February 2012 Shvat/Adar 5772

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FORESTDALE HEIGHTS LODGE, B'NAI BRITH CANADA

KOL ECHAD

Kol Echad is the official publication of Forestdale Heights Lodge. It is published 10 times a year.

We welcome all articles and letters from members of the lodge.

All material submitted is subject to editing.

The editor may consult with members of the bulletin committee regarding suitability and editorial decisions.

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

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Kosher Food Bank

Forestdale Heights is a supporter of the Pride of Israel Kosher Food Bank. Members are requested to bring an item of non-perishable kosher food to each Lodge meeting. The food items should bear a kosher certification. Donations of sealed toiletry items are also welcome. Donations collected at each meeting will be delivered the following day. To read more about the food bank, please go to <u>http://bit.ly/n8GhVZ</u>.

AT A GLANCE

February 6	Slate Presentation & Dinner Meeting
February 14	Bingo
March 7	Megillah Reading at 4300 Bathurst
March 12	Nominations/Dinner Meeting (new date)
March 13	Bingo
April 2	Elections & Dinner Meeting
May 6	Toronto Marathon
June 3	Woodbine

Dinner at 6:30; Meeting at 7:15 Dinner Charge: \$7.50 members; \$10 non-members

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PRESIDENT'S PEN



Many of us are watching the political situation leading up to the elections in the United States. If you're like me, you are thinking how lucky we are here in Canada.

There doesn't seem to be a strong candidate for

president this time out. The election process doesn't seem to be focused on issues and the needs of the American people seem to be totally ignored. The focus seems to be who can beat the incumbent.

What about the bad economic times, the trillions of dollars that the U.S. is in debt, unemployment, the te for | under our pointe

housing crisis, the sinking U.S. dollar and the printing of money to keep up? I don't think I have ever seen the U.S. in a worse state than it is in.

At this time, I feel fortunate to be a Canadian. Our banking system is intact and not in shambles as is its American counterpart, which is on shaky ground.

How proud I am to be living in Canada with my family and friends under our political system.

I know that our banks are solid and our dollar is strong, the job market is good and we can go to sleep knowing that our Prime Minister and his government supports Israel and Jews in our country.

Oh Canada!

Ray Moscoe



COVER ART

Artist Alex Levin created this month's cover. Levin was born in 1975 in Ukraine and by the time he was six, he knew that he was called to be a painter. Levin's works are on display in private and public collections and galleries in Israel, Belgium, U.S., Australia, and Russia. His paintings have been reproduced on the covers of books and other printed materials. Levin is represented by Tribes Fine Art Gallery, Tel Aviv. For further information about this artist, contact Info@tribes-gallery.com or go to www.tribes-gallery.com

EDITOR'S DESK



As I sat down to pen this, my first column written in 2012, the year was but a few days old, but already the silly season had begun in the United States.

For those who don't keep up, this

year, our neighbours to the south will choose a new leader to guide them through these perilous times.

I find it amazing that Americans devote so much time – almost a year – to the process of choosing a new president, and yet four years down the road, so many denigrate their leader with all manner of abuse. In the end, they are no better off than their Canadian cousins are.

In Canada, our parties select their leaders at a time of their choosing. By the time an election rolls around, most people have seen the party leaders at their best and their worst. We usually know the bill of goods we are getting by the time we cast our ballot.

Does it help? It's hard to say. It always amazes me how Canadian voters make their choices.

Did Torontonians realize they were electing two people for mayor when they choose Rob Ford (Doug came with the package). I would bet they had no idea. Again, I also have to wonder, did Canadians realize the bill of goods they were buying when they gave Stephen Harper a majority government last year?

In the past year, his party has eliminated the gun registry over the objection of police chiefs, eliminated the Canadian Wheat Board over the objection of farmers' groups, vilified those who are against a proposed gas pipeline and cancelled the long form census over the objection of social planners.

His MPs have engaged in denigrating the good name of one of the country's leading human rights experts, Liberal MP Irwin Cotler, calling it a freedom of speech exercise.

At the same time, our country was being named one of the worst polluters per capita in the world as the government continued to promote the oil sands. Some would say, "Jeff, you're being naive. The Alberta oil sands produce thousands of jobs and bring in millions of dollars in economic activity."

I get it. I really do, but there has to be a better way. Canada should be looking towards the future and promoting new sources of energy.

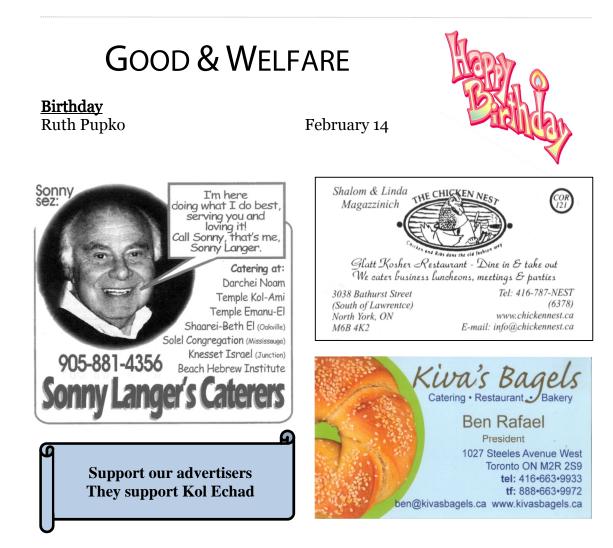
Continued on next page

realize that many in T the community back the Conservatives for a variety of reasons, chief among them their strong pro-Israel stance. I laud their efforts in these matters as well. However, does it weigh off against what I see as damage on the domestic front? Being a diehard Liberal, I admit to being biased. One wonders though will tell their what people

grandchildren in 20 to 30 years when they ask why they supported a government that was so against improving the environment and the air they breathe?

Have a great year. *Shalom*

Kesen





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On Wednesday, March 7, at 7:15 p.m. Forestdale Heights

will be hosting its annual Megillah reading at 4300 Bathurst Street

If you are coming, please RSVP to Carl Zeliger at 905-669-2732 or email **czeliger@wza.ca** (Volunteers please arrive by 7:00 p.m.)

Woodbine 2012

Sunday, June 3

Cost \$40/person, which includes buffet lunch, programme and reserved seating

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raym@tes.net

SANDY'S SCRIPT



Barry and I recently went to a neighbourhood community centre for their senior swim. We do this a couple of times a week.

I must say that I find it very amusing, to say the least. The first time

I went into the change room, there wasn't a soul there – I guess I was a little late for the start of the swim. I went about my way with pre-shower etc. and then went out to the pool area. As I approached the pool, (now you have to realize this is the first time going to a senior swim), I really did not know what to expect. I noticed that there were a few couples enjoying their morning swim. It was nice to see everyone taking an interest in their fitness.

There was one couple – the wife was massaging her husband's shoulders and then he reciprocated – who were so cute to watch. I think they were in their late 80s, or maybe older. I wish I had been able to understand their conversations! They were speaking in Russian! Then there was another couple who were leaving the pool and the husband was giving his wife a little boost on the ladder to help her out of the pool. I have to tell you, I admired them because they seemed to have more energy than I did! Rather than swimming, I found myself using the buoyancy of the water to assist me in doing aqua exercises, which was really great and low impact. However, as they say, it doesn't matter what you do as long as you keep moving!

The swim was for an hour and on leaving the pool and returning to the change area, I chuckled till I could not stop – but it had to be all inward as I was the only one there at least 20 years their junior.

I can't be too graphic here as it would not be nice, but use your imagination. There was a room full of women, some approaching their 90s in many different shapes and sizes, all changing into their street clothes. Of course, I had nobody to talk to because I did not speak their language. I was kind of like the odd person out, but they were very nice and very friendly towards one another. One woman even pointed to my watch when I was entering the pool, thinking it was not waterproof, but it is! It was very nice of her to bring it to my attention though.

There is just one thing that baffled me. In all my observations, all with only a comedic spin on them, what were they thinking of me, this woman who only speaks English?

Sandy Gordon

SLATE COMMITTEE

The Slate Committee met on January 4 and has recommended the following individuals serve on the executive of Forestdale Heights Lodge for 2012-2013:

President: Ray Moscoe Senior Vice-President: Harvey Silver Vice-Presidents: George Garten, Evie Isenberg, Richard Kotzen Treasurer: Charlene Garten Financial Secretary: Stuart Indig Recording Secretary: Rhona Leviston Trustees: Elizabeth Bloom, Ivan Bloom, Barry Gordon, Sandy Gordon, Allan Greenberg, Linda Greenberg, Avery Matlow, Marla Matlow

As immediate past president, Irv Pupko, will serve as chaplain.





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Mr. Harvey Silver Forestdale Heights Lodge 27 Elise Terrace Toronto, ON M2R 2W9

Dear Mr. Silver:

On behalf of officers & civilians of 2 District and myself we would like to take this opportunity to say thank you.

Your generous donation of the chocolates for our members to enjoy and the kind letter was greatly appreciated and well received by all.

Thank you.

Respectfully yours,

Bruce West Inspector #434 2 District Headquarters 171 Major Mackenzie Drive West Richmond Hill, ON L4C 5J1

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Dear Mr. Pupko,

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Thank you again for your interest and support.

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December 16, 2011

WINTER WARM-UPS

Beef Stew with Vegetables Ingredients:

- 2 pounds lean stew beef
- 1 cup chopped onions
- 1/2 teaspoon seasoned salt
- 2 to 3 teaspoons vegetable oil
- 1 can (approx. 10 1/2 ounces) condensed beef broth
- hot water
- 3 cups diced potatoes
- 2 cups diced carrots
- 1 celery stalk, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1/3 cup cold water
- black pepper and seasoned salt to taste

Preparation:

Rinse the beef under cold running water. Heat oil in a Dutch oven or kettle; add beef, seasoned salt and chopped onions. Cook over medium heat for about 10 to 15 minutes, until the meat is browned on all sides and chopped onions are tender. Drain off excess fat, if necessary. Add beef broth and hot water to the pot until liquid level is about 1 inch above the beef. Cover and reduce heat to low; simmer, covered, for 1 1/2 to 2 hours or until the meat is tender. Add the potatoes, carrots, and celery. Cover and cook, stirring occasionally, for 20 to 30 minutes longer, until vegetables are tender. To thicken the stew, combine the flour with 1/3 cup cold water; stir until smooth. Gently stir flour mixture into the pot a little at a time, using as much as needed to make the stew as thick as you like it. Add pepper and taste for seasonings, adding more seasoned salt if necessary. Serves 8.



NOTES FROM NATE

Never letting the truth get in the way of a good story



So there we was, sitting in Harvey's living room, the socalled seniors of the Lodge, the *di groyse makhers* past presidents trying to make like a slate committee.

My friends, this is a ritual that in the case of Forestdale, has gone on for 46 years,

and this year it was even more critical that we get it done right. Nu so, what is nokh an ander a committee slate other than Stephen, Bob, Barack, Dalton, Tim and Rob (real identities have been shielded to protect the guilty) sitting around table а schmoozing.

Well, boychicks and *meydlekh*, it is a time for the so-called "elders" of the Lodge to evaluate who is currently serving on the executive. It is a time to look not only at the past, but to in some way attempt to look into the direction the Lodge is heading in the future. We look at who is currently serving, who is no longer serving due

a for 46 years, no easy task.

to illness or death and who is ready to move up the executive ladder and lead the Lodge in years to come.

This year, due to illness and loss, what we thought was a solid plan last year turned out to have holes in it. Our challenge was to move the players around to once again gain harmony and a positive forward direction. Trust me when I say that this is no easy task.

Each and every member has his/her own life to live and we all suffer from a shortage of time to give the Lodge.

But after but only a few hours of deliberation with absolutely no yelling and screaming (a real departure from back in the day), we selected a group of

individuals who accepted the challenge to be slated for office. Now, there is still going to be nomination and election meetings, where others can be nominated. We welcome the opportunity to have them stand for office.

Continued on next page

This coming year should prove to be interesting as both old and new ideas are brought forward.

One thing is for sure; Forestdale Heights Lodge is alive and well, with enthusiastic members who are determined to keep moving forward and continuing to build our legend. From where this *alter kaker* sits, it doesn't get better than that.

Let me leave you with a paraphrased thought from the late John F. Kennedy: Ask not what your lodge can do for you; Ask what you can do for your lodge. That, my brothers and sisters, is the answer.

Before I go, here is your *Pincus Punim* thought for this month:

If my purpose in life is to help others, then what are others here for?

Nate Salter

Nec 16,2011 Freedom 55 Near Hawey Debi, Thank you so much for you support and lequest to speak at your lodge. I had a great !! time and I hope your lodge members did too .!! Thank You. David W. Andreoli B.A.M.Sc.P.E Havid

Rosalie Moscoe RHN, RNCP



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AS I SEE IT



I have the best boss in the world. She is always smiling no matter what I do. I am allowed to wear what I want to work and kisses and tushie pinches are just part of the everyday work

culture. Lunches can be leisurely, but are often hurried to adhere to the daily routine. True, my work requires that I am constantly on call, but my boss's needs are pretty simple. Being on paternity leave is a wonderful experience and I am privileged that I am able to do this for a second time.

When I announced at work my intentions to take paternity leave for the first time, interestingly enough, an older female staff member was the only person to make a disparaging comment. She remarked that it was a shame for my students that I was breaking up their academic year with my three-month absence.

As the words were leaving her mouth, I knew that I was a) not going to challenge her, and b) I would not have heard any dissenting opinions if I were a woman. Female employees, as it should be, are never challenged about their family choices. Why then was I the recipient of this remark? My other colleagues were very supportive and encouraging. I was the target of reverse sexism. I found this to be a very interesting encounter as well as a learning experience. By no means was that negative comment my last exposure to reverse sexism. When I took our infant son to his weekly music class, I was the only father in attendance. After class, many of the mommies went out for coffee. I was never invited to join them and I found the rejection dismaying.

Regardless of others' reactions to me, I know that paternity leave is an enriching time in our lives for both my Friends in the children and me. think United States themselves fortunate to be allowed to take more than a six-week maternity leave. T cannot fathom entrusting my children into someone else's care when they are still so young, simply because my employer needs me. Canadian law allows for parents to take up to a vear's parental leave.

My job will still be there when I return from paternity leave, but the quality time I spend my with my daughter is immeasurable. Dirty diapers, spit-up, mushy food and numerous loads of laundry – my idea of a great day at work.

Mare Kates

HEALTH IN HARMONY



When I was 14 years old, I joined B'nai Brith Youth and part was of the chapter, Beth Amara. There I met mv lifelong friends. а group of five of us that still are friends today.

We took part in many fun programs; I learned much about CVS and the importance of helping those less fortunate than ourselves.

Of course, one of the highlights was the dances we attended with the AZA boys division of B'nai B'rith! It was fun being part of an organization that proclaimed and stood for lofty goals. Also, the feeling of camaraderie I experienced with a Jewish organization was important to my family to maintain Jewish roots. After all, it was only 14 years earlier that the Holocaust and WWII had ended.

I continued to nourish my Jewish roots once I was married and had

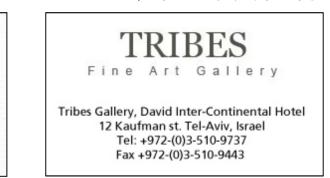
children, making sure our children attended Hebrew school and that our family belonged to a shul – as did my parents before me. I also enjoyed being part of National Council of Jewish Women for many years and found the association helped to further instill in me community service and education and, of course, an affiliation with Israel.

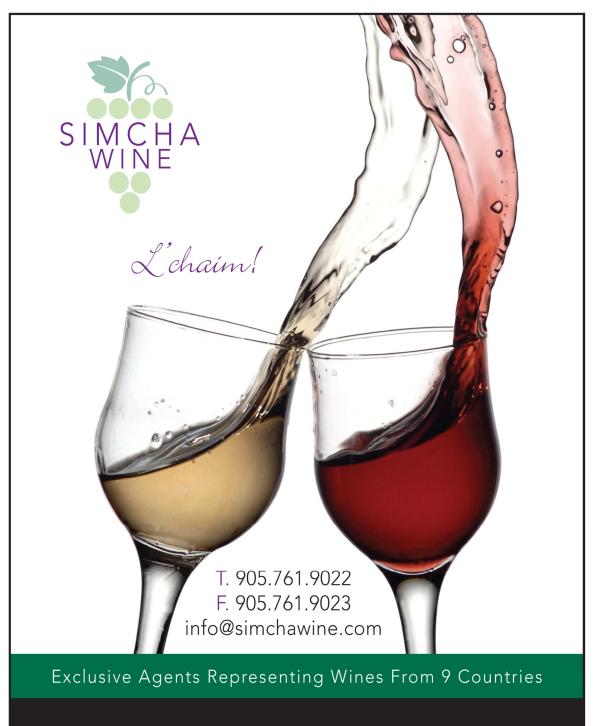
Fifty-two years later after first joining B'nai Brith, I still have the same feeling of camaraderie of being part of a Jewish organization – our own Forestdale Heights Lodge, feeling proud of doing good deeds for those who need help and still enjoy social and educational programs.

I feel fortunate to have been born Jewish and to see the world through Jewish eyes, values and family ties that are so important to our continuity in the world as Jews. In this secular new year, it's good to take stock of our lives as Jews and feel proud of our rich heritage.

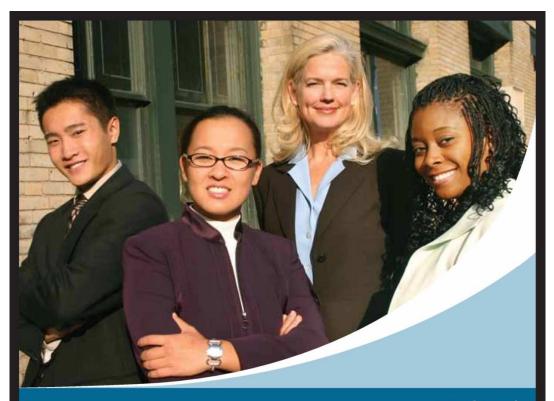
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