

HaKOL

The Voice of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton

VOLUME 5, #3

JUNE 2018

Edmonton Jewish Film Festival Scores a Slam Dunk



The Edmonton Jewish Film Festival Committee, L-R: Debby Shoctor, Cynthia Pertman, Karen Farkas, Lauren Baram, Karen Hering, Sari Schiff, Susan Schiffman, Sam Kopolowicz, Valda Levin, Adam Bentley. Photo: EJNews

BY SUSAN SCHIFFMAN



The 22nd Annual Edmonton Jewish Film Festival (EJFF) was a big success, with good attendance, great coverage in the press, and lots of praise from movie goers. The Film Festival Committee did a great job bringing an interesting, engaging and entertaining selection of Jewish-themed films to Edmonton, and a few special events added to the fun and variety of the Festival.

The Festival opened with a “slam dunk”, the crowd-pleaser

On the Map, an upbeat and inspiring David and Goliath documentary about Israeli triumph in basketball, and much more. After the film, a ball signed by legendary Maccabi Tel Aviv Captain Tal Brody was auctioned. Proceeds from the auction will go to the EJFF and the On the Map Foundation.

Also, part of the opening night festivities was The Earl Parker Award for Jewish Film. This year’s award went to Vancouver filmmaker Rami Katz who will use the award money to make a film about Yiddish humour. Prior to the film, an elegant Sponsors’ Reception was held in the atrium

of the Landmark Cinema. Guests enjoyed a beautiful array of Israeli appetizers, prepared by Catering by Ed.

The Festival went on to show several historical dramas including the very powerful film *1945*, a striking tale of the response of a Hungarian village to returning Jewish residents after the Holocaust. Another Festival favorite was *An Act of Defiance*, set in South Africa in the 1960s, it told the fascinating story of the trial of Nelson Mandela and several Jewish co-defendants. After the film, Ram Romanovsky, Aaron Oshry and Jane Karstaedt, members of

Edmonton’s South African Jewish community, spoke to the audience about their own experiences in South Africa at the time the film was set.

Continued on Page 12

What’s inside:

JCC Building Committee Update
Page 5

Security Update
Page 7

President's Message



There is a French idiom that was translated into English sometime in the 16th century. "Rome was not built in a day." And as all of you know, neither was the new JCC. The new JCC has been a work in progress for a number of years, and we do have some exciting news to share.

As Ellery Lew advised you about a year ago, the work of the Federation Building Committee continues and has in earnest over the past year. At the Federation executive meeting last month, we approved a roadmap toward construction of a JCC as well as a framework for what the building will hopefully look like in accordance with design and architecture guidelines that have been provided to us by our engineers. Over the next 2-3 months, we will be meeting as a Board and with the Talmud Torah Society to start ironing out details.

I urge all who are interested to stay tuned for frequent updates as to where we stand. We are on the verge of what will hopefully be a couple of months of exciting announcements. I thank you all for your patience. I know that it has been a long road to this point. As previously advised, a new JCC is a priority of mine and of our board of directors. I would be remiss not to thank those who have put a tremendous amount of their time into this project. Clive Oshry, our Vice President and the Chairman of the Building Committee, deserves special recognition for the hard work he has done.

This is a great segue into an important topic – volunteering and volunteers. I would like to thank the many volunteers who help our community to function. We have a fantastic board of directors – full of dedicated members of our community who selflessly give up their time to enrich Jewish life in Edmonton. Other organizations throughout our community, from Beit Horim to Camp BB –

Riback to Talmud Torah and every organization in between, have volunteers that help them function. These people deserve our thanks. It is because of the volunteers, who are too many to name here, that you are able to enjoy the many programs and services that are offered to you as a Jew in Edmonton.

While we have so many able and willing volunteers, we always need more. The Jewish Federation of Edmonton has many different volunteer opportunities. Our programs run throughout the year and we are always looking for help. We have a casino coming up on July 2nd and 3rd, 2018. We need your help getting people out. Heritage Days is coming up in August, and we need as many volunteers as possible to help spread positive information about Israel. If you have an hour, two hours or more and are willing to give back to your community, please contact us and let us know.

This year, we celebrate 70 years since Israel's declaration of independence. We hope to highlight this at Heritage Days as well as throughout the year. We have already had a couple of very exciting events recently celebrating Israel at 70, including a very well-attended Yom Ha'Atzmaut event at Fort Edmonton Park. We will continue to have exciting programs throughout this year to celebrate this significant milestone. We will continue to advocate for Israel with our government and with businesses throughout Edmonton and Northern Alberta. Further, with tensions continuing to escalate in the region, Federation will be steadfast in defending Israel to Edmontonians and northern Albertans together with our partner, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, wherever and whenever possible. Recently, and to our dismay, a disgusting cartoon ran in the Edmonton Journal. We immediately wrote to the editor of the Journal and our article was published. A copy of our response is available on the Jewish Federation of Edmonton's Facebook page.

Please feel free to contact me via e-mail any time at steves@edjfed.org to lend a hand on one of our many committees or at a program. We sure could use your help, we encourage your participation, and we invite anyone who wishes to volunteer to do so. There is a lot that both you and we can gain from you being an interested and active volunteer.

Steve Shafir
President

Jewish Federation of Edmonton



Hillel BBQ

HaKol

Volume 5, #3

HAKOL is a free publication of The Jewish Federation of Edmonton, published three times per year and mailed to community households.

Address corrections requested.

MAILING ADDRESS
#200, 10220-156 Street,
Edmonton, AB
T5P-2R1

www.jewishedmonton.org

EMAIL CONTACT
info@edjfed.org

EXECUTIVE PUBLISHER
Steven Shafir

PUBLISHER
Debby Shoctor

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Tal Toubiana

EDITOR
Elianna Lisan

PRINTING AND DESIGN
Top Shelf Analytics Inc.

FEDERATION BOARD MEMBERS:
Steven Shafir, Ellery Lew, Shane Asbell,
Dr. David Eisenstat, Mor Barzel, Clive Oshry,
Stacey Wright, Lisa Miller,
Dr. Cheryl Goldstein, Lisa Redmond,
Rachel Miller, Dr. Eytan Wine,
Dr. Ivan Steiner, Faren Hochman,
Adam Zepp, Sarah Troster, Karen Oshry,
Doug Wolch, Reeva Parker, Ron Sorokin

We have attempted to be as correct and current as possible in our content, however please excuse any errors or unintended omissions.

No information contained herein may be copied or re-distributed, in whole or in part, without the prior written approval of the Publisher.

© Copyright Edmonton, AB, 2018

From the CEO's Desk



We have just finished celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut, marking the 70th anniversary of the State of Israel. If you didn't attend our celebration at Fort Edmonton Park, you really missed a fabulous event! This event marks the kickoff of a whole year of Israel@70 celebrations in our community. This was one of our most successful Yom Ha'atzmaut events in recent history, with an attendance of over 300 people, delicious food, great performances by the Aviv Dancers and the Talmud Torah Choir, a meaningful torch-lighting ceremony, a visit from MLAs Jason Kenny and Tani Yao, Israeli music and dancing, horse rides, jumping castles, raffles and more! Thanks to the organizing committee and chair Yaara Shabtai, along with staff support Tal Toubiana, and everyone who helped out.

Other events already planned for our continuing celebrations include the Edmonton Jewish Film Festival, which just wrapped up, and featured films from around the world, many from Israel, including *A Quiet Heart*, *Muhi Generally-Temporary*, *Ben Gurion - Epilogue* and the zany comedy *Maktub*. Thanks to Sam Koplowitz and his committee, as well as staff Susan Schiffman and all our donors, sponsors and advertisers for making the Festival a great success. And don't miss volunteering for, or visiting the award-winning Israel Pavilion Heritage Days, coming up August 5th and 6th at Hawrelak Park, chaired by Christina Reboh, featuring Israeli cuisine, dance and culture.

Another Israel-themed event we have coming up will be our UJA Opener, scheduled for September 13th at the Club at the Citadel once again, featuring singer Omer Shaish, who will entertain us with songs from Israel and Broadway.

In the Fall, we hope to host Israeli commentator Yonah Bob, who will come to visit us and give a lecture on current events in Israel, to keep us up-to-date on what is going on there. He is the Intelligence, Terrorism and Legal Analyst for the Jerusalem Post. He has also served as an international lawyer for the Israel Defense Forces, for Israel's Ministry of Justice, and for Israel's Mission to the United Nations in New York. This follows on the heels of a visit from Canadian Ambassador to Israel Deborah Lyons, who also visited and addressed community leadership in March.

It has been a busy spring, albeit a long and cold one, and we are all quite exhausted and looking forward to a beautiful summer here in Edmonton. We recently marked the

solemn occasions of Yom Ha Shoah and Yom Hazikaron with meaningful and well-attended ceremonies at the Alberta Legislature and Temple Beth Ora. We held the Yom Ha Shoah ceremony indoors for the first time, due to the bad weather we have had the past couple of years, and we are certainly glad we did, as this year was the coldest yet. However, we got the largest attendance at this event ever, so we plan to repeat it again next year.

Other interesting events held this Spring include the Righteous Among the Nations ceremony we held at the Beth Israel Synagogue on February 20th, co-hosted by the Israeli Consulate and the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem. At this ceremony, we honoured Harty Van Engelen, who, along with his parents, saved several Jewish families in the Netherlands during the Holocaust. Many of his family members, as well as those of the people he saved, came for the occasion, some from as far away as the Netherlands.

Our young people have had a fabulous Spring, with many events and trips. The Grade 9 Talmud Torah students travelled to Israel to meet their P2G counterparts in the Northern Galilee, and our March of the Living Students had a meaningful, educational and fun trip to Poland and Israel in May over Yom Hashoah and Yom Ha'atzmaut. JCORE and Hillel have also been very active this year with many different programs, under the direction of Yaara Shabtai and Sapir Fellus, respectively.

This year we have attempted to increase and broaden our reach through improving our weekly e-Newsletter, the JFED e-weekly, with a new format, which we hope is easier for you to enjoy. We have increased our readership of that publication to about 1000 individuals. We have also continued distributing this publication, Ha Kol, in the Edmonton Jewish News, in order to reach more individuals, about 2000. Our Facebook page has hit



The Nolan Family sponsored a film at the Edmonton Jewish Film Festival in honour of Carla Nolan, z'l. Photo: EJNews

a new record for likes with 600 plus reached as of May 1. Please also make an effort to follow our Twitter and Instagram accounts. Thank you to Faren Hochman for her leadership on the Communications Committee.

Another important achievement this year was the completion of our campaign to raise funds for a Jewish Studies Professor at the University of Alberta. Spearheaded by Federation Past-President Ellery Lew, this campaign began last summer as a joint project with U of A, with calls to individual donors, and a UJA over-and-above campaign. Thanks to contributions from many of our community members and alumni, both in Edmonton and in other cities, we have achieved our goal, and a professor will be hired for a five-year term to commence courses this Fall. We were also able to provide scholarships for students as an incentive for them to take Jewish Studies courses. This achievement will fill a gap created in our community and at the University when all the long-standing Jewish Studies professors retired, and the Faculty of Arts did not have the funds to hire a replacement for them. A reception for all donors to this campaign will be held in the Fall.

Please enjoy the summer, but don't forget to volunteer for the JCC Casino on July 2nd & 3rd and the Israel Pavilion at Heritage Days in August!

Debby Shoctor
CEO

Jewish Federation of Edmonton

Yom Hashoah Reminds us to Pay Attention to the Signs of Hatred

BY EDMONTON JEWISH NEWS STAFF

Yom Hashoah – Holocaust Remembrance Day – was commemorated in Israel and around the world on April 12, 2018. In Edmonton, a commemorative service and ceremony was held at the Federal Building in downtown Edmonton. In prior years, the Yom Hashoah service was held at the Holocaust Monument “Vessel of Souls” which stands proudly on the Alberta Government Legislative Grounds. This year, the ceremony moved indoors because the weather was too severe for the survivors to sit outside and participate. Everyone agreed that this move was important because Yom Hashoah pays tribute to the millions of Jews who perished in the Holocaust and honours those who survived to tell the world about the horrors they faced.

The event opened with emcee Gillian Horwitz, a representative of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton’s Holocaust Education Committee, welcoming the survivors and their families as well as the 250 plus crowd that was in attendance.

The first speaker was Steve Shafir, president of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton. He said, “It is an honour to join you today, to be part of a community of people who commemorate and remember the tragedies and horrors that almost saw the destruction of all European Jewry.

“During the Holocaust, 11 million people were murdered by the Nazis, 6 million of whom were Jewish and of those 1.5 million were children. Our message today should be that we, as human beings, should pay attention to the signs of hatred; we should speak out against hate in order to prevent it. Don’t sit idly, don’t be a bystander. You have a voice and you have a choice.

Shafir welcomed the many dignitaries in attendance, which in addition to the Holocaust survivors and their families, included representatives from all levels of government:

Minister of Culture Ricardo Miranda, Minister of Education David Eggen, Speaker of the House Robert Wanner, MLAs Lorne Dach, David Shepherd, Eric Rosendahl, Marie Renaud, Ron Orr, Wes Taylor, Richard Gotfried, Ric McIvor, Anam Kazim, Scott Cyr, Colin Piquette, David Hanson, Angela Pitt, Graham Sucha, Annie McKittrick, Deborah Drever, Cameron Westhead, Bob Turner, Denise Woollard, Leader of the UCP Jason Kenney, Alberta Party Leader Stephen Mandel, Mayor Don Iveson and City Councilor Jon Dziadyk.

First Minister Miranda and then Mayor Iveson spoke beautifully about the importance of remembering and honouring the Holocaust and doing what we can to have zero tolerance for bigotry. They both emphasized the need to promote inclusivity and understanding in our neighbourhoods and communities.

The service started with a prayer for the victims of the Holocaust read by Francie Cyngriser and then Dani Uretsky, Director of the Holocaust Education for the Jewish Federation of Edmonton invited the Holocaust survivors in our community to take part in a candle lighting ceremony in memory of the Jewish lives taken during the Holocaust. Participation in the ceremony were Anna Linetsky, Henry Cynamon and Abe Goldstein, Abe Silverman and his grandson Ben, Ann Secter and her daughter Suzanne Davis, Clara Kagan and her son Leon Kagan and George Kraus and his son Michael Kraus.

Jordyn Wright, a representative of youth who attended the March of the Living did a reading, followed by the recitation of Mourner’s Kaddish by Rabbi Kliel Rose and the chanting of El Mohel Rachamin by Rabbi Daniel Friedman.



Jordyn Wright, March of the Living Alumnus, at Yom Hashoah.

A D’var Torah was provided by Rabbi Gila Caine who emphasized how important it is to hear the stories and learn about the lives of the survivors in our community.

Students from the Talmud Torah Choir under the direction of their teacher Ben Ragosin performed Eli Eli, The Little Station Treblinka and the Partisan Song.

Gillian Horwitz closed the ceremony before the singing of Hatikvah. She said, “We, the generation born after the Holocaust, carry the legacy of six million voices. The torch of remembrance will be carried on from generation to generation. It is a torch that will not be extinguished as long as we remember. We must also take note that anti-Semitism is still rife in many parts of the world. Mireille Knoll who survived the Holocaust, was killed recently in her Paris apartment – another victim of a vicious anti-Semitic attack.

“We need to continue to teach the lessons of the Holocaust to attempt to eradicate irrational hatred and bigotry from the face of the earth. Thus, we come together here today to remember, Zachor!

“It is important that in today’s society, we do not forget any form of genocide and that we educate future generations, so that we can prevent it from happening again.”

Visit of Canada’s Ambassador to Israel, Deborah Lyons

BY TAL TOUBIANA



On Wednesday, March 21 Canada’s Ambassador to Israel, Deborah Lyons, visited the Jewish Federation of Edmonton and spent part of the day meeting with entrepreneurs and representatives from the broader business community with the goal of promoting partnerships between Israel and Canada. Lyons is a career diplomat, having served most recently as Canada’s Am-

bassador to Afghanistan as the head of mission at the Embassy of Canada, Kabul where she was the only female ambassador in Kabul.

Throughout the talk it was apparent that Ambassador Lyons is dedicated to promoting the relations between Canada and Israel. Lyons said she has four main goals for her term: continuing a strong political relationship, fostering business and academic partnerships, creating a partnership of support to third countries, and sharing information between

the two countries. “Canadians need to know how fantastic Israel is, and Israelis need to pay a bit more attention to Canada,” she said “We’re going to be launching a pretty intensive communications campaign, really getting out there to both countries.” The campaign is being called, “Wow, Israel!”

We wish Ambassador Lyons the best of luck in her role and look forward to working together and strengthen the cooperation between our Canada and Israel.

Yom Hazikaron Honours Israel's Fallen Soldiers

BY EDMONTON JEWISH NEWS STAFF

Yom Hazikaron – a day to remember and pay tribute to Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terror attacks – was commemorated in Israel and around the world on April 17. In Edmonton, Yom Hazikaron was commemorated at Temple Beth Ora. The event, open to the entire community, was sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Edmonton. It commenced with the haunting sound of a siren, followed by a moment of silence as it does in Israel.

This year in Edmonton, the ceremony was dedicated to the lone soldiers who came from all over the world to serve in the army and fell in war or in terror attacks. The personal stories of three lone soldiers were shared at the ceremony, followed by poetry, songs and reading passages written to commemorate those who have fallen.

Speakers and performers at the event, chaired by Yaara Shabtai, included Rabbi Gila Cain, Ben Ragasin, Lauren Kascak, Dorit Kosmin, Doron Or, Inbal Blau, Sheila Bailin.

The ceremony was conducted in both Hebrew and English.



Yom Hazikaron at Temple Beth Ora.

"We are looking for new members from our local community to serve on our Yom Hazikaron committee," said Tal Toubiana. "If you are passionate about Israel and interested in serving your community by giving a

small amount of your time to this rewarding activity, please contact me at talt@edjfed.org or 780.487.0585 x 204."

Edmonton Celebrates Yom Ha'atzmaut

BY EDMONTON JEWISH NEWS STAFF

The Jewish Federation of Edmonton hosted a high energy and joyful Yom Ha'atzmaut party on April 19 at Fort Edmonton Park celebrating Israel at 70.

Revelers were welcomed at the gate with a horse drawn carriage ride sponsored by JNF Edmonton to the reconstructed HB Kline Jewelry Store and guided to the hangar which was decorated with blue and white balloons and streamers for Yom Ha'atzmaut.

Over 350 people of all ages attended the event and there was plenty of time to schmooze with friends and family before sitting down to a delicious vegetarian Middle Eastern meal.

Jewish Federation of Edmonton sponsored the event and Temple Beth Ora congregation president Spencer Brawner emceed. Jason Kenney, UCP leader and leader of the official opposition party in Alberta was a guest speaker. He wished everyone a hearty

Yom Ha'atzmaut sameach this year and for many more happy celebrations of the free, independent, and democratic Jewish homeland of Israel. Special thanks go to Beth Shalom Synagogue for their continual support.

The Talmud Torah choir delightfully performed a few songs under the direction of their teacher Ben Ragasin.

Event Chair Yaara Shabtai then announced that as they do in Israel, it is customary at this time of year to honour volunteers and leaders in our community in a special torch lighting ceremony. She said that this year many of the honourees would represent young leadership and volunteers and the important role they play in keeping our community vibrant now and into the future.

The first honouree was Devorah Matkovcik who was celebrating 40 years of dedicated service to Jewish National Fund of Edmonton. Other honourees included Omer

Blau, Mara Dance, Francie Nobleman, Jonah Zwaigenbaum, Daneille Shaposhnikov and Doron Or.

Following the torch ceremony, the Aviv Israeli Dancers gave a gorgeous performance of one of their new dances entitled "Rafiach." It energized the crowd and led into a rousing group participation dance party where everyone in the room either joined in the dancing or swayed to the music clapping their hands in celebration.

"We are looking for new members from our local community to serve on our Yom Ha'atzmaut committee," said Tal Toubiana. "If you are passionate about Israel and interested in serving your community by giving a small amount of your time to this rewarding activity, please contact me at talt@edjfed.org or 780.487.0585 x 204"

JCC Building Committee Update

We have some important and exciting information to share with you about the JCC. We have completed a proposal for a future JCC building with our engineering consultants, Stantec. The Federation Executive has approved and proposed an ambitious

and sustainable plan and we are looking forward to working with the Talmud Torah Society to fulfill it. We hope that negotiations will be completed and ratified by our membership at our AGM in early December. We plan on continuing to keep our membership

updated on our website and through our Jewish Federation of Edmonton e-weekly newsletter.

Righteous Gentile Award

BY SUSAN SCHIFFMAN



On February 20, the Consulate General of Israel for Toronto and Western Canada and the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem presented the Righteous

Among the Nations award in Edmonton. One of the most prestigious distinctions given by the state of Israel, it recognizes the extraordinary bravery of those who helped shelter and protect Jews during World War Two.

The ceremony was hosted by the Jewish Federation of Edmonton at Beth Israel Synagogue and boasted an impressive turnout. Hartger van Engelen accepted the honour on behalf of his parents Albertus and Gerrigje van Engelen, who took in multiple Jews attempting to escape persecution in the Netherlands. The event received national news coverage and was attended by members of all three levels of government.

Albertus and Gerrigje van Engelen demonstrated rare courage and humanity during the Holocaust by hiding numerous Jews in their home in Soest, Netherlands, despite the risk to their safety and the safety of their loved ones. Among the Jews saved by the Van Engelen family were the Bremer family: Martin Bremer, his wife Beppie, their son Bob and Beppie's brother Leo Karpe. Thanks to the Van Engelens, they avoided the fate of the 6 million Jews who perished in the Shoah.

Ilse Jacobsohn was another Jew saved by the Van Engelen family. Unfortunately, Ilse



Harty Van Engelen receives the Righteous Among the Nations Award from Israeli Consul General Galit Baram. Photo: Bari Lavy

and her sister Eva were the only members of their family who survived the Holocaust. Their parents were murdered in Sobibor, where hundreds of thousands of victims of Nazi Germany perished. This ultimate assistance provided by the Van Engelen family during the Holocaust created a special bond between the Van Engelens and those they rescued, a bond that grew even stronger after the war, maintained by the descendants of the Righteous and the survivors' families

All three of Leo Karpe's daughters came to Edmonton from Amsterdam to attend this unique ceremony. They would not exist without the Van Engelens.

Unfortunately, Mr. Van Engelen passed away about a month after the event took place. We extend our sincere condolences to his entire family.

What is Happening in P2G?

BY DR. IVAN STEINER, EDMONTON P2G CHAIR

This year, P2G's ongoing Geshar Chai (Living Bridges) programming helped the partnership between Talmud Torah and our two partner schools in the Northern Galilee, Lev ha Emek elementary school and Emek ha Hula regional high school, to further their ongoing relationship. The elementary school students on each side of the ocean eagerly send stories to their counterparts and learn about each other's lives. The grade nine junior high students, prepared for their trip to Israel with much anticipation. They went to Israel on the exchange trip in April. While in Israel, they spent four days in the Northern Galilee, being hosted by the Israeli students who were here in Edmonton during Succoth, 2017. In this way, the two sets of students were able to complete the loop of reciprocal visits and reinforce their developing friendship. The visit, as noted by the students, was hugely successful.

At present, the Federation's P2G Committee is already working on the next visit by Israeli students. This visit will take place on Hannukah this year, not Succoth. It will involve host families from the Edmonton Jewish community. These host families have been identified, and they are eager to receive young visitors from Galilee. As for the visitors, they will be grade 9 students – 5 girls, 3 boys and 3 educators/chaperones. The local P2G committee is working on preparing a good program for the visit. Assistance by Talmud Torah staff is invaluable in completing the programming.

In other news, in early May, the fundraiser for P2G, the Jewish Film Festival took place and it was also very successful. Also, in early May, Winnipeg hosted the Canada Coast-to-Coast Northern Galilee, P2G Joint Steering Committee meeting. Typically, Canadian communities from Halifax, Ottawa, Winnipeg,

Calgary, Vancouver and Edmonton, showcase their programs in their home cities and alternate hosting. The Israeli members of the committee also participate in these discussions. We share information and describe success stories. Additionally, we talk about programs in Galilee, beyond the schools, that need resources. Fund allocation to these programs, is a major component of P2G activities. The next meeting of the P2G Joint Steering Committee will take place mid-October, in the Northern Galilee. The Canadian meeting for 2019 will take place next June and we are already making plans to host our Israeli friends here in our city.

We are looking forward to an ongoing and successful program this year and next. This is it for the update on P2G. I wish everyone a good summer.

Security Update

BY TAL TOUBIANA



The Jewish Federation of Edmonton continues to monitor the security concerns of our community's synagogues, schools and other organizations. In order for these institutions to be properly prepared, the Jewish Federation of Edmonton has worked with our national and local partners to secure funds to our community for security improvements and training.

The Jewish Federation of Edmonton has created informational materials available to our community. This is an important resource for organizations, synagogues and schools. All of these resources are available for download on our website <https://www.jewishedmonton.org/security-training-and-resources>

High Holidays:

In addition to the information on our website, synagogues may want to boost their security measures around the high holidays. I will provide a High Holiday security checklist to help you with this process. The High Holiday security grant application will be out in few weeks. Please make sure your organization is sending back the application filled and signed within the deadline.

Training opportunity:

Offered to select members from our community who are active members of their respective organizations (school, shul, senior centre, etc).

I am looking for candidates who are suitable to serve in an initial low-level leadership volunteer role. Candidates must be mature, responsible, fit, and willing to undergo a vetting process, and most important volunteer time

to their respective organization and the community in support of security. I am looking for individuals between 18-60 years old but would consider others on a case-by-case basis. The initial candidate must be willing to commit to travel to receive formal training in a location outside Edmonton. There would be no financial cost to the candidate or the organization, as this will be covered under the NCSF.

For more information, to book a security audit or to inquire about training opportunities, please contact the Federation's head of security, Tal Toubiana at talt@edjfed.org or (780) 487-0585 ext.204

Good Deeds Day

BY ELIANNA LISAN



On Sunday, April 15, The Jewish Federation of Edmonton hosted its fourth annual Good Deeds Day. Edmonton was one of hundreds of communities worldwide that participated in this global day of social action.

Locally, volunteers, including members of BBYO and NCSY, spent an afternoon at Edmonton's Food Bank for the fourth year in a row. They sifted through donations of non-perishable food items donated by members of Edmonton's broader community, preparing these goods for distribution to those most in need.

Talmud Torah School hosted all other activities of Good Deeds Day for the third year in a row. The event started with a kickoff featuring dancing by the Aviv Israeli Folkdance Association. Refreshments were donated by Bliss Baked Goods and Wolf Willow Starbucks. Thank you!

In the months preceding Good Deeds Day, several community organizations collected items for The Edmonton Food Bank, YESS, and The Edmonton Humane Society. On Good Deeds Day, community members gathered in the Talmud Torah gym to pack and sort these items, along with even more items donated that day. The donations were then packed into the cars of volunteers willing to drop them off. Children who attended Good Deeds Day spent much of their time

decorating lunch bags for the Ronald McDonald House.

For the first time, Habitat for Humanity and Welcome Home had informational booths at Good Deeds Day where they could speak to community members about future volunteer opportunities.

The work of the volunteer teams at all locations was a great success. While meaningfully engaging in repairing our world (*Tikkun Olam*) and instilling the values of charity (*tzedakah*), our fantastic group of volunteers exhibited the values of *klal Israel*, not only taking care of our Jewish community, but of our broader community as well.

Good Deeds Day is a day focused on philanthropy, with the vision that every individual can help make a positive change for others and for the world. It was conceptualized by businesswoman Shari Arison, and launched



Good Deeds Day Participants at the Edmonton Food Bank

by Ruach Tova (an NGO), part of the Ted Arison Family Foundation, the philanthropic branch of the Arison Group. Good Deeds Day was initiated with 7,000 participants in Israel in 2007. As of 2018, 3.5 million people volunteered from 100 countries, resulting in over 7 million hours of service!

The fourth local Good Deeds Day has inspired our community to grow this fantastic and impactful program even further. The Good Deeds Day Committee meets several times a year and includes representatives from interested organizations. If you or your organization is interested in participating please contact Elianna Lisan at elianal@edjfed.org or (780) 487-0585 x207

BBYO 2017-2018

BY DANI URETSKY



Our 2017-2018 programming year is coming to an end for the summer, but we are going out with a bang! We ended the year with a Regional fundraiser for Save a Child's Heart, Hoops and Hotcakes. A basketball tournament comprised of Alumni and current BBYO members. Thank you to everyone who participated and especially our teen coordinators Ross Goldsand and Shea Silverman from Vancouver. We have also been holding a grade eight "Rush Month", introducing potential members into BBYO.

The B'nai Brith Youth Organization (BBYO) is quite unlike any other. It is a non-denominational Jewish youth-led organization with chapters and organizational regions in dozens of countries worldwide. Because it is youth-led, it inspires incredible ingenuity and leadership in the Jewish teens that join it. It has a tremendous impact on the friends, Jewish character, and overall lives of every member who passes through it. BBYO activities are mainly comprised of two things: programs and conventions. Locally, programs are held weekly and regional conventions are

held every few months. Programs are only attended by local teens in Edmonton, whereas conventions are open to Jewish teens from all over Northwest Canada Region. Programs are extremely diverse and can involve anything from cooking (Iron Chef Program) through Jewish content (Havdalah program) to sports such as hockey and basketball. Every program is planned by teen members and run by teen members with adult supervision. Programs are constantly changing and new programs happen every year. Because we plan our own programs, we can truly do what we enjoy. Conventions are generally held in Edmonton or Calgary as well as one at Camp BB. Each one has a theme, for example our Leadership Training Institute.

BBYO chapters are run by a board of elected teens. Each board member has a specific role on the board, such as secretary, head of Judaism, and President. There are separate boards for the boys' chapters, known as AZA, and the girls' chapters, known as BBG. As well, there are identical boards for the Northwest Canada region. Elections take place annually. Involvement in BBYO can be at any



NWC members of BBYO enjoy Hoops and Hotcakes fundraiser.

level, from a member that attends programs and conventions to a highly engaged board member. BBYO is a beneficiary of Edmonton UJA.

If you are in grades 9-12 and live in Edmonton and wish to join BBYO please contact City Supervisor Deb Lipton at dlipton@bbyo.org or Regional Director Dani Uretsky at duretsky@bbyo.org

Hillel Edmonton Wrapping Up and Gearing Up for the Fall

BY SAPIR FELLUS



In my previous HaKol article, I told the story of how I showed up to my first Hillel meeting, and that made all the difference. Well, I am so proud to say that some exceptional students decided to show up this year, too. The school year with Hillel finished successfully with some notable milestones. Among some of the more exceptional events, we had amazing speakers such as Rabbi Gila Caine, Rabbanit Batya Friedman, and Noam Gershoni. The students also celebrated shabbat together twice this year; we lit candles, sang Shalom Alechem, and did kiddush together—a reminder that our Jewish rituals unite us. For the first time, Hillel Edmonton women joined the Great Big Edmonton Challah Bake, where we had filled our own table. In February we partnered with JCORE at a relaxed Paint Nite, where we raised almost \$300 for Save a Child's Heart. We finished off the year with a backyard BBQ and said goodbye for the summer.

I am also happy to welcome Michal Shaposhnikov (President), Lior Erlich (Vice-

President), Jeremy Jerasi (Treasurer) and Daniel Rubinstein (Engagement Officer) as the new incoming Hillel Edmonton Student Executive. These are remarkable students who are making a commitment to Jewish life on campus, and who will be leading Hillel Edmonton this year.

In their first meeting as the executive board, the students discussed the importance of recruiting and encouraging involvement from newer students, while also enriching the Jewish experience of current members. An equally common theme that emerged was these students' commitment to Israel, and their desire to be better equipped with tools to both confront distorted and negative remarks about Israel as well as celebrate Israeli culture. One student in particular reflected on the unforgettable experience of eating falafel in Israel and



Hillel Edmonton Student Executive.

wished more students would develop a similar deep-rooted connection to the homeland (he was only half joking).

I am looking forward to these students' leadership in the coming year, and another great year for Hillel Edmonton.

March of the Living Students have Meaningful Trip

BY DEB LIPTON

On April 9th Edmonton students joined the Coast to Coast delegation, comprised of Jewish teens from across Canada, and traveled to Poland and Israel for the March of the Living. The delegation was accompanied by two survivors, Angela Orosz Richt and David Schaffer. Prior to the trip, the teens participated in education sessions to understand the vibrant Jewish life that existed in Europe before the Holocaust, the rise of antisemitism, the Holocaust and the creation of the state of Israel. In Poland, we toured the old town of Krakow and Warsaw including the remnants of the ghetto.

"Poland was surreal. Before the trip I didn't realize how central to Jewish life Poland really was, or just how strong of a Jewish community once existed there. We didn't just see the death camps, we saw the villages and cities of the families that perished. To me the most empowering experience was seeing the non-Jewish residents carrying on Jewish traditions so that the feel of the city remained. I don't think you could see that anywhere else in the world." – Daniel Brick

To bear witness to the atrocities committed during the Holocaust, we toured Auschwitz, Birkeneau, Majdanek and Treblinka. In Auschwitz, we had the honour of listening to Angela tell us her story of survival following her birth in Auschwitz and the experimentation she faced in utero by Dr. Mengele. Our delegation joined delegations from around the world and marched the three kilometers from Auschwitz to Birkeneau, the route that many took to their deaths.

"Seeing 14,000 Jewish teens and adults, more than Birkenau could have killed in a day, was absolutely amazing and inspiring. The life that was brought to Auschwitz and Birkenau that day was an amazing way to honour those who lost their lives. Before we actually started marching, the number of people standing in the sun, laughing and trading memorabilia was incredible. The heat was insane, but we were all happy and determined. The actual silent march from one camp to the other was an emotionally conflicting experience. On one hand, it was joyful to bring life to places of tragedy, but on the other it was full of loss. The most touching part was watching the Polish locals, especially the children, welcoming, watching and waving to us as we marched. Today was an inspiring day that nicely mixed both grief and celebration and resulted in memories that will last a lifetime." Yael Rosenblum

The seven days spent in Poland were long, hard days, filled with sorrow and confusion



Deb Lipton, Leader, and 2018 March of the Living participants: Yael Rosenblum, Ross Goldsand, Daniel Brick, Nathan Campbell and Sydney Cogan-Grahn.

interrupted by moments of triumph and joy, that we as Jews have made it back and are challenging antisemitism together as proud Jews. Teens are supported not only by survivors and chaperones, but more importantly by their peers from across Canada. The March of the Living is a rare opportunity to witness first hand sites of destruction alongside survivors.

"Going on the March of the Living was an incredible, once-in-a-lifetime experience that I know will stay with me for the rest of my life. The plethora of discoveries, relationships, and connections I made with my own family history, my people's history, and with thousands of others from around the world truly cannot be put into words. Standing in Auschwitz, Majdanek, Birkenau, and Treblinka, where so much tragedy and death took place, including that of my own family, was tremendously humbling and sorrowful. Then travelling straight to Israel, a place filled with celebration and joy, overwhelmed all of us with the happiest of emotions. On Yom Ha'atzmaut, singing and dancing with so many others who were experiencing the same feelings was absolutely breathtaking. The March really made me realize how important Israel is to the Jewish people, and how lucky we are to have such an amazing country. The March of the Living is certainly an unbelievable experience that I believe every Jew should undergo at some point in their lives. I know if I got the opportunity to go again, I would do it in a heartbeat." – Ross Goldsand

Following a week in Poland, we travel to Israel for a week of celebration, remembrance and strengthening and developing our Jewish identities. In Jerusalem, we remembered the sacrifices made for the State of Israel on Yom Hazikaron. We then celebrated the creation of the state of Israel, Yom Ha'atzmaut by marching from Jerusalem city hall to the Kotel with thousands of Jews from around the world. Now a march of joy and cheering. The time spent in Israel was filled with strengthening Jewish identities and forming life-long friendships.

"I recently attended the March of the Living which was truly a life-changing experience. The transition from Poland to Israel was immensely impactful and brought me and many others a whole new view on the State of Israel and the Holocaust. Moving from a place of sadness and mourning into a time of celebration and happiness made me understand how important the State of Israel is to the Jewish people. I learned the importance of mourning those who perished and moving on to celebrate the homeland for the Jewish people and how far we have come since the Holocaust. Throughout the entirety of the trip we heard different stories from survivors and our guides, all giving us hope for the future of the Jewish people. This trip was one that everyone, Jewish or not, should be able to experience in their lifetime. It created a whole new perspective for me on Judaism, and even the world as a whole." -Nathan Campbell

Irv and Diane Kipnes Holocaust Education Symposium 2018

BY DANI URETSKY



On March 20th and 21st the Holocaust Education Committee of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton held their annual Irv and Diane Kipnes Holocaust Education Symposium in the theatre at the Royal Alberta Museum.

Once again, we had the honor of hosting Dr. Eva Olsson, a Holocaust survivor from Bracebridge, Ontario. Dr. Olsson is 93 years young, and an incredible speaker who had a major impact on the over 800 students who attended the symposium this year. Eva is a survivor of Auschwitz and shares her profound story of strength and survival each year with our students. We also show a film called, "Seven Days of Remembrance and Hope". It chronicles six Canadian university students on their journey through the beginnings of the Holocaust in Germany, to the concentration camps in Poland.

This year we also took part in a Holocaust Education Day at Strathcona High School. Together with Eva, George Goldsand, Gary Goldsand and I took part in a panel discussion about persecution, segregation and the Holocaust. Thank you to the school for inviting us to come and speak.

We would like to thank Irv and Diane Kipnes for their continued support of our Holocaust Education program. Without them, it would not be possible. It is important for us to keep educating our students so that they never forget. We would also like to thank Dr. Leon Kagan and committee chair Shane Asbell for their emcee duties, and March of Living Alumni Jordyn Wright, who spoke at the Symposium.



Dr. Eva Olsson addresses students at Strathcona High School.

Update on the Campaign to Raise Funds for a Jewish Studies Lecturer at the UofA

Thanks to the generous support of UofA alumnus Dr Samuel Belzberg, OC, OBC z'l and Frances Belzberg, CM and many generous members of our Edmonton Jewish Community, we are pleased to announce we have exceeded our goal of raising \$500,000 for a lecturer in Jewish Studies at the UofA.

We were also able to provide funds for an undergraduate scholarship.

The Faculty of Arts is now moving ahead to recruit the Belzberg Professor in Jewish Studies (a five-year term lecturer position) to enhance and sustain this fascinating and critical field of study. We anticipate a start date of July 2018.

We will be working with the Faculty of Arts to organize an event to thank our donors and celebrate the success of the campaign in the fall, including the opportunity to meet with the new faculty member. We thank you

for your generous support for this endeavour, which has enabled us to meet our goal of providing for a continuing Jewish Studies program at the University of Alberta.

There is still time to make a donation to this program if you have not already done so. Please contact either Elianna Lisan at the Federation offices eliannal@edfed.org, (780) 487-0585 or Jane Potentier at the University of Alberta, Faculty of Arts jane.potentier@ualberta.ca, (780) 492-8060.

PJ Library 2018

BY DANI URETSKY



As we wind PJ Library down for the summer, there is one person I would like to thank for all her help she provided us through the year: Yaara Shabtai. I cannot thank her enough for her tireless effort with programming and planning. Yaara, you are a great asset to PJ and we are grateful to have your help.

As we take the summer off, we will be gearing up for next year and planning some amazing holiday programming.

PJ ended the year off with our Pre-Purim Party at WEM. The kids enjoyed games, hamantashen, pizza from Café Levi and a puppet show. It was great to see the kids and

some adults in costume for a fun and enjoyable afternoon.

Today, we sit at 430 individual children served with PJ Library subscriptions in our community and we couldn't be happier. This is a great service and we hope to keep building. We would like to welcome our newest subscribers to PJ Library. Should you wish to subscribe to our Edmonton community and your child is between the ages of 6 months to 8 years old please go to <https://pjlibrary.org/enroll-in-a-community?id=209201> to subscribe. However, there is a cost to these subscriptions. Currently they are covered by Edmonton UJA and the Greenspoon Foundation, but we would be happy for individual local sponsorship, if you are interested.

If you are one of our PJ Partners and would like to plan a holiday-themed program, please do not hesitate to contact me. We love having programs with partner organizations and bringing the community together.

Sign up your child for a **FREE** monthly, Jewish-themed book or CD. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 780-487-0585 ext. 205. This is an opportunity for engagement not to be missed.

The 2018-19 Edmonton UJA Campaign



Thank you, Jewish Edmonton, for your strong support of UJA in 2017/18.

We are pleased to announce the co-chairs of the 2018/19 Campaign. Karen Oshry, who did a terrific job last year, will return for a second year. She will be joined by Ron Sorokin. Ron is a third-generation member of our Jewish community; his parents, siblings, wife and children have all been active community members, as were his grandparents before them. Ron graduated from the Edmonton Talmud Torah, and was involved throughout his youth in Camp BB and BBYO. He received his BA from the University of Toronto, studied for a year at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and obtained a law degree from the University of Alberta. Ron has spent his entire legal career at Witten LLP, where he has been the managing partner for the last 8 years. He served for many years on the boards of Edmonton Jewish Federation, Canadian Jewish Congress, Camp BB and Edmonton Talmud Torah Society (including as TT president). Ron's wife, Lisa Redmond, is the immediate past UJA co-chair. Ron and Lisa have two children, Jaime and Jack. We are delighted to welcome Ron as co-chair.

Please mark your calendars for September 13, when we will launch the Campaign with an Israel-themed concert with Israeli-Broadway singer Omar Shaish at the Club at the Citadel Theatre. The Canvasser BBQ and training will take place on August 29th at the Federation offices. We look forward to seeing many of you at these events.

Your support for UJA in 2018/19 will keep our Edmonton Jewish Community strong and vibrant, while also helping Jews in need, in Israel and around the world. Thank you for your commitment!

CIE: Birthright Israel

BY TAL TOUBIANA



Our summer Birthright Israel season is full steam ahead as we enter the half-way point with 25 more busses left to send this summer! Thank you to everyone who helped make this one of CIE: Birthright Israel's biggest seasons yet! Last year, we sent 36 local youth to Israel, and this year we hope to send even more.

If you haven't heard, the age limit for Birthright participation was raised this year to 32, so it's almost never too late to participate!

Have you heard about the CIE: Birthright Israel leadership program? Are you interested in training to staff Taglit-Birthright Israel trips with Canada Israel Experience? Apply to be a Madrichim-in-Training (MIT) as part of our leadership training program. This program is a comprehensive leadership development initiative for young adults to develop their community leadership skills and prepare to staff

Birthright Israel trips with CIE! Follow this link: www.israelforfree.com/leadershipprogram/ to learn more about the program. Applications for the 2018-19 Madrichim-in-Training program will open on June 11, 2018.

Also, Winter registration for Birthright trips opens on September 5, 2018!

For more information please contact Tal Toubiana at talt@edjfed.org or 780.487.0585 X 204

Western Donor Appreciation Palm Springs

In February, the communities of Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver met in Palm Springs at a joint event to thank major donors for supporting their respective UJA Campaigns, and therefore JFC-UJA Canada.

The event was held at the beautiful home of David and Pam Margolus in Palm Desert. About 100 guests from the host cities attended, and were treated to a wonderful evening of food, drink, socializing with friends old and new and a guest speaker who was both informative and entertaining.

Guest speaker Richard Sandler, president of JFNA, drove in specially from Los Angeles for the event. Richard Sandler is the executive vice president and a trustee of the Milken Family Foundation. He has been involved with the Milken Family Foundation since its formation in 1982 and has contributed time and support to the Foundation's many initiatives in education and medical research.

Richard is the current Chair of the Jewish Federation of North America and a past Chair of The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles; he is also current Chair of UCLA School of Law Board of Advisors and current Chair of Milken Community High School and



Mr. & Mrs. Richard Sandler and Pam and David Margolus at the Western Donor Event in Palm Springs.

serves on a number of non-profit boards including the American Jewish University. He is also a member of the board of directors of the Prostate Cancer Foundation and the Milken Institute.

We would sincerely like to thank David & Pam Margolus for opening up their home to

us and for being the most gracious hosts we could hope for. We also would like to thank everyone who came, especially our Edmonton contingent.

Edmonton Jewish Film Festival

Continued from Page 1

The next night, after the film *The Testament*, a crowd of Festival attendees overflowed into the aisles of Fionn MacCool's pub, gathering around Dr. Joseph Patrouch, Director of the Wirth Institute of Austrian and Central European Studies, as he gave an informative mini-lecture about the film. Then, the following night, for a change of pace, audiences tested their sleuthing powers, sorting out the plot of *Sarah Stein*, *Shalom Berlin*, *Shalom*

Tel Aviv; a gritty crime drama set in present-day Berlin. The Festival closed with a lot of laughter with the dark, but very funny Israeli comedy, *Maktub*.

The Jewish Federation of Edmonton is very grateful to the EJFF Committee, chaired by the never tiring Sam Koplowicz, for the many hours spent viewing films and planning the Festival. Their commitment and talent is made clear by the excellent films they chose this year. We also thank the many individuals,

companies and organizations who sponsored the Festival and attended our films. We give special thanks to Festival sponsors CIJA, Downtown Business Association, and Israel Bonds. Funds raised by the Festival will support P2G's Geshet Chai or Living Bridge educational exchange program between Edmonton's Talmud Torah Jewish day school and the Emek Hahula regional high school in the upper Galilee. We look forward to seeing you all again next year!

Upcoming Events:

July 2 & 3 - JCC Casino - West Edmonton Mall

August 5 & 6 - Heritage Days - Hawrelak Park

August 29 - UJA Canvasser Training
- Federation Offices

September 9 & 10 - Rosh Hashanah

September 13 - UJA Opening - Citadel Theatre

September 18 - Yom Kippur

September 24 - Sukkoth

September 30 - Shemini Atzeret

October 1 - Simchat Torah