



# The Jewish Federation OF EDMONTON

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As we approach Passover again in the annual cycle of Jewish life, the thread of storytelling comes to the forefront of my mind. When we fulfill the Biblical commandment to tell the story through the Passover seder, we connect to past and future times and place ourselves within the living Jewish story that continues to unfold.

Jewish Federation of Edmonton staff are sharing their personal stories and Passover memories, with the community and hoping to hear back from you about your fondest memories.

Fortunately, I have many memories of delicious foods, beautiful seders, time spent with family and friends, yearning for a bagel and more. But my unique Passover memory is from my year in Israel during my third year of university.

After celebrating the Chag days in Jerusalem, my friends and I went on a “reverse exodus” trip to the Sinai Peninsula during Passover break. We headed out with matzah in hand to enjoy the beach and explore since we had a school break and everything was closed for the week in Jerusalem, anyway! One of our goals was to climb the mountain rumored to be Mt. Sinai. I’m not sure why we thought it was a good idea to take a taxi deep into the desert in the middle of the night to go up a mountain in the dark and watch the sunrise, but we did.

The biggest complication was communicating with the nuns who were also atop the mountain overnight to ask them to be quiet so we could get a little sleep. The most satisfying moment was munching on matzah for breakfast as we watched the sun come up over the desert peaks and feeling connected to the ongoing Jewish story profoundly.

The act of keeping our stories and memories alive shows up throughout Jewish life. Through our Federation’s Holocaust education efforts, we share the stories of the victims and survivors to honour their memories and to educate future generations towards the goal of Never Again. We have partnered with both the Edmonton and Calgary Public Libraries and the Calgary Jewish Federation to share these stories broadly and with the help of storytelling experts, we have further amplified these stories.

So far, in 2022, we welcomed [Ben Freeman](#), an internationally renowned Holocaust educator to talk about Jewish pride, offered a [tour of Yad Vashem](#) focusing on stories of resistance, and hosted [Rebecca Donner](#) to share the story of Mildred Harnack, a sole American woman in the leadership of the German resistance during WWII. Next month, we will host a conversation with Avner Avraham, a former Mossad agent who will share the insider record of the historic 1960 capture of Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichman on April 24. You can [register for this event now](#). In May, our annual Dianne and Irving Kipnes Holocaust Education Symposium will again be offered online with Calgary Jewish Federation and Calgary Public Library.



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I hope you will share your stories and memories with the community through this Passover storytelling campaign so we can all experience the richness and diversity of the narratives of our people.

Shabbat Shalom,

Jenn Magalnick