

Thinking about his eventual marriage to Israel, Nadigel said, "I often think back to that time and think, 'How did all this work?' Maybe, it was one part luck, one part theory and one part having a good therapist in my corner."

In addition to Freeman's counsel, Nadigel has done much study on family systems, notably he did post-graduate training with the Western Pennsylvania Family Centre, which teaches Bowen family systems theory, as formulated by the late Dr. Murray Bowen, a psychiatrist and founder of the theory.

Recalling his conversations with Freeman, Nadigel said, "David was very worried about two things. Number one, that people were fo-

Please see **NADIGEL** on page 16

Stable cash flow in a low interest world

SHANA TOVAH!
Best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year!

With current market volatility, we recommend investing in mortgages now more than ever.

6%*
First mortgages
Canadian
real estate

7%*
First mortgages
US
real estate



Shay (Shy) Keil
Senior Wealth Advisor
Director, Wealth Management
604.661.1461
shay.keil@scotiawealth.com

www.keilinvestmentgroup.com

Simply put, we are always looking for income solutions.

Our strategies may be suitable for those with \$1,000,000 of investable assets or more. This is a mortgage investment corporation that provides mortgages that are fully secured by real estate.

Keil Investment Group
ScotiaMcLeod, a division of Scotia Capital Inc.

Scotia Wealth Management®

* Yields as of August 2019. Offer valid anytime. Cash flows may vary and are not guaranteed. Not suitable for everyone. Due to high risk, please speak with your wealth advisor for more details.

® Registered trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia, used under licence. Wealth advisory and brokerage services are provided by ScotiaMcLeod, a division of Scotia Capital Inc. Scotia Capital Inc. is a member of the Canadian Investor Protection Fund and the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada. For more information visit www.scotiawealthmanagement.com. Keil Investment Group is a personal trade name of Shay Keil.

Say you saw it in the...

Jewish Independent
Formerly the Jewish Western Bulletin



SAVE THE CLASS OF COVID-19

This Rosh Hashanah is like no other as we search for meaningful and safe ways to welcome the New Year during the coronavirus pandemic.

This fall at Ben-Gurion University, there will be more than 3,000 Bachelor, Masters and Doctoral (PhD) students whose studies are in jeopardy and desperately need our support. With almost a million people unemployed in Israel, they deserve our help! Your contribution to the SOS Student Pandemic Assistance Fund will have a far-reaching impact for future research and scholarship in our world-renowned "start-up nation".

Wishing you and yours a safe and meaningful New Year, Shana Tova

You can make a gift to support our students online:
www.bengurion.ca/donation/
(Tax receipt generated immediately)

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

CABGU BC & ALBERTA

Si Brown, President **David Berson, MSW**, Executive Director
950 West 41st Avenue, Suite 305C, Vancouver, BC, V5Z 2N7
Tel: 604-266-2680 | Email: bguvancouver@bengurion.ca

Building community in Israel | Hike challenges one's views

JACK COPELOVICI ESRA

The reasons for making aliyah are many, however, some of the big questions holding back potential *olim* (immigrants), especially those who are 50+ and are already settled, may include the following: “My Hebrew is almost nonexistent; what am I going to do with myself when I get to Israel?”

One of the ways to help solve these concerns is to join the English Speaking Residents Association (ESRA). My wife, Ida, and I are good examples. We made aliyah in June of 2016 from Toronto when we were in our early 60s. We had two immediate priorities: to find an English-speaking community to live in and to get involved in Israel by finding meaningful volunteer opportunities. Fortunately, we found ESRA.

ESRA was founded some 40 years ago. It has about 2,700 members in 21 different chapters in north, south and central Israel, stretching from Eilat to Nahariya and beyond. The members come from North America, the United Kingdom, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and elsewhere. The programming, all of which takes place in English, encompasses social activities, outings (when conditions permit), educational mentoring and tutoring programs, charitable and welfare activities and volunteering. In addition, and because of COVID-19, a majority of the social activities, talks, visual tours and cooking classes have been and will continue to be presented on Zoom.

ESRA is not just for those planning on making aliyah. Many people living abroad want to be able to see and hear about Israel generally and/or participate in English-language programs and ESRA's calendar features talks on a range of topics, from finance, current events, history, the environment and entertainment, as well as clubs, such as bridge, photography and knitting. These programs are accessible around the world and, of course, people can join in ESRA programs when visiting Israel – the group's monthly hikes have recently restarted.

For more information on ESRA, visit esra.org.il.

– Courtesy English Speakers Residents Association



Monthly hikes are one of the many activities offered by the English Speakers Residents Association.

KEVIN KEYSTONE

In this three-part series, the author recounts some of his experiences on Masar Ibrahim Al-Khalil, the Path of Abraham the Friend, which he visited in 2019. The articles have been adapted from a few of the letters he wrote home to family. The events and people described are real but, for reasons of privacy, the names are fictitious.

I'm writing this from a rooftop deck in the small community of Arraba, about 15 kilometres from the West Bank's northern border. We walked two days to get here along the *Masar Ibrahim Al-Khalil*, the Path of Abraham the Friend, a 330-kilometre trail from Rummanah in the north to Bayt Mirsim in the south. We're here as part of a guided tour with the Siraj Centre; for 15 years, Siraj has organized walking, cycling and hiking experiences in Palestine.

Tonight, all eight of us will be staying at this villa. It's unusual for a host to have so much room, but the Hassan family specially renovated their home to accommodate large groups. Noor, her husband and their five children have been hosting hikers on the Masar for five years. Throughout the hike, we'll stay in homes like this, as well as hotels, guesthouses, Bedouin tents, and even a night in a cave.

Dusk has arrived; the evening view is clear and beautiful. The sun has set over the peaks and valleys of the West Bank, the lights of Palestinian villages and Israeli settlements shim-



Raking trees in an olive orchard, somewhere between Duma and Kafr Malik, West Bank, Palestine.

mer around us. Beyond the hill ahead of me, backlit with shades of peach, rose and grey, lies Israel, Netanya and the Mediterranean Sea. A half-moon rises above.

The villages and settlements may seem quiet and peaceable, but are walled off from one another with concrete and hostility. The sea be-

Shana Tova

FROM YOUR B.C. CONSERVATIVE MPS!

Canada has been blessed by the strong presence of the Canadian Jewish community who enrich our country's culture and values of pluralism and freedom.

DAN ALBAS, MP
CENTRAL OKANAGAN—SIMILKAMEEN—NICOLA
DAN.ALBAS@PARL.GC.CA

MEL ARNOLD, MP
NORTH OKANAGAN—SHUSWAP
MEL.ARNOLD@PARL.GC.CA

KENNY CHIU, MP
STEVESTON—RICHMOND EAST
KENNY.CHIU@PARL.GC.CA

MARC DALTON, MP
PITT MEADOWS—MAPLE RIDGE
MARC.DALTON@PARL.GC.CA

TODD DOHERTY, MP
CARIBOO—PRINCE GEORGE
TODD.DOHERTY@PARL.GC.CA

HON. ED FAST, MP
ABBOTSFORD
ED.FAST@PARL.GC.CA

HON. KERRY-LYNNE FINDLAY, MP
SOUTH SURREY—WHITE ROCK
KERRY-LYNNE.FINDLAY@PARL.GC.CA

TRACY GRAY, MP
KELOWNA—LAKE COUNTRY
TRACY.GRAY@PARL.GC.CA

TAMARA JANSEN, MP
CLOVERDALE—LANGLEY CITY
TAMARA.JANSEN@PARL.GC.CA

SEN. YONAH MARTIN
BRITISH COLUMBIA
MARTIN@SEN.PARL.GC.CA

CATHY MCLEOD, MP
KAMLOOPS—THOMPSON—CARIBOO
CATHY.MCLEOD@PARL.GC.CA

ROB MORRISON, MP
KOOTENAY—COLUMBIA
ROB.MORRISON@PARL.GC.CA

NELLY SHIN, MP
PORT MOODY—COQUITLAM
NELLY.SHIN@PARL.GC.CA

MARK STRAHL, MP
CHILLIWACK—HOPE
MARK.STRAHL@PARL.GC.CA

TAKO VAN POPTA, MP
LANGLEY—ALDERGROVE
TAKO.VANPOPTA@PARL.GC.CA

BRAD VIS, MP
MISSION—MATSQUI—FRASER CANYON
BRAD.VIS@PARL.GC.CA

HON. ALICE WONG, MP
RICHMOND CENTRE
ALICE.WONG@PARL.GC.CA

BOB ZIMMER, MP
PRINCE GEORGE—PEACE RIVER—NORTHERN ROCKIES
BOB.ZIMMER@PARL.GC.CA

yond means, for some, Europe, North Africa and its opportunities; for others, impassable waters. What is this place? How did we get here?

Five of us will walk all 25 days from Rummana to Bayt Mirsim: Felix and Thomas, Quebecois hiking companions in their 40s and 50s; Oliver and Eve, two 50-something activists from the United Kingdom; and myself, a 30-something freelance writer from Toronto. The remaining three will walk one to two weeks: John, a real-estate project manager who hiked Everest for his 60th birthday; and Sue and Howard, a retired teacher-principal duo from California. Neil, a young British doctoral student, hopped off yesterday and will be back for short stints in the coming weeks. Ines, an older Swede, walked with us for just the day.

After the hike, I plan to visit a friend in Beirut. In light of the protests against the government, I shared my reservations with Ines, who lived in Lebanon for two decades. "I lived in Beirut through the civil war," she said, smiling. "You'll be fine."

If not all of us are quite so hardcore, we're all mostly hikers. Sue and Howard walked 1,000 miles on the Camino de Santiago, Spain's well-traveled Catholic pilgrimage-turned-hiking trail. I walked the Camino, but at half their age and half as far. Felix and Thomas are also Camino veterans: we all seem to have an affinity for long-distance trails in places of importance and meaning.

We are and aren't here for the hiking. We've come to see Palestine for ourselves and hear directly from Palestinians. For my part, it felt like something of a responsibility. Like many Diaspora Jews, I have supported the state of Israel, either directly or indirectly, and benefited from it. I went on Birthright, the two-week, all-expenses-paid tour designed to build affinity and political support between young Jews and the state. I'm familiar with that side of the story – but after 50 years of occupation and a seemingly never-ending conflict, something didn't quite fit for me.

Before I left for the Masar, I asked my rabbi for a blessing. In synagogue, she prayed that I would come here "with eyes wide open" and return home "with eyes opened wide." It's a prayer I share.

On the Camino, in Spain, locals are largely inured to tourists; here, on the Masar, tourists are rarer. Every local we pass waves hello, is happy and surprised to see us, stops us and wants to give us coffee. Yesterday, we were stopped often by olive-pickers – it's the season for it. Enthusiastically, they beckoned us over to the stone borders of their groves, where we sat and shared thimbles of coffee spiked with car-

damom. As we walked through towns and villages, small children yelled, "Hello! Hello!" and waved to us, their parents replying to our greetings of *salaam aleykum* (peace be upon you) with *wa' aleykum salaam* (and peace upon you) and *ablan wa sablan*, you are welcome here. In these moments, of which there are many, I'm buoyed by unimpeachable hospitality.

This is, however, different from the Camino in other ways. I walked 40 days on the Camino and rarely thought about politics; here, every day is political. I never felt awkward about being Jewish on the Camino – except once, when I asked a local barkeep at a tavern called

lik, to visit Nader and bring offerings of the family's love and hope.

In the short time we've been here, we've learned of the various ways in which Israel makes life nearly impossible for Palestinians: checkpoints; control over water, electricity, building and agricultural permits; the separation wall; demolition of homes and olive groves; restricted movement internally and internationally; arrest and imprisonment without trial; and, of course, the endless encroachment of settlements, which have been deemed illegal under international law by the United Nations Security Council and the International Court of Justice.

History, of course, is relevant to the present and, here, one can feel the weight of it, but it's difficult to find a version that isn't heavy with narrative. A briefing yesterday began with, "When Israel occupied Gaza and the West Bank in 1967..." That's true, but Israel occupied the territories as an outcome of the Six Day War, which raises questions of how it started and who provoked it. (The answer, as with most things Israel and Palestine, is hotly debated and too

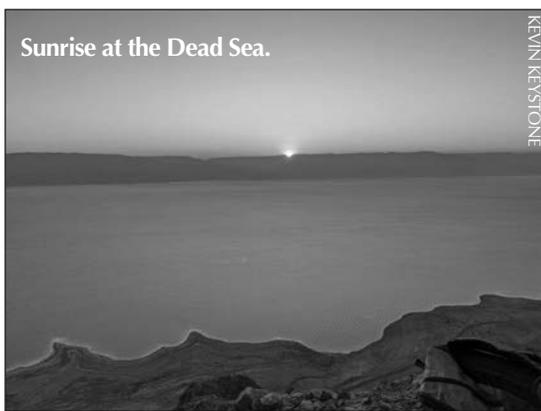
extensive to rehash here.) Yesterday, we didn't talk about the Six Day War, nor the nuances of what came before it. The conflict doesn't justify the occupation, but to leave out relevant context, to drop the "why" behind the "what," I'm not sure that's helpful, either.

On Birthright, we visited an Israeli military base. One of our trip's soldiers was a pilot in the air force; in the common room, rows of flat, black, airplane-shaped medallions were pinned to a wall. Someone asked what they were. "Those are enemy aircraft," the pilot said. "Each one marks a plane we shot down."

The group erupted in applause. I froze, horrified. It reminded me of the story we tell at Passover, when the Heavenly Hosts rejoiced at the drowning of the Egyptians in the Red Sea. "My creatures are perishing," God silenced them. "And you sing praises?"

It's dark now. Stars are appearing in the night sky. Crickets chirp and trucks rumble low in the distance, no doubt carrying goods along labyrinthine backstreets to avoid Israeli-controlled roads, or the possibility of a checkpoint rejection or closure. So much time and life wasted. Tomorrow, we walk. It's day two, I'm not sure where this road will lead. But all I can do is keep walking. ♣

Kevin Keystone is a Toronto-based freelance writer, editor and researcher. When not hiking long-distance trails, he can be found reading, spending time with friends and family, or with his beloved partner, Aaron. His writing has been published in the Literary Review of Canada, the Jewish Independent and Good Old Boat.



Sunrise at the Dead Sea.

KEVIN KEYSTONE

RUTH
ERLICHMAN



Shana Tova Umetuka!

Wishing you all a healthy,
peaceful and prosperous New Year!



SUTTON WESTCOAST REALTY
AN INDEPENDENT BROKER

c. 604-377-0219

f. 604-263-8402

rerlichman@sutton.com

www.rutherlichman.com

Your home is your sanctuary and most precious commodity.

e-Subscribe! Call 604-689-1520
jewishindependent.ca/support-the-ji

Congregation Ahavat Olam

welcomes you to join us for
2020 / 5781 High Holidays.

Because of the pandemic, we will hold Zoom
services via the internet to protect the health
of those who attend.

For more information, please see

<https://ahavat-olam.ca/services-calendar/high-holidays-2/>

or send an email to info@ahavat-olam.ca.

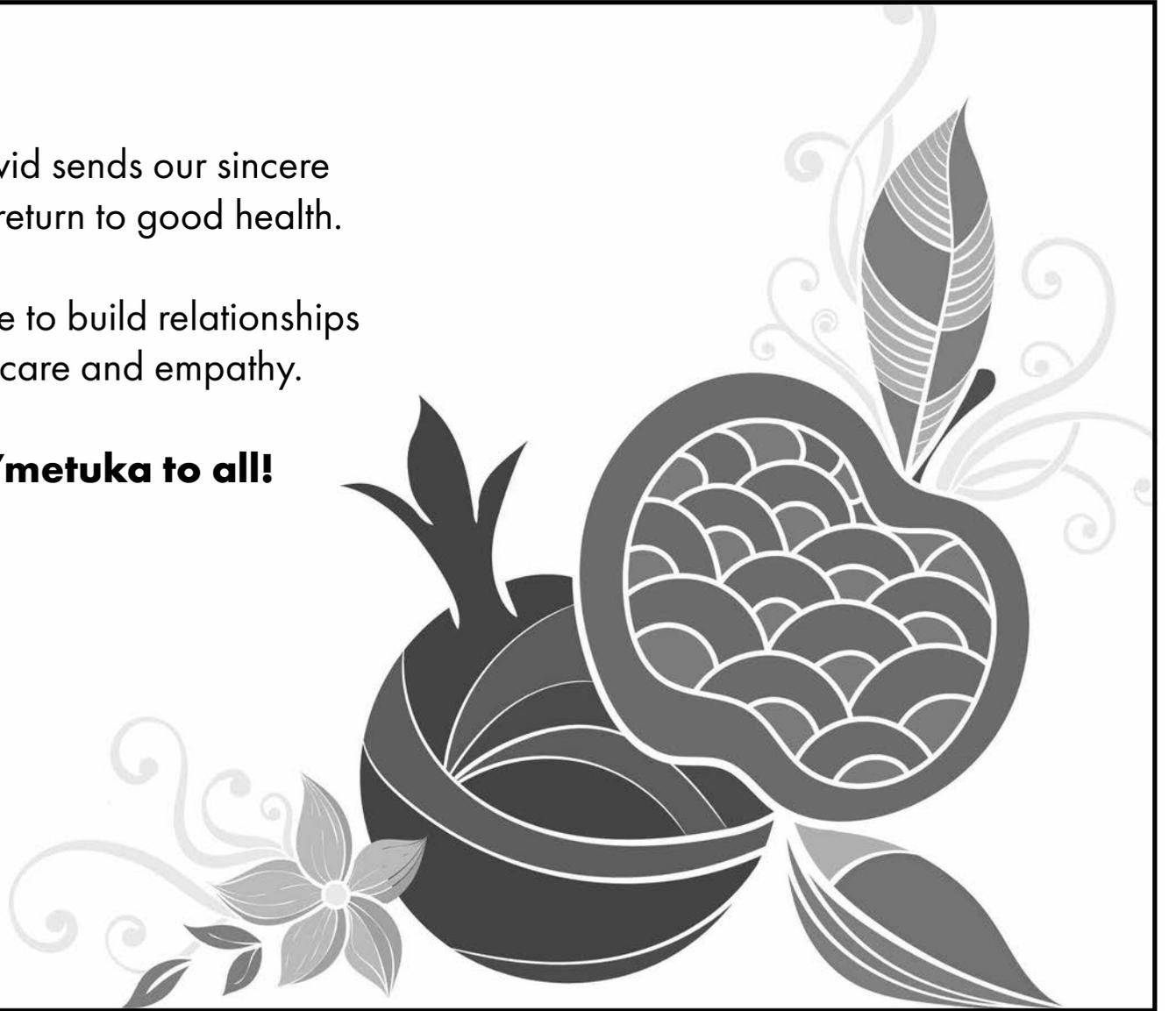
As usual, there is no charge to attend.



This new year, King David sends our sincere wishes for a worldwide return to good health.

Together may we continue to build relationships on the foundations of care and empathy.

Shanah Tovah U'metuka to all!



Bringing the community together for 90 years
jewishindependent.ca

You can find jewishindie on

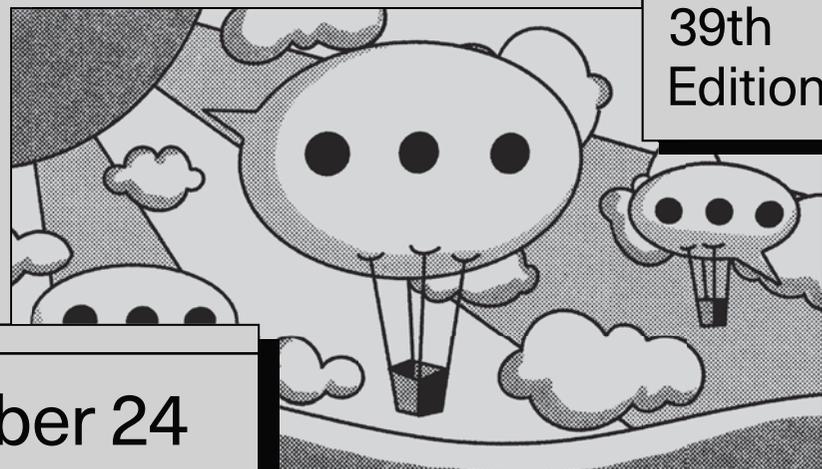


ooo

<https://goviff.org/2020>

Vancouver International Film Festival

VIFF



September 24
– October 07

connect at viff.org

Premier Partner



Premier Supporters



creativeBC



Greater Vancouver International Film Festival Society

Jewish diversity exists

Jews of Colour Canada hopes to extend its reach.

SAM MARGOLIS



Rivka Campbell, a co-founder of Jews of Colour Canada, speaks at a school event.

The spirit of openness and inclusion that many Jewish organizations express in their literature and social media posts is frequently not felt by Jews of colour, according to several members of the community.

Jews of colour, who are said to represent about 12% of the overall Jewish community, constitute a broad spectrum of people, including those of African, Middle Eastern, East Indian, Asian, Indigenous and Latin American descent, yet they are vastly underrepresented in congregation attendance, on organizational boards and throughout the community as a whole.

Rivka Campbell, a co-founder of Jews of Colour Canada (JOCC), says the unwelcoming feeling happens immediately upon entering a Jewish institution. She refers to it as the “question or questions” that are asked: Do you know this is a synagogue? What made you decide to visit? When did you convert?

“These are not the sorts of questions that most Jews who attend a synagogue or other places associated with Judaism have to answer, and it is really none of anybody’s business,” Campbell told the *Independent*.

In a recent Jews of colour webinar run by Moishe House Montreal, participants relayed numerous negative and often disturbing experiences, some of which caused them to distance themselves from Jewish circles.

“I have withdrawn from synagogue life and gone into online mode,” Deryck Glodon, Campbell’s JOCC co-founder, stated. “I don’t want to be in a position where people make you feel uncomfortable or unwelcome. People don’t know that Jewish diversity exists.”

Another participant mentioned a rabbi who once told him to choose between being black and being Jewish. Yet another recalled several untoward remarks made in Jewish settings about Filipino people, which happened to be part of this person’s heritage.

“It’s driving many Jews of colour away from any involvement within the broader community,” noted Campbell, who is executive director for Beit Rayim, a Conservative synagogue and school in Richmond Hill, Ont.

Campbell, the sole Canadian recipient of the Union of Reform Judaism’s JewV’Nation inaugural fellowship – a leadership development program – has had numerous encounters with misconceptions. She is often asked if she is Ethiopian. Once, at a Kiddush, she had to explain to someone that being a person of colour does not correspond to a fondness for fried foods.

A noticeable thread during the Moishe House webinar was the wide disparity between the progressive causes supported by Jewish leaders and the experiences of people of colour within the community.

Many Jews of colour feel that, despite some good intentions by Jewish organizations, there are always those moments when they have to prove who they are, when they just want to be, Campbell explained. The hope, she said, is that, one day, Jews of colour won’t have to spell out what Jewish diversity is.

“Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel’s solidarity with Dr. Martin Luther King happened 55 years ago – we need to do something now and not rest on our progressive lau-

Please see **JOCC** on page 18

The RJDS community wishes you a year filled with good health and happiness.

Shanah Tovah!



Richmond Jewish Day School

8760 No. 5 Road, Richmond BC
604.275.3393 or info@rjds.ca
www.rjds.ca | @myrjds



School Bus Service
Roundtrip from
JCC to RJDS

Thank you for supporting our advertisers.

Promising Accord
Israel and the United Arab Emirates make a deal / 2

Federation opposes Hazon's Nigel Savage / 3

Jewish Independent
Formerly the Jewish Western

90 years & beyond
www.jewishindependent.ca

Serving British Columbia since 1930

שנה טובה
SHANAH TOVAH
FROM THE BC GREENS



Sonia Furstenau
Cowichan Valley

Adam Olsen
Saanich North & the Islands

greens
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Literary Arts

Word Vancouver online

Festival brings readers, writers together Sept. 19-27.

CYNTHIA RAMSAY

“We believe that Word Vancouver is a vehicle for community connection. It is important on so many levels right now to provide a space for collaboration, discourse, and a safe and accessible platform for people to share their stories,” festival executive director Bonnie Nish told the *Independent*.

Normally, the annual event takes place in Downtown Vancouver and people drop in to see author talks and participate in other activities. This year’s festival will be online, running Sept. 19-27.

On the down side, she said, “We were working with a great site management team last year and we are sad we aren’t able to have them on our team for this festival.”

There have been other challenges, as well.

“We have had to prepare for the decrease of revenue from the exhibitor booths by reducing our staffing substantially,” said Nish. “Our board is very supportive of our new situation but they are also very risk averse, as they should be. We have found the most amazing volunteers and, for that, we are truly grateful. Programming is reduced somewhat, but we still have managed to book 140 authors and schedule over 50 events. Our community collaborations are stronger than ever. We have reinvented the exhibitor platform and now offer online exposure both on our website and during the events. It is a hard sell to some, but we honestly think the reach and return for exhibitors will be close to on par with the in-person version.”

Of the 140 authors participating this year, many are members of the Jewish community, and the *Independent* was able to speak with two of them – Alex Leslie and Rhea Tregobov – in advance of the festival.

Leslie writes poetry and short fiction, but is working on her first novel. Her latest collection is *Vancouver for Beginners* (Book*hug, 2019), and its poems are filled with powerful imagery and strong views about her beloved city, where she was born and raised. Leslie’s unique use of language, infused with obvious passion for her subject matter, is energizing to read. Every one of these poems is political in that they call on readers to think about the way in which they inhabit the world, how they think of ownership, place, community and many other concepts. Most of the entries are short narratives (or microfictions) that, in a page, encapsulate the feeling of being in a certain neighbourhood; what we lose when we normalize poverty alongside great wealth; the opportunities we miss when we forget our past, or the misery in our present.

J: Could you share a bit about your background, both as it pertains to writing, and to your involvement with the Jewish community?

AL: I’ve wanted to be a writer since I was a very young child. In my early 20s, I started taking short fiction more seriously as a writer and trying to publish in literary journals. It took awhile to place my first story, through a long period of reading, frustration, rejection and editing. From there, I published stories until I had enough to put together a manuscript, and that book, *People Who Disappear*, came out in my late 20s. I’ve essentially continued in the same way – working on mate-



Bonnie Nish, executive director of Word Vancouver.

“Like most organizations, we knew we had to either cancel or pivot by late March,” explained Nish about the impact of COVID-19. “Our festival takes place in September, so we had more time than others to make this decision.”

“Word Vancouver’s mission,” she said, “is to bring readers and writers together to celebrate literary arts. The question was could we make the change from an in-person festival to an online festival and still serve this mission. We decided that, yes, we could, and, in doing so, we might even extend our reach with the in-person barrier removed. We could now seamlessly collaborate with national partners like Word On the Street Toronto and authors who were not physically in Vancouver, while keeping our main focus on local authors.”

Several changes had to be made. “We needed to get prepared for the new online delivery format,” said Nish. “With the live in-person festival, we would not have any pre-registrations, as people would just walk into the events as they happened at the Vancouver Public Library. Now, we have a complex communications plan, along with a registration system, so our audience can secure their place and be given step-by-step instructions on how and when to participate.”

REGISTER NOW!
JEWISHVANCOUVER.COM/AGM2020

AGM
M 2020

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Join us virtually on Zoom at our Annual General Meeting, which includes the election of directors. Voting will be conducted via Zoom.

Wednesday, September 30, 2020 | 7:00 p.m.

Zoom details will be sent when we receive your RSVP.



e-Subscribe!

Get the JI delivered to you via e-mail anywhere in the world!
604-689-1520 • jewishindependent.ca/support-the-ji

Happy new year

From the members of the Hospital Employees’ Union, a critical part of your health care since 1944.



[/hospitalemployeesunion](https://www.facebook.com/hospitalemployeesunion)
[@heu_in_bc](https://www.instagram.com/heu_in_bc) [@HospEmpUnion](https://www.twitter.com/HospEmpUnion)
heu.org



rial for long periods of time, attending readings, drilling away at projects around the time I spend on my paid work in the mental health field. I've always been a wanderer between fiction and poetry communities.

I'm a member of Or Shalom synagogue in Vancouver and co-curate a storytelling series there.... The Jewish side of my family is originally Ashkenazi, from shtetls in Ukraine, in the regions around Lvov and Odessa (when they immigrated they wrote down they were "Russian"). We're what is called diasporic, as the communities we came from were lost to the Shoah (Holocaust).

Jl: Jewish characters have appeared in your writings. What are some of the ways in which our Jewishness informs your political, cultural or other views/actions?

AL: Yes, my book of stories that came out in 2018, *We All Need to Eat*, centred around a young Jewish woman named Soma, and Jewish identity is a backbone of that book, as she processes the current rise of the alt-right and her family history that's bound up in fleeing persecution in Eastern Europe.

For me, a core Jewish value is *tikkun olam*, which translates roughly to "repair of the world/universe." Tikkun olam influences my work in the mental health field, as there is the prerogative there of contribution and not turning away from difficult areas



COURTESY WORD VANCOUVER

Alex Leslie brings Vancouver for Beginners to Word Vancouver.



of the mind and the concept that energy and goodness can be found in dark places. Persistence and dark humour – humour where others may not find humour! – are practices I've taken from Jewishness as well.

Jl: Do you still co-curate Koreh at Or Shalom? Why is it important for people to have a platform to publicly read their work?

AL: Yes! Our next Koreh is on Saturday, Sept. 12, for Selichot. We have 10 readers! I curate this with Or Shalom's Rabbi Hannah Dresner.

This Koreh is centred on the idea of the pandemic as a crossing or transformation and everyone is welcome to be part of our audience. Here is the link with the Zoom information: orshalom.ca/event/leil-selichot-a-koreh-event-with-high-holiday-melodies.

This is our third year of curating Koreh. I feel it's a special space for people who may not consider themselves "writers" to share stories, poems and reflections on their experiences and how they relate to the world. We've had Korehs focused on the natural world, on repose/restoration, on sanctuary. Rabbi Hannah asked me to co-curate it with her when we started it up. It was really her concept in the beginning and it's been a pleasure to get to know so many writers and listeners adjacent to Koreh.

Jl: What compels you to write and publish?

AL: My love of writing coincided with my love of reading. I've honestly wanted to be a writer since kindergarten. I remember writing stories about our neighbours, and my mother copying them out again in her handwriting. As I got older and wrote more and more, publishing emerged as a natural goal.

I read constantly and loved that I could see the world precisely from an-

Please see **WORD** on page 17

**THE NORTH SHORE
JEWISH COMMUNITY
CENTRE &
CONGREGATION HAR EL**



**In person
and
streaming
options
for services**

**Please join us
for the
High Holidays.**

604-925-6488
office@harel.org
www.harel.org

Call the office for details.

Shanah Tovah!

Jewish Independent
Formerly the Jewish Western Bulletin

Like us on Facebook

HAPPY ROSH HASHANAH.

From the **Brian Jessel BMW** team.



Brian Jessel BMW



2311 Boundary Road, Vancouver
604.222.7788 | brianjesselbmw.com



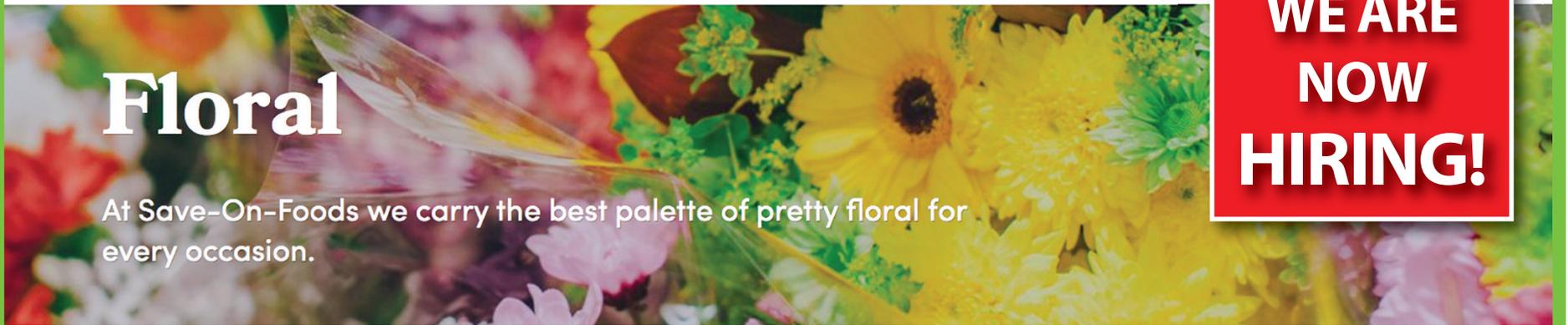
2020 BMW X7

WISHING THE JEWISH COMMUNITY
A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR!



Fruit Baskets

**WE ARE
NOW
HIRING!**



Floral

At Save-On-Foods we carry the best palette of pretty floral for every occasion.



Meats

**Challah
is now
available
every week**



Cakes & Dessert Trays

Customized orders to fit your needs.

Visit us
for amazing
Darrell's Deals



save on foods
Going the extra mile

3535 W 41st Ave. Ph 604-261-2423 Store hours 7am - 10pm
saveonfoods.com

CLICK & COLLECT

Sign Up. Create an account in just a few minutes at saveonfoods.com

Choose your items. Fill your cart with all your favourites including fresh produce, dairy, meat and frozen ... all the same great prices that you enjoy in store.

We Shop for you. Your Personal Shopper will follow your list and carefully pack your order.

Pick up at our Dunbar-Southlands location at 3535 W. 41st. Ave.



New residences open

Tikva Housing's latest project to open has 32 units.

SAM MARGOLIS



The Ben and Esther Dayson Residences, on East Kent Avenue North, opened its doors to tenants last month.

The first tenants at the Ben and Esther Dayson Residences started moving into their new homes in late August. Managed by Tikva Housing, the 32 townhomes are located west of the River District, on East Kent Avenue North, a block from Riverfront Park.

The residences comprise four two-bedroom units (1,045 square feet), 24 three-bedroom units (1,175 square feet) and four four-bedroom units (1,305 square feet). The units were open to Vancouver-based families with one to six children, within a range of income levels. The site includes two towers that will be managed by the Fraserview Housing Co-op.

A part of the Vancouver Land Trust project, the residences share a number of amenities, such as green space and a playground. Rent will be targeted to approximately 30% of gross household income to a rent maximum. Tenants are expected to pay for hydro, phone, internet and contents insurance.

Anat Gogo, Tikva Housing's manager of programs and donor relations, expressed her enthusiasm upon the launch. "I feel so excited for the community," she said. "It will be a concentrated Jewish community. When you build neighbourhoods, you build community."

"The residences will also provide a home for essential workers, such as teachers, in our community," she added.

The Dayson Residences are situated close to several daycares, elementary and high schools, as well as banks, shopping centres, grocery stores, libraries and hospitals.

The strong need for affordable

housing in the region has been a prevalent concern for many years. A 2011 survey of the Greater Vancouver Jewish community identified more than 4,000 people (or

Please see **DAYSON** on page 21

Experienced Strategy | Expert Draftsmanship



- Business Law
- Estate Planning
- Licensing & E-Commerce

Wishing you a peaceful and healthy New Year!

Jeremy R. Costin
Barrister & Solicitor

שנה טובה ומתוקה!

COSTIN LAW

Jeremy R Costin Law Corporation

Suite 311, 1275 West 6th Ave., Vancouver, BC V6H 1A6

604-742-0717

jeremy@costinlaw.ca

www.costinlaw.ca

Bringing the community together for 90 years
jewishindependent.ca



THE WEINBERG RESIDENCE
ASSISTED LIVING AND MULTI-LEVEL CARE FOR SENIORS



THE DR. IRVING & PHYLISS SNIDER CAMPUS FOR JEWISH SENIORS, SITE OF THE LOUIS BRIER HOME & HOSPITAL AND WEINBERG RESIDENCE

Shanah Tovah!

*Best wishes
for a sweet, healthy
and prosperous
New Year!*

Call **604.261.1922**
or visit
weinbergresidence.com
to book a tour



ALTERI
INSURANCE

MARIA BATALHA
has moved to
Alteri Insurance.



Maria has over 30 years experience in personal and commercial insurance – contact her Today!

280-1140 Homer St., Vancouver, BC
maria@alteri.ca • 604.564.5994
www.alteri.ca

*Have a
Happy
New Year!*

HOME | BUSINESS | LIFE | TRAVEL

Pick One Up!

The *J* is FREE at a depot near you! See where on page 5.

PROJECT ISAIAH

**Annual
High Holiday
Food Drive**

“SHARE YOUR BREAD WITH THE HUNGRY” Isaiah 58:7

September 8th-29th, 2020

Now more than ever, JFS needs your help to sustain our community's growing needs for healthy and nutritious food.

We are accepting the following hechshered items for this year's food drive:

cooking oil
canned fish
alternative milks (ie. nut, almond)
vegetarian soup
healthy cereal
grains
legumes
toiletries
(ie. shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste)

For our Drive-Thru dates and more information on how you can get involved www.jfsvancouver.ca/projectisaiah2020 or call 604.257.5151



In partnership with:



NADIGEL from page 7

cusing too much on hacks and behavioural changes, and that the system was much more powerful than that ... and that the system would often, not always, but often, thwart any attempts the individual would try to make the change. So, he was very concerned that there were so few therapists offering a larger perspective about human suffering.

“The second thing he was very worried about – I think this is because he was a grandfather at the time of his death, he had two grandkids – was about the disconnect from wise elders in society. I think that’s really coming home to roost right now, the fact that we have the hashtag on Twitter, where it says, ‘BoomerRemover.’

“Some people are thinking that,

well, it’s good about this coronavirus – it’s going to kill off all the old people and there’ll be more condos. I don’t know what the hell they are thinking but we really do see the elderly as an inconvenience in a lot of cases, and David thought this creates an impoverished culture – that, when you think of traditional society, it’s the elders who share life lessons that can only be acquired over time, through adversity and history. You can read a book, but it’s very different if an elder tells you what it was like to survive the Blitz in Britain. And David thought that young people in their marriages were impoverished, because of their lack of connection.

“So, with those two things,” said Nadigel, “I thought, maybe, if I can somehow convince David to write another book, I could be the young green therapist and he could be the senior guy. He could speak to me and motivate the next generation of therapists.

“I thought to myself that it should be snappy and quick... I threw him the idea and I think the same day he got back to me and said he thought the format’s viable – except that, in this case, it would be Skype calls between a young therapist and a senior therapist... We quickly started working on this once a week.

“Then, David had the manuscript and was going on vacation,” said Nadigel. “We had a few more chapters to write; he really liked where the book was going. Then, I got an email from him, a very brief email, which was odd, because he was much more verbose. It just asked if I could call him.

“I thought, that doesn’t sound good, that maybe he was going to say the book sucks. I called, and it was his now-widow [Judith Anastasia], who answered, and she said, ‘Avrum, I’m sorry to tell you, but David died of a heart attack while we were cycling in Croatia.’ I couldn’t believe it. It was a crazy summer. My dad died, my son was born and David died.”

Several years later, with Anastasia’s blessing and to honour Freeman’s memory and work, Nadigel started to complete their book.

“The book gives you a taste of a master therapist, to experience the wisdom and thinking he brought to thousands of families and couples he’s worked with over 40 years,” explained Nadigel. “And, once you finish the book, you might feel it’s your responsibility now to go and further your training in this area.

“David’s life work was helping people understand that, if you want to do well with your own personal goals and struggles and gridlock, you have to understand what you’re

up against,” said Nadigel. “And you don’t do that by just talking about your neurotransmitters and serotonin and dopamine, or meditation... It’s about certain ways of the here and now, that you either distance or connect through relationships that are happening right now – that are happening with your mother, your father, your sister, your aunt, your cousin. The work is staring you right in the face right now.”

Family system coaching, consultation or therapy, said Nadigel, is based on “the theory and the road map of going back and reworking through some of the gridlock in your family. And those people who are successful at doing something and thinking differently [about] their problems with their relationships – siblings, spouse, kids, whatever – [are] bringing those successes to every relationship. And that does not happen in the clinician’s office.

“Also, this type of therapy understands that human beings don’t get into problems because of their thinking – they get into problems because they are flooded with feelings... It tries to promote good thinking to balance out strong feelings, toward being a little more strategic in how you conduct yourself in your relationships.”

And Nadigel himself is an example of how the approach can work.

“I’ve often thought that, if I was reading about this book, the interesting angle I always found ... is that I was a punk rock alternative musician in Montreal. I was commitment-phobic and really saw marriage and family, marriage considerably, as the death knell of all that’s good in life – [that it’s] boring and sucks the nectar out of a good life. Then, David comes along in Vancouver and he just creates a profound paradigm shift in me, and I have come to a wildly different understanding. I’ve become a marriage therapist myself, a father, all this kind of stuff, so a pretty fundamental transition.

“I was one of these people that, once upon a time, really had a strong distaste for the very thing I’ve embraced,” said Nadigel. “It really is all credit to this one little talk in Vancouver in the JCC. There’s hope there. It doesn’t take years and years. It could be a 50-minute talk.”

Nadigel has created a blog and podcast to support the new book. To access it, visit nadigel.com/start. Electronic and hard copy versions of *Where Would You Like to Start* are available at amazon.ca. ♣

Rebeca Kuropatwa is a Winnipeg freelance writer.

WORD from page 13

other person's emotional perspective. I suppose that I wanted to replicate that experience, and share in it. Also, for me, it was about language, and using and manipulating language as a medium. Selecting, ordering and controlling words is a fascination for me, the way I suppose a mathematician may feel about algebra, or an investor might feel about predicting stocks. It's a system.

JL: What is the importance to you of words?

AL: I think that words can put you in another person's mind, so the power here would be empathy, radical transportation. Words also have a power of deep-layered description – so the power would be complex evocation, mixing emotional and physical parts of reality, making something 2-D into something 3-D, like a life-giving power.

Words can also move us to action. During the pandemic, I have been reading a lot. Endless online stuff is tiring and alienating after a long period of time. I've read a few extraordinary novels during this time – two are *Breasts and Eggs* by Mieko Kawakami and *Lost Children Archive* by Valeria Luiselli. I also read Norman Doig's two books about neuroplasticity. I'm grateful for how these books moved me and took me out of this moment and showed me something I couldn't have imagined on my own.

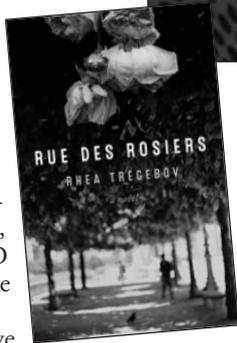
Born in Saskatoon and raised in Winnipeg, Tregobov moved to Vancouver from Toronto in 2004 to teach in the creative writing program at the University of British Columbia. Though she retired in 2017, she holds the position of associate professor emerita and continues to teach a bit. She has written several children's books and is working on her eighth collection of poetry. *Rue des Rosiers* (Wolsak & Wynn, 2019) is her second novel.

Based on events leading to the 1982 terrorist attack in Paris on Goldenberg's Deli, which killed six people and injured many more, *Rue des Rosiers* is a poignant and lyrical story about two women with vastly different backgrounds but both trying to figure out who they are and their place in the world. Canadian Sarah Levine makes decisions by flipping a penny that she carries with her and, at 25, she is decidedly lost, for a number of reasons. When she has a chance to go to Paris, she does and, while there, her story crosses over with that of Laila, an Arab immigrant living in one of the city's slum neighbourhoods. In the author's notes, Tregobov writes that she hopes her novel will "act as a memorial to the six people who died in the attack." It does that, and more.

JL: *Rue des Rosiers* has so many layers and motifs, tightly woven, not a phrase seems superfluous. Can you share some of your creative process,



COURTESY WORD VANCOUVER



Rhea Tregobov, author of *Rue des Rosiers*, is one of several Jewish community members participating in Word Vancouver this year.

from the idea of the novel to its publication last year?

RT: The novel began with two impulses: to explore the relationships among sisters and to understand the impact of terrorism on perpetrators as well as victims. Both are rooted in personal experience. I am one of three sisters, and I was living in Paris in 1982 very near where the attack on Rue des Rosiers occurred. Working through these issues was a long, sometimes joyous, sometimes exhausting process.

JL: Could you speak a bit about how Judaism or Jewish community infuse your work and/or life?

RT: I grew up in the shadow of the Holocaust and the moral issues the Holocaust raises are core. I also grew up in a vital Winnipeg community that modeled ethical commitment and progressive values that I still find of immense value.

JL: Coteau Books, which initially published your novel, has closed. What are some of your thoughts on the future of publishing?

RT: Small presses like Wolsak & Wynn (who, happily, have picked up the novel) are a mainstay of literary publishing. We still have an infrastructure of support that allows these smaller presses. I'm concerned that the consolidation that characterizes the larger presses may contribute to a narrowing of available voices and perspectives.

JL: In an interview, you say, "I've said that the book is trying to ascertain the humanity in inhumanity." Are there any risks in doing this, in finding the humanity in inhumanity?

RT: It can be difficult to attempt to empathically understand behaviour that is anathema to one's own moral schema. I didn't want to justify or validate acts or attitudes that dehumanize the Other. But, as one of the characters in the book says, "I'm interested in goodness, the mystery of goodness." And, to examine goodness, one has to examine evil as its corollary.

JL: In another interview, you mention being "intrigued by the problem-solving involved in writing a novel." Can you flesh out that idea?

RT: These large projects are so complex and absorbing. In the early stages, you have to hold a world that isn't yet fully formed in your head. I've joked that it felt like wearing a giant hat! I (mostly) love the cut and paste and revision aspects of writing, how solving one small element sometimes acts to realign the entire book in a positive way.

JL: I'm always intrigued by imagery that enriches the storytelling, but is not technically needed for the story to be told. In *Rue des Rosiers*, you write sentences like, "A scraggly American elm sapling is handcuffed to a post as if it's committed some crime"; "A gardener in blue coveralls sweeps the sand path, wiping away the traces of pigeon footprints"; "Light is a wave and a particle and so are the bees." When or how do these types of flourishes enter your writing process?

RT: I think they're a natural product of my life as a poet. Much of my writing is about *looking*, and I process looking through words. So having imagery present in the narrative is integral in world-building.

Word Vancouver is completely free and some events are already full, so visit wordvancouver.ca sooner than later. The festival is welcoming financial support via donations, its Adopt an Author and silent auction programs, information about which also can be found on their website. 📍

Best wishes for a Happy & Healthy New Year!

Estrella's
MONTREAL DELI & CAFE

Authentic Montréal Smoked Meat



All our briskets are natural, grass-fed beef ... free of hormones and antibiotics.

EAT IN • TAKE OUT • CATERING

604-539-9988

5932-200th Street, Langley

Open Tuesday-Saturday 9am-5pm

www.EstrellasDeli.com

Jewish Independent Find us on Facebook

Year of the Nurse 2020



BC NURSES' UNION

Standing up for health care

www.bcnu.org



BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY AND HEALTHY ROSH HASHANAH!



BCNU is proud to represent members of BC's Jewish community and is committed to the delivery of safe patient care for all.

#Nurses2020

#HelpKeepNursesSafe



Shana Tova!

CFHU
wishes you
a happy, healthy
and prosperous
New Year.

**We thank you for your
continued support.**

www.cfhu.org



Want to see your story published?

If you have news to report or a fresh story idea ... email editor@jewishindependent.ca.



JOCC from page 11

rels," she said. "Nor should we forget that Rabbi Heschel was not universally praised from within the Jewish establishment for his civil rights stand."

As for what clergy and lay leaders can do, Campbell pointed to the resources found on Union of Reform Judaism website regarding diversity, equity and inclusion for all members of the community.

For the broader community, she said, "It is not a big deal to be welcoming. Treat me the same as anyone else. You have to see me as a Jew first. 'Shabbat Shalom' should flow off the tongue as easily with me as anyone else."

She continued, "Our diversity as Jews of colour adds to the diversity of Judaism. This can be turned into a very positive thing."

On this hopeful note, in 2017, Campbell started work on a documentary that shares several stories of people from various backgrounds within the Jewish community and is designed to show the richness therein. Its objective is "to discuss how we are starting to embrace our differences and how we can do a better job of celebrating our diversity."

Campbell's first involvement with Jews of colour groups began

at the time social media was gaining momentum. After locating ones on Facebook, she found their focus to be American-centric. In 2012, she started her own Facebook group, A Minority Within a Minority: Jews of Colour, a Canadian-focused group.

The need to move beyond Facebook ensued and, together with Glodon, she started a website and reached out to "people in the real world to have gatherings and lunches."

"The aim was to have an in-person connection, to do things like teaching, research and advocacy," said Campbell. The group was incorporated as a nonprofit and, at some point, she would like it to be a charitable organization.

JOCC hopes to expand its presence outside of Ontario and Quebec, and would like to have more exposure in British Columbia. Campbell spoke at Beth Tikvah in July.

For more information about Jews of Colour Canada, visit jewsofcolour.ca or their Facebook page, facebook.com/joc.canada.

Sam Margolis has written for the *Globe and Mail*, *the National Post*, *UPI* and *MSNBC*.

Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Shana Tova!

שנה טובה

Dr. Anna Wolak
Family Physician
& Medical Director

Arthur Wolak, PhD
Executive Director



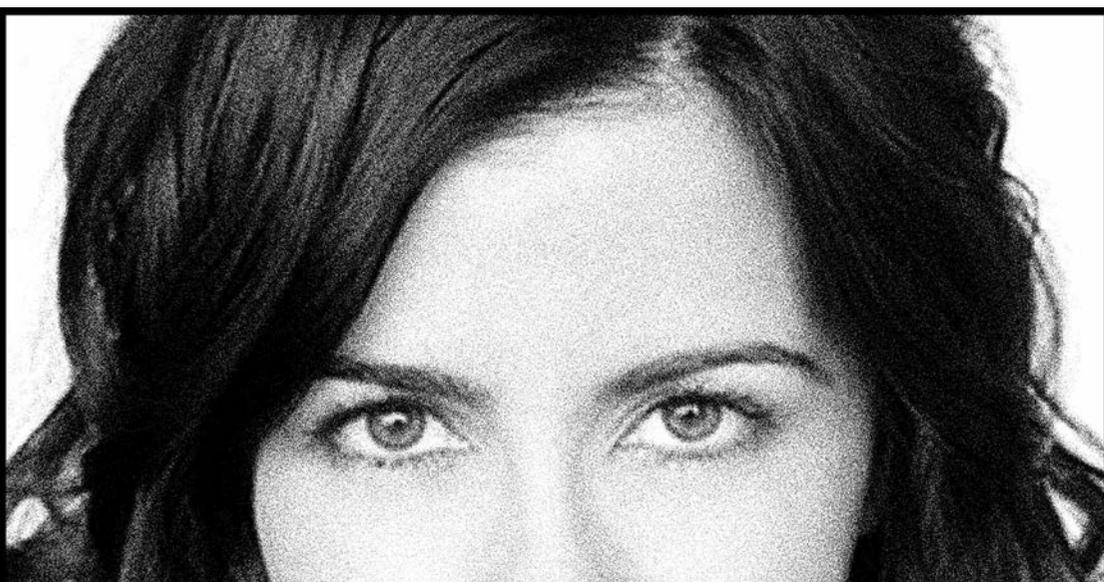
Our clinic is a full service family practice that offers comprehensive primary medical care.

King Edward Medical Centre

920 W. King Edward Ave.
(at King Edward Mall)

604.757.8387

<https://kemedical.ca>



Chutzpah FESTIVAL

COMING THIS NOVEMBER...

THE CHUTZPAH! FESTIVAL GOES VIRTUAL.

Join festival host **Iris Bahr** from wherever you are as we share exhilarating **virtual and live performances** and stimulating conversations. The festival will bring together old friends and dynamic new talent, new work, and even a few surprises.

WWW.CHUTZPAHFESTIVAL.COM

Rallying for democracy

Israelis living in Diaspora show solidarity in protest.

ADI KABAZO AND HILLA KABAZO



Local Israeli Jews gathered at Vancouver Maritime Museum Aug. 29 to join groups around the world in supporting rallies in Israel for democracy.

In recent years and with greater intensity during COVID-19 and the current “emergency” coalition in Israel, many believe that the foundations of Israeli democracy are being challenged by a prime minister indicted on several criminal counts. On Aug. 29, several dozen Israeli expats, members of the Metro Vancouver Jewish community and others joined compatriots in 18 cities around the world to support the growing protests in Israel.

Hundreds of supporters, standing in unison with protesters in Israel, took a stand at their respective locations in Atlanta, Amsterdam, Basel, Berlin, Boston, Cambridge, Chicago, Copenhagen, Los Angeles, Madrid, Miami, New York, Oslo, Paris, San Francisco, Toronto and Washington, D.C. Another Canadian city, Calgary, has held a rally or two. On other weeks, protesters as far as Sydney, Australia, have expressed their support.

From the outset, Vancouver organizers drew inspiration and guidance from UnXeptable, a grassroots movement launched by a group of Israelis residing in the San Francisco Bay area. This tightly knit, completely self-funded team of volunteers put together position papers, crafted marketing materials and created social media channels that seeded the formation of similar groups dotting Western Europe and North America.

The prime minister’s official residence is located on Balfour Street in Jerusalem, making it and the neighbouring squares and streets the epicentre and namesake of the protests. Meanwhile, thousands of miles away from Jerusalem, the more serene and isolated location of the Vancouver Maritime Museum served as our venue. It was the third time we have come together to hold signs, wave the Israeli flag, chant and sing in solidarity with the countless protesters, of all stripes, on the ground in Israel. In contrast to local gatherings in previous weeks, this global rally saw a significant increase in participation. Whether this was due to the broad media coverage of police violence at Balfour the week

before, the global nature of this particular event, or the remarkable planning, the result was a palpable level of energy and a sense of unity.

It was a windy day, which forced us to relocate from our usual spot on the north side of the museum to the warmer grass at the front of it. The venue was chosen over more central locations out of consideration for the safety of the people involved and other sensitivities. The goal of our gathering was, after all, to support the people in Israel, while reducing the chance of friction with anti-Israelis or with those who would mistakenly claim that our actions were akin to “airing dirty laundry.” Over the years, Israelis living abroad have faced significant pushback from many parts of the Diaspora community who have had difficulty understanding and accepting their criticism of Israel. As Diaspora Jews and others learn more about the serious challenges that Israeli society faces today, they may become a little more sensitive to the internal conflicts of many Israelis living abroad – people who have given some of the best years of their lives to defending the country they love and who are genuinely concerned by what is currently taking place.

Assembled in the various cities for more than an hour, the Vancouver group joined their peers around the world in a simultaneous Zoom-powered broadcast of the rally, dubbed “*Halev BeBalfour*” (“the Heart is in Balfour”). This coordinated event, quite possibly the first of its kind in Israeli history, took place at precisely 9 p.m. Israel time, was streamed on the new independent channel DemocratTV and, most importantly, screened on the side of a building at the neighbouring Paris Square for the protesters to see. During an allotted two minutes, each location was given the opportunity to express its support through speeches, chants or songs. As the cities took their turn, Paris with the Eiffel Tower in the background, Berlin with its Brandenburg Gate,

Please see **RALLY** on page 29



THANK YOU FOR A SUCCESSFUL CAMPING SEASON!

We did it! Thanks to the efforts of many people and organizations, Camp Miriam was able to provide a fun, meaningful and safe Jewish experience in Vancouver, Victoria, Portland, and online during the summer of 2020.

TODAH RABAH TO:

- The Miriam Mazkirut and Staff, the office staff & all the volunteers, who had a vision of how to create “camp in the city” during a pandemic and worked tirelessly to ensure success.
- The Harold Grinspoon Foundation, the Paul and Edwina Heller Foundation, the Irving & Phyliss Snider Foundation, the Ben & Esther Dayson Foundation, the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver and a vast number of donors, alumni, and families whose unprecedented generosity made camp possible.
- Our new partners, the JCC Camp Shalom, Vancouver Talmud Torah and the JCC of Victoria, who provided the support necessary to realize the vision.

Camp Miriam wishes you a healthy and peaceful New Year

Thank you for supporting our advertisers.

Reel Drive Toronto filmmaker's cultural exploration / 5
Jewish Independent
 Formerly the Jewish Western Bulletin
 Serving British Columbia since 1990
 Making a new peace
 ...ing family creates legacy of understanding

B.I.
THE PLACE TO BE

May the joyful sound of the shofar welcome in a New Year of happiness.

(604) 731-4161 info@bethisrael.ca
 989 West 28th Avenue, Vancouver

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL
 www.bethisrael.ca

A

ADMIRAL INSURANCE SERVICES
(VANCOUVER WEST) INC.
and BA Cruz & Associates

Best wishes to all for a Happy New Year!

For all your insurance needs:

AUTOPLAN • HOME • BUSINESS
TRAVEL • LIFE • DISABILITY
EXTENDED HEALTH • CRITICAL ILLNESS

5779 OAK STREET, VANCOUVER, B.C. V6M 2V7

Tel. (604) 263-1148 Fax (604) 263-1048

www.admiralvancouverwest.com

info@admiralvancouverwest.com

Please email us for any concerns or requests

We welcome your letters

Please email:

editor@jewishindependent.ca



Jewish Life

Cemeteries get an upgrade

PAT JOHNSON

What's new at the cemetery? Not a question one tends to ask, but the Schara Tzedeck cemeteries in New Westminster and Surrey have seen some significant upgrades and additions in recent months.

At the New Westminster cemetery, which saw its first burial in 1929, 50 graves that did not have headstones have received permanent markers. More than 100 others will ideally also see stone markers added in the coming years as the cemetery board's Chesed Shel Emet Fund is replenished.

There are plenty of reasons why a grave might not have a permanent headstone, according to Howard Jam-



One of 50 headstones placed on graves that, until now, had only temporary markers.

polsky, executive director of the Schara Tzedeck Cemetery Board.

"Sometimes, somebody had no family, maybe they were destitute, alone in the world," he said. "Sometimes, the families just don't have money; sometimes, one spouse dies and they get a headstone and the other spouse dies and there is no one to put the headstone."

Whatever the reasons, the graves, some dating back to the 1950s, had temporary markers.

The Chesed Shel Emet Fund was set up primarily with donations from cemetery board members, Jampolsky said, and the first batch of 50 headstones was purchased for these unmarked graves and placed in the last few months.

"We were hoping to do a big unveiling ceremony, where all the graves would be unveiled and we would invite the community," he said. But COVID intervened. He hopes such a ceremony will occur in the future.

The headstones cost about \$525 each and the board is welcoming donations from the community to the fund so they can proceed with placing more stones.

Also at New Westminster, a new black granite memorial wall has been created to commemorate people who are buried in other places.

"Sometimes, someone lives in Vancouver their entire life and they die and get buried in another place, maybe they're sent to Toronto or Israel or somewhere else," Jampolsky said. "This is an opportunity to memorialize somebody who lived in

the city and contributed to the city's life and they don't have a headstone here. The other possibility is people who have parents or family buried in other places where they live and don't have the ability to go and visit. If you want to come on the yahrzeit, you can come and put a rock on top of that."

The New Westminster cemetery also has seen a green irrigation initiative recently completed.

"We spend a lot of money irrigating our green grass here, a lot of water," he said. "We used potable city water."

They have now drilled a well and are also capturing rainwater, which is pumped through the irrigation system. Not only is this better for the environment, Jampolsky said, but the \$150,000 cost will be recouped in about eight years at current water rates. He sees the greening initiative as in keeping with Jewish burial tradition, which is respectful of the land, rejects concrete casings and does not include embalming.

In other significant news, the Surrey cemetery, which had its first burial about a dozen years ago, now has a chapel. Until now, funerals at the Surrey site were graveside only. A sad irony is that the pandemic has meant that, after the first couple of funerals in the new chapel, services had to be again curtailed to graveside only, and with limited attendance.

The \$500,000 structure was completed in late 2019 and reflects the philosophy of the board, Jampolsky

Please see **CEMETERY** on page 28

Jewish Seniors Alliance 

Shana Tova!

Wishing you and your family a sweet and prosperous
New Year filled with good health and joy.

From the Board of Directors and staff of Jewish Seniors Alliance

Seniors Stronger Together

Save The Date!

JSA Virtual Snider Foundation Empowerment Series 2020-21

#1: Music in the Afternoon

Monday, October 19th at 1:00 p.m. on Zoom

Listen to live music from the comfort of your home! Featuring pianist Lester Soo and soprano Christina Maria Fantini. Cosponsored by Kehila Society.

JSA Virtual Fall Symposium

Seniors in the time of Covid-19

Sunday, November 22nd at 2:00 p.m. on Zoom

With Dr. James McCormack, Professor at the UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences.



604.732.1555

office@jsalliance.org

www.jsalliance.org

Best wishes for a Happy New Year!

MICHAEL BALSHINE

Residential & Commercial Real Estate

"My experience is your assurance of success"



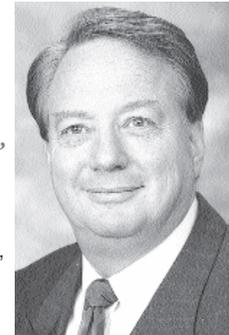
ROYAL PACIFIC REALTY CORP.

Airport Square, 100-1200 W 73rd Ave.,

Vancouver, B.C. V6P 6G5

T 604-266-8989 • C 604-657-7050

balshine@shaw.ca



DAYSON from page 15

16% of the total community) who were low-income; the number included 600 children and 550 single-parent families.

To many local renters, Vancouver holds the unenviable distinctions of having the highest rents and the lowest vacancy rates in the country. At the start of the year, the rent for an average one-bedroom apartment in the city was more than \$1,500 per month, while vacancy levels hovered around one percent.

Tikva Housing helps those who would be deemed “working poor” and cites the limited “life options” available to them in this expensive city. For example, to a person earning \$2,000 a month, the affordable level for their rent should be a maximum of \$600 per month. For the past decade especially, rents in the Lower Mainland have risen far beyond that level – thus leaving little money to set aside for food, medicine, utilities, transport or education to improve job skills.

“They save people from being on the streets. They save people from unsafe situations,” said Steve, a tenant at Tikva Housing’s Diamond Residences in Richmond. “It’s given me security. I don’t have to worry about making rent. It’s affordable. I buy our groceries. It puts me in a wonderful

frame of mind. It allows me to be a good father. Without Tikva, I would not have been able to give proper care to my children.”

Tikva Housing’s stated mission is to provide a safe, stable and affordable home to every Jewish person in Metro Vancouver who needs one. Its services are geared primarily at low- and moderate-income adults and families.

It also operates the 11-unit Dany Guincher House apartments in Marpole and the 18-unit Diamond Residences cited above. Opening in early 2021 is the Arbutus Centre on the West Side – as part of a partnership with the City of Vancouver, the YWCA and the Association of Neighbourhood Houses of British Columbia – which will bring another 18 studios and 19 one-bedroom units to low- and moderate-income members of the community.

As might be expected, the number of people turning to Tikva Housing has increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. In July alone, it approved a record number of eight recipients for the Tikva Housing Rent Subsidy Program.

“The subsidy allocation for the past five months amounted to just shy of \$27,000 in addition to the existing allocations, and the need

continues to grow,” Gogo said.

In August, Alice Sundberg, Tikva’s director of operations and housing, announced, “I am in conversation with a few private developers and nonprofit housing providers regarding potential projects in Vancouver, Burnaby, Richmond and Surrey. I can’t say more about these opportunities at this time.”

Ben Dayson was a prominent figure in Vancouver and Richmond real estate and a philanthropist. Together with his wife Esther, they worked to help many charitable causes. Helping those in need find affordable housing was one of their primary objectives, through funds provided by the Ben and Esther Dayson Charitable Foundation.

“Our family is focused on providing funding to areas of basic needs,” said their daughter, Shirley Barnett. “Obviously, housing is one of these areas we choose to support. As my parents, Ben and Esther Dayson, were in real estate development, it seemed natural to fund a complex such as this in their memory.”

For more about the Tikva Housing Society, visit tikvahousing.org.

Sam Margolis has written for the *Globe and Mail*, *the National Post*, *UPI* and *MSNBC*.

SHEILA STERN

MOBILE 604-788-0882
OFFICE 604-267-3800
FAX 604-263-8402

svstern@hotmail.com

200-5511 West Boulevard
Vancouver, BC V6M 3W6



Best wishes for a
Happy & Healthy New Year!



sutton group - west coast realty
AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER BROKER
suttonwestcoast.com

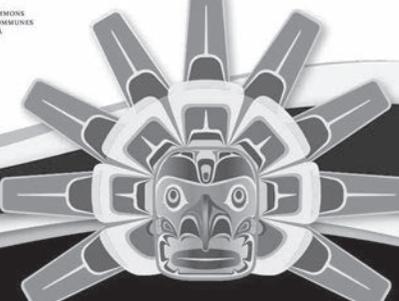
Thank you to our members, donors and friends who have made these challenging times easier for those in need at our women's shelter, our day care centres and our vocational high schools throughout Israel.

Wishing you and your loved ones
a Happy and Healthy New Year!

May your year be filled with health and happiness, peace and prosperity, sweet moments, for you and your family.

Shana Tova!
שנה טובה

 Hon. Jody Wilson-Raybould 王州迪, P.C., Q.C., M.P.
Vancouver Granville



Hon. Jody Wilson-Raybould,
Constituency Office:
104-1245 West Broadway,
Vancouver, BC, V6H 1G7
604.717.1140

Jody.Wilson-Raybould@parl.gc.ca
jodywilson-raybould.ca
@MPJodyWR
@Puglaas
mpjodywr

Help make a difference this Rosh Hashanah for the women, children and families in Israel.


Na'amat Canada

For information on how to get involved contact naamat@naamat.com or call 1-888-278-0792

Beth Tikvah welcomes rabbi

Congregants make family's arrival during COVID pandemic easier.

PAT JOHNSON



COURTESY RABBI SUSAN TENDLER

Rabbi Susan Tendler, her husband Ross Sadoff and their daughters Sofia and Daniella moved from Chattanooga, Tenn., to Richmond, where Tendler is the new spiritual leader of Beth Tikvah Congregation.

Moving to a new city and starting a demanding and highly visible new job would be a challenge in the best of times. For Rabbi Susan Tendler, the

recently arrived spiritual leader at Richmond's Beth Tikvah Congregation, and her family of four, it was a little more complicated.

Not only has the COVID pandemic added complexity to every

detail, the family was moving from the United States. This meant that, once they made it to British Columbia after a long, though enjoyable, drive across the continent, during which they took in some national

parks and historical sites, they had to go into two weeks of quarantine in their new home.

The lemons of COVID were turned to lemonade by the reaction of the Beth Tikvah community. Tendler calls their reception "extraordinarily unbelievable."

They arrived at the house, which had been equipped with bedding, toiletries, kitchenware and small appliances, a stocked pantry and refrigerator, and almost everything the new arrivals could want.

"People would from a distance greet us and somebody brought us dinner every single night that week. And people checked on us and would just drop off some milk or whatever we needed for the next week," she said. While her husband, Ross Sadoff, returned to the States to collect their other vehicle, the rabbi and her daughters, 10-year-old Hannah Sofia and Daniella, who is 8, settled into quarantine.

"My girls and I sat in kind of a tent in our driveway," she said, while congregants brought socially distanced greetings. "They drove by, honked at us and welcomed us. They had signs and balloons to make us feel welcome. The community, honestly, has gone above and beyond and really demonstrates what a caring commu-

nity could be and just really made us feel welcome."

The family moved from Chattanooga, Tenn., where Tendler had been rabbi for eight years at the Conservative B'nai Zion Congregation. She also served on the faculty of Camp Ramah Darom, in the foothills of Georgia's Blue Ridge Mountains.

She grew up in Virginia and previously held positions in congregations there and in North Carolina. Her undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia is in religious studies with concentrations on Islam and Judaism. At the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, she received her rabbinical ordination and her master's of education in informal Jewish education. She also completed a two-year rabbinic track at the Institute for Jewish Spirituality. She describes herself as "an ardent Zionist."

Coming to Canada generally and Beth Tikvah specifically seems bashert. Tendler and Sadoff met at a wedding at the Richmond shul. In fact, that was one of three coincidental meetings that happened before Tendler decided maybe she should consider them an omen.

"I started thinking, wow, maybe

Please see **TENDLER** on page 27

Help Us Put Names to Faces

Recognize anyone from this graduating class of 1989?

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

An Israeli-Moroccan kitchen

Ofra's on Denman serves up great food and community spirit.

JAN LEE

Ask Ofra Sixto what makes her Israeli-Moroccan restaurant successful and she'll unabashedly tell you: it's keeping a positive attitude. But it takes a whole lot of moxie, too.

After all, it isn't easy to launch a new restaurant in the midst of an unexpected economic shutdown and to create enough name recognition that patrons are willing to line up at your door for takeout. But that all speaks to the allure of Ofra's Kitchen, which opened this past December, just as the holiday season was coming into full swing. Sixto, who owned a Moroccan restaurant on Hastings Street with her brother years ago, said it's been her dream to open another restaurant – this time centring on vegetarian and vegan dishes.

Her previous restaurant was called Jacqueline Moroccan Food and was named after her late sister. When her brother was forced to return to Israel, the two siblings realized they would have no choice

but to close the restaurant.

Jacqueline's "was very successful. Very," Sixto acknowledged.

It was the venue's eclectic Israeli-Moroccan cuisine that later gave her the idea for a vegetarian follow-up focusing on classic Israeli dishes and flavourful specialties from around the Middle East.

"There is a great need, I think, for good vegetarian cuisine," she said.

As a "flexible vegan," Sixto said she often has trouble finding truly appealing food when she eats out. "When I go to a restaurant and I ask, 'Do you have anything vegetarian?' they push a salad. I'm not a rabbit, I want something substantial, right? So, when you come to my restaurant, you actually eat food. You eat really, really good and healthy and fresh and made-on-the-spot food that makes you feel good."

The choices run the gamut from iconic falafel and pita, shakshuka and Israeli salad to lesser-known Iraqi kube and delicately spiced Moroccan beet salad. Diners can

also enjoy an array of traditionally made desserts and Turkish coffee.

Asked about her favourite dish, Sixto admitted she is partial to eggplant, which plays a starring role in several of her popular dishes. Her sabih – a Tel Aviv specialty that consists of fried eggplant, hard-boiled egg, tahina and an Israeli chutney – can be ordered as a pita sandwich or as a platter. She also serves homemade babaganoush and eggplant salad, early pioneer dishes that are still popular in Israel today.

In addition to feeding customers, Ofra Sixto is helping feed people who are homeless.

"And, of course, my falafel is the best in town," she said. "Not only by what I say but everybody else who eats it. It's fresh, it's crunchy outside, it's moist and soft inside. It's beautiful."

But cooking isn't the only excep-



The falafel plate at Ofra's Kitchen.

tional quality that she brings to Denman Street. A big heart and an innate sense of civic responsibility are helping mobilize a small movement to ensure that those who can't afford to eat at Denman's restaurants also have food to eat.

Earlier this year, Sixto noticed that the number of individuals on Denman who were homeless was growing. She said the economic shutdown, which closed many establishments and sections of streets in downtown Vancouver, exacerbated the homeless problem, forcing many people onto Denman from Robson and Granville. Rather than ignoring the issue, Sixto decided to do something to help.

"When I would walk [to work] I would see so many homeless people. I decided, you know, I need to do something about it. I have the means and I could help – whatever my capacity is, right? So, I started feeding the homeless by giving away soup and falafels."

And her reputation began to grow. "I mean, they are hungry," said Sixto. "They get drinks, they get food, whatever they need."

In time, she decided she could do even more. "I decided to make it a social thing and make people be a part of the solution."

She began letting customers

Please see **OFRA'S** on page 26



SEPTEMBER 2020

תשרי תשפ"א

2020/5781 HIGH HOLY DAY APPEAL

FINDING THE CURE SUPPORT COVID-19 VACCINE RESEARCH

This High Holy Day season, we invite you to join JNF in supporting the brilliant researchers from the MIGAL Galilee Research Institute in their efforts to finding a vaccine so that we can be one step closer to having our extended family and friends join us for High Holiday dinners once again.

MIGAL's interdisciplinary vaccine team is engaged in groundbreaking research on COVID-19. With your gift, JNF will support this effort to develop a vaccine.

May the coming year bring peace to you, your family and the State of Israel.
HAPPY NEW YEAR שנה טובה



MAKE YOUR HIGH HOLY DAY DONATION TODAY!

JNF Pacific Region | 604-257-5155 | van@jnf.ca | www.jnf.ca

Ask for your new JNF calendar, available for pick up now at the front door of the JCC

Autograph book resurfaces

Victoria Shoah Project highlights artifact's educational value.

SAM MARGOLIS

The Victoria Shoah Project has launched a virtual exhibit of an autograph book compiled by Mænni Ruben, a Danish violinist and graphic artist held prisoner at Terezin (Theresienstadt) concentration camp outside of Prague.

The 1945 Theresienstadt Autograph Book Exhibit features panels and the 40-page book itself, which is replete with signatures, sketches and aphorisms from Ruben's friends and acquaintances who were also incarcerated at Terezin.

The book records the closing period of the war as survivors were being liberated. It is a story not only of the horrors of Nazism, but of long-lasting friends, and the music and art that united them during dreadful times.

Ruben died in 1976 in Copenhagen. Though he never lived in or visited Canada, the book remained with his widow, Susi, who remarried after his death and settled in Victoria. Upon her passing, in 2018, the book came into the hands of Rabbi Harry Brechner of Victoria's Congregation Emanu-El. He subsequently showed it to member Janna Ginsberg Bleviss, who became the coordinator of the exhibit project.

"When the rabbi showed the book to me last year, I could see right away that it was special and should go to a museum. It is in remarkable condition for being 75 years old and is a tremendous addition to Holocaust studies," Ginsberg Bleviss said.

"I was fascinated by the book – who were these people and what happened to them? Reading the pages filled with optimistic greetings, illustrations and pieces of music was like



Susi and Mænni Ruben, Copenhagen, 1960s. Mænni Ruben's autograph book, compiled in Theresienstadt, is the focus of a new online exhibit launched by the Victoria Shoah Project.

finding a hidden treasure, waiting to be opened. I wanted to discover who these people were and hear their stories," she added.

"This virtual launch [which took place Aug. 20] is meant to honour both Mænni and Susi, and the memory of those whose lives intersected in space and time in the Theresienstadt camp. None of the artists, musicians, composers or rabbis who wrote in the book are alive, but we can sense their lives through their traces here," said Dr. Richard Kool, a member of the Victoria Shoah Project.

A number of panels show the powerful drawings of artist Hilda Zadikow, whose husband, sculptor Arnold Zadikow, died at Theresienstadt. One depicts the coat of arms of Terezin under a Magen David made

of barbed wire. Another features three sad, grey sketches of the camp itself. In a third, there is a happier scene of colourful opera figures.

Her inscription in the autograph book reads, "Your old friend Hilda Zadikow wishes you all the best and delight in beauty."

A poignant message comes from Rabbi Leo Baeck, an intellectual and leader of the German Jewish community and the international Reform movement, who wrote: "What you forget and what you don't forget, that is what decides the course of your life will take."

Pianist Alice Sommer Herz, the subject of the 2007 book *A Garden of Eden in Hell* and the 2013 Oscar-

Please see **BOOK** on page 28

Congregation Beth Israel presents

YOUR JEWISH GENES: A VIRTUAL LEARNING EVENT

OPEN TO EVERYONE!

Join us **October 1, 2020 at 7pm** to learn about your Jewish genes and the increased risk for certain cancers for people of Jewish ancestry. Learn from the experts where and how you can get tested for these genes in BC and what you can do to prevent cancer for yourself and your family now and in the future. Featuring author Amy Byer-Shainman (the BRCA Responder). Admission is by \$1, \$18 or \$36 donation. All proceeds go towards supporting BRCA awareness.

More info @ www.BRCaInBC.ca
Contact @ brcainbc@gmail.com
Register @ yourjewishgeneswebinar.eventbrite.com

Amy Byer-Shainman
The BRCA Responder

Matthew Seaton
FORCE

Dr. Roni Cheliez
BC Cancer Agency

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL
BRCaInBC
FORCE

Jewish news at your fingertips
jewishindependent.ca



**WISHES YOU A
HAPPY ROSH HASHANAH!**

Celebrate with us at our new online programs this fall.

Wednesday, September 16 at 4:00pm
Schlemiels, Schlimazels and
Mensches, Oh My!
Have fun enjoying Jewish
folklore stories from home.

Thursday, October 22 at 2:30pm
Dayson Collection
Online Book Discussion

Visit yourlibrary.ca to find out more and to explore our newest ebook titles about the Jewish experience, past and present.

CAMPBELL SAUNDERS & CO.

CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

Best wishes for a Happy New Year!

**Providing
accounting,
income tax and
business advisory services
since 1975.**

#500 - 1055 W. Broadway
Vancouver, BC V6H 1E2
Tel. (604) 681-5500 • Fax (604) 685-7100
E-mail: info@campbellsaunders.ca

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Est. 1964



**Vancouver's Original
Mattress Store**

*Friendly • Straight Forward
Zero Pressure • Sensibly Prices*

At Mr. Mattress, we sell only
TWO SIDED MATTRESSES.
This means you **Should and
Can Flip your Mattress.**
**BUY TWO SIDES –
GET TWICE THE LIFE!!!**

**1315 Venables St. (at Clark Dr.)
604-255-2113
www.mrmattress.ca**

Community Calendar

NCSY Vancouver Learn & Earn, for youth, started Sept. 10. Runs Thurs 7-8pm. Register via vancouver.ncsy.org.

Koreh Selichot, Sept. 12, 8pm; Erev Rosh Hashanah Kabbalat Chag with Rabbi Dresner, Sept. 18, 8:15pm; Rosh Hashanah services Sept. 19-20; Shabbat Shuva, with Rabbi Dresner, Myrna Rabinowitz & others, Sept. 26, 10am. Full Or Shalom Zoom and limited in-person attendance holiday calendar at orshalom.ca/events/category/high-holidays.

Selichot with Beth Israel: Havdalah (8:30pm); Inside/Outside – Jews of Colour, Does the Jewish Community Need to Apologize? with panelists Esther Moses, Fai Gelfand, Ronit Yona, host Audrey Chan, moderator Ben Lubinzi (8:45pm); musical service with Rabbi Stein, Ba'alat Tefillah Fenson, Harley Rothstein (10pm). Sept. 12: Zoom 992 5977 5925. bethisraelvan.ca/event/selichot.

Hats Off to Lori! CHW Vancouver opening tea, honouring outgoing president Lori Barer & in support of COVID-19 emergency supplies for CHW projects in Israel. Includes guest singers & inauguration of new executive. Sept. 13, 11am. \$36 (partial tax receipt). Register: 604-257-5160 or office@vancouver.chw.ca.

Increased Technology & Stress During the COVID Era, a Zoom conversation with Dr. Eli Shapiro of the Digital Citizenship Project. Hosted by Schara Tzedek, Shalhevet & VHA. Send questions in advance to rabbifedergrun@scharatzedek.com. Sept. 13, 8pm. Zoom ID: 983 5928 9081.

Law and Learn: Israel Zoom seminar with Beth Israel & Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies. Sept. 16, 9am: COVID-19 in Israel: A Legal and Sociological Perspective. Register at bethisraelvan.ca/event/law-learn-israel-zoom-seminar/2020-09-09.

Tomer Devorah: kabbalah study led by Rabbi Hannah, Matthew Gindin, Rabbi Yoni Gordis & Alycia Fridkin. Weekdays, noon, until Sept. 17, on Zoom. Register via orshalom.ca.

Word Vancouver, curated by Bonnie Nish, features 140 writers, including Heige S. Boehm, Alex Leslie, Lisa Rosenberg, Rhea Tregebov, Aren X. Tulchinsky & Sam Wiebe. Sept. 19-27 online: wordvancouver.ca.

Vancouver Fringe Festival showcases small-capacity live performances from local artists along with virtual workshops and gatherings: Until Sept. 20, Oct. 1-10, Oct. 29-Nov. 8, Nov. 26-Dec. 6. From \$15/show + Fringe membership fee (from \$7). Tickets go on sale Sept. 1 at vancouverfringe.com.

Ben-Gurion, Epilogue screenings Sept. 21-30; discussion Sept. 30, 9am. Register via aabgu.org/events/epilogue.

Women and Justice, an NCJW Canada four-part webinar. Sept. 23, 5pm: Linda Silver Dranoff on It's Long Past Time for Women to Achieve Justice & Equality. Sept. 30, 5pm: Mami Pernica on Estate Planning 101: The Importance of Understanding your Estate Plan. Oct. 7, 5pm: Pamela Jeffrey on When Women Succeed, We all Prosper, Don't Let COVID-19 Hold Us Back. Oct. 14, 5pm: Dr. Patricia Daly on Women & Medical Leadership. Only one registration required for the 4 dates. Register via ncjwc.org or eventbrite.com.

Vancouver International Film Festival runs Sept. 24-Oct. 7. viff.org.

Script writing intensives, with Liesl Lafferty, Wet Ink Collective Society, a writer-driven initiative, with Jewish members, aimed at supporting women and female-identifying creative writers. Beginning end of September, 10 sessions via Zoom, Sun or Tues, 10am-1:30pm. Application details: wetinkcollective.ca.

Temple Shalom Cemetery Memorial Service, attendees restricted to groups of 40. Sept. 27, 10am. Register via templeholom.ca.

Art Downtown: Vancouver Visual Art Foundation & the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association showcase artists, who share & express their talent, as well as sell their work, at Lot 19 (855 West Hastings), Wed & Fri, 11am-5pm, until Sept. 30.

Jewish Federation AGM via Zoom. Sept. 30, 7pm. Register via jewishvancouver.com/agm2020.

Your Jewish Genes includes Amy Byer-Shainman, aka "the BRCA Responder," author of *Resurrection Lily: The BRCA Gene, Hereditary Cancer & Lifesaving Whispers from the Grandmother I Never Knew*; Matt Seaton, peer navigator with FORCE (Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered); members of B.C. Cancer Agency's Hereditary Cancer Program & High Risk Clinic, including Dr. Rona Cheifetz, surgical oncologist, & Allison Mindlin, genetic counselor. Oct. 1, 7pm. Register at yourjewishgeneswebinar.eventbrite.com. Tickets by donation towards the BRCAinBC bursary program, which supports access to genetic testing.

Children and youth programming at Or Shalom starts in October: Shabbat Sheli (ages 3-5), Bright Lights (ages 6-9) & B'yachad (simchat mitzvah program). Information & registration: orshalom.ca.

What We See: photos by people who have been, or continue to be, isolated at home & stories about those images & the experiences individuals have had during this time. Until Nov. 10 at Zack Gallery: galler@jccgv.bc.ca for viewing options.

20 Meaningful Moments: ask a Schara Tzedek rabbi a question on Jewish law, current events, community concerns, etc. To schedule a time: info@scharatzedek.com.

COVIDhelp Vancouver connects at-risk individuals of COVID-19 to low-risk volunteers who help with tasks like grocery delivery, dog walking, virtual chats & more. To receive help or to volunteer to help: covidhelpvancouver.com or 778-280-8686.

Ongoing

Adults 55+ at JCCGV: Senior Men's Discussion Group (Mon monthly, 9:30am); Circle of Friends (2 Tues/month, 1pm); monthly Sun brunches; Shirley Stein's News & Views Current Events Discussion Group with Dan Elezam (Wed, 10:30am); Rise & Shine Virtual "Brunches" with Lisa Cohen Quay (2 Sun monthly, 10am); "dinner" movie & discussion (2 Tues/month, 6:30pm); Marjorie Groberman Duplicate Bridge Club, with ACBL-sanctioned duplicate games played on BBO platform, with Bryan Maksymetz (Tues & Thurs, 10am; check in up to 2 hours ahead); bridge classes; mah jongg classes taught by Cohen Quay using realmahjongg.com game; canasta classes with Cohen Quay using canastajunction.com game/app; cooking classes (Wed, 3pm, with Chef Lior, includes delivery of kosher groceries for meal, pre-registration required, by donation); Name That Tune (1 Tues/month, 2pm, with pianist Bob York). onlyatthej.com.

The Bayit Shabbat Together with Morah Miriam, for kids, Fri, noon, live on Google; Brunch & Learn, Wed, 10am; Talmud class, Thurs, 8pm; & other online happenings: thebayit.ca.

Beth Israel daily & weekly online events schedule, including Shabbat Connection sing-along & storytime for families, with Monika Schwartzman & BI clergy (Fri, 4:30pm); Shabbat Zoomigans young family program, 11am, & preteen/teen program, 11:30am, Sat; Musar study (Mon-Fri, 10am); High Tea (Tues & Thurs, 4pm); World Affairs Discussion Group (Tues, 1:30pm); Zoom & Learn (Wed, noon); Youth Zoom Nights for Atid & Kadima (grades 4-7) Wed, 7pm, & USY (grades 8-12) Thurs, 8pm (contact: rabbidavidbluman@bethisrael.ca); & Zoom & Talmud (Thurs, 7:45 pm.).

In-person weekday services, 6pm bethisraelvan.ca.

Chabad of Richmond: Minyanaires Club, Calling to G-d in Times of Distress class, Talmud class & other online offerings: chabadrichmond.com/templates/events.htm.

Jewish Academy: Insight, a course for women, led by Malky Bitton (Sun, 7:30pm); kabbalah series, taught by Rabbi Bitton (Mon, 7:30pm); Talmud study with the rabbi (Tues, 7:30pm); & other Zoom events & classes: chabadcity-centre.com.

JACS Vancouver: Here to Help, online recovery support group, every 2nd Tues, 7:30pm; & family support group, every 2nd Tues, 7pm. Other online therapy sessions & support groups available. Contact shelley@jacsvancouver.com or 778-882-2994.

Jewish Community Centre: fitness, discussion groups & other programs, including Hebrew-language ones, online: onlyatthej.com.

Jewish Museum: various online exhibits at jewishmuseum.ca/exhibits/online-exhibits; help JMABC document this moment in history by sharing your experiences during the pandemic at jewishmuseum.ca/jmabc-covid-19-community-collection.

Jewish Seniors Alliance webinar series hosted by the South Vancouver Seniors Network includes Grace Hann, trainer & supervisor, JSA peer support. Tues, 10:30am, on Zoom. Contact 604-660-8380 or michael.lee.mla@leg.bc.ca.

Or Shalom services & other programs online: orshalom.ca.

Peretz Centre: Sholem Aleichem Speakers Series, with various guests, Fri, 11am, register to gydachud@gmail.com; Exploring Jewish Writers, with Al Stein, Sat, 10:30am, register to alstein577@gmail.com. Moving Conversations, with Claudia Bulaievsky, explores embodied movement & creative expression, Tues, 2:30pm, register to clabulai@hotmail.com.

Schara Tzedek: The Sweep of Jewish History online course, taught by Rabbi Rosenblatt, Wed, 8pm, register via scharatzedek.com; Learn One Page of Talmud a Week, with 15-minute recordings emailed four times a week, contact rabbifedergrun@scharatzedek.com; virtual learning & services dates & registration at scharatzedek.com/zoom-meeting-schedule.html#.

Temple Sholom services, other classes & events, including Morning Meditation (Fri, 9:30am), Torah study (Sat, 8:30am), Tot Shabbat (Sat, 11am), Seniors Movement & Exercise (Tues, 10am), Talmud class (Tues, 11am), Coffee & Chat (Thurs, noon): templeholom.ca.

Holocaust Education Centre: Treasured Belongings: The Hahn Family & the Search for a Stolen Legacy exhibit, by appointment only, Wed, 10am-3pm, via info@vhcc.org or 604-264-0499. Online educational resources: vhcc.org.

Vancouver Jewish Film Centre Free Film Festival Favourites: sign up at vjff.org for the newsletter, which has links weekly. Also available are discount movie rentals.

Vancouver NCSY Musical Havdalah for grades 8-12. Sat nights on Facebook & Zoom. More information: ariel@ncsy.ca.

Waldman Library events via Zoom: family storytime for ages 3-6 (Sun, 11am); Sharing the Space: Expressive Writing, with Bonnie Nish & Ali Denno (Tues, 7pm, register via onlyatthej.com); & Shirley Stein's News & Views weekly news & politics discussion group facilitated by Dan Elezam (Wed, 10:30am, email library@jccgv.bc.ca to join).

Yoga in the Park, led by Yoga Buggy, founded by Miri Gindin. Various offerings for kids: yogabuggy.com.

Deadline for Sept. 25 issue -
Sept. 16, 5 p.m.



Best wishes for a Happy New Year!

CAROLE LIEBERMAN
PERSONAL REAL ESTATE CORPORATION

Unlocking the door to real estate possibilities

LIEBERMANHOMES.COM PH (604) 263-1144

DEXTER REALTY



porte⁷
communities

Building communities and enriching lives since 1968.

To learn more about our communities visit www.porte.ca | 604.732.7651

Wishing our community a Happy New Year!



MARKET MEATS
EST 1998

HOLIDAY ITEMS NOW IN STOCK.

Featuring recipes from **KAPLANS DELI**

Kerrisdale: 2233 W 41st Ave
604-737-0905
marketmeats.com

DELIVERY AVAILABLE

La Shana Tova 5781
May it be a happy and healthy New Year!

Market Meats Team

Brosigall Legal

Vancouver Presence | Global Reach



Happy New Year!

Adam Brosigall

Lawyer and Notary Public

INTERNATIONAL MATTERS:

- ✓ Document Authentication, Consular Legalization & Apostille Services
- ✓ International Transactions (Personal & Business)
- ✓ Foreign Powers of Attorney, Property Transfers, Probate & Incorporations
- ✓ Lawyer Referrals Welcome for Complex Overseas Files
- ✓ Accredited by the Israeli Consulate for Minor's Passport Applications

LOCAL MATTERS:

- ✓ Wills, Powers of Attorney, Representation Agreements & Notarizations
- ✓ Mobile Visits to Hospitals and Care Homes

317 – 938 Howe Street Vancouver BC V6Z 1N9
604-685-2326 adam@brosigall.com
www.vancouvernotary.biz

OFRA'S from page 23

know that each \$5 they donated would go toward feeding an individual who was homeless. Sixto said the idea is catching on. "It's amazingly successful," she said.

So far, Sixto estimates she has given out in excess of 1,300 meals. She admitted that the donations she receives don't fully cover the out-of-pocket expenses. "But it doesn't matter to me," she said. "It's not about that \$5 that people give. It's about the acknowledgment of the situation.

"You know, I speak with [the people living on the street]," Sixto said. "I stop and say, how are you today? Did you eat anything? How are you feeling? They are people. They were babies. Somebody loved them or not when they were babies, you know? Something happened to these people along their lives [before they got to where] they are. Nobody chooses to live on the street because it's fun, right?"

In June, the province of British Columbia issued a revised health order to guide restaurants in how they can operate safely during the coronavirus pandemic. Sixto has



Ofra Sixto's restaurant focuses on vegetarian and vegan dishes.

taken those rules to heart. Her seating is about half-capacity, with tables situated two metres apart. And she has some gentle ground rules: patrons must agree to sanitize (either with hand sanitizer or by handwashing) when entering the restaurant and wear a mask when walking to and from the table.

Sixto also supports the province's request to record the contact information of at least one customer per table. According to the province's health office, the information is retained only in case COVID-19 con-

tact tracing is necessary. Sixto said most people appreciate the effort that restaurant owners are making to keep their venues safe and comfortable.

When it came to navigating the recent shutdown, Sixto said her landlord played a big role. "My landlord is amazing," she said. The temporary rent reduction allowed her to keep operating – "I never closed, not even for one day."

Ofra's Kitchen, located at 1088 Denman St., in Vancouver (604-688-2444, ofraskitchen.com), is open Israeli hours, starting at 11:30 a.m. and closing at "8ish" in

the evening.

"As long as there are people, I'm feeding them. If you come by and I am there, I will open the door and seat you," Sixto said. "Just like Israeli hours." ❖

Jan Lee's articles and blog posts have been published in B'nai B'rith Magazine, Voices of Conservative and Masorti Judaism, Times of Israel, as well as a number of business, environmental and travel publications. Her blog can be found at multicultural-jew.polestarpassages.com.

שנה טובה ומתוקה!



bulldog bag ltd.

604-273-8021

13631 Vulcan Way, Richmond, B.C. V6V 1K4
www.bulldogbag.com



Congregation
Schara Tzedek

Shana Tova u'Metuka

Schara Tzedek

*wishes the entire
community a healthy,
safe, and sweet
New Year.*

**Outdoor Shofar blowing throughout
the day, Sunday, September 20th.**

Visit our website for times and locations.

Connect online to our virtual pre-Rosh Hashanah, Kol Nidre and Yizkor services through our website at www.scharatzedek.com or call 604-736-7607 for help accessing all links.

TENDLER from page 22

I should pay attention to this," she said. "Why do I keep running into him?"

She had first met Sadoff in New York, when she was en route to Israel and he was rooming with a friend of hers. On a different trip to Israel, for a cousin's bar mitzvah, the pair met again. The Beth Tikvah meet-up was third time lucky.

Relocating to Canada was not in the cards until recently, but it was something like a long-held dream.

"My husband used to say to me years ago, hey, do you think we can move to Canada?" Tandler recalled. "I'd say, Ross, I'm a female rabbi. The chance of that, at this point in time, is very slight. A decade ago, there were many fewer female rabbis in Canada."

In fact, Tandler is the first female pulpit rabbi in a Conservative shul in British Columbia.

A few factors account for the family's attraction to Metro Vancouver. For one thing, they wanted a Jewish day school, which Chattanooga has not had for a number of years.

"We are very excited about RJDS [Richmond Jewish Day School] because we think it will offer the flexibility that our kids will greatly benefit from," she said.

The family loved Chattanooga,

but even at one of the most diverse public schools in town, not being Christian was sometimes an issue.

"In some ways, we felt like we were undermining our family values," said Tandler in the context of raising their kids. "We just wanted

"The community, honestly, has gone above and beyond ... and just really made us feel welcome."

them to fully embrace and love who we were raising them to be and the values we were raising them to honour and realizing that, in some ways, we were undermining them constantly."

A lockdown that took place after false alarms of a threat at the kids' school made Tandler and her husband ponder school security and the prevalence of gun violence in their country.

"We say things are going to be different but nothing changes," she said. "I went to Washington, D.C., after the shooting in [Parkland] Florida and we say things are going to change but nothing changes. At

some point, you have to do something different. The lobbies are too strong and we can't even talk in the States about gun safety. It's all like, you're taking away my rights. Well, what about public safety?"

Possibly above all, the family just thought that British Columbia would feel like home.

"I think that, in many ways, my family moved here for holistic health reasons," she said. "We just wanted a place that felt healthier and was more aligned with our values."

Even comparatively small things like an efficient recycling program make Tandler feel kinship with her new hometown. "It's a small thing but, in general, I just feel that our values and what we want to teach our children are more in line with Canada, at least with British Columbia and Vancouver, with open-mindedness and, I would say, respect for other people."

While the transition to their new hometown was complicated, they made the best of it. During the transcontinental road trip, they stopped at sites like the St. Louis Arch, the Badlands, Yellowstone and Mount Rushmore.

"We took some little hikes and saw bison and prairie dogs," said Tandler. "It was fun." ❖

Kerrisdale Custom Tailors

Fitting to your satisfaction guaranteed

Made to measure

Mens & Ladies • Alterations

Tuxedo Rentals



Lynn & Michael

TAILORS
DESIGNERS
PARTNERS

Happy New Year!

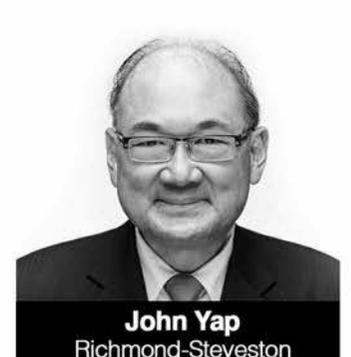
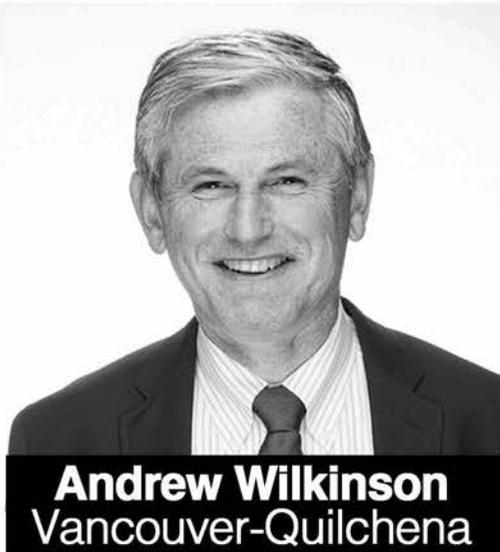
2082 West 41st Ave • 604-266-6422

Mon-Sat: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

ADDING A NEW LOCATION SOON!

5789 W. Blvd.

Please note that due to the COVID pandemic, the *J* will be publishing twice a month. The next issue will be Sept. 25 Entertainment / Milestones. Ad deadline: Sept. 17.



Happy Rosh Hashanah
From the **BC Liberals**

Best wishes to all for a
Happy & Healthy
New Year!



P.O. Box 10023 Pacific Centre
Suite 700 - 700 W Georgia St.
Vancouver, BC V7Y 1A1
Tel. 604.683.3111
Fax 604.683.0432
cushmanwakefield.com

L'Shanah Jovah U'Metukah
A Good & Sweet New Year!

Transworld
Imports Inc.



22071 Fraserwood Way
Richmond, B.C. Canada V6W 1J5
Tel: 604-272-3432 Fax: 604-272-3265
www.transworldimports.com

Best wishes for a Happy New Year from

VANCOUVER HOLDINGS (B.C.) LTD.
INSURANCE BROKERS & CONSULTANTS



MARTIN J. GOODGER CAIB
President

#700 – 595 Howe Street
Vancouver, BC V6C 2T5
Tel: 604-685-6354 • Fax: 604-685-7433
E-mail: vancouverholdings@telus.net

CEMETERY from page 20

said, that all members of the community be treated equally. Those being buried in New Westminster had funerals in a chapel, while those in Surrey did not. The new Surrey chapel was funded within the existing budget, but, if a community member wanted to contribute to the chapel, Jampolsky said, naming opportunities could be considered.

“The other thing we’re doing in Surrey is spending more time and effort and money to make Surrey look a lot nicer,” he said. “We are doing more landscaping work, we’re planting flowers and doing things that make it look very, very nice. We’re putting a lot of effort into that property.”

The Surrey cemetery contains about 2,000 plots while the much older New Westminster site has about 10,000. While approximately 5,000 of the New Westminster plots are filled, Jampolsky acknowledges that he can’t accurately predict how long the cemetery has before it is full.

“It really depends,” he said. There are about 80 burials annually in New



The new black granite memorial wall at Schara Tzedek Cemetery in New Westminster allows people to memorialize loved ones buried in other cities.

Westminster. That would suggest about 60 years before it is full. But the community is growing quickly, so perhaps it would be only 50 years. At the same time, a plot may be pur-

chased and not used for decades, he said. If a young family purchased plots today, it is reasonable to assume some burials might not occur until the 22nd century. ❧

BOOK from page 24

winning documentary *The Lady in Number 6*, was another prisoner at the camp. Sommer Herz, who died at age 110 in 2014, wrote in Ruben’s book: “In memory of music at Theresienstadt and in strong hopes of a better future.”

And a touching note comes from Miriam Pardies, someone Ruben seems to have known only in passing: “We know each other only from having greeted each other in a friendly way, but that too is a good memory,” she writes in the book.

“There is a huge educational value to these pieces for students learning about the Holocaust, or for researchers who want to continue exploring the stories of these most interesting people during an important time at the

end of the Second World War,” remarked Brechner.

Ruben and his family were sent to Theresienstadt in 1943. A place where the Nazis kept prominent Jews, the camp housed musicians, intellectuals, artists, religious leaders and hundreds of children. In 1944, the inmates performed a concert for German visitors and the visiting International Red Cross – the performers were forced to act as though life at the camp was normal.

Losing his father at the camp, Ruben returned home after the war. A few years later, he met his wife. They married and both played in the Copenhagen Youth Orchestra – she on cello and he on violin. Mænni Ruben also worked as a graphic de-

signer and Susi Ruben as a fashion designer; they were together for 24 years.

After her husband died, Susi Ruben’s company sent her to Israel, where she met Dr. Avi Deston. They married in 1978 and went to South Africa for 13 years, where Deston taught physics at the University of Transkei. On his retirement, they came to Victoria, in 1992.

The autograph book will be donated to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg for their Holocaust gallery. To view the virtual exhibit, go to terezinautograph-book1945.ca. ❧

Sam Margolis has written for the *Globe and Mail*, *the National Post*, *UPI* and *MSNBC*.

HAPPY

Rosh Hashanah

**WISHING YOU HEALTH, PEACE & HAPPINESS
THIS ROSH HASHANAH**

- ALAN, ROSEMARIE, MEGHAN AND BRODIE NEWALL

RALLY from page 19



COURTESY ADI KABAZO

The Vancouver group joined their peers around the world in a simultaneous Zoom-powered broadcast of the rally, dubbed "Halev BeBalfour" ("the Heart is in Balfour").

San Francisco with the Golden Gate and so on, Vancouver had its share of the focus.

Anyone who is interested can watch the video, available on DemocratTV's Facebook page. It shows how Israelis worldwide have joined together to express their concern about the situation in Israel. In the video, you can hear people from Vancouver speaking about the need for the Israeli people to come together again and recover from the many years of divisiveness, the culture of corruption and the fear-mongering. The Vancouver group ended its two-minute segment calling for internal peace, and singing the late Arik Einstein's "Ani Ve'ata Neshane et Ha'olam" ("You and I Will Change the World") and "Kol Ha'olam Kulo Geshet Tzar Me'od" ("The Whole World is a Very Narrow Bridge").

It's no secret to anyone following Israeli news that, in past years, the country has suffered from growing internal tensions and political instability, which resulted in three elections within the span of a year. Those who yearned for a seemingly never-ending political deadlock to be broken and new national leadership to emerge in the March elections, from the combined front of Yesh Atid and the Blue and White party, were left disappointed. These voters reluctantly had to watch Binyamin Netanyahu dismantle the opposition and form what is quite possibly the most dysfunctional and largest government in the nation's history, with a pandemic serving as its backdrop.

The focus and efforts required to address the deepening Israeli tribalism gave way to the government's concerted fight against the virus. Israel, which was considered a role model of how to handle the health crisis by some countries early on, largely due to its aggressive lockdown, is now experiencing widespread infection. What remains from the unprecedented civilian cooperation at the start of the pandemic is record unemployment, thousands of closed businesses and a growing distrust in the motives of the country's leadership.

As Israeli society is quite likely on the brink of a new lockdown, more and more Israelis of all political persuasions are demonstrating their frustration with the mismanagement of

the crisis, their concerns for the future and their anger against corruption at the highest echelon of government. After years of ongoing investigations and constant delays, with the outcome of investigative case No. 3000 (aka the "Submarine Scandal") still pending, Netanyahu was indicted in October 2019 on three counts of bribery, fraud and breach of trust.

Demonstrations, rallies and marches spanning hundreds of locations in major cities, road junctions and highway bridges near the prime minister's private residence in Caesarea and in Balfour itself have consistently grown in attendance, culminating in weekly events at the end of Shabbat since June. Fueled by the unity of more than 20 grassroots movements, notably *Ein Matsav* (Unacceptable), Protest of the Individuals, Crime Minister, and the Black Flags, the assembly at Balfour drew an estimated 45,000 marchers and protesters at the end of August, much higher than the numbers reported by major media outlets such as Walla News and Ynet. While the protesters appear to come from all political factions, age groups, religious backgrounds and Jewish ethnic divisions, Netanyahu and his supporters have referred to them as "anarchists," "aliens" and even "traitors."

It's quite possible that by the time you read this, the outcomes of the protests, the fragile political balance and the situation of the health crisis in Israel may be quite different. What won't change, with time or distance, is that Israelis around the globe will continue their struggle to protect democracy. Our hearts remain with the people of Israel. ❖

Adi Kabazo and his family moved to Vancouver from Israel in late 2002, when daughter Hilla was less than a year old. A high-tech marketing professional by trade and hummus maker by hobby, he keeps a close tab on Israeli affairs. The connection with Israel and sense of the obligation to uphold and protect Zionist and Jewish values is shared by Hilla, a first-year arts student at the University of British Columbia. Hilla has a strong interest in social justice and is an active member of the Camp Miriam community, as a volunteer and in her role as a summer camp counselor.

Pure

INTEGRATIVE PHARMACY

Happy New Year!

YOUR HUB OF HEALTH ON THE LOWER MAINLAND



KOSHER VITAMINS AND SUPPLEMENTS

100% Locally Owned & Operated | **Compounding Labs** |
Prescriptions & Natural Health | Bio-Identical Hormones |
Professional Grade Vitamins & Supplements



FREE DELIVERY AVAILABLE WITHIN GREATER VANCOUVER

VANCOUVER OAK STREET

3750 Oak St. Vancouver, BC • T: 604.731.8535 • F: 604.731.8534

follow us:

www.purepharmacy.com



purepharmacy

Want to see your story published?

If you have news to report or a fresh story idea...
e-mail editor@jewishindependent.ca.



Happy New Year!



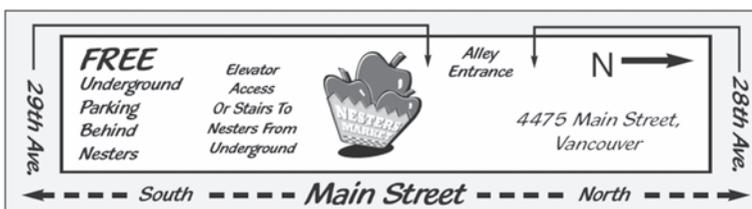
**GREAT SELECTION
ORGANIC FOODS
GLUTEN FREE
GREAT PRICES
QUALITY PRODUCTS**

KOSHER ITEMS NOW AVAILABLE

4475 Main Street, Vancouver • Tel. 604-709-8014

Follow us on Facebook: Nesters-Market-Riley-Park

www.nestersmarket.com



Get
FRESH
at
Nesters
... in the
heart
of your
community

Schara Tzedek Cemetery Board

Listed below are the names of those who have been buried in the Schara Tzedek Cemetery in New Westminster, Surrey, and Mountain View in the last year.

May their memories be for a blessing.

Michael Abramskey
Byron Aceman
Igael Amreny
Anna Bakalinsky
Sheyl Barkin
Elka Beigel
Daniel Benbassat
Salomon Bichin
Dorothy Chechik
Yakiv Chudnovskyy
Ian Clyde
Herzel Cohen
William Davids
Diana Edelman
David Feldman
Freda Feldstein
Michael Felkranz
Bernard Freeman
Beverly Freeman
Lenore Garfield
Irving Glassner

Shelley Goldberg
Michael Goslin
Monty Gracen
Dov Grajcer
Montague (Monty) Grant
Joseph Grossman
Yehuda Harari
Noel Jampolsky
Lila Kantrowiz
Rhona Karbusicky
Avraham Katz
Daniel Kauffman
Fajwel Kon
David Krougman
Miriam Lazar
Lloyd Mallin
Rose Markis
Magda Markus
Shirley Morris
Alan Moses
Israel Moskovitch

Feiga Niskina
William (Bill) Ornstein
Shlomo Parpara
Lev Pirkes
Nan Ravvin
William (Bill) Rosen
Ernest Rothschild
Yuriy Rubin
Leanore Sharfon
Freda Sher
Bernard Shoub
Margaret Stark
Wen Hsun (Peter) Tuan
Gregori Tutelman
Michael Waisman
William Benjamin Davids
Marvin Wosk
Louna Yehia
Ralph Yorsh
Marc Youngson
Israel Zwecker

In an effort to keep all members of our community safe, there will be no in-person memorial services taking place this year between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur as is our custom.

A telecast ZOOM memorial service will take place on
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 at 11:30 am.

Please follow this link to attend this service:

www.zoom.us/join
Meeting ID is: 778 836 7607

Those wishing to visit our cemeteries between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur are welcome to do so, but we ask you to maintain appropriate physical distancing from others while on the property. Properties are open daily except Shabbat and Jewish Holidays from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

On behalf of the Schara Tzedek Cemetery Board, we wish you and your family a meaningful and safe Shana Tova!

Best wishes for a Happy New Year

We offer services to help individuals and small and medium sized owner managed businesses navigate their financial futures.

STOILEN ALSTON & LANG
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

240 - 4977 Trenant St., Delta, BC V4K 2K5 • T 604.946.6444 • F 604.946.2090
602-1200 W 73rd Ave., Vancouver, BC V6P 6G5 • T 604.266.1222 • F 604.266.1227
info@salcpa.ca
stoilenalstonlang.ca

Best wishes for a Happy New Year!

First imagine an impossible structure. Then find a way to build it.

GS **GLOTMAN • SIMPSON**
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Creative Thinkers,
Cleverly Disguised as Engineers.

glotmansimpson.com



Happy New Year 

TERESA WAT
MLA for Richmond North Centre

300-8120 Granville Avenue, Richmond, BC
604-775-0754 • Teresa.Wat.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Happy Rosh Hashanah!
Happy New Year!

If you have means to give,
consider
Burns Bog @

<http://burnsbog.org/make-a-donation/>



4-7953 120 St, Delta, BC V4C 6P6 | info@burnsbog.org | www.burnsbog.org | 604. 572. 0373



Evolution of the Jewish calendar

DEBORAH RUBIN FIELDS

The Jewish calendar is an amazing conceptualization of time that has evolved (what else?) over time.

In his blog on the Museum of the Jewish People at Beit Hatfutsot website, Ushi Derman relates that, originally, the Jewish calendar was a solar calendar. But it was not just a solar calendar, it was a holy solar calendar, delivered by angels to Enoch. (See the Book of Enoch, the section dealing with astronomy, called “The Book of Heavenly Luminaries.”) Temple priests had to follow a rigorous schedule – time itself was judged to be sacred. Thus, the Temple in Jerusalem was regarded as both the house of G-d and the dwelling of time.

With the destruction of Jerusalem’s Second Temple, the priests lost their power. They were no longer the mediators between G-d and the people. Authority switched to the scholars (our sages) of the *Mishnah* (edited record of the Oral Torah), Talmud and *Tosefta* (similar to the Mishnah, but providing more details about the reasons for or application of the laws).

In a bold move, the scholars declared that G-d had handed religious authority to humans. “Each month, envoys were sent to watch the new moon and to determine the beginning of the month. Thus, the ownership of time was expropriated from G-d and delivered to man – and that is why the Hebrew calendar has survived for so many centuries,” writes Derman in the 2018 blog “Rosh Hashanah: The Politics and Theology Behind Jewish Time.”

Here is a lovely story from *The Book of Legends*, edited by Hayim Nahman Bialik and Yehoshua Hana Ravnitzky, illustrating the above change. A king had a clock. “When his son reached puberty, he said to him: My son, until now, the clock has been in my keeping. From now on, I turn it over to you. So, too, the Holy One used to hallow new moons and intercalate years. But, when Israel rose, He said to them, until now, the reckoning of new moons and of New Year’s Day has been in My keeping. From now on, they are turned over to you.”

Perhaps oddly, the Mishnah mentions more than one new year. In fact, it points out four such



Rosh Hashanah greeting cards from the author’s family’s collection. The cards are almost 100 years old. The translation of the one in which people are walking is “Into the synagogue.” It is signed by Chaim Goldberg, a well-known artist who also illustrated many children’s books. The party postcard, also done by Goldberg, is a printed rhyme, which translates as, “Boy, girl! Dear, refined! Who is like you? Happy letters, dear writings, I have for you!”

dates on the Jewish calendar:

- The first of Nissan is the new year for kings and for festivals;
- The first of Elul is the new year for tithing of animals (some say the first of Tishrei);
- The first of Tishrei is the new year for years, sabbaticals and Jubilee, for planting and vegetables;
- The first of Shevat is the new year for trees, according to the House of Shammai, while the House of Hillel (which we adhere to today) says the 15th of Shevat, or *Tu b'Shevat*.

With its thrice daily prayers, the synagogue came to replace the Temple. Excluding Yom Kippur, synagogue attendance is higher on Rosh Hashanah than any other time of year. Rosh Hashanah prayers are compiled in a special prayer book, or *Machzor*.

Amid COVID-19, the following words about Rosh Hashanah have heightened meaning: “The celebration of the New Year involves a mixture of emotions. On the one hand, there is a sense of gratitude at having lived to this time. On the other hand, the beginning of a new year raises anxiety. What will my fate be this year? Will I live out the year? Will I be healthy? Will I spend my time wisely, or will it be filled in a way that does not truly bring happiness?” (See the Rabbinical Assembly’s *Machzor Lev Shalem* for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, published almost a decade ago.)

Sounding the shofar is one of the



special additions to Rosh Hashanah services. According to Norman Bloom – in a 1978 article on Rosh Hashanah prayers in *Tradition: A Journal of Orthodox Jewish Thought* – the timing of the shofar blowing weighed in the physical safety and comfort of the congregation. Hard as it may be to comprehend today, scholars considered potential attacks from both local enemies of the Jews and from Satan himself. They also considered the comfort of the infirm, who might not be able to stay through a long service.

Rosh Hashanah has other curious customs. For example, there is a tradition of having either a fish head or, among some Sephardim, a lamb’s head as part of the Rosh Hashanah meal. This is meant to symbolize that, in the year to come, we should be at the *rosh* or head (on top), rather than at the tail (at the

bottom). Vegetarians and vegans substitute a head of lettuce.

Both Sephardi and Ashkenazi Jews have Rosh Hashanah seder traditions. The symbolic foods include beets, leeks, pomegranates, pumpkins and beans. As Rahel Musleah has pointed out, each food suggests a good wish for the coming year. Thus, before eating each one, people recite a special blessing. Humour is

Additional observations

Hebrew has a number of expressions using the word *rosh*. Here are just a handful of examples: *rosh hamemshala* (prime minister); *rosh kroov*, literally cabbage head, or a negative reference to someone who is not very bright; *rosh katan*, someone who is small-minded; *l’kabel barosh*, to be defeated; and *rosh tov*, or good vibes.

Anyone interested in learning more about the solar calendar should read Prof. Rachel Elior’s article, “Enoch Son of Jared and the Solar Calendar of the Priesthood in Qumran,” which can be found in a Google search.

at play, too, as some of the blessings are puns on the food’s Hebrew or Aramaic name. (Read Musleah’s article “A Sephardic Rosh Hashanah Seder” at myjewishlearning.com/article/a-sephardic-rosh-hashanah-seder.) Of course, we cannot neglect to mention that the festive table also includes apples dipped in honey, for a sweet new year, and a round challah, symbolizing both the cycle of life and G-d’s kingship.

Another Rosh Hashanah custom is Tashlich. This ceremony involves going to a body of water to symbolically cast off one’s sins. Breadcrumbs are often used, as are leaves, but, seeing that COVID-19 will be a part of this year’s holiday, here is another suggestion. Originally, this activity was used with youth groups of the Reform movement – participants wrote out their sins and then the papers on which they were written were put through a paper shredder. A dramatic gesture, suited to our current need for social distancing.

My city, Jerusalem, is a land-bound city without a sea or lake in its immediate vicinity. So, what do residents of the capital do? Those who wish to practise Tashlich go to one of the following four sites. Two of the four places are near the Supreme Court: the Jerusalem Rose Garden and the Jerusalem Bird Observatory. Also in the same general area is the Botanic Garden in the Nayot neighbourhood and, in the Old City, one can go to the Shiloah Springs in City of David.

Wishing all readers a year of blessings and not of curses. ❖

Deborah Rubin Fields is an Israel-based features writer. She is also the author of *Take a Peek Inside: A Child’s Guide to Radiology Exams*, published in English, Hebrew and Arabic.



JEWISH CHAPLAINCY SOCIETY
Rabbi Dina-Hasida Mercy

The Jewish Chaplaincy Society is a registered Charity in Canada.

We are dedicated to serving Jewish and interfaith families.

JCS ceremonies are meaningful, personal and LGBTQ-friendly.



Rabbi Mercy is available for ceremonies, counselling and education.

www.rabbi-mercy.com
778-706 2770 • dinahasida@gmail.com

Rosh Hashanah



Celebrating world's birthday

DVORA WAYSMAN

One of the many names of *Rosh Hashanah*, the Jewish New Year, is *Yom Harat Olam*, the birthday of the world. It is the day on which our tradition says the world was created.

Before we can begin to celebrate this "birthday," however, something is required of us. During the month prior to Rosh Hashanah, we prepare ourselves spiritually for forgiveness and, in the 10 days between Rosh Hashanah and *Yom Kippur*, the Day of Atonement, we are meant to ask forgiveness of anyone we may have hurt during the year, even unintentionally. We are required to atone for wrongs between people, in contrast to the sins that arise between us and G-d. We cannot make a spiritual "return," if we remain shackled with unresolved guilt and resentments.

More Jews attend synagogue on these two holidays than at any other time. Many of the prayers praise the mighty and wondrous works of the Creator, in keeping with the theme of "the birthday of the world." We are to recognize that life itself is a Divine gift and has a sacred purpose.

According to our tradition, everything we do is recorded in the Book of Life. No deed, word, thought, good or evil, goes unrecorded. The record is supposedly kept in heaven. One belief accords this job to Elijah the prophet, keeper of the records of humanity's deeds. On Rosh

Hashanah, the Book of Life is examined, our acts in the preceding year weighed and judged. On this basis, it is decided "who shall live and who shall die ... who shall be brought low and who shall be exalted." For this reason, we wish for one another, "May you be inscribed for a good year." We are taught that the only way to avert a severe decree is

symbolism, the apple represents the *Shechinah* (Divine Presence), which kabbalists refer to as an apple orchard.

With the emphasis on creation at this time, it is customary to eat an apple dipped in honey on the first night of Rosh Hashanah, after the blessing on the wine and bread, and say: "Blessed art Thou, O Lord our G-d, King of the Universe, who created the fruit of the tree." This is followed by: "May it be Your will, our G-d and G-d of our fathers, to renew unto us a good and sweet year."

On the second day of Rosh Hashanah, we eat a new fruit – one we have not yet tasted this season – and we recite a blessing over it.

How do we know on what day of the year the world was created? We know that the first word of the Torah is *Bereishit*, in the beginning. When the letters are changed around, they read: *aleph b'Tishrei*, the first of Tishrei, when G-d began to create the heaven and the earth.

May we all be inscribed for a good year. ❧

Dvora Waysman is a Jerusalem-based author. She has written 14 books, including The Pomegranate Pendant, which was made into a movie, and her latest novella, Searching for Sarah. She can be contacted at dvawaysman@gmail.com or through her blog dvorawaysman.com.



PIKES COMM/FREPHOTO/VAWING

For Apartment Owners since 1983

Goodman:

Best wishes to all for a Happy New Year!

75
Years of combined experience

2,000+
Number of real estate transactions

5+
Billion dollars in sales

Call David, Mark or Cynthia at (604) 714 4790 to discuss the sale of your apartment asset.

GREATER VANCOUVER'S AUTHORITY ON APARTMENT BUILDINGS AND DEVELOPMENT SITES

G: Goodman Commercial View properties online at www.goodmanreport.com

Otto Friedl LIMITED

Best wishes to all for a Happy New Year!

Selling Pre-Owned Watches
Repairing fine timepieces since 1960

Hotel Vancouver
Lower Lobby
900 West Georgia St., Vancouver BC

Ph: 604.683.2820
ottofriedlltd@telus.net
ottofriedlwatchservice.com

Famous FOODS Big Enough to Serve You Small Enough to Know You

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 *Have a Happy New Year!*
www.famousfoods.ca

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

UNITED ELEVATOR COMPANY LTD.

24 Hour Emergency Service
Maintenance • Service
Licensed • Bonded • Insured

Phil Weinstein
Cell: 604-728-1659
Tel/Fax: 604-597-2792

Email: Phil@UnitedElevator.ca
Web: www.UnitedElevator.ca

MEMBER **B.B.B.** 11933 - 77A Avenue Delta BC V4C 7K2
Better Business Bureau



The danger in certainty

RABBI DR. DONNIEL HARTMAN

Like many of you, I approach the New Year and Yom Kippur with a heavy heart. *Ashamnu*. We have sinned. Much is not well, not as it should or can be. Our communities are filled with anger, fear, hatred, pain, and acrimony.

Our tradition placed a heavy burden on us. Atonement is only attainable when accompanied by a commitment to change one's behaviour. The burden is doubly heavy, for we are not merely responsible for our individual failings, but for our societal ones. *Ashamnu*. We have sinned. Yom Kippur is not merely a day of prayer in search of Divine forgiveness, but a day of taking responsibility for the world that we have created.

There are so many places to start this process and, for those who don't know where, the Jewish prayer book provides guidance. *Ashamnu. Bagadnu. Gazalnu. Dibarnu dofi*. We have sinned. We have betrayed. We have taken that which is not ours. We have spoken evil.

This year, I will begin with the sin of certainty. The certainty that I have the truth and others do not. The certainty that I am right and others wrong. The certainty that I am good and others bad. The certainty that I love my country and others do not.

"Our God and God of our ancestors, we are neither so insolent nor so obstinate as to claim in your presence that we are righteous, without sin; for we, like our ancestors who came before us, have sinned." (Yom Kippur Machzor)

Inherent to every social structure is the reality of difference. Members, adherents, citizens, who join or are joined together by blood, race, gender, ideology, religion, culture or nation-

ality, inevitably find themselves disagreeing over issues both minor and major. Differences are a permanent and inevitable reality of life. By themselves, they do not undermine social cohesion. What threatens unity is how we respond to the reality.

The three conceptual tools for reflecting on difference are pluralism, tolerance and deviance. When those who are different are classified as deviant, the possibility of a shared society with them comes to an end. It is here that the sin of certainty spreads its destructive poison. The hubris of certainty allows one to shun and shame those who do not share in the truth as you know it, and to move them to the margins of society, if not outside it. Armed with certainty, acts of blatant aggression are clothed with the garments of self-preservation and sanctioned as acts of group loyalty.

A certainty of a different form is played out in the category of pluralism. We are pluralistic toward those differences that we assume to be of equal value to our own positions – "These and these are the words of the living God." With pluralism, we accommodate difference that we believe is equally authentic and that we can associate as being on par with our truth, our knowledge and our beliefs. These and these are the words of the living God, but not those and those. And the one who decides is us.

Why tolerate that which I believe to be wrong?

The danger that lies with the sin of certainty is that it attempts to create social life around the categories of pluralism and deviance alone. Difference to which I ascribe value is accommodated and welcomed as my friend.

Please see **CERTAINTY** on page 34

ASSURANCE | TAX | ADVISORY

Your partner in business
Now, for tomorrow

Wishing you a Happy New Year from your partners at Baker Tilly WM! Baker Tilly WM is a leading, independent accounting firm who has been providing top-notch services to the business community for nearly 60 years. Whether your business is local or global, we can help!

Baker Tilly WM LLP
900-400 Burrard Street, Vancouver
604-684-6212 | vancouver@bakertilly.ca
www.bakertilly.ca/vancouver



Thank you
for supporting
our advertisers.



Wishing all our clients and
friends a happy and
healthy New Year!



**DEXTER
REALTY**

560-2608 Granville Street
Vancouver
604-263-1144

1399 Homer Street
Vancouver
604-689-8226

www.dexterrealty.com

RELATIONSHIPS
THAT COUNT



**Maude,
MacKay & Co.** Ltd.

RESIDENTIAL AND INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

Since 1982



Best wishes for a
Happy New Year!

ROD MACKAY

Cell: 604.649.2424

rodmac@maudemackay.com

www.rodmackay.com

#202-1525 West 8th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6J 1T5

Tel. 604.736.0181 Fax 604.736.0314

SOUTH GRANVILLE PARK LODGE



Gracious care for seniors in our community for almost 50 years

- Complex Care
- 24 hour nursing care
- Monthly and Respite Care
- Furnished private room with bathroom
- Excellent meal choice with dietician's supervision
- Daily therapeutic and recreational and entertainment programs
- Excellent location (1½ blocks from South Granville)

Our best wishes to the community for a Happy New Year



To arrange a visit please call

604-732-8633

1645 West 14th Avenue, Vancouver
sgpl@telus.net • www.sgplodge.com

Bringing the community together for 90 years
jewishindependent.ca

Warmest Wishes to the Jewish community for a Happy Rosh Hashanah

KOFFMAN KALEF LLP

BUSINESS LAWYERS

Morley Koffman, Q.C. מורלי קופמן

Jasmin Z. Ahmad*

Jim M.J. Alam*

Kristina A. Davies

Vikram X. Dhir*

Ryan W. Greer

Annie Y. Huang

Patrick J. Julian*

Andrew G. Kadler*

Michael M. Kalef*

Wendy Lee*

John W. Munnis*

Daniel B. Newfield

Robert I. Parsons

David S. Pedlow*

Shawn A. Poisson*

Bernard Poznanski*

Frank W. Quo Vadis*

Abhishaek R. Rawal

Daniel S. Remick

Kulvinder S. Samrai

Douglas A. Side*

Erin K. Tait*

Stephanie Y. Tam

Leslie A. Tucker*

Thomas S. Wachowski*

Andrea J. Wales

Mark E. Wong*

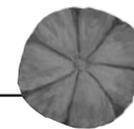
Stanley Wong*

Jennifer L. Wriley

19th Floor, 885 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, V6C 3H4
Telephone: (604) 891-3688 • Fax: (604) 891-3788
www.kkbl.com

*Denotes law corporation

Rosh Hashanah



Reboot helps take stock

Reboot's annual 10Q reflection project, which sends participants a question a day for 10 days will return for the 13th year this month. But, with the challenges, grief and fear of COVID-19 weighing heavily on the world, this year's 10Q will include additional questions to offer a space for exploring and preserving feelings and experiences of this unique time in a digital time capsule.

Each year, for 10 days, the 10Q project from the nonprofit Reboot captures daily insights, experiences and beliefs from tens of thousands of people, many of whom have been participating since 10Q's founding in 2008 and have amassed a personal archive.

"It has been found again and again that, when difficult circumstances hit, the simple experience of taking a pen and paper and allowing our inner voice to speak through our pens is in itself a healing and regenerative act," said Nicola Behrman, 10Q co-founder (in partnership with writer Ben Greenman and educator Amelia Klein). "We know from 13 years of answers just how meaningful the 10Q experience is for so many, but, this year, when the foundation of everyday life has shifted so seismically and we are desperately attempting to find meaning in the madness, this simple act of reflection is both anchoring and essential."

For 10 days, starting Sept. 18, and coinciding with the traditional period of reflection during the High Holidays, participants of all backgrounds will get the 10Q questions by email, leading them to their private digital portal, where the answers will be stored. The annual 10Q questions are not intrinsically religious and are focused on life, personal goals, plans for the future, relationships, our place in the world and more.

The answers are returned to participants the next year before the project starts again. The 10Q vault serves as a digital time capsule, and answers to the new questions will serve as a chronicle of experiences through COVID-19 that can also be shared by participants with future generations. For some people, this is a one-time experience; for others, 10Q has created an annual tradition of building a personal archive for future years and mapping personal growth.

Although the project is rooted in the Jewish idea of ethical wills and runs during the 10 days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, in the last decade, more than 70,000 people of all backgrounds and ages have turned to 10Q for a meaningful and modern spin on the centuries-old tradition of introspection, atonement and self-change during the High Holidays. The questions have scrolled on the jumbo screens at Times Square in New York City and on the Las Vegas Strip.

"It has never felt so important to pause and reflect on ourselves and the world around us," said Reboot chief executive officer David Katznelson. "We are living in such a unique moment of human history, a moment that is worth turning to the individual to ask big questions about what we can learn to take us into the future."

To find out more about 10Q and to register, go to doyou10q.com. Find out more about Reboot at rebooters.net.

— Courtesy Reboot

CERTAINTY from page 33

Difference that I do not, is rejected and ostracized as my enemy. I and my certainty are the ultimate arbiters of who is in and who is out, who is valued and who is not, who is to be cared for and who is not, who is to be respected and who vilified.

It is tolerance, the often-derided category, that is most absent in much of contemporary social discourse. One does not tolerate that which one values, but rather that which one thinks is wrong. Tolerance can only take root in those places where we are able to relinquish our claim to certainty. Why tolerate that which I believe to be wrong? Because I know it is possible that my belief may also be wrong. Because I believe that truth, knowledge and enlightenment will only grow when I expose my certainty to the critique of others; when I am open to learn from others' truths, knowledge and experience.

Why tolerate that which I believe to be wrong? Because I and those like me do not have a monopoly over the "true" identity of our society. It is

theirs just as much as it is ours. We are destined to live with those who believe and do that which we hold to be intolerable. In some cases, judgment of deviance is both called for and necessary and, without boundaries, our societies will dissolve and lose any purpose, meaning and identity.

Which difference do we tolerate, and which do we not, is the question. The sin of certainty both blinds us to this question and renders us incapable of such discernment. The price? The price is the dysfunctional harmful social discourse and behaviour dominating our lives today.

"Our God and God of our ancestors, we are neither so insolent nor so obstinate as to claim in Your presence we are certain." ❏

Rabbi Dr. Donniel Hartman is president of the Shalom Hartman Institute and author of the 2016 book *Putting God Second: How to Save Religion from Itself*. Articles by Hartman and other institute scholars can be found at shalomhartman.org.

Warmest wishes
to the entire Jewish community
for a Happy New Year!

NEMETZ S/A & ASSOCIATES LTD.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
including lighting, communications & security



2009 WEST 4TH AVENUE
VANCOUVER, B.C. V6J 1N3
BUS: (604) 736-6562 • FAX: (604) 736-9805
www.nemetz.com

Happy New Year!

EQUITABLE
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT CORP LTD.



PROVIDING OFFICE SPACE
IN SOME OF VANCOUVER'S
FINEST HERITAGE BUILDINGS.

SARAH FORSETH
MARK RAHAL

604-683-7571



Best wishes to all for a Happy New Year!



- Emergency Road Service
- Battery Boost & Unlocking
- I.C.B.C. Accident Towing
- Local, Long Distance - Storage
- Specialty Vehicle Transport
- Private Impounds and Signs
- Free Scrap Car Removal
- Motor Bike Trailer
- Discount - Auto Clubs & Seniors
- 50 Ton Truck Available!
- Specialize in all Kinds of Towing
- Specialty Decks Available

Big & Small - We Tow Them All! Contractor for the City of Vancouver
• B.C. • Alberta • Washington • Oregon
• Greater Vancouver • Fraser Valley



604-685-8181

IMPOUND LOT
435 Industrial Ave., Vancouver



Website:
www.busterstowing.com

BY-LAW IMPOUND
Ph. # 604-685-7246

L'Shana Tova 5781

Wishing you a happy & healthy New Year
Thank You for your continued support!

VARIETY WEEK



SEPTEMBER 14 - 18



Tune in to Global BC's
newscasts and meet the
children who Variety has
helped while experiencing
 firsthand how their lives
have changed as a result!

Kids need your help! Your donation will be matched
Call 310-KIDS or donate online at variety.bc.ca



FOLLOW US ON
Social Media

Be part of the
JewishIndie
community



Jewish Independent
Formerly the
Jewish Western
Bulletin

604-689-1520 • subscriptions@jewishindependent.ca



RICHMOND
COUNTRY CLUB 1958

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

Best wishes for a
Happy New Year

Membership has its privileges

It is rare to find a country club community that caters to every member of the family, but that's life at the **RICHMOND COUNTRY CLUB**.

RICHMOND COUNTRY CLUB has created some new membership avenues; one of which could be of particular interest to some of our former members, as the number of family members included under a membership has been expanded to include new, additional generations.

Contact us at membership@richmondcc.ca or 604.277.3141
for additional information or to request a membership inquiry package!



Personal Greetings

Shana Tova
U'metuka



YOSEF WOSK
Avi, Rahel & Shevi

Shana Tovah!

from
Lila Quastel
and Family

NOEMI AND BILL
GRUENTHAL & FAMILY

Wish all their friends
A Very Happy and Healthy
New Year

*A Happy and Prosperous New Year
To All Our Friends*

Charlens and Dhorea,
Harel, Mondy and
Allen Challmie

Mel and Geri Davis
& Family

Wish All Their Relatives and
Friends A Year of Peace,
Happiness and Prosperity

*Best Wishes for a Happy
and Healthy New Year*

Lee and Bernie
Simpson and Family

Ilene-Jo Bellas

Would like to wish
her friends and family
a Happy & Healthy
New Year

*Best Wishes for a happy, healthy
& peaceful New Year*

Robert and Marilyn
Krell & Family

*To all our Relatives, Friends and
Members of Our Community,
May You Have Good Health, Happiness and
Peace Throughout the New Year*

SYLVIA CRISTALL
& FAMILY

*Happy Rosh Hashanah to all of
our family & friends. Wishing you
health, happiness & prosperity.*

ARTHUR CHINKIS,
BORIS CHENKIS
AND FAMILY

MR. & MRS. MARK & SYLVIE
EPSTEIN & FAMILY

Wish their Family and Friends,
Health, Peace & Happiness
in the New Year
Shana Tovah

May This Year Bring Good Health,
Happiness and Prosperity to All

DEBRA, MARTIN AND JARED DAVIS;
SHAYNA AND TRAVIS AND
CHLOE, DAMON AND ELISE KERSHAW

*May we know peace this year,
and always.
To family, friends, colleagues,
and all humankind, I wish a Healthy
and Happy New Year!*

Lorne Prupas

Karen Ginsberg, Ted Ramsay
and Family

Wish Everyone
A Happy and Healthy
New Year

Accidental Balabusta



Foods that babas made

SHELLEY CIVKIN

I'm here to boldly encourage you to try something entirely different at your Rosh Hashanah table this year. No, not a pony. A new food. Serve it, to non-vegetarians. And, if anybody asks what they're eating, confidently tell them it's a family secret. Don't forget to mention that, if you tell them, you'll have to kill them. That generally stops people in their nosy tracks. Let me be perfectly transparent: the food I'm about to suggest is on the meat spectrum. Alright, meat adjacent.

Isn't it enough that everyone's oohing and ahing over the unparalleled tenderness of the dish? The specifics are strictly on a need-to-know basis. And no one needs to know. Except your butcher. OK, enough. It's beef tongue. You heard correctly. I'm aware it's not politically correct – after all, some farmer is clearly stifling free speech. Even if it only belongs to a cow. (And, technically, they can't speak anyway. So moot point.)

Just so we're clear, beef tongue is definitely not vegan. Or vegetarian-friendly. Not by a New York mile. I'm simply providing you with an alternative to screaming chicken, Coca-Cola brisket and mayo-splattered, onion soup-mix salmon.

I know that beef tongue screams old school (and Council cookbook). But so do I. And, if we're going to be honest about it, people are still enthusiastically scarfing down ketchup-glazed meatloaf and baked salami filled with French's mustard. They're just not yelling it from the rooftops. So, loosen up and try thinking of beef tongue as a distant relative. Second cousin twice removed. Only maybe a little farther. But, still, meat mishpachah.

Before you pooh-pooh it, give it a shot. At least Google it and see what other Jews have to say about it. Most delis sell it pickled. But, believe me, pickled tongue has nothing on the sweet and sour version. Personally, I prefer to just boil it, cool it and eat it in a sandwich. With yellow mustard. On white bread. I can see the lynch mob in the distance.

The cooking part is where it gets tricky. If you're a man, chances are you can't relate to what I'm about to describe. You ladies, on the other hand, will understand perfectly. The cooking *per se* is easy (see recipe below). The next part is where it gets awkward. Once it's cooked, you need to peel off the rubbery outside skin: think of taking off a pair of too-thick, too-tight pantyhose. That are wet. And it's a hot, humid day. Not a particularly appealing visual, but it's fairly accurate hyperbole.

Trust me when I tell you that your family/guests will be drooling all over themselves, demanding the recipe – if they can get past the sordid cooking details. Without further ado, here goes. And don't be fooled by the simplicity of the recipe. You're welcome.

SWEET AND SOUR BEEF TONGUE

1 beef tongue
2 onions, peeled and quartered
3 cloves garlic, peeled and halved
2 bay leaves

15 oz can of tomato sauce
15 oz water

3/4 cup brown sugar
juice of 1 lemon
1/2 cup sultana or dark raisins
dash of Worcestershire sauce
(optional)
salt and pepper

Put the tongue and the rest of the ingredients into a deep pot with enough water to cover it well. Bring to a boil and simmer partly covered for about three-and-a-half hours, until tender when pierced with a fork. As it's cooking, skim off the shmootz that forms on top. When tender, remove from the water. While it's still warm, remove the skin (see detailed, gross description above), bones and stem. Slice and serve as is, or slice and serve with the sweet and sour sauce.

At the end of the day, a well-cooked beef tongue is all you need and nothing you don't. But, I get that some of you are disgusted at the thought of eating tongue. So, for you finicky folks, I offer up another old school recipe – short ribs. This one is decades old and was handed down from my father's cousin, Bertha Bloom. Nobody said it was diet food, so, if you're not fussy about calories, go for it. Short ribs are notorious for being fatty, but therein lies most of their charm. Alright, all of their charm. You'll diet tomorrow. And, hopefully, not die of clogged arteries tonight. But, have your cardiologist on speed dial, just in case.

BERT BLOOM'S BARBEQUE SHORT RIBS

Season two pounds of short ribs with salt, pepper and garlic salt then broil them until brown and half cooked. Transfer them to a covered Dutch oven (or similar deep roasting pan). For the sauce:

1 cup chili sauce
1/4 cup ketchup
4 tsp dry mustard
1/2 cup brown sugar
1 clove garlic, crushed
1 tbsp soy sauce
small tin of crushed pineapple

Mix the ingredients together – including the juice from the pineapple tin, but not the pineapple – put in a pot and bring to a boil. Pour the sauce over the ribs and cook covered at 300°F to 325°F for one-and-a-half to two hours, basting occasionally. Add the crushed pineapple 20 minutes before it's finished cooking and leave uncovered. Prepare to be awed by the yumminess factor.

For your guests who prefer healthy food, you may want to direct them elsewhere for Rosh Hashanah dinner. Or, if you're a really nice and accommodating host, make them a marinated tofu mock-roast. Or a Tofurkey. But, for those of you indulging in the short ribs, now might be a good time to loosen your belt or unzip your skirt, and prepare to stuff your belly. It's Rosh Hashanah. Celebrate with some new arterial stents! Tell Dr. Saul I sent you. ♣

Shelley Civkin, aka the Accidental Balabusta, is a happily retired librarian and communications officer. For 17 years, she wrote a weekly book review column for the Richmond Review. She's currently a freelance writer and volunteer.



A history of sweetness

SYBIL KAPLAN

Although beekeeping as an occupation is not mentioned in the Bible, bees are mentioned four times, honeycombs are referred to eight times and honey is referred to 26 times. Archeologists actually have discovered proof that there was beekeeping and honey 3,000 years ago in a site in northern Israel.

Among Ashkenazim, sweet desserts for Rosh Hashanah are customary, particularly *lekach*, or honey cake, and *teiglach*, a hard, doughy, honey and nut cookie. Some say the origin of the sweets comes from a passage in the book of Hosea mentioning “love cakes of raisins.” There is also a passage in II Samuel, which talks about the multitude of Israel, “to everyone a cake of bread and a cake made in a pan and a sweet cake.”

It was Ezra, the fifth-century BCE religious leader who was commissioned by the Persian king to direct Jewish affairs in Judea, and Nehemiah, a political leader and cup bearer of the king in the fifth century BCE, who told the returning exiles to eat and drink sweet things.

Honey cakes traditionally include honey, spices, coffee and brown sugar as major ingredients, but some contain cognac, brandy, orange or lemon peel and nuts. In Curaçao, for example, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, raisins, nuts or currants, lemon or orange peel is added. In Zimbabwe, Jews include allspice, cinnamon, cloves, raisins, chopped nuts, brandy and chopped candied fruit in their honey cake.

In *That Hungarian's in My Kitchen*, Linda Radke includes a Hungarian recipe from her family, which includes the basic ingredients and orange juice. A cookbook of Russian recipes includes a Ukrainian honey cake, *medivik*, with the basic ingredients as well as cardamom, orange peel, raisins, walnuts and apricots.

In *The Jewish Book of Food*, Claudia Roden writes that honey cake was a favourite in Germany as far back as the Middle Ages, and that *lebkuchen*, honey gingerbread, was also mentioned as early as the 12th century.

According to John Cooper in *Eat and Be Satisfied: A Social History of Jewish Food*, references to honey cake were made in the 12th century by a French sage, Simcha of Vitry, author of the *Machzor Vitry*, and by German rabbi Eleazar Judah ben Kalonymos. Cooper writes that, on the new moon in the month of Nissan, boys at Jewish school were given *honig lekach*, honey cake: “Originally, the names of angels were inscribed on the honey cake and amulets were attached to them, but later this practice was discarded.” According to Cooper, the words *lebkuchen* and *lekach* probably came to be related to the German word for lick, *lecke*.

By the 16th century, *lekach* was known as a Rosh Hashanah sweet. It also became popular for other lifecycle celebrations, such as betrothals and weddings. Malvina W. Liebman

writes in *Jewish Cooking from Boston to Baghdad* that Crypto-Jews in 16th-century Latin America ate honey cake at weddings, in memory of the honeycomb that an angel gave to Asenath when she married Joseph.

In *The Complete International Jewish Cookbook*, Evelyn Rose (z”l), a maven of Jewish cooking from England, wrote that the first cakes made with artificial raising agents were honey cake, and honey was the chosen sweetener because sugar was not widely available until the end of the 19th century. As an aside, she also recommends keeping a honey cake in a closed container for a week before serving it, so it will “mature.”

Among the Chassidim, it was customary for the rebbe to distribute *lekach* to his followers, and others would request a piece of honey cake from one another on Erev Yom Kippur. This transaction symbolized a substitute for any charity the person might choose to receive.

Gil Marks (z”l), in *The World of Jewish Desserts*, says *studen*, a layered yeast cake, was traditional for Rosh Hashanah among Franco-German Jews. Made with a cheese filling, it could be eaten after a meat meal, since they only waited one hour between meat and dairy. *Strudel*, from the German word for whirlpool, was also common for Rosh Hashanah among European Jews.

The most traditional cookie for Rosh Hashanah is *teiglach*, the dough pieces dropped into a hot honey syrup and simmered until brown then left to cool. It has been suggested that this Eastern European sweet was probably invented by some housewife who had dough left over and dropped the pieces into a boiling honey syrup.

Many Jews of Sephardi background make *tishpishiti* for Rosh Hashanah. This cake with walnuts, almonds, hazelnuts or pecans, has a hot syrup poured over it. The syrup can be made with sugar, water and liqueur, according to Rabbi Robert Sternberg in *The Sephardic Kitchen*. Sternberg also points to *rodanchas* as a popular Sephardi Rosh Hashanah sweet. These spiral-shaped pastries of phyllo dough contain a pumpkin or squash filling because these vegetables and their shape symbolize the cycle of life and the ascent of the soul into heaven.

Here are some honey cakes to try this year.

TISHPISHTI

Jews who lived in Turkey after being expelled from Spain in 1492 adopted this dish, whose name means “quick and done.” Some say it was always served on Rosh Hashanah, but it was also popular for Passover because it has no flour.

2 cups ground almonds, hazelnuts, pistachios or walnuts
1 cup cake meal
1 tsp ground cinnamon
1/2 tsp ground cloves or allspice
6 separated eggs
1 cup sugar



2 tbsp orange juice
1/2 cup vegetable oil
1 tbsp grated lemon or orange peel

3/4 cup honey
1/2 cup sugar
2/3 cup water
1/4 cup lemon juice

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease a rectangular baking pan.

2. In a mixing bowl, combine nuts, cake meal, cinnamon and cloves or allspice.

3. In another bowl, beat egg yolks with sugar. Add to nut mixture along with orange juice, oil and lemon or orange peel.

4. Beat egg whites in another bowl until stiff. Fold into batter. Pour into cake pan and bake 45 minutes.

5. Place honey, sugar, water and lemon juice in a saucepan. Stir until sugar dissolves. Increase heat, bring to a boil and cook for one minute. Let cool.

6. Cut cake into squares or diamonds. Drizzle syrup over cake. Serve warm or at room temperature.

MOM'S HONEY LOAF CAKE

I don't recall my mom baking this, but it was in my collection of recipes as being hers.

3 1/2 cups flour
1/4 tsp salt
1 1/2 tsp baking powder
1 tsp baking soda
1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
1/8 tsp ground cloves
1/2 tsp ground ginger
1/4 tsp ground nutmeg
4 eggs
3/4 cup sugar
1/4 cup vegetable oil

2 cups honey
1/2 cup strong coffee
1/2 cup raisins
1/2 cup chopped nuts

1. Preheat oven to 325°F. Grease two loaf pans or a rectangular baking pan.

2. Combine in a bowl flour, salt, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, cloves, ginger and nutmeg.

3. Beat eggs and sugar in another bowl until fluffy. Add oil, honey and coffee.

4. Stir in flour mixture. Add raisins and nuts. Pour into pans. Bake for 1.5 hours. ♣

Sybil Kaplan is a journalist, lecturer, book reviewer and food writer in Jerusalem. She created and leads the weekly English-language Shuk Walks in Machane Yehuda, she has compiled and edited nine kosher cookbooks, and is the author of Witness to History: Ten Years as a Woman Journalist in Israel.



REID BROTHERS
 PLUMBING & HEATING LTD



40th year

ANNIVERSARY

Best wishes for a Happy New Year!

Reid Brothers Plumbing & Heating Ltd. has been providing plumbing, heating and air conditioning to Greater Vancouver since 1976. Our highly trained staff take pride in providing the best service to our customers.

Call for sales or service 604-263-0323

Monday to Friday from 8:00am to 4:30pm and Saturday 8:00am to 3:00pm
 (Emergency services are available 24 hours per day).

1636 West 75th Ave, Vancouver



www.reidbrothers.ca

Help us keep the // on the newsstands

604-689-1520 or
jewishindependent.ca/support-the-ji



Best wishes for a Happy New Year!



AIR CONDITIONING

HEATING • CONTROLS

REFRIGERATION • RENTALS

604-436-3144

24HRS.

arctic_air91@yahoo.com

Enjoy your apples and honey!

MICHAEL GOLDEN, Lawyer

Law Corporation

208-4250 Kingsway
Burnaby, British Columbia
Canada V5H 4T7

Tel: 604-439-2420
Fax: 604-435-2059
info@michaelgoldenlawyer.com

שנה טובה
from
*Mark, Susie, Jacqueline
and Amanda
Kierszenblat*



SUMMIT CUSTOM BROKERS

Custom Brokers & Consultants

- Customs Clearance
- Exports/Imports
- NAFTA
- Permits

Best wishes to all for a Happy New Year!

Head Office/Airport: 2060-5200 Miller Rd., Richmond, BC
Alrport 604-278-3551 Pacific Hwy. (Border): 604-538-8414
www.summitcb.com



Happy
New Year!

Cawley • Curran • Wong & Associates
Chartered Professional Accountants

Brian Cawley, CPA, CA

Unit M-9, 601 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4C2
Tel: 604-731-1191 • Fax: 604-731-3511 • bcawley@ccwcpa.ca
www.cawley.ca



**NAVA | CREATIVE
KOSHER CUISINE**

שנה טובה ומתקה

Wishing you a
Sweet New Year

604.676.7632 | catering@navacreative.com

Happy New Year!

CANAFORNIA
BUILDERS LTD.

Over 30 Years Experience
Family Owned & Operated

**Julio Piñeiro
Reg Piñeiro**

Cellular: (604) 970-4647

- Seismic Construction
- Structural Restorations
- Design-Build Projects
- New Construction
- Addition • Renovations
- Bath & Kitchen Remodelling
- Building Maintenance
- Architectural Millwork
- Finish Carpentry

Books



Stories that explore the mind

New translation offers glimpse into the work of Jonah Rosenfeld.

CYNTHIA RAMSAY

A husband competes with his oldest daughter for his wife's affections, a man ponders whether he is more attracted to a 10-year-old girl or her divorced older sister, a woman has an abortion she didn't necessarily want, a young man violently rebels against his abusive father. Jonah Rosenfeld tackles difficult subject matter in his short stories, with no compulsion to solve any particular problem or correct behaviours, but to explore the thoughts and feelings of his characters, and thereby offer insight into parts of humanity that we may shy away from contemplating. English readers can now access these stories and ideas, originally conceived in Yiddish, thanks to a newly published translation by Langara College's Rachel Mines.

The Rivals and Other Stories (Syracuse University Press, 2020) comprises 19 of Rosenfeld's stories. Born in Chartorysk, Russia (now, Chortorysk, Ukraine), the prolific writer lived from 1881 to 1944, immigrating in 1921 to New York, where he was a major contributor to the *Forverts*. In total, he wrote 20 volumes of short stories, a dozen plays and three novels. Rosenfeld's "stories provide a corrective to the typical understanding of Yiddish literature as sentimental or quaint," writes Mines in the book's press materials. "Although the stories were written decades ago for a Yiddish-speaking audience, they are surprisingly contemporary in flavour."

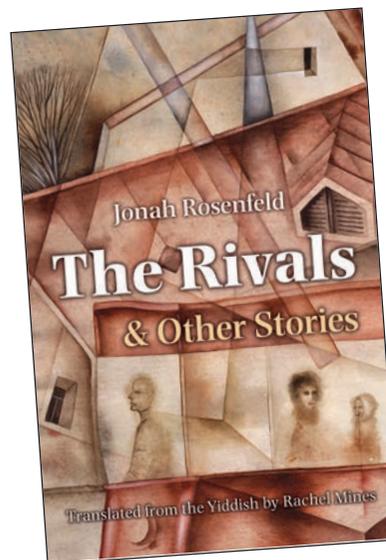
The first Rosenfeld story Mines read, in Yiddish, was *The Rivals* (*Konkwentn*), six or seven years ago. "I'd only been studying Yiddish for a few years at that point and was reading to improve my language skills," she said. "I was so impressed with the story that I decided, just for practice, to translate it into English. Later on, I found out that an English translation had already been published in [Irving] Howe and [Eliezer] Greenberg's *A Treasury of Yiddish Stories*, but, by then, I was hooked on both Rosenfeld and Yiddish translation."

Mines was a Yiddish Book Centre Translation Fellow in 2016 and *The Rivals* was her translation project during that fellowship year. "I'd already translated several stories before that, but 2016 was when everything started coming together in terms of improving my skills as a translator," she said.

The project was her own idea, not work assigned by the Yiddish

Book Centre, although the centre did support it.

"I should also mention," she added, "that Vancouver is a veritable hotbed of Yiddish translation (who knew?), with a number of active translators, all of whom have been helpful at various times. Helen Mintz, in particular, was a huge inspiration and support. Her book of translations, *Vilna My Vilna*, a collection of Abraham Karpinowitz's short stories, was



published (also by Syracuse UP) in 2017. Helen and I spent several years together on Skype, regularly workshopping each other's translations and helping each other out with advice and information. We're still doing that, in fact."

It is his exploration of the psyche that attracts Mines to Rosenfeld's work.

"I'm interested in psychology – always have been – and particularly in people's unconscious, and sometimes counterintuitive, reasons for thinking and behaving the way they do. So Rosenfeld's insight into the darker corners of the human mind was an instant draw. I should say that his stories stand up very well to many current theories of human thought and behaviour. For example, the protagonist of *The Rivals* is a classic malignant narcissist – he ticks all the boxes. It's interesting to note that Rosenfeld's story was first published in 1909, several years before Otto Rank's and Sigmund Freud's theories of narcissism came out. Rosenfeld was an intuitive psychologist, and a very perceptive one.

"Another reason Rosenfeld's stories appeal to me is that they work very well in a 21st-century, multicultural setting," she said. "I've

taught a number of the translations to first-year students at Langara, and students are attracted by his stories' takes on immigration, women's rights, male-female relationships, generational conflict, culture clash – this list goes on. Clearly, these ideas are as relevant today as they were when the stories were first written.

"Finally, I like Rosenfeld's attitudes to his characters, even the less admirable ones. He seems interested in and sympathetic to their dilemmas; as an author, he doesn't judge or blame his characters – he leaves that up to his readers. I like that Rosenfeld is more interested in exploring his character's situations and psychology than he is in blaming or moralizing."

Mines, who is retiring this year, taught in the English department at Langara College since 2001. One of the department's main offerings has been a first-year class on the short story, she said. "Around the time I started translating, I started introducing stories with a Jewish theme to my classes. A bit to my surprise, despite coming from non-Jewish backgrounds, my students found the stories interesting and engaging, so I gradually added more and more stories with Jewish content. The last few years, I've been teaching Rosenfeld's stories exclusively. My students love the stories and readily identify with (or at least understand) the characters and their predicaments. We've had many lively discussions!"

In an introductory chapter to *The Rivals*, Mines poses several questions she hopes keen PhD students or other researchers will take on, including where Rosenfeld's place might be in the American literary canon. With the disclaimer that she is "just a lowly translator," Mines said, "But, if pressed for an answer, I'd have to say it's Rosenfeld's psychological insights. He's not entirely unique – other Jewish and/or American authors of his time were psychologically astute and wrote compelling character studies. But Rosenfeld went a bit beyond, in that his stories are almost Greek tragedies – his protagonists fail in their quests (for love, belonging, security, etc.) not because of external forces, but because of some internal, self-defeating habit of thought that they may not be consciously aware of. Rosenfeld isn't the only author to explore this type of psychological dichotomy, but he does so very consistently." ❧

Please help keep the tradition alive!



Thank you so much to everyone who has given to the *Jewish Independent* over the years, and especially since COVID-19 hit. Donations allow us to keep producing an award-winning publication that is committed to building a vibrant, growing Jewish community by connecting members from across the religious and political spectrums – something no other organization can do. To continue this unique and important service, **we need community support.**

More stories, more lifecycle events, more arts and culture coverage, more local, national and international news – all of this requires more resources. To give you more, **we need your support.**

The *Jewish Independent* has kept subscription rates low, even as postage and other costs have increased, and we are now available at many locations throughout the Lower Mainland – for free. To remain affordable and accessible to all members of the community, **we need your support.**

The *Independent* has a long history of supporting and promoting the careers of authors, journalists, photographers, artists and academics in our community. We have featured and nurtured young talent, and continue to see our writers attain success, becoming contributors to such prestigious publications as the *Forward*, *Tablet* magazine and the *Jerusalem Post*. To ensure the future of high-quality Jewish journalism, **we need your support.**

The *Jewish Independent* and its predecessor comprise a vital part of the community's archive, providing the only consistent – and the most comprehensive – record of the community since 1930. For today's news to become tomorrow's documented history, **we need your support.**

Please note that we are not able to issue tax receipts. If you have any questions or wish to contribute to the future of the *Jewish Independent* in other ways, please contact publisher Cynthia Ramsay at 604-689-1520 or cramsay@jewishindependent.ca. **We need your support to keep the tradition alive.**

If you'd prefer to send us your donation by mail, please make your cheque payable to *Jewish Independent*, and send to:

Cynthia Ramsay, publisher
Jewish Independent
PO Box 47100 RPO City Square
Vancouver, B.C.
V5Z 4L6



jewishindependent.ca

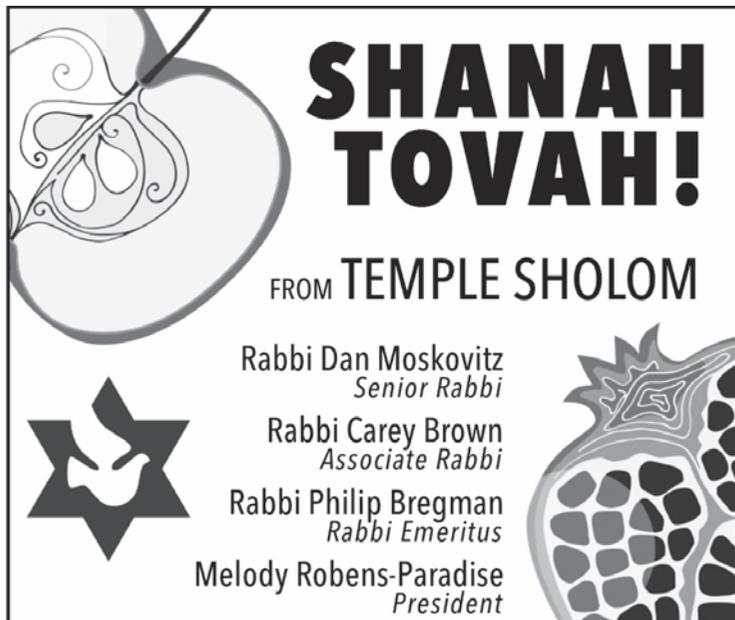
Happy New Year!

Web exPress
INC
PRINTING & MAILING

Need Something Printed? We can do it!
We are a Social Purpose company
empowering Liberty, Democracy, and
Community through Freedom
of Expression

Call Us Today for a Quote
1-1455 Brigantine Dr, Coquitlam, BC V3K 7C2
Tel: 604-526-8557

www.intwebexpress.com



SHANAH TOVAH!
FROM TEMPLE SHOLOM

Rabbi Dan Moskovitz
Senior Rabbi

Rabbi Carey Brown
Associate Rabbi

Rabbi Philip Bregman
Rabbi Emeritus

Melody Robens-Paradise
President

7190 Oak Street, Vancouver, BC, V6P 3Z9
604.266.7190 info@templesholom.ca
www.templesholom.ca

KZ EL Kahn Zack Ehrlich Lithwick
Barristers & Solicitors

604-270-9571
300-10991 Shellbridge Way
Richmond, B.C. V6X 3C6
www.kzellaw.com

Family Law
Civil Litigation
Personal Injury
Wills & Estates
Business & Commercial Law
Collaborative Divorce
Employment Law
Real Estate & Mortgages

Best wishes for a Happy New Year!



Have a Happy New Year!

Reliable Gun
Since 1950

ALL SHOOTERS SUPPLIES
LOADING COMPONENTS • GUN REPAIRS

T: 604-874-4710 • F: 604-874-4712 • TOLL FREE 1-800-407-5224
3227 Fraser St., Vancouver, BC V5V 4B8
www.reliablegun.com • Tues.-Fri. 9am-5:30pm • Sat. 9am-5pm

Books



A testament to free speech

PAT JOHNSON

A new book on an incendiary topic turns out to be not quite as expected. *The Conflict over the Conflict: The Israel/Palestine Campus Debate*, by Kenneth S. Stern, may be the most comprehensive assessment of the (at least) 20-year battle on North American campuses between pro-Israel and anti-Israel forces.

Jewish and pro-Israel readers picking up the work might anticipate a litany of horrors, anti-Zionist if not antisemitic incidents, brawls, screaming matches, vandalism, boycotts and the like. There is that. But Stern argues that the perception that campuses are aflame in anti-Zionist rage is simply not true. More, he offers proof that the pro-Israel side is far from innocent of engaging in disgraceful tactics, too. There is ill will and there are bad actors on both sides. Most unexpectedly, as much as the book is about the conflict, it is more than anything an exercise in applied ethics on the topic of free expression.

Stern is the director of the Bard Centre for the Study of Hate, an attorney and an author. For 25 years, he was the American Jewish Committee's expert on antisemitism and he was a lead drafter of the Working Definition of Antisemitism. He is also, it appears, something close to a free speech purist. As such, he rails against efforts by Israel advocates who have organized campaigns to censor (and censor) anti-Israel voices. He doesn't let the other side off easily, either, calling out acts of harassment like drowning out pro-Israel speakers with the "heckler's veto."

The book, from New Jewish Press, an imprint of University of Toronto Press, begins with an empirical assessment. In institutions of higher learning in the United States, Israel is an issue in very few, he writes.

When speaking with Jewish audiences, Stern asks for a show of hands to gauge perceptions on anti-Israel attitudes. He asks for guesses on how many American colleges have divested from Israel.

"Many seem surprised when I say 'zero,'" he writes. "There are relatively few campuses where Israel is a burning issue, and every year the number of pro-Israel programs ... is usually at least double the anti-Israel ones. There are over 4,000 campuses in the U.S. — in the 2017-18 academic year, 149 had anti-Israel activity.... So the campuses aren't burning."

He does not dismiss the extreme tensions on a few campuses, however.

"[O]n some campuses where anti-Israel activity is prominent, pro-Israel Jewish students may feel marginalized, dismissed or vilified, sometimes with antisemitic tropes." Identity politics and the conflation of Jewish people with "whiteness" creates racial conflict. "[T]he labeling of Jews as white becomes a problem when shared victimhood becomes a sacred symbol, a badge of honour, a precondition to enter a club of the oppressed. Antisemitic discrimination is rendered invisible."

Though bigotry may play a role in the discussion, Stern does not see constructive resolutions in neologisms like trigger warnings, safe spaces and microaggressions.

"Faculty should have the right to give trigger warnings if they want, but I never do, and I think the idea is a horrid one," he writes. "I teach *Mein Kampf*. It's disturbing — get over it. College should prepare one to be an adult, and there are no trigger warnings after graduation day. Why are we encouraging students to be ostriches? Shouldn't they, rather, be learning how to navigate things that will likely unsettle them over the rest of their lives?"

He quotes CNN commentator Van Jones, a strong civil rights proponent, who opposes "safe spaces" on campus: "I don't want you to be safe ideologically. I don't want you to be safe emotionally. I want you to be strong. That's different. I'm not going to pave the jungle for you. Put on some boots and learn how to deal with adversity. I'm not going to take the weights out of the gym. That's the whole point of the gym."

Stern contends a fundamental error has been made in defining terms.

"We want campuses that are open to expression — including, perhaps even especially, difficult and disturbing ideas — but which protect students from real harassment and intimidation. Hate speech codes were efforts to say that ideas themselves can harass and intimidate. Ideas can and should make one uncomfortable (a comfortable college education is a wasted college education). But harassment is something different."

Strategically, he argues, trying to censor hateful ideas is self-defeating and advances hate agents by martyring them.

"By trying to censor, rather than expose and combat, speech the students perceived as hateful, they were actually helping the alt-right and white supremacists," writes Stern. "It's no coincidence that the white nationalists in recent years have wrapped their racist and antisemitic messages around the concept of free speech. Why would progressives allow these haters to steal the bedrock democratic principle of free speech, disingenuously saying that this is what their fight is about? By trying to deny alleged racists platforms, progressives are helping white supremacists recast their vile message as noble protection of a right."

Another strategic failure, he argues,

Latham's

commercial/industrial
heating, air conditioning
& plumbing

Best wishes to all for a Happy New Year!

Service • Preventative Maintenance
Boilers • Gas • Tenant Renovations

Tel. **604-683-2321**
24 Hour Service

Providing a complete range of services to
commercial and industrial customers in BC since 1927



is buying into the Palestinian narrative's good/evil dichotomy.

"Israel's case is best understood as inherently complex and difficult; playing into the 'all bad' and 'all good' binary of the other side renders those complexities invisible," he writes.

The conflict on campus spills over, of course. Israel has created a list of 20 organizations, those that urge boycotts of the country, for instance, and bars their members from entering the country. Stern sees this as counter-productive: "You don't make the case that blacklists (especially of academics) are proper if your goal is to oppose blacklists. You are conceding the argument."

He gives an example of an anti-Israel campus activist who defends his group's refusal to meet with Zionists "over cookies and cake" because "you Jews, in all due respect, you wouldn't sit down with Nazis for tea and cake."

He also reflects on the "Standards of Partnership" adopted by Hillel International, the Jewish campus organization, which proscribe engaging with groups or individuals that deny Israel's right to exist, or who delegitimize, demonize or apply a double standard Israel, who support BDS or who exhibit "a pattern of disruptive behaviour towards campus events or guest speakers or foster an atmosphere of incivility."

Writes Stern: "For those who are not yet ideological soldiers, but want to learn more, and want to do it around their campus Hillel, what sense does it make that adults are telling them they can only bring in certain types of speakers? Yes, the adults defined BDS as hateful. But does it make sense to tell students they have to go elsewhere than the Jewish address on campus to hear about it firsthand from those who support it?"

The litany of bad behaviours on all sides of the ideological divide is likely to make readers of Stern's book uneasy, whether the reader is Zionist or anti-Zionist. But it is a rare and uncompromising testament to free expression that should give genuine free speech advocates an uplift, particularly in an era when ideologically driven regulation of expression and ideas, especially on campuses, has left many advocates of core liberal, academic values feeling beleaguered. ❏

Two compelling reads

CYNTHIA RAMSAY

Last year, I requested two books from Simon & Schuster Canada. Both contained strong female protagonists and stories that sounded compelling. While it took the pandemic slowdown before I had time to read them, I enjoyed both and would recommend them, albeit one with a caveat.

Let's start with the debut novel, the one I breezed through even though I found the premise tenuous. I wanted to know how Samantha M. Bailey's thriller *Woman on the Edge* ended, even as I cursed aloud at the two main characters – Nicole Markham, founder and head of a widely successful athletic wear company, and Morgan Kincaid, a woman who has rebuilt her life after her husband was caught swindling people and then killed himself.

For reasons not revealed initially, Nicole hands her baby to Morgan at a subway stop, then jumps to her death, though video of the incident makes it seem like Morgan may have taken the baby then pushed Nicole onto the tracks. Alternating between Morgan's attempt to clear her name and how Nicole came to give her baby to Morgan, the read is thrilling, even as it is too obviously contrived. At any point in time, a question or revelation from Nicole or Morgan could have shed light on their respective situations and cleared up critical matters. Yet, both women – unrealistically – keep their suspicions to themselves. The silences are necessary for the plot to work, so I chose to go where I was being led and relish the craziness of it all.

While there is no overt Jewish content in *Woman on the Edge*, Toronto-based writer and editor Bailey is Jewish. In her first novel, she shows a talent for creating dramatic tension, if not overall story structure. Despite its weaknesses, I found this novel a good escape read.

An absolute pleasure to read, and just as page-turning, is veteran author Alice Hoffman's latest novel, *The World That We Knew*, set during the Holocaust. In it, there is magic – the golem Ava, created by Ettie, the precocious daughter of a respected rabbi, to protect Lea – and more abstract, in the loyalty of Ava to Lea and the beautiful friendship that develops between Ava and a blue heron along their journey.

After her husband is murdered and her daughter Lea is almost raped, Hanni knows she must get Lea to Paris, but she herself cannot leave Berlin. So, she turns to the rabbi for help, but making a golem is risky business and he won't do it. Ettie, though, plans to escape with her younger sister, and Hanni's payment will help her do that. Ettie has observed her father at work, and is able to bring Ava into being. As Ava becomes more seemingly human, however, and forms a bond with the blue heron, the main tension of the novel arises – will her appreciation for her own life and its possibilities outweigh her responsibility to Lea?

Many other tensions and relationships mingle with history, which is sometimes pedantically told but always interesting. *The World That We Knew* is a well-woven and moving story that offers an understanding not only of the past but of the emotions that motivate us and the connections we make with one another. ❏

Best Wishes to All for a
Happy & Healthy
New Year
from the
Management & Staff

ROYAL LEPAGE
WESTSIDE

604-263-8800 (24 hours)

201 - 2107 WEST 40TH AVENUE
VANCOUVER, B.C. V6M 1W4

westside@royallepage.ca

IMPERIAL PADDOCK POOLS LTD

Serving the Lower Mainland
since 1951

Happy New Year!

WEEKLY POOL & SPA MAINTENANCE

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

ALL SERVICE AND REPAIRS &
EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION

PUMPS / FILTERS / HEATERS

NEW PLASTER/NEW TILE

604-291-7771

3795 William Street, Burnaby, BC V5C 3H8

Imperialpaddock.com

service@imperialpaddock.com

SALMON'S
TRANSFER LTD

MOVING SERVICES AT ITS BEST SINCE 1913

- Free Estimates
- Quality Service Award Winner
- Atlas Vanline Agent 50+ Years
- Local/Long Distance/Overseas
- Experienced Packing/Crating
- Discounted Moving Supplies
- Heated Clean Protected Storage
- Office Relocation
- Piano Moving Specialists

Call us today!

604-273-2921

Follow us on:

@salmonstransfer /salmonstransfer

www.salmonstransfer.com

Best wishes for a
Happy New Year!



BEST WISHES
TO ALL
FOR A HAPPY
NEW YEAR!

**NANCY
STERN** ARCHITECT
INCORPORATED
AIBC, MRAIC

- Residential
- Commercial

5975 Angus Drive
Vancouver, B.C.
V6M 3M9

Tel: 604-877-0861

Fax: 604-877-0398

nancy@sternarchitect.com

Eye Glasses
Sunglasses
Contact Lenses
Eyewear Accessories
Specialty Children's Eyewear

SPECTACLE
SHOPPE



Since 1967, Leo Franken and his staff
have been providing luxury glasses
that make a statement.

Great design,
quality craftsmanship
and
fabulous style.

Come in and let us help you find
the perfect look.

Happy New Year!

5683 W Boulevard, Kerrisdale
604-263-2628 | www.spectacleshoppe.ca

Starting repair process

Among the many things this year has brought us is a reconsideration of race, equality and justice, spurred in part by racism and racially motivated violence, not least that perpetrated by police. In response, the Jewish community, locally and in the United States and beyond, is engaged in a discussion about how to respond as individuals and as a community.

Jews have long been involved in advancing racial equality and other progressive issues. Hundreds of U.S. Jewish organizations and individuals recently signed on to a message of support for the Black Lives Matter movement, despite some concerns by some about antisemitism in small parts of that movement. What too few have done, as we read the news from Kenosha or Louisville or other cities roiled by racist and civil unrest, is consider the issue from a perspective that is closer to home.

Earlier this year, three Jews of colour began a modest movement to specifically raise this topic more visibly, forming a group called No Silence on Race, which issued an open letter “from Black Jews, non-Black Jews of colour and our allies to Jewish organizations in Canada.” (See story at jewishindependent.ca/working-to-advance-equality and their website, nosilenceonrace.ca.) The letter asked organizations in the community to take tangible steps based on nine pillars they outlined: allyship, education, Indigenous education, equity consultancy, employment, anti-racism advisory, JOC leadership, programming and partnerships, and JOC voices. The *Jewish Independent* endorses this letter.

The letter requested that organizations in the community consider making a statement detailing tangible ways they will seek to hear, engage with and empower Jewish people of colour. In response, the editorial board of the *Independent* has met as a group and also individually considered these issues. We offer this statement in an effort to voice our commitment to equity and justice for Jews of colour within our community and within the specific scope of our own organization, the community newspaper of Jewish British Columbians. We believe that not all nine pillars are specifically applicable to the unique role that a news platform plays in the community, though as we proceed along this process, we remain open to reconsidering all assumptions.

In demonstrating allyship, in particular, there are several specific, tangible, realizable goals we have identified and to which we commit to undertake. These include:

1. Redoubling our efforts to feature stories involving Jews of colour, their experiences, lives, accomplishments, challenges, specific issues, and events, as well as addressing intra-community

conflicts and reconciliations between Jews of colour and the broader Jewish community;

2. Continuing to advance a model of journalism that encourages reconciliation between Indigenous Canadians, Jews and all Canadians;

3. Intentionally holding space for new and less frequently heard voices, including prioritizing writers who are Jews of colour and gender-diverse people, and actively seek out such voices, recognizing the deep well of experience and expression that has not traditionally been heard or amplified;

4. Partnering with, and encouraging others to partner with, individuals and organizations that elevate a diverse range of Jewish diasporas, histories and lived experiences;

5. Undertaking to learn and exemplify diverse ways to understand language, gender, ability and other forms of human difference;

6. Amplifying, through our coverage, resources from other community organizations dedicated to these goals, in the interest of education and sharing resources;

7. Encouraging, in our reporting and commentary, inclusive and progressive decision-making around community allocations and fundraising, and engaging in educating about a vision of community philanthropy that advances these objectives.

We make these commitments conscious of our shortcomings as individuals and as a small, struggling community institution, and strive for their fruition to the best of our abilities.

We recognize and appreciate the emotional labour required by Jews of colour, and of others who are self-advocating, and will strive to minimize this burden through self-education and using existing resources that do not place added demands on individuals and organizations engaged in this critical work.

You are likely reading this still in the Jewish month of Elul, traditionally a time to reflect on our actions over the year and to ready ourselves for the power of the High Holidays. Indeed, the Jewish concept of *teshuvah*, of atonement, literally “return,” provides a roadmap for doing things differently and better. For those transgressions between people, wrongs must be righted and forgiveness is only possible from the person we’ve harmed. We invite you – individuals and community institutions alike – to join us as we use this time to consider specific, actionable ways each of us may take responsibility for repairing any damage we may have done to beloved members of our community who have been excluded, questioned, silenced, marginalized or otherwise made to feel outside. At the *Independent*, we do this reflection and the work of repair with joy and a sense of purpose. Wishing each one of you a *shana tova u’metuka*, a good and sweet year. ❧

More positives than expected

JOANNE SEIFF

We often use the High Holidays for self-reflection. Consider, we’re urged, the year that has passed and the future. For me, the pandemic and its uncertainty has made me less focused on the year to come. Instead, I’ve been taking a positive accounting of things I’ve experienced this year – and it’s actually quite a lot.

First, there’s been more time for our family to do Jewish learning and “attend” synagogue at home. It’s been easy to turn on Saturday morning services or a special lecture or a concert and expose the family to more Jewish content. The internet has made us feel welcome everywhere. This huge leap ahead of what we often got out of “business as usual,” pre-pandemic.

Learning in general has changed. As someone who used to teach, I was wary of homeschooling. To be fair, I’ve met some very bright kids who’ve been homeschooled. I’ve also met some odd folks, so focused on their (often evangelical) religious views that it got in the way of making other connections. As but one example, once, I drove with my husband to visit a local farm that advertised sheep fleeces for sale. I’m a hand spinner, and we thought the drive would be fun. I met a large family living in a series of run-down buildings and trailers, wearing an interesting assortment of “traditional” clothing. These isolated, homeschooled evangelical kids led me into a trailer full of both wool and waps, all eagerly telling me about their visions of the end-times. I left with some wool, but only because my husband and I couldn’t find any other way to politely extricate ourselves.

I’d been scared that, if I ever homeschooled my kids, it would become claustrophobic, bad for the kids and hard for me to catch a break. This was the case when remote schooling started in March. Getting the kids onto the online school meetings and keeping things afloat with a poor internet connection and somewhat spotty assignments from teachers was awful.

When school ended, we were relieved. I kept doing some learning with them each morning, though. Reading, math, cursive, Duolingo (online language learning for Hebrew), art, architecture and design, music and science/STEM learning have kept us busy, along with long

walks, playing outside, swimming and more. Sure, I don’t have much alone time. Time for work (or even work to do!) has been limited, but that’s OK, in the circumstances.

Our kids are supposed to go back to school in person this fall, and we’ll see how long that lasts. I don’t dread homeschooling as much now. Setting our own agenda resulted in kids who may be more socially isolated, but they’ve learned a lot. They read better now in two languages, and their math has improved.

Disconnecting from the school-extracurricular activities-synagogue cycle hasn’t been bad either. Those demands came with a lot of pressure. The need to keep up, fit in, afford it and get there on time is stressful. It is easier to practise piano, play soccer in the yard or turn on the services via Zoom than to get to everything in person. Further, there’s no weird social interaction with other families about what we’re wearing, or just how hip we are. (We’re so not hip.)

Making things ourselves has been a mostly good, too – lots of cooking and other activities. Last fall, I started using my sewing machine, after years off. I took sewing lessons as a kid but never gained confidence. Pre-pandemic, I’d sewn myself a few things and remembered how to do this. Returning to it has been a great gift. I’ve figured out making masks, fixing and making clothing. Better still, because of the pandemic, I’ve been able to shop for supplies online and support small businesses selling sustainable or deadstock fabrics. I didn’t have time to go shopping for this stuff in person before the pandemic. Now, most everything is online. I can make plans for kid pajama pants, and dresses and pants for myself, in the future.

We’ve enjoyed some amazing concerts, held outdoors on our block. A talented musician/producer neighbour with a big front porch invites guests to come set up chairs and blankets, social distance and enjoy. Musicians perform for donations, and we all benefit. We’ve heard baroque, classical, flamenco, jazz, old-time and folk. If we sometimes can’t get outside as a family to hear it, the music floats up into our second-storey windows when the wind blows the right way.

Art has blossomed, not only in our family’s projects, but at the “little free art box,” which is run by an artist in

the area. Much like a Little Free Library, one can open the box, take art or put art inside for others. We’ve shared kid watercolours and my hand-spun yarn, and received gorgeous charcoal sketches, pen and ink, and other delights. We’ve traded and celebrated the skills of others nearby. Our diverse community is rich with talent.

None of these small positive things can compensate for the many deaths and illnesses of COVID-19, nor the economic devastation to so many businesses and workers. The downsides this year have been huge. However, last night, I watched as my kids created a caravan on the blanket spread on the grass. We were listening to live music, as my mind leapt to the text I’d been learning from *Daf Yomi* (a page of Talmud a day). The rabbis are trying to explain how to make a temporary boundary around a caravan as one traveled and camped on Shabbat. They mentioned using saddles and camels, and debated how much space each person might need.

The blanket caravan consisted of several toy trains and hard plastic rhinos and elephants, lined up nose to tail in a circle. The tractate Eruvin is about boundaries – what boundaries make it safe to carry on Shabbat? In the time of coronavirus, I was transported to a different kind of caravan and boundary. Our families have “circled the wagons.” We’ve been forced to stay put and look inwards – but also to be outdoors. What value can be found in these new enforced boundaries? What positive things can come from those necessary restrictions? In our house, we can say that art, music, handmade creations and learning can be celebrated as we finish 5780 and begin 5781. It’s been a valuable time, even as illness, hardship, fear and sadness danced at the edges of every day’s newscast.

From my (socially distanced) house to yours – may we all have a happy and sweet new year, full of creation, positivity and, most importantly, good health. ❧

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 2015-2016*, a collection of essays available for digital download or as a paperback from Amazon. Check her out on Instagram @yrnsspinner or at joanneseiff.blogspot.com.

Correction

In the article, “Holidays unlike any before” (*Jewish Independent*, Aug. 28), it was mistakenly written that Or Shalom is affiliated with the Reconstructionist movement. In fact, it is affiliated with the Jewish Renewal movement.

Please note that due to the COVID pandemic, the *J* will be publishing twice a month:
Sept. 25 Entertainment / Milestones
Oct. 9 Finance & Law • Oct. 30 Milestones
Nov. 13 Generations • Nov. 27 Gift Guide / Milestones
Dec. 4 Chanukah / Gift Guide
Dec. 18 Camp Guide #1 / Milestones

Community stronger

JUDY ZELIKOVITZ

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

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

In 5780, the challenges were many, and our community met them with an empowering, inspiring and united response. When urgent help was needed, social service agencies and not-for-profits mobilized, delivering food, providing services remotely and offering support to those who needed it most. Jewish federations shifted their focus to emergency fundraising campaigns to meet the immediate needs of agencies on the frontlines, ensuring that the changing needs of our most vulnerable were met.

When COVID-19 hit, Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver immediately released \$505,000 in emergency funds to meet these urgent needs and continues working with donors to generate additional funds for community recovery. CIJA advocated for the inclusion of not-for-profits in government support programs, such as the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, and helped ensure that Jewish schools were eligible. Volunteers mobilized by the thousands, responding to calls for assistance, helping the many seriously impacted by COVID-19.

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

As we renew our talk of new beginnings at the conclusion of a year defined by uncertainty, many won-

der: how can we plan for the year ahead?

For 5781, we must change our approach and, instead of planning according to dates on a calendar, look at our character for the coming year. As Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz z"l, wrote, "This does not mean, however, that, on Rosh Hashanah, one should make plans for the whole year. That would be impossible... What one should do on this day is form a general picture of what ought to be the character and direction of this year."

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

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

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

Judy Zelikovitz is vice-president, university and local partner services, at the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs.

Depression insidious

DOLORES LUBER

It was mid-March. All I had been hearing and seeing on the news were the words and images related to contagion, epidemic, China's wet markets, people enjoying the delicacy of cooked bats, pandemic and COVID-19. It was getting louder and closer, somehow it traveled from China across the Pacific to Vancouver. We were now dealing with the pandemic in Vancouver, we were in lockdown, even if the government never called it that.

In a flash, my household emptied out. My housemate, a University of British Columbia student, went back home; all her courses were now online. My boarder, a psychiatric nurse, scared of catching the virus and infecting me and her immunocompromised partner, took a six-month leave of absence from her work and joined him on a sailboat off the coast of Vancouver Island. I cleaned and organized and then it hit me – I was alone in the house with my Standard Poodle puppy Kesem. His name means "magic" in Hebrew and he truly is a wonderful companion, but...

Lockdown, what was that? We all had to create our own version. I maintained my Hebrew classes by means of Zoom, I continued working out with two personal trainers in my home gym. We did not touch each other. I went to the off-leash dog park every afternoon. We practised social distancing.

Then, a classmate of mine became hospitalized with the virus – I had not seen her for 10 days. I isolated myself for an additional week, not one of our group became ill. She is the only one I know who has contracted the virus. I was feeling proud of myself, I was managing well. As the editor-in-chief, I had produced the July edition of *Senior Line* magazine for Jewish Seniors Alliance on schedule. It was a labour of love, responding to the pandemic and the issues of the times. Everything was under control.

July 22 is my birthday. At the beginning of July, I began to feel very lonely. I had not seen any of my four sons, daughters-in-law or nine grandchildren for a long time. The planned family reunion in Oakville, Ont., was an event I had been looking forward to. My children had grown up in Beaconsfield, Que., and my youngest son had organized a fabulous get-together of all his friends who lived in the neighbourhood during his childhood. Photographs were collected, videos

created, all plans had been made before the lockdown.

We gradually began to understand that the situation was not going to end soon; we were in it for the long haul. The reunion was canceled. I always see my children on my birthday, but, this time, I received FaceTime calls, beautiful cards, splendid flowers, but no hugs, no kisses, no warmth, no human touches. My thoughts were becoming very



COURTESY DOLORES LUBER

The author with her dog, Kesem.

negative and gloomy; worst-case scenarios played in my head. I thought of moving back to Ontario to be with my youngest son; I researched buying a house in Oakville. I was experiencing symptoms of depression.

As a retired psychotherapist, I recognized the symptoms – among them, exaggerated feelings of sadness and loneliness. I made an effort to study more and read more Hebrew. I pushed harder in my workouts with my trainers. I developed and implemented a plan for the fall *Senior Line* magazine. By the end of July, I was thinking in a more balanced fashion. I had gotten through the rough spot and was well again.

Depression can be insidious, it can creep up on you. It is important to do a reality check with friends or family members from time to time. Isolation warps the processes of the brain. The chemicals in our brains can become unbalanced. Usually increased physical activity and enhanced social interaction can counteract the symptoms of mild depression. Beware! ❖

Dolores Luber, a retired psychotherapist and psychology teacher, is editor of *Jewish Seniors Alliance's Senior Line* magazine and website (jsalliance.org). She blogs for yosilinks.com and writes movie reviews for the *Isaac Waldman Jewish Public Library* website.



ת.נ.צ.ב.ה.

J.B. NEWALL
MEMORIALS

Alan &
Rosemarie
Newall

Dedicated
to our craft
since 1820

5096 Fraser St
at 35th
604.327.1312

www.jbnewall.com

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELEANORE SHAFRON
AUG. 21

DANIEL BENBASSAT
AUG. 26

WILLIAM DAVIDS
AUG. 28



For Unveilings Announcements

Call Steve/Cynthia
at 604-689-1520

DON'T THROW IT OUT!



For over 40 years, the JMABC has been dedicated to the careful preservation of our community's history.

Help us enrich our collection and keep these stories alive. Please consider donating your family's documents, photos, or artifacts to the JMABC.

info@jewishmuseum.ca
604-257-5199

The
Jewish
Museum &
Archives of BC

JEWISH LIFE **x COVID-19**



This crisis poses an
existential threat to
our community.

**A seismic shift calls for an
unprecedented response.**

GIVE NOW AT [JEWISHVANCOUVER.COM](https://www.jewishvancouver.com)

