

Forestdale Heights Lodge, B'nai Brith Canada

KOL ECHAD

January 2017

Tevet/Shevat 5777

Volume 15, No. 5

תשע"ז
2017

COVER ART

Winter can often be brutal, the hardest season to endure, as days are shorter and colder. However, winter scenery can also be incredibly beautiful, as we see in this month's cover photo.

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PRESIDENT'S PEN

Stewart Indig

HAPPY NEW YEAR. I know 2017 will be a great year for our Lodge. We are working on our 50th year Installation. Great plans are in the works. A while back, I attended a Toronto Regional Council meeting of the Lodges and I was pleasantly surprised. First off, I was the youngest Lodge member present. I also discovered that we are probably the smallest Lodge in terms of members. That being said, my hat goes off to all of you as we, by far, had the greatest percentage of members attend meetings. We also participated in a high number of CVS programmes compared to the other Lodges. Our median and average age of members was lower than the others as well. So, what does that all mean? To me, it means that we will survive. If we can attract a few more members, then it will be a breeze.

It is a new year. We have been around for 50 years. Let us all make a New Year's resolution to attract one member. I would like to extend an invitation to the French Lodge to attend some of our programmes. I would hope that both Ruth and Albert would be able to translate anything.

Raise your glass and toast yourself. You have all made Forestdale Heights Lodge into what it is today, a Lodge I am proud to be a member and President of.

To 2017.....



KOL ECHAD

Kol Echad is the official publication of Forestdale Heights Lodge, B'nai Brith Canada. It is also an associate member of the American Jewish Press Association.

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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Jeff Rosen

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Lisa Rosen, Debbi Silver

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Aaron Pacter
Michael Pacter

AT A GLANCE

January 9	Dinner Meeting
January 10	Slate Meeting
January 10	Bingo
February 13	Nominations/Dinner Meeting/Speaker
February 14	Bingo
March 11	Purim Programme
March 13	Elections/Dinner Meeting
March 14	Bingo
April 3	Dinner Meeting
May 8	Dinner Meeting
June 4	Gala 50 th Anniversary Installation

Dinner at 6:30; Meeting at 7:15

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EDITOR'S DESK

Jeff Rosen



After 25 years, I've finally caught up with history. To be more specific, Kol Echad's monthly feature, FHL@50 has reached 1991, the year I joined Forestdale Heights Lodge. Two years ago, January 2015, we launched this new monthly feature, to start the countdown to our Lodge's 50th anniversary. This was not the first time this publication has done such a feature, but it was definitely the most thorough, covering historical events in Israel, Canada and

the United States.

I found it interesting starting off back in 1967. However, as the months passed, I found myself being caught up in history. Eventually we reached 1984, the year I joined the Jewish community as a working journalist and my mind kept flashing back to the events that *The Canadian Jewish News* was following. A few months later, it was 1986 and I was a married man.

Now we come to this issue, 1991, the year I joined the Lodge (and my daughter was born). The events chronicled seem fresher in my mind, less history and more memory. I guess that is what happens as one gets older.

The only frustration in doing this feature is that there is never enough room to include all "relevant" material. As a result, I wind up creating two versions; one condensed for print and a second, more comprehensive for our website, which is found at kolechad.ca/fhl50.com. Even the latter version does not include everything. It's always been a subjective listing of events. Still, it is a fascinating web page (In My Humble Opinion) and once finished, will include major historical events from 1967-2017.

I hope everyone enjoys following this column. I know I certainly enjoy creating it. Be well.



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Happy
New Year
2017

SLATE COMMITTEE



The annual meeting of Forestdale Heights Lodge's slate committee will meet Tuesday, January 10 at 7 p.m. at the Gates of Bayview, 4005 Bayview Avenue, Apt. 802 to prepare an executive slate for 2017-2018.

The meeting is open to members of the board of governors (past presidents).

If you can attend, please RSVP to Michael Kates, chairman of the board of governors, at katesfamily@sympatico.ca.

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GOOD & WELFARE

Birthday

Stan Udell

January 30



Mazel Tov to Carl Zeliger on his election as chairman of Pride of Israel Synagogue. The installation was held December 4.

If you have any special moments in your life that you wish to share with the Lodge, please send announcements to jelijo@sympatico.ca.

UPCOMING

At our February meeting, Lodge Brother Mark Spergel, from Royal LePage Signature Realty, will talk about real estate strategy.

BINGO



Our next bingo will be Tuesday, January 10.

If you would like to help out, please contact Richard Kotzen (416) 783-2737 or richkotzen@rogers.com.

Future bingo dates will be February 14, March 14, May 9, and June 13.

CORRESPONDENCE



December 2, 2016

Mr. Seewart Indig & Ms. Elizabeth Bloom
Forestdale Heights Lodge
43 Bryant Street,
Toronto ON, M3H 5A3

Dear Stewart, Elizabeth, and Friends at Forestdale Heights Lodge,

On behalf of everyone here at Covenant House Toronto, I would like to thank you for your generous donation of new hats and scarves. Your generosity allows us to continue providing the basic life necessities our youth need and deserve.

Covenant House, Canada's largest shelter for homeless youth, offers a second chance to thousands of homeless youth annually but we are so much more than a place to stay; we provide 24/7 crisis shelter and transitional housing on-site and in the community along with comprehensive services including, education, counseling, health care, employment assistance job training and after care.

Many of the young people who turn to us for help have often been in awful situations on the streets and have had to do unimaginable things just to stay alive. By providing them with the basic life necessities and crucial support services we are removing just a few of the many hurdles these young kids have to face and are allowing them to focus on rebuilding their lives. It is because of donors like you that we are able to continue helping our youth move from a life on the street to one with a bright future.

Every day we see record high numbers of youth staying with us and staying for longer periods of time. These young people come to us with increasingly complex needs and find themselves stuck, unable to move forward without additional support. We understand the unique challenges and barriers our kids are facing and are continuously finding ways to evolve our programs and services in order to provide them with the supports they need and deserve, ensuring they can successfully and sustainably transition towards independence.

We certainly could not continue our work without the support of people like you. If you have any questions at all please do not hesitate to get in touch with me at mhalverson@covenanthouse.ca or 416.204.7072.

Thank you again for your generous contribution.

Sincerely,

Meghan Halverson
Development Coordinator
Covenant House Toronto



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CovenantHouseToronto.ca

From: David Melville
To: Stewart Indig
Subject: Thank you

Hi Stewart,
My name is Dave Melville and I am a Toronto Paramedic at 56 station (Cummer and Bayview). On behalf of my colleagues and myself I would just like to say thank you very much for your kind gift dropped with Toronto Fire the other day.

While we do not do the job for gratitude and recognition, it is still very touching when an organisation such as yours takes the time to show that you care.

Best Regards
Dave Melville and all the Medics
at 56 Station.

Dear Stewart
Thank you so much
for the lovely get well
card donation from you
and Forestdale Heights
Lodge. I truly appreciate
it. I'm feeling better
each day and look forward
to seeing everyone again
soon. Sincerely, Rosalie
Moscoe

MEMBERSHIP



FHL Membership: \$125
Spousal: \$50

Hello Lodges,

I am writing to you as we are rolling out a new method for membership renewals. Please add this to your newsletters to notify your members of the new and updated method of membership renewal.

We are trying to go paperless so membership renewals will not be mailed out as in past years. We are sending e-mail reminders to those members we have e-mail addresses for. Please advise your members to contact me with their e-mail address if we do not have it. My contact information is below. If your members do not have/use email then we will be printing and mailing out statements, but prefer that we automate as much as possible.

An email reminder is being sent out with a 60-day window. Advise your members that if they wish to receive a tax receipt for 2017 to please wait until the new year to make payment and if they wish to receive a 2016 tax receipt (if they haven't yet received one) to please pay by December 19, 2016.

Once the membership dues are paid (if done online), they will receive an immediate e-mailed tax receipt. No waiting for me to send one out. If they wish to pay by cheque, then they can mail in the payment to me and I will process it with a tax receipt to follow shortly afterward.

Please be patient as we are implementing a new system and our IT person is diligently trying to make it extremely easy for members to renew. If your members aren't sure of the lodge name or the dues amount owing, please have them contact me and I will provide that to them.

Thank you for your patience as we make a leap into the 21st century!

Shabbat Shalom,
Elyse Gruenspan
Office Administrator
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DECEMBER MEETING

Carl Zeliger, a past president of Forestdale Heights Lodge, was the guest speaker at the last meeting of 2016 on December 12. His presentation on the importance of wills and having a power of attorney was both interesting and informative.

He opened his presentation by explaining the difference between the two forms of legal documents. While both deal with authorizing and directing how an individual's personal affairs and finances are to be handled, the Will only applies on death and the Power of Attorney only applies during the life of the individual.

Discussing the importance of creating a power of attorney, Carl said that it can help an appointed attorney deal with such things as an elderly parent's financial affairs. Without one, he said that the government can take over such matters.

Carl said that there are basically two types, one dealing with property and one for health care. The latter can allow a trustee to make decisions for such things as the type of treatment a person will receive and where a person could wind up for rehabilitation.

Carl stressed that when choosing either an attorney for the Power of Attorney or the executor or trustee for a Will, you should appoint someone you trust and that the person should be capable of taking on the responsibility. He added that more than one person can be appointed. Finally, that person should be available, not usually someone much older than yourself, or someone who does not live too far away (like in another country). Most importantly, it should be someone who is willing to do the job.

Turning to the subject of wills, Carl said that there are basically two types: your basic formal Will that is executed by the individual in front of two witnesses, which most people have prepared, and a holographic will, which is handwritten and signed by the testator. He said that if a person does not have a will the government again becomes involved and problems can ensue. He pointed out that since the law pertaining to estates does not recognize separation in marriages, if there is no will the estranged spouse will likely get a share of the deceased's estate.

Carl also explained how a person can have clauses put into their will to let executors manage the estate after death and in the best interest of the estate, rather than require that all matters be dealt with stringently and with limitations. He also discussed what it means to probate a will.



DECEMBER MEETING



For more photos, go to
www.kolechad.ca/dec16.htm





TALKING POINTS

Debbi Silver

Here we are on the verge of 2017 (depends when you receive your bulletin). Happy New Year to everyone.

Upon sitting down to write this column, I was really at a loss. I decided to talk about Harvey and myself, how we met, etc.

In 1965, I attended a BBYA convention in Long Island, New York. BBYA was the name given to a group of people who had completed BBYO and wanted to continue in the organization. Back to the convention. I came from Montreal and Harvey from Toronto. We met at the convention and became friends. Harv and I made the trek back and forth on the train between Montreal and Toronto. In November of 1966, we were engaged and married in October 1967. Yup, it'll be 50 years in 2017.

When I moved to Toronto, Harvey was instrumental in getting me an interview for a job at B'nai Brith Women. I worked there for a few years and then became pregnant with our daughter, Lisa. So much for going back to work. Three years later, we had our son, Mark. Both of our children eventually joined BBYO in their teens.

Continued on next page



When the kids were in school full time, I applied for a job at BBYO and I'm happy to say, I was hired. At that time, we worked at 15 Hove Street. This building was built for the teens in 1967 and paid for by four lodges. As the years went by (almost 24), I really found my calling. My time at BBYO was the most inspirational. The teens kept me young. The program was and still is amazing. Harvey and I spent many weekends at conventions, helping at BBQs, volunteering as advisors, etc.

On the last weekend of November 2016, we were invited to a special Havdalah service at a BBYO convention. Alumni, parents and former staff were invited to participate. We brought one of my granddaughters so that she could see first-hand what BBYO was all about. Our daughter, Lisa, was invited to speak at the service, talking about her experience in BBYO, Chapter Chaverot 2307. We were very proud of her. A reception was held afterwards, where we had the pleasure of hearing from the International Godol (male President) of BBYO, Aaron Cooper.

I keep in touch almost every week with Kevin Goodman, the executive director of BBYO (who actually was one of my teens when I worked there). Kevin has grown the program from four chapters to eight. I am so proud of BBYO and how far the organization has come since its separation from B'nai Brith.

So there you have it, BBYO brought Harvey and I together and we remain very dedicated to the organization.

Hope everyone had a Happy New Year. See you at the January meeting.



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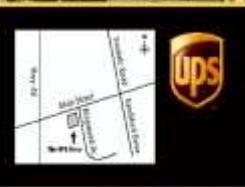
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For more information, contact Stewart Indig at indigs@rogers.com.

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HEALTH IN HARMONY

Rosalie Moscoe



Looking back on 2016, it occurs to me that Jews have a unique opportunity. We get the chance for self-introspection and renewal twice each year, one time at the occurrence of our Jewish High Holy Days in the fall, and again in the early winter at the turn of

the modern era's calendar year. By February, all Jews should be perfect! Oy, if only it were that easy.... But then life happens!

Some years, it's a shoe-in, a breeze. No relatives are sick. Our own health is superb. No one in the family loses a job and there are hardly any family disagreements, well, hardly any. As Jews, we would still complain anyway. But then there are years that aren't so easy; we may

be struggling with our own personal health, even a stubbed toe that makes each step a curse; our parents get sick and require a lot of attention and perhaps a change in their living arrangements. Of course, we know who gets to do the packing and all the arrangements! The car breaks down, or the battery goes dead. The roof leaks and we need to replace it. The fridge decides to revolt and stops working when both it and the freezer are packed full with food. But somehow, we get through it all, dust ourselves off and still put a smile on our faces for the grocery clerk.

I realize that it's important to keep a positive attitude, even if we feel that we're careening downhill. Perhaps, tomorrow will bring a soft landing! So, what are the best things in life? We all know the answer to that; it is those that we hold close to our hearts – family members – (not all), and dear friends.

Continued on next page



Also, when life gets rough, we need to hold tight to our values, reach out to others, yet not allow ourselves to be walked on. We also need to laugh off all the unanticipated blunders that we ourselves or others unintentionally make.

This past year, I found myself thinking more times than I would have liked – “this too shall pass.” And so far, it rings true. So, if you’ve had a life from hell this past year, just keep thinking of all the positives; we live in the best country in the world. We go to sleep each night without the fear of bombs dropping on our heads, or violence that so many in the world face each day. We have the opportunity to make choices, and if we so choose, to constantly renew ourselves.

I wish each of you and your families a Happy and Healthy New Year and a spectacular 2017.

FUNNIES



An airplane was about to crash. There were four passengers on board, but only three parachutes. The first passenger said, “I am Steph Curry, the best NBA basketball player. The Warriors and my millions of fans need me, and I can’t afford to die.” So he took the first pack and left the plane.

The second passenger, Donald Trump, said “I am the newly-elected U.S. President, and I am the smartest President in American history, so my people don’t want me to die.” He took the second pack and jumped out of the plane.

The third passenger, the Pope, said to the fourth passenger, a 10-year-old schoolboy, “My son, I am old and don’t have many years left, you have more years ahead, so I will sacrifice my life and let you have the last parachute.”

The little boy said, “That’s okay, Your Holiness, there’s a parachute left for you. America’s smartest President took my school bag.”

We are counting down to our 50th anniversary celebration in June 2017.

1991

FHL President Jack Britstone

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney; Ontario Premier Bob Rae

January 4 – The United Nations Security Council votes unanimously to condemn Israel's treatment of the Palestinians.

January 17 – Gulf War: Iraq fires eight Scud missiles into Israel.

January 19 – An Iraqi Scud attack on Tel Aviv in Israel injures 15 people.

May 24 – Authorised by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Operation Solomon commences to bring Ethiopian Jews to Israel

July 18 – In Israel, a judge investigating a 1990 incident outside a mosque in Jerusalem in which at least 17 Palestinians were killed rules that Israeli police provoked the incident.

September 11 – Israel releases 51 Arab prisoners and the bodies of 9 guerillas.

September 22 – The Huntington Library makes the Dead Sea Scrolls available to the public for the first time.

October 6 – President Gorbachev condemns Antisemitism in the Soviet Union in a statement read on the 50th anniversary of the Babi Yar massacres, which saw the death of 35,000 Jews in Ukraine.

October 18 – The Soviet Union restores diplomatic relations with Israel, which had been suspended since the 1967 Six-Day War.

October 30 – In Madrid, the Middle East Peace Conference opens the first direct negotiations between Israel and nearly all its Arab adversaries.

November 9 – On the anniversary of Kristallnacht, tens of thousands of protestors demonstrate against attacks on immigrant workers.

December 16 – The United Nations General Assembly adopts United Nations General Assembly Resolution 46/86, which states that Zionism is not racism. The resolution is favoured by 111 nations and opposed by 25 nations.

December 26 – The Cold War ends after 44–46 years when the Supreme Soviet meets and formally dissolves the Soviet Union.

Continued on next page



1992

FHL Presidents: Jack Britstone/Albert Ohana

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney; Ontario Premier Bob Rae

January 22 – STS-42: Dr. Roberta Bondar becomes the first Canadian woman in space, aboard Space Shuttle Discovery.

January 24 – China and Israel establish diplomatic relations.

February 16 – In Lebanon, Israeli helicopter gunships assassinate Abbas al-Musawi, the leader of Hezbollah, and his son, in retaliation for a February 14 raid that killed 3 Israeli soldiers.



May 22 – The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson airs its final show on NBC.

June 23 – The Israeli legislative election is won by the Israeli Labor Party under the leadership of Yitzhak Rabin, ousting a Likud government. On July 13, Yitzhak Rabin becomes the prime minister of Israel.

June 29 – The Supreme Court of the United States upholds the 1973 decision of Roe v. Wade in Planned Parenthood v. Casey, a 5-4 decision.

July 19 – The Cabinet of Israel approves a freeze on new settlements in the occupied territories, a move expected to reinvigorate the Middle East Peace Process.

July 26 – Iraq agrees to allow U.N. weapons inspectors to search the Iraqi Agricultural Ministry building in Baghdad. When inspectors arrive on July 28 and 29, they find nothing and voice suspicions that Iraqi records had been removed.

August 12 – Canada, Mexico, and the United States announce that a deal has been reached on the North American Free Trade Agreement; the deal will be formally signed on December 17, 1992.

August 29 – In Rostock, Germany, tens of thousands rally to protest neo-Nazi attacks on refugees and immigrants begun on August 22.

October 4 – El Al Flight 1862 crashes in Amsterdam, Netherlands; 43 are killed, many more injured.

October 26 – In a national referendum, voters in Canada reject the Charlottetown Accord.

November 3 – United States presidential election, 1992: Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton is elected the 42nd President of the United States.



AS I SEE IT

Marc Kates

Dear Readers,

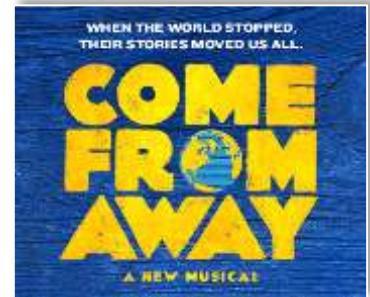
I'm writing this month's column to myself.

Marc, you often give advice or commentary on life to others, but as the new year approaches, try to take some of your own advice, and try to really create that work/life balance. Yes, you've been very busy. It's not easy keeping on top of what's going on in the family and making sure that everyone gets what they need. Lunches being made at 9:30 at night for the following day are not one's idea of fun, and neither is slugging over five paragraph essays proving that William Golding's classic novel, *Lord of the Flies*, is a political, social or moral allegory. You have absolutely no idea what's playing in the movie theatres, and a Saturday night of laundry and grocery shopping isn't most people's definition of a good time. Checking homework, loading and unloading the dishwasher, and chauffeuring children from activity to activity just has to get done, but you need more than that.

Wasn't it a real treat going to see *Come From Away* at the Royal Alexandra Theatre? When was the last time that you had a good laugh with hundreds of people in the same room as you, and how awesome was it to venture beyond the Bathurst Street corridor?

You need to do more things like that for yourself. Life is too short. As the winter holidays are approaching, use the break from the daily grind to do something new and different. There is much to do in this great city and so many places yet to be discovered. Check out a few websites and plan ahead. Go visit Honest Ed's for one last time, and go explore a new neighbourhood. Play tourist in your own city, and see if others are willing to join you. Use the winter break as a break, but don't get too complacent — the next school term is around the corner.

You often comment that one of the nice things about living in the city is witnessing the change of seasons. Like the seasons, change is good. Get out there and enjoy it. Use the time away from work to decompress and reconnect. We'll check back with you to see how it all went. Have a happy 2017!



TORONTO MARATHON

GoodLife
FITNESS
TORONTO
MARATHON



Sunday, May 7

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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