



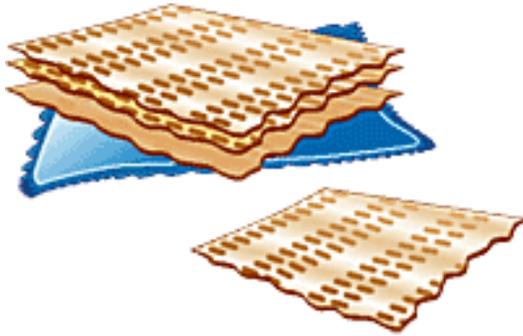
KOL ECHAD

Forestdale Heights Lodge #2667

April 2007

Nisan/Iyar 5767

From our family to yours



*Happy Pesach
Chag Samayach*



Meeting

**Monday, April 16
Dinner & Meeting**

6:30 dinner with meeting to follow at 15 Hove

To confirm your attendance, please contact

Barry Gordon (416) 631-8261 or email barrysgordon@sympatico.ca



KOL ECHAD



Kol Echad is the award winning official publication of Forestdale Heights Lodge. It is published 10 times a year. We welcome any and all articles or letters from members of the lodge and their families. All material submitted is subject to editing. The editor may consult with members of the bulletin committee regarding content suitability and editorial decisions.

All opinions expressed in Kol Echad are those of the individual writer and do not reflect the views of either Forestdale Heights Lodge or B'nai Brith Canada.

Editor: Jeff Rosen
Advertising: Harvey Silver
Staff: Elizabeth Bloom
Sandy Gordon
Bonnie Kates
Lisa Rosen

Website:
http://ca.geocities.com/k_echad



What's New

Monday, April 16

Lodge Meeting

Sunday, April 29

Casino Trip

Sunday, May 27

40th Gala/Installation

Kol Echad Deadlines

May Issue

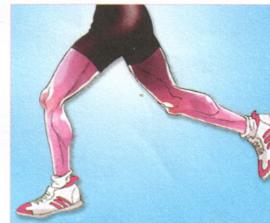
April 10

June Issue

May 10

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Editor's Desk

I'm biased!

There, I admitted it, put all my cards on the table and called a spade a spade.

Of course, how could I be anything but? I've been in the journalism business 25 years now, almost 23 of them working at a Jewish newspaper. That does colour how I view other newspapers, both within and outside the Jewish community.

My other bias is Forestdale Heights Lodge. I've been a active member now for around 16 years, having served on the executive for the past nine. Therefore, it just does not sit right with me when I perceive a slight against FHL.

What really set me off was the March 8 issue of the *Jewish Tribune*, the newspaper of our organization, B'nai Brith Canada.

The front page article was titled, "500 families get Purim baskets". In it, the names of those who volunteered were listed. Unfortunately many of those members of Forestdale Heights who took part were ommitted. I do understand how something like this could happen. It's called an honest mistake and no offence should be taken by those whose names were left out.

However, what really got my blood boiling was that it stated, "Volunteers from the Centre for Community Action of B'nai Brith Canada prepared and



delivered Purim gift packages to 500 families."

It's sort of funny in a way, but I thought it was the dedicated volunteers from the many GTA **lodges** who made this program such a success.

Since when have members of Forestdale Heights and other lodges, become volunteers for the Centre for Community Action?

There are some who say that the lodges have had their day in the sun and their time has passed.

Certainly the years have changed the lodges. Most of the members are older now, there are fewer lodges and how they operate is certainly different.

But most members assume (and maybe I am wrong) that one of the lodges' primary missions remains "People Helping People." Certainly it is not too much for the B'nai Brith paper to acknowledge that. In the end, it was the *Tribune's* competitor, who displayed a photograph of our lodge's annual *Megillah* reading at 4300 Bathurst Street. Then again, the *Tribune* regularly ignores the CVS accomplishments of this lodge.

I guess the lodges do have a Jewish paper they can call their own. It is just too bad it is not the *Tribune*.

Shalom

Jeff Rosen

Good & Welfare

April Birthdays

Elizabeth Bloom – April 4
Avery Matlow – April 7
Sam Holtzman – April 14
Elliott Schwartz – April 17
Shalome Matlow – April 18



April Anniversary

Liz & Shalome Matlow – April 10

If you have something special happening in your life that you would like listed in Good & Welfare, send it to jelijo@sympatico.ca. We will make every effort to include it. Birthdays of members only will be listed in this space.



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President's Pen



There is no festival more home and family oriented than *Pesach*. Although celebrating at home with the family should make this holiday a pleasure to anticipate, for many, this is not so. The painstaking conversion of the kitchen from leaven-filled to leaven-free status has turned the festival of our freedom into an intense period of domestic labour rather than a celebration of our liberation. I have often said, "Moses freed our people", but the preparing for *Pesach*, has put us women back into slavery. I have often been accused of losing my sense of humour as Passover approaches.

This year instead of writing a column about how much I hate the preparation necessary for *Pesach*, I decided to share with you some of my most favourite jokes, stories, riddles and puns regarding Passover. If anything, I have vowed to keep my sense of humour while I begin the Passover frenzy. I hope you enjoy these *Pesach* gems as much as I do.

Just in time for *Pesach*, a group of leading medical people has published data indicating that *seder* participants should NOT partake of both chopped liver and *charoses*. It is indicated that this combination can lead to *Charoses* of the Liver.

At our *seder*, we had whole wheat and bran *matzoh*, fortified with Metamucil. The brand name, of course is "Let My People Go".

As Moses and the Children of Israel were crossing through the parted Red Sea, Moses heard cries about how thirsty they were after walking so far. Unfortunately, the water was salty and not drinkable. Miraculously, a fish appeared from the wall of water and told Moses that she heard the pleas of the Israelites. She said to Moses she would remove the salt from the water by passing it through her gills and forcing it out of her mouth. The fish went on to explain, the water will be fresh like a fountain so the Israelites could drink it. Moses accepted the kindness of that fish. In order to remember the miracle of the fish who transformed salt water to fresh, Moses let it be known that hence forth at every *seder* Jews around the world would honour and remember that fish by serving "Gill Filter Fish".

As we once again retell the story of the Exodus, may we keep our sense of humour and enjoy having those who are nearest and dearest at our *seder* table and remember to be thankful we are blessed to have them with us.

L'Shanah Haba'ah Biy'rushalayim
"Next Year in Jerusalem".

Bonnie Kates



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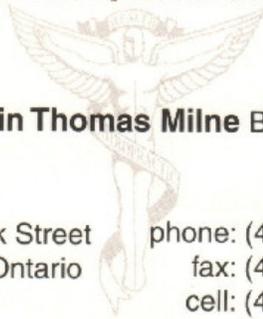
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Random Musings



Lately, the old adage, *money doesn't buy happiness*, has become abundantly clear as the tragic stories in the press unfold about famous

people.

As I've watched in both fascination and sadness, I've been acutely aware that, although each of us may have thought that it might be helpful to have a bit more money for the extra perks in life, sometimes too much really is too much.

After all, beyond a certain point, what is one going to do with it? How many thousands of square feet must a house have to be considered beautiful? Many of the rich and famous concoct dangerous mixtures of drugs and alcohol. If their lives are so pleasant, why escape in a surreal haze? Many people with these behaviours have underlying issues unresolved from childhood. Others may only be curious or bored, the access to unlimited funds allowing indulgence. There are only too many unscrupulous people willing to suggest and supply the desired addictive ingredients for the right price.

They come in the guise of friends, doctors, helpers.

I could think of a number of charities which could, instead, benefit from generous donations; perhaps school breakfast and lunch programs for those who can't afford a well-balanced meal. The donor could, thus, experience the pleasure of a very meaningful contribution to society.

Ironically, the rich and famous are vulnerable. Would such a person really know who is a true friend? Could a potential spouse be trusted? Such are the problems encountered when money dominates a life. In addition to such stresses, the press sometimes builds someone up, only to knock him down.

Occasionally, I succumb to the temptation of a lottery ticket purchase. After all, it's worth a try, and I wouldn't want to see my special numbers appear if I hadn't played them. The hopes go up, the hopes are dashed. Maybe God knows better than to let me win.



Elizabeth Bloom

CVS Program

Epilepsy Toronto, is in need of volunteers to assist them with their fundraising event, on **Saturday March 31**, to be held at the CBC Atrium, 250 Front Street.

They are looking for volunteers to do the following:

Bid spotters

Recorders

Final bid runners

Pieces of art on panels during the preview....taking art from display panels to the auctioneer

Taking sold art to the wrapping area

Locating wrapped sold items after they have paid

Set up refreshments for volunteers

Possibly registration and cashier

Arranging items for silent auction tables

If you are interested in taking part in the community volunteer programme, please let us know, so we can inform them of how many Forestdale Heights members they can count on, and pass along further details.

They are in need to trying to get donated "noshes" for the volunteers. If anyone has any contacts in the area, please let us know. Through out efforts, we can help out **Epilepsy Toronto** and make a difference.

For further information, contact Bonnie Kates, 905 669-2408 or katesfamily@sympatico.ca

Ruth Pupko, left, Lisa Rosen and Harvey Silver, were among the many FHL members who came out to our annual to our *Purim Megillah* Program at 4300 Bathurst Street.



Executive 2007-2008

The following members have been elected to serve on the executive of Forestdale Heights Lodge for 2007-2008. They will be formally installed at the lodge's 40th Anniversary Gala on May 27 at Beth Radom.

President: Bonnie Kates
Senior Vice-President: Irv Pupko
Vice-Presidents: Ivan Bloom
Barry Gordon
Ray Moscoe
Treasurer: Nate Salter
Financial Secretary: Noreen Cohen
Recording Secretary: Ruth Pupko
Trustees: Elizabeth Bloom, Harold Cohen,
Sandy Gordon, David Gorender,
Lisa Rosen, Morris Shapransky

Social: Air Farce

It was the first bad snowstorm of the year - Wednesday, February 14 - and I was wondering if we would make it downtown to go to the taping of Air Farce. As the day progressed and I watched the Toronto road crews clean and salt, I thought we had a good chance.

Some of those who had said they would attend cancelled for obvious reasons but some of us persevered and arrived at the CBC Building on time. The drive downtown was not bad at all and we made it with lots of *schmooze* time to spare.

Those who ventured out after the storm were Bonnie and Michael Kates, Fay Spitzer, Marla and Avery Matlow, Sandy and Barry Gordon and Phyllis Blustein.

As has become our custom, the Forestdale group brought non-perishable goods for the Second Harvest Food Bank, which is the pet charity of the cast and crew of RCAF.

As always, the taping was extremely enjoyable, the director was at his comical best, the warm up musicians were great as usual and the ushers (students from Ryerson) were most accommodating.

We even had the Forestdale Heights name up on their marquee. Every time that it scrolled and the lodge name came up, there was a wild cheer from the Forestdale contingent.

A good time was had by all.

Sandy Gordon

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

The State of the Lodge

As I am sitting down to write this article my mind thinks back to the past years of Forestdale Heights Lodge. I remember many past members who devoted many hours to this lodge in community service and in social activities.

It was my hope when I became President last June that I could help to make the Lodge like it used to be. Unfortunately, this does not seem to be happening. You, as Forestdale Heights members, have to make it happen. We need your input and attendance at meeting to make this lodge the best in B'nai Brith Canada.

Community Service has long been the mainstay of our Lodge. CVS is like tzedakah. When you volunteer for bingos, Chanukah & Purim basket deliveries, BBQ's for the seniors, taking a senior to the Third Seder, etc. you have the feeling of tzedakah. I could go on and on, but I think you all know what it takes to be a volunteer.

We are presently running one CVS program per month, which is a bingo at 15 Torresdale. We only need 3 members to do this. Please let Carl Zeligler know if you are available to help out.

I hope to see you at the next meeting.

Harvey Silver

President,
Forestdale Heights Lodge

November 2000 Issue

1967

FHL@40

2007

In June 1967, B'nai Brith Lodge #2667 was granted its charter to begin operating as **Forestdale Heights Lodge**.

In May 2007, **Forestdale Heights Lodge** will celebrate its 40th anniversary. To mark the occasion, Kol Echad will take a look at lodge life during the past 40 years, exploring two years every month.

1999: President Sheldon Luftspring

Timeline

January 11: J. Simmons, astrologer speaks to lodge

February 7: Vaughan Winterfest

March 1: Purim Megillah Reading, 4300 Bathurst St.

May 9: Annual Baycrest Run

May 16: 32nd Annual Installation

June 22: Budget Meeting

August 8: Forestdale Heights Family Picnic

August 22: 3rd Annual BBQ Luncheon

November 1: Len Berke of Sar-el addresses the lodge

Around the Lodge

Lodge website closed due to lack of interest. At the time, the announcement came with the words "who knows, it may be revived at a future date down the road".

Eight years later, the lodge has a unique presence on the Internet

Set your browser to www.kolechad.jelijo.com

2000: President Harvey Silver

Timeline

January 24: First meeting of 21st Century

February 6: Winterfest 2000

February 28: Nomination Meeting

March 20: Purim Megillah Reading, 4300 Bathurst St.

April 3: Election Meeting

May 14: FHL takes part in Baycrest Challenge

June 26: Budget Meeting

August 20: FHL BBQ, 15 Torresdale

Dec. 24: Chanukah Party

Around the Lodge

FHL donates 150 pounds of food to North York Harvest Food Bank

Sandy's Scripts



Pesach is around the corner but I am always way down the block! It seems no matter how much I plan; there is always the element of fast paced stress on the day of

preparation for the first *seder*.

I remember as a child, I looked forward to *Pesach* because we would get new clothes and a present for finding the *Afikomen*. I was always very shy to recite the *Ma Nishtana* but it got done and quite well. We were about ten grandchildren around our grandparent's *seder* table and every child said the *Ma Nishtana* in its entirety. It was a fun time, an exciting time. We would drink our grandfather's home brew (wine) made just for *Pesach* and when we had to, we fell asleep never to

see the end of that night's *seder* but get ready for the encore performance the next night.

No matter how much we complain, we always manage to be ready on time. The **how** is a mystery to me. We plan in advance to do our *Pesach* cleaning and if you have a separate kitchen for *Pesach*, you are lucky and can do a lot of cooking for the freezer. But if that is

not the case, all you have to work with is a couple of days.

So, get used to the headaches, the aching back and legs and lack of energy because it's all worth it. G-d willing, we will be in the same predicament next year.

From my house to yours, wishing one and all a very Happy, Healthy and Kosher *Pesach*.

Until the next time.

Sandy Gordon



Purim Megillah Reading

For over 15 years our lodge has planned and presented the *Purim Megillah* Reading and Party for the residents at 4300 Bathurst Street. The importance of this program should not be overlooked. Many of the residents, and some of our lodge members, would not normally partake in the *mitzvah* of hearing the *Megillah* read or in enjoying the festival of *Purim* if it were not for this lodge activity. On the evening of March 3, over 100 residents and lodge members and their families were in attendance for this joyous occasion.

There was one significant change to our usual proceedings. The Gutenberg family had in the past been responsible for providing us with a beautiful reading of the *Megillah*. Alan Gutenberg was our first reader and he passed the torch on to his sons Daniel and Jonathan. Both his sons are this year on sabbatical in Israel. It should be noted that tradition requires that the reader read from a hand inscribed parchment *Megillah* with all dots (vowels) removed but with directional notes customarily recited. It takes time and ability to master a proper reading of the *Megillah*. In short notice Stan Zeligler was able to locate a replacement. Moishe Goldstein delivered a masterful rendition of the *Megillah* reading that was enjoyed by all. A donation has been made by the Lodge in appreciation of Moishe's assistance and to one of his favourite charities, Tomchai Shabbas, which assists needy families.

In recognition of the many years of assistance rendered to our lodge by the Gutenberg family a donation has also been made in honour of the Gutenberg family by our lodge to the Jewish National Fund.

The evening contained many of the usual events that have become a hallmark to this program. The ability of Morris Shapransky to belt out so much noise from his small bugle must be noted. The delicious *hamentashen* from Richman's Bakery were provided to all in attendance along with potato chips, clementines, and drinks. The residents were most receptive to this program and indicated their heartfelt appreciation.

The ingenuity of our lodge members must also be noted. Undaunted by a lack of available *gregars*, Avery Matlow without a moment's hesitation repeatedly transformed himself into a human *regar*, an event that was not to be missed.

A number of lodge members and their family members were in attendance whose work and efforts must not be overlooked. I apologize in advance if names have been left out but would at this time extend our lodge's appreciation to Barry & Sandy Gordon, Albert & Honey Ohana, Stan & Janet Zeligler, Marla & Avery Matlow, Jeff, Lisa, & Jordana Rosen, Morris & Grace Shapransky, Michael & Bonnie Kates, Irv & Ruth Pupko, Jerry & Phyllis Blustein, Debby, Rachel and Rebecca Zeligler, and Harvey Silver. As well we were joined by members of Don Mills and Upper Canada Lodges, turning it into a multi-lodge effort.

Carl S. Zeligler

Purim Parcel Delivery

They are to observe these as days of feasting and gladness, and for sending delicacies to one another, and giving gifts to the poor. (Esther 9:22)

On *Purim*, we send two types of ready-to-eat food to at least one friend, symbolizing the spirit of kinship. On *Purim*, we reach out to each other, so that no one should miss the joy of the occasion. The Talmud says *Kol Yisrael Araivim* -- each Jew is responsible one for the other. On *Purim* we give charity to anyone without investigating the validity of their need.

On Sunday March 4, members of Forestdale Heights Lodge presented themselves to B'nai Brith Canada to participate in the annual delivery of *Purim* parcels, *Mishloach Manot*. Four-hundred and fifty parcels were headed to clients of Jewish Family and Child Services this year. Michael Kates, Albert Ohana, Ivan Bloom, Barry Gordon and Stan Zeliger took part in this project. Carl Zeliger arranged to pick up his parcels on the Friday before.

Forestdale Heights had more participants than any other lodge, and a number of parcels never did reach their destination as they were short drivers. I am proud of the display made by the members of Forestdale Heights who continually sponsor and believe in "People helping People" in this excellent community volunteer program. *Kol HaKovod*, Forestdale Heights, you make me proud of your accomplishments.

Bonnie Kates



Lodge members at the Purim Megillah Reading.

Purim Dance



On Sunday March 4, Forestdale Heights hosted a *Purim* dance party at Reena Foundation. It was well attended by the residents, their workers, volunteers and also by the following lodge members: Morris & Grace Shapransky, Jerry & Phyllis Blustein, Michael & Bonnie Kates, Sonia Holtzman, Ruth Pupko, Barry & Sandy Gordon. Ethel Segal (Grace's sister) and Renee (dressed up as clown) & Danny Margolin also participated in this successful party.

We were delighted to treat them to *Hamentashen*, pop, pretzels, mandarins, and especially the chips since they were the most popular treat. We were happy to mingle and see the joy in their faces. I think that they gave us more than we gave them; they actually accepted us as we are!

It was a great afternoon and I hope that we will be able to host many more programs at Reena.

Ruth Pupko

CARL S. ZELIGER, B.A., LL.B.

BARRISTER, SOICITOR AND NOTARY

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We are now collecting new and nearly new men's clothing items
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Toronto North Support Services

Specific items requested
are *jeans, sweatshirts and jackets*.
Items should be torn free, washed, and folded
in plastic bags or medium size boxes



These items will be provided to people in need to apply
for jobs and to help them settle into community life.

Please bring your donations to our next meeting.

**Need more information?
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**Morris Shapransky blows his
horn to drown out
evil Haman's name
at the March 3
Megillah reading.**



Passover Funnies

A British Jew is waiting in line to be knighted by the Queen. He is to kneel in front of her and recite a sentence in Latin when she taps him on the shoulders with her sword. However, when his turn comes, he panics in the excitement of the moment and forgets the Latin. Then, thinking fast, he recites the only other sentence he knows in a foreign language, which he remembers from the Passover Seder:

"Ma Nishtana ha layla ha zeh mi kol ha laylot."

Puzzled, Her Majesty turns to her advisor and whispers, "Why is this knight different from all other knights?"

A little boy once returned home from Hebrew school and his father asked, "What did you learn today?"

He answered, "The Rabbi told us how Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt."

"How?"

The boy said "Moses was a big strong man and he beat Pharaoh up. Then while he was down, he got all the people together and ran towards the sea. When he got there, he has the Corps of Engineers build a huge pontoon bridge. Once they got on the other side, they blew up the bridge while the Egyptians were trying to cross."



The father was shocked. "Is that what the Rabbi taught you?"

The boy replied, "No. But you'd never believe the story he DID tell us!"

How did Passover get its name?

Since the Seder table is usually made larger, people can't reach for the items on the table and invariably ask others: "Could you please Pass Over the matzah, etc.!"

How is a good sermon like a piece of matzah?

They both should take less than 18 minutes!

Passover Tale

There once was a man named Herb who had slaved away at his job for many years. He never expected them to pass over him for promotion, but they did, and so he was bitter about that. Bitter Herb is what they called him. Although he was the kind of guy who mows his lawn each weekend, it seemed that he was even bitter about that too. He lived most of his life on the edge of denial.



He would often whine about the problems that plagued him. He always seemed to have a bone to pick about this or that. Things were made worse by a co-worker who egged him on, a guy that Herb once called a "dip" twice. You might just say that Herb wasn't upright.

One day, Bitter Herb returned from the boss's office all hoarse and reddish. "I'm fired! They're gonna let my people go!" he exclaimed. "Why? Why why why?" He opened his wallet and looked inside. "No bread!" he cried. "He gyped me out of a job!"

That night, as he cleared out his desk, he knew that this night was different from all other nights. He looked at some old pictures by his children of Israel. Just then, he spilled water across his desk, when luckily, before anything got wet, the water parted.

After leaving and then wandering around for a while, Herb moved to Florida where he was promised land. Herb is now happy when he and his wife go out to the local restaurant and order the specials and one is completely free.



40th Gala Anniversary

On Sunday May 27, Forestdale Heights Lodge will celebrate its 40th Gala Anniversary at Beth Radom Synagogue. As part of this special event, your installation committee is in the process of creating a commemorative book with historical memorabilia, greetings and much more.



We are securing advertising for this special program and invite all members to put in their own greetings. If you have committed to place a personal or business ad, please note that the deadline for all ads is March 30.

Thank you for your continued support in this endeavour.

The Friendly Greek



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