

Forestdale Heights Lodge, B'nai Brith Canada

KOL ECHAD

February 2018
Shevat/Adar 5778

Volume 16, No 6



50

COVER ART

It's hard to think warm thoughts when snow continues to blanket the ground and temperatures remain below zero. On the bright side, spring arrives next month on Tuesday, March 20.

Our website has most of the regular features found in print, plus much more. Visit kolechad.ca for up-to-date news from Jerusalem Post, CBC, Reuters and more.

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PRESIDENT'S PEN

Stewart Indig



On December 22, Mark Spergel and I helped out at the Yellow Brick House. Jeff had asked me to take pictures, but the truth is Mark and I were put to work and we worked non-stop. For those of you who do not know, the Yellow Brick House runs shelters for battered and abused women.

We got there a few minutes early, registered, and we were given our task. It was actually pretty simple. Our only job was to separate all the food into bags and boxes and then box them up. This included boxes of pasta, canned vegetables, and canned soups. At the same time, donations were coming in and they would give us more bags and boxes to go through. We also had to watch for expiry dates.



Of course, the boxes we were putting the food in could not be heavy, so we went through a lot of boxes. Each box had to be labelled with what it contained. Mark made it my job to make the boxes as they were all flattened. We went through four rolls of tape.

We did get through the majority of the donated food. It actually gives me a warm feeling helping out. You can see that these “staple” goods are being put to good use.

The Yellow Brick House has very few paid staff. Almost all the people working there that evening were volunteers. The place was so packed with donations there was not much room to move around. All of the donated merchandise was new.

We did work our hearts out. That being said, it is a mitzvah to help out and I enjoy it. We will be back again next year. It really is CVS at its best.

Keep warm.

KOL ECHAD

Kol Echad is the official publication of Forestdale Heights Lodge, B'nai Brith Canada.

It is published 10 times a year.

We welcome all articles and letters from members of the Lodge and their spouses.

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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Debbi Silver

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Aaron Pacter
Michael Pacter

AT A GLANCE

| | |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| February 12 | Nominations & Dinner Meeting |
| February 28 | Purim Programme |
| March 12 | Elections & Dinner Meeting |
| April 9 | Dinner Meeting |
| May 6 | Toronto Goodlife Marathon |
| May 14 | Dinner Meeting |
| June 11 | Dinner Meeting |

Dinner at 6:30; Meeting at 7:15

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PESACH GREETINGS

To all members of Forestdale Heights Lodge:

This year we will be running Pesach Greetings in the April issue of Kol Echad. Greetings will be \$5 each (just one size). Deadline to put a greeting in is March 5. Please send wording for your greeting to [**jelijo@sympatico.ca**](mailto:jelijo@sympatico.ca).

Cheques (made out to Forestdale Heights Lodge) or cash can be handed in at the March meeting or mailed to Jeff Rosen, 150 Harris Way, Thornhill, Ont. L3T 5A8.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, talk to Jeff and we will arrange direct deposit.



EDITOR'S DESK

Jeff Rosen



“News is what I say it is”

Did someone actually say this; does it paraphrase a real quote or is it a total fabrication?

Living in the latter part of the second decade of the 21st century, the question appears quite relevant. Just go on to Facebook any day and you will be bombarded by numerous news stories, which are often unfolding as you read them.



Most of what we read online these days is real, but the “spin” that is put on the delivery affects how we perceive what is going on around us. When news outlets started posting breaking stories to social media outlets, it changed how we, the public, received and reacted to news.

Has that improved the delivery of information? I guess that would depend on whom you would ask. Having worked in the news business for over three decades, I would definitely say no. I was trained to search out the facts and deliver them in a “timely” manner to the public. There were rules that guided our pursuit of knowledge, certain boundaries that were never crossed.

Of course, that was in the pre-Internet age. These days everyone thinks of themselves as a journalist, often posting what they think they know is going on in the world and often offering their opinions.

While some readers are able to separate the “wheat from the chaff,” sadly, too many online viewers are unable to see the difference between real and “fake” news. This has led to a general distrust in the media and a decline in people reading newspapers. I guess it’s so much easier to go online, read and comment on the first story that pops up on Facebook.

Unfortunately, most of the comments being posted are negative. I guess there is something about the anonymity that compels people to write things online they would never say to someone face-to-face.

Continued on next page

I have to admit, I often get caught up in the moment, reacting to outrageous online statements. Of course, one comment leads to another and before you know it, everyone is reacting not to the initial story, but to the online comments, as if they too were part of the original story.

Is it real though; is it actually part of the story, or simply a distraction? Who really knows?

After all, news has (sadly) become what a person says it is.

Be well.

Oh yes, the quote at the top of this column is real. It is attributed to the late David Brinkley, the renowned U.S. news anchor.

From: Schellhorn, Heidi #526
To: stewart.indig@gmail.com
Subject: letter

Good afternoon,

My name is Heidi Schellhorn and I am the officer in charge of 2 District here in Richmond Hill.

We received your letter today and I just wanted to say thank you for taking the time to send it.

That was very thoughtful.

It will be shared with the dedicated members (both civilian and sworn) in our District.

Best wishes,

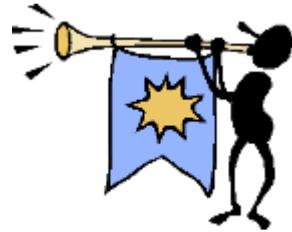
Heidi

Heidi Schellhorn
Superintendent #526
York Regional Police
2 District

SLATE COMMITTEE

A meeting of Forestdale Heights Lodge's Slate Committee was convened on Wednesday, January 17 at 27 Elise Terrace. The following people have been slated to serve on the executive for the 2018-2019 year. Nominations will be held at the February 12 meeting.

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| President: | Stewart Indig |
| Senior Vice-President: | |
| Vice-Presidents: | Elizabeth Bloom, Ruth Pupko |
| Treasurer: | Debbi Silver |
| Recording Secretary: | |
| Financial Secretary: | Jeff Rosen |
| Trustees: | |
| Chaplain: | Harvey Silver (un-elected position) |



FORESTDALE FUNNIES

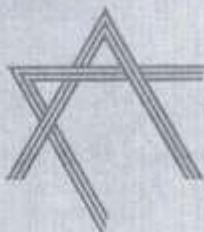


My husband and I purchased an old home in Northern New York State from two elderly sisters. Winter was fast approaching and I was concerned about the house's lack of insulation. "If they could live here all those years, so can we," my husband confidently declared. One November night the temperature plunged to below zero, and we woke up to find interior walls covered with frost. My husband called the sisters to ask how they had kept the house warm. After a rather brief conversation, he hung up. "For the past 30 years," he muttered, "they've gone to Florida for the winter."

* * *

A wife sends her husband a text message on a cold winter evening: "Windows frozen." The husband sends answer back: "Pour some warm water over them." Sometime later husband receives answer from his wife: "The computer is completely fried now."

A decorative wavy line at the bottom of the page, consisting of a thick black line that curves and tapers off to the right.



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Purim 5778

On Wednesday, February 28, Forestdale Heights will be hosting its annual Megillah reading at 4300 Bathurst Street. The programme will commence at 6:40 p.m. Volunteers are requested to be there by 6:15 p.m. If you are coming, please RSVP to Carl Zeliger at (905) 669-2732 or e-mail czeliger@wza.ca

MEMBERSHIP



B'nai Brith Canada has gone paperless. The organization is no longer sending out invoices by mail. You can now renew your membership online. Dues are \$125 for members and \$50 for a spousal membership.

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You can also call directly with your payment information or any questions at: (416)-633-6224 Ext 109.

WINTER FUNNY

A trucker stops at a red light and a blonde catches up to him. She knocks on the window and says, "Hi, my name is Heather and you are losing some of your load." The trucker just ignores her, the light changes, and he proceeds down the street. At the next light, the blonde again catches up and says, "Hi, my name is Heather, and you are losing some of your load." He ignores her again and continues down the street. At the next red light, the blonde catches up, all out of breath, knocks on the window and says, "Hi, my name is Heather and you are losing some of your load." The trucker looks at her and finally, he says, "Hi, my name is Kevin, it's snowing, and I'm driving a salt truck."

JANUARY MEETING



The first meeting of 2018, on Monday, January 8, started with an interesting speaker, discussing a timely and important topic that affects everyone. Unfortunately, only seven members came out to hear former Lodge member, Lloyd Lindsay, speak about Technology & Security.

Lindsay is a life member of CPA Ontario, a CA, a Licensed

Public Accountant, and a Certified Management Consultant. In 1983, he joined the Toronto Texas Instrument 9T9 Users Group and in 1987, Lindsay joined the Personal Computer Club of Toronto. In 2012, Lindsay joined the Durham PC Users group.

Lindsay explained that everything is computerized in today's digital age. As a result, we are more vulnerable to digital attacks than ever before.

He said that while the Internet is a powerful tool, the fact that it is so easy to use, is free and fast means that it can pose real dangers. The relative ease means that if you click on a wrong item without a proper review, you can lose valuable data.

Lindsay said that hackers are out there; people looking to gain access to your computer to send out spam e-mails, steal information contained in your computer, and even your very identity. Who are these hackers, he asked. In many cases, they are not only kids, but organized crime.

Discussing the safe use of e-mails, Lindsay said that we should never trust unexpected e-mails or those from unknown sources. He also discussed malware entry points, which include floppy disks, DVDs and USBs.

Talking about routers and modems, he said that the former is a very important tool for Internet safety. He said that quite often, the two are housed in one unit, but if not, routers should be considered essential equipment, calling them the first line of defence against hackers.

Continued on next page

Once you do get one, he said the first order of business is to change the default password and create a new, strong password. He added that it is also important to disable the remote administration.

An unprotected computer can be compromised in less than 30 minutes, he explained.

Lindsay also discussed the availability of fake apps, which he said are the biggest security threat, and WiFi wireless networks. When using these networks, he said that no one should use the default name and password or a name that can identify you. As well, no one should log into a banking website or PayPal from a public WiFi network.

Overall, to protect oneself from online attacks, he said people should install all available updates as new threats keep popping up every day.

Jeff Rosen

Good afternoon Jeff,

I wanted to take a moment to thank you and your organization for the generous donation to the charity of my choice. It was certainly appreciated and unexpected.

Please keep up the good work!

Aaron Arkin

From: David Cooke
To: stewart.indig@gmail.com
Subject: Thank-You for the Gift.

Stewart:

I would like to thank you very much for the gift of chocolates that you dropped off to us here at 5700 Bathurst St. Your kind words are very much appreciated.

All the very best to you and your members,

David

David Cooke
Superintendent
Toronto Paramedic Services
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TALKING POINTS

Debbi Silver



The months are going by so quickly. February is on our doorstep.

Yesterday, January 13 was a very special day for all of Michael Kates' z"l friends. Michael's sons invited us to participate in his first yearzeit at Beit Rayim Synagogue. It was so beautiful to see Lonny, Mitchell, Marc, Rachel and their three children. Joining them were, Jeff and Lisa Rosen, Eddie and Marilyn Arkin, Michael and Elaine Scher, and Ruth Pupko, who davened with their family and other relatives. Rabbi Chezi Zaionz said some beautiful words to Lonny about coming to shul for the entire year. We later enjoyed a delicious Kiddush sponsored by the Kates family. I am sure Bonnie z"l and Michael z"l were both looking down on their family and knew that they had done a beautiful job in bringing up such heart-warming children.

Back to the basics...

With February come the nominations for new officers of Forestdale Heights Lodge. I am very hopeful that the Slate Committee has come up with a new slate of officers. We have a lot to do to keep this Lodge alive. One thing that Stewart said at the last meeting stuck with me, "our Lodge still does so many community service projects." With this in mind, I'm sure there are some people out there that would want to join in on some of these amazing projects.

While Harvey and I won't be at the next meeting, please come out and meet the nicest group of guys and gals.

See you in March.



TORONTO MARATHON

GoodLife
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TORONTO
MARATHON



Sunday, May 6

Forestdale Heights Lodge has participated in the Goodlife Toronto Marathon for close to a decade. Our Lodge is responsible for the first water station behind Mel Lastman Square.

Arrival time at the water station is 6:00 a.m. and we are usually done by 9:00 a.m. The fun continues afterwards when we often go out for breakfast.

If you can volunteer your time for this great CVS project, please call Harvey Silver at (416) 223-0780 or email at debbisilver@rogers.com.



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In December, I once again had the privilege of delivering, on behalf of the Lodge, four large bags of scarves, gloves, and hats to Covenant House. This shelter for homeless youth is located right in the heart of Toronto.

In particular, this year there was a great need for scarves and gloves, and we can be very proud of the warmth provided by our gifts, delivered just in the nick of time for one of the coldest winters on record.

Our gift of brand-new outerwear is always gratefully received by those in charge at Covenant House, and I am certain that the fact that our gifts are lovely and new is appreciated by all who wear them.

Once again, Forestdale Heights Lodge has generously stepped up in the spirit of CVS to contribute in a meaningful way to our community.

Thank you.

Elizabeth Bloom

COMMENT: IT'S COLD OUTSIDE!

Surprise, it's January/February in Toronto and it's cold outside! Double surprise, there are people who have no place to go to get out of the cold.

It's hard to believe, but these two statements could be written every year, virtually unchanged. It's hard to understand why this is an annual occurrence. We know when winter takes place every year. Granted, some years we do not experience the same frigid temperatures that hit Toronto and region this January, but still, it's no picnic for those who are forced to seek shelter as the thermometer dips.

Yet, every year politicians put on the same show, act alarmed, vow to take action, promise to study the problem and, only when frigid temperatures arrive, do they leap into action.

This being an election year, we should demand that our elected leaders do better. Don't wait for winter to seek remedies. Yes, bold action costs money, but we are talking about people's lives. If our elected representatives are not prepared to act, perhaps they should step aside and let those who are not afraid to serve the entire population lead the city.

Jeff Rosen



HARMONY

Rosalie Moscoe

Fame is fun, if not fleeting. In 1952, I was six years old. My mother's first cousin, Snooky, left her farm in Quebec to file for divorce and would be gone for two months. One little problem – Snooky sent her pet, a green-backed monkey named Chico, to

Toronto to stay at our house. Just a little history about Chico; he loved to ride on pigs' backs at the farm, taunting them until they squealed – not from joy. He also found his way up to the top of the henhouse (but first stealing a couple of their eggs) and from the opening in the henhouse roof, pelted the unsuspecting chickens with the eggs, sending chickens into a clucking frenzy. Chico was a cute little fellow, but a royal pest. Snooky lovingly had treated him like a spoiled child.



Chico arrived in Toronto in a large parrot cage, and the news spread far and wide! Chico was the hit of the neighbourhood, but he raised hell! One sorry day he somehow escaped from the cage, tore up newspapers, unravelled a roll of toilet paper throughout the house, threw dishes, and swung from a chandelier. We chased and finally caught Chico and stuck him back in his cage. He stared at us with his beady eyes and rattled on the bars. I felt sorry for Chico, even after cleaning up his mess; after all, he had been a free agent on the farm!

On April 1, April Fool's Day, my mother loaned out Chico for a child's birthday party a couple of miles away. We received a frantic call from the child's mother; Chico had escaped from the cage and couldn't be found. My mother knew she'd be in trouble with Snooky if Chico was lost. My mum called the popular radio station CFRB and frantically asked them to announce our missing monkey. "Ha!, lady I know it's April Fool's Day, but really!" "No, it's true", pleaded my mum.

Continued on next page

Her convincing tone was responsible for an announcement on CFRB every hour on the hour for listeners to call the station if they saw a green-backed monkey on the loose! Would you believe, **SOMEONE CALLED!** Chico had been spotted in a backyard, swinging through the trees. We arrived in the backyard and my mother held a peeled banana to entice Chico; he gingerly jumped into her arms.

We were whisked away to the radio station where Chico literally tore through the studio – everyone in chase. The close to wreckage encounter was recorded (even the clatter of Chico throwing tin ash trays), both on radio and in the pages of the Pink Telegram with our smiling faces plastered in the paper - Chico sitting on top of the now antiquated microphone. It was our family's day of fame. Twenty-five years later, I ran into my kindergarten teacher in a store and when I said my name, she said, "yes, you were the one with the monkey!" Alas, this was the true meaning of "fame."

GOOD & WELFARE

Birthday

Ruth Pupko

February 14



Forestdale Heights Lodge extends condolences to Barry & Sandy Gordon on the passing of his sister, Doreen Ginsberg, who passed away in Buffalo, New York on January 1.

If you have any special moments in your life (or the lives of your children and grandchildren) that you wish to share with the Lodge, please send announcements

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CORRESPONDENCE



December 21, 2017

Stewart Indig
President Forestdale Heights Lodge

Dear Stewart,

Re: Pride of Israel Synagogue Kosher Food Bank

On behalf of the Pride of Israel Synagogue I want to thank you and Forestdale Heights Lodge for your past and ongoing commitment to contributing food stuffs to the Pride of Israel Kosher Food Bank. By doing so you help over 150 families with this basic need, and also convey to them the message that they are not alone and that their Jewish community cares.

We thank you.

Yours truly,



Carl Si Zelig
Chairman,
Pride of Israel Synagogue

csz/sk
Pride/forestdale/ist



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AS I SEE IT

Marc Kates



This week marks my father's first *yahrzeit* (Week of January 14). Marking this anniversary, we also mark the end of a specific passage of time according to our tradition. In one way, the year has been short, and in another, rather long. The noting of specific events along the Jewish calendar are natural places to pause and remember. For me, the hardest holiday was Pesach. I recall looking around the Passover table, and for the first time in my life, I was the eldest person in my family. I no longer had my parents, grandparents or great aunt and uncle around the table. The table seemed smaller, even though physically, it is around the same size the table has always been. I no longer had a member of the older generation to lock eyes with and see them beam with pride as my three-year-old recited the Four Questions for the second year in a row. I was missing the affirmation that I had done a good job, and that the link in the chain connecting us to the miracles of Egypt had not been broken. As one says in Yiddish, "*epes felt nisht*" (something didn't feel right).



Besides the specific moments of remembering that we do during *yizkor*, *yom-tovvim*, and *yahrzeits*, the mundane moments make one pause and think about those who are no longer here. This past week my school took all of the middle school students bowling as a fun treat. I took out my father's bowling shoes and took them with me. I stopped, thought how much my father would have had a good chuckle to see me wearing his shoes, and memories of bowling with the boys on Thursday nights came flooding back. It was a real treat to go bowling with my father when school was not in session on a Friday and having a late night snack.

Continued on next page



My father loved surrounding himself with friends, and his Forestdale Heights brethren were especially meaningful to him. My father was lucky to have these extraordinary people in his life who were more than just people who paid dues to the same organization. I am forever grateful to them for their support and love of both my parents, and their continued watchful eye on us.

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FHL@50 explores what has been going on in the world since the Lodge was born in 1967. For a comprehensive look back, go to kolechad.ca/fhl50.htm.

2014

FHL Presidents: Harvey Silver / George Garten

Prime Minister Stephen Harper / Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne

February 7–23 – The XXII Olympic Winter Games are held in Sochi, Russia.

March 21 – Russia formally annexes Crimea after President Vladimir Putin signed a bill finalizing the annexation process.

March 24 – During an emergency meeting, the United Kingdom, the United States, Italy, Germany, France, Japan, and Canada suspend Russia from the G8.

April 10 – Former Finance Minister Jim Flaherty dies at age 64.

July 8 – August 26 – Amid growing tensions between Israel and Hamas following the kidnapping and murder of three Israeli teenagers in June and the revenge killing of a Palestinian teenager in July, Israel launches Operation Protective Edge against Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip. In seven weeks of fighting, 2,100 Palestinians and 71 Israelis are killed.

September 18 – Scotland holds a referendum on whether to leave the United Kingdom, and a majority votes to remain part of the union.

September 22 – The United States and several Arab partners begin their airstrike campaign in Syria.

October 22 – In the shootings at Parliament Hill, a gunman shoots a Canadian Forces soldier dead at the National War Memorial in Ottawa, then enters the Parliament buildings where he is killed by security forces. Ottawa's downtown core is put under lockdown during the search for a potential second shooter.

December 17 – U.S. President Barack Obama announces the resumption of normal relations between the U.S. and Cuba.

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2015

FHL President: George Garten

Prime Ministers Stephen Harper / Justin Trudeau

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne

January 15 – Target Corporation announces they will discontinue operations in Canada. Over 130 stores and over 17,000 workers are affected

June 2 – FIFA President Sepp Blatter announces his intention to resign amidst an FBI-led corruption investigation.

July 14 – NASA's New Horizons spacecraft performs a close flyby of Pluto, becoming the first spacecraft in history to visit the distant world.

July 14 – Iran agrees to long-term limits of its nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief.

July 20 – Cuba and the United States re-establish full diplomatic relations, ending a 54-year stretch of hostility between the nations.



October 19 – Justin Trudeau and the Liberals win the 2015 federal election, gaining a majority of seats in the House of Commons. (Global News photo)

December 12 – A global climate change pact is agreed at the Climate Change Conference (COP 21) summit in Paris, committing all countries to reduce carbon emissions for the first time.



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