



The Jewish Federation OF EDMONTON

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Shabbat Shalom Edmonton!

Spring has always been my favorite season. Growing up in Montreal, the patios would become alive and it would pack sidewalks as we put winter behind us. The hope was in the air and I loved taking in this time of renewed energy and optimism after a long winter. With a change of weather and leaves sprouting, spring is definitely on the horizon!

I am heading into the week ahead with gleeful anticipation for several events, and I hope you are as well. As Shabbat ends tomorrow night, so will game seven of the first playoff round. Whether we will be celebrating or commiserating, I wish to see you on Sunday at the second in-person screening of the Edmonton Jewish Film Festival.

With close to 600 registrants, our film festival is well received and broad in outreach. I had the privilege of meeting new people to our community, and new friends, at the first in-person screening. Come and enjoy a documentary about the making of *Fiddler on the Roof* and admire the improved Stanley A. Milner Library downtown. It is a beautiful building. I admit, after three years, it was a delight to watch a screen outside of my living room!

We truly enjoyed speaking with Mano Khalil, director of *Neighbours* moderated by Sheba Birhanu from the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs this past week. While I also look forward to sharing more great movies and Zoom talks with you, I want to emphasize one in particular that undoubtedly resonated with me.

Tiger Within features Emmy award-winning Ed Asner, of blessed memory, as a Holocaust survivor. He forms a friendship supporting a wayward antisemitic teen, and the story unfolds. As we see a rise in antisemitism and Holocaust distortion and denial in Canada, this movie is relevant and topical. It was really well-acted and superbly written. We have a special treat to close out the festival—a Zoom talk Wednesday night with the screenwriter and lead actress moderated by Neil Grahn and his daughter Becca Cogan-Grahn. I am excited about this event and hope you encourage the teens and young adults in your life to attend as well.

Rounding out next week is Lag Baomer, the 37th day of the counting of the Omer. During this period between celebrating the festival holidays of Passover and Shavuot, we count the Omer—marking seven weeks, day-by-day, from leaving as slaves in Egypt to receiving the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai. As we all expect the build towards the 49th day, we can pause and enjoy this date together. We hope you will enjoy the [event organized by](#)

[Chabad Edmonton](#). It is our pleasure to take part in this community-wide celebration, and Mira Campbell will provide a PJ Library activity. Be sure to say hello!

S. Lewitt

Stacey