



The Jewish Federation OF EDMONTON

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Did you know May is Canada's Jewish Heritage Month? With the fourth largest Jewish community in the world, Canadian Jews have much to celebrate. Wondering how to connect with your faith, our culture, or our history? I have some suggestions for you.

As a proud Jew and Zionist, it warms my heart how some of my family members have contributed to our national landscape (I will save Auntie Lea Roback and Uncle Joe Leavitt, among others, for another time). I'm sure your family has done the same for our Jewish Edmonton community. What's important is we preserve the history and legacy of our community. That's where the Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta (JAHSENA) fits in. JAHSENA captures many documents, photos, and books in its space at the Federation office. The organization is always looking to collect important historical aspects of Jewish Edmonton. It has an immense library where you can browse through a wide selection of books and these are a treat to read. I encourage you to visit or get acquainted with their [website](#).

When we first moved to Edmonton from a smaller Jewish centre, the city impressed us with the selection of cultural events and programs taking place. I may age myself, but streaming services did not exist. A chance to watch movies from the [Edmonton Jewish Film Festival](#) (EJFF) was (and still is) truly something to look forward to attending.

The EJFF film selection committee strives to bring groundbreaking movies with depth and range of content, a carefully curated mix of feature films and shorts. One advantage of Zoom is the exciting opportunities we have to hear directly from directors, actors and writers to further enhance the experience. Join us in your celebration of our Jewish heritage. There's still time to take part in this free festival which kicks off on Tuesday.

For some, Jewish pride takes place when a Jewish Edmontonian has a public accomplishment. For others, Jewish pride comes when we hold a dignified ceremony or program that informs and educates others, engaging the greater community. It is busy for a small community. Whether it be [Yom Hashoah](#), events such as Beth Israel Synagogue premiere play, [The Girl from Treblinka](#) later this month, the [Camp BB Riback](#) 66th anniversary celebration in June, plus many other events in our community.

For others, Jewish pride comes from a place of deep connection to Israel, the only Jewish state and our homeland. Taking part in the first annual Terry Fox run when I visited our partner region in the Northern Galilee was a wonderful example of our twin heritage coming together.

As I am writing this message, I have learned of another sickening and heartbreaking terror attack that has taken the lives of three people. Having just commemorated Yom Hazikaron and preparing for Yom Haatzmaut, I take pride in knowing that Israel honours and remembers the fallen in a

dignified manner. Our Jewish calendar helps us all go on to revere and sanctify life by immediately ushering in Yom Haatzmaut on the heels of Yom Hazikaron.

I'm also thankful many volunteers and participants came out for this celebration, as we pursue a thriving, engaged and connected Jewish Edmonton with all of you.

Shabbat Shalom,

S. Lewitt

Stacey