

Adar I/Adar II/Nisan 5784

March/April 2024

# KOL ECHAD

Forestdale Heights Lodge  
B'nai Brith Canada

CHAG SAMEACH

Volume 22, No 4

# COVER ART



It's that time of the year again when we celebrate and enjoy a variety of delicious foods.

First off, we have Purim, which starts on the evening of Saturday, March 23.

As it is a Jewish leap year, there are two months of Adar. That means Pesach or Passover is "late" this year. The festival begins on Monday, April 22, with the first Seder and concludes on Monday, April 29.

As for Yom Hashoah, Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut, you'll have to wait until the next issue for all the details.

*Chag Sameach!*

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# KOL ECHAD

Kol Echad is the official publication of Forestdale Heights Lodge, B'nai Brith Canada. It is published a minimum of five 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.

## **Editor**

Jeff Rosen

## **Editing Staff**

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Debbi Silver

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The UPS Store,  
Stouffville, Ont.

[www.kolechad.ca](http://www.kolechad.ca)

# AT A GLANCE

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FHL will hold Zoom meetings on the second Tuesday of each month in 2024.

Start time: 7:00 p.m.

**Upcoming Meetings:** March 12, April 9, June 11. No meeting in May.

## **Kol Echad schedule** **for the 2023-24 season**

May/ June – Spring Issue

**Deadline: April 10**

July/ August –Summer Issue

**Deadline: June 15**

## **New Name:**

### **Vaughan Jewish Community Campus**

UJA Federation has changed the name of the campus, from the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus to the Vaughan Jewish Community Campus. This includes updating all signage.

The circumstances related to the renaming of UJA's campus in York Region are exceptional and unique to this situation. UJA Federation and Wolf Lebovic have engaged in a complex arbitration that resulted in an award that, among other things, permits UJA to rename the campus at its sole discretion. Moving forward, please refer to the property as the Vaughan Jewish Community Campus.



# MILESTONES

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## Birthday



Michael Pacter  
Marc Pollock  
Ray Moscoe  
Elizabeth Bloom

March 9  
March 12  
March 22  
April 4



**Forestdale Heights wishes a speedy recovery to Marilyn Arkin.**

*If you have any memorable moments in your life (or the lives of your children and grandchildren) you wish to share with the Lodge, please send announcements to [jelijo@sympatico.ca](mailto:jelijo@sympatico.ca).*



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# PRESIDENTS' PENS

Debbi Silver

The date is February 8, 2024. As I look out my window, one would think that spring is in the air. Not so, I'm sure Toronto will get one big blast of winter before spring actually appears. It is three months since Harvey passed away. To say this has been very hard to deal with is an understatement. I miss him very much.

On the bright side, my son, Mark, invited me to go with him and two of my grandchildren to Hallandale, Florida, for a quick weekend, which we did on February 1. We stayed at the Hyde Resort at an Airbnb. It was wonderful, and the weather was really on our side. To top it off, my brother and his wife (who live in Chicago) were there visiting their friend. It was a real bonus for me to see them.



By the time you receive this Kol Echad, our Purim party with the residents of 4300 Bathurst Street, on March 23 at 8:30 p.m. might have happened. This has been an annual program that the Lodge has been doing. We are very fortunate to have Rabbi Kelman and family and Rabbi Gelman participating in this mitzvah. I would like to thank Carl (maybe in advance) for being in charge of this. Carl, we are very fortunate to have you as our member. Also, thank you to the Lodge members who were or will be in attendance.

The Lodge is very fortunate to be able to give out allocations to those in need. These allocations will be decided at our next meeting.

As this will be the last Kol Echad before Passover, I want to wish you all a very healthy and happy holiday.

Stay healthy and safe,

**Debbi**



***Ruth Pupko's Presidents' Pens column will return next issue.***





# EDITOR'S DESK

Jeff Rosen

In the beginning, there was Kol Echad 1.0. At the time, Forestdale Heights and Don Mills Lodges were discussing a possible merger. One of the critical items on the agenda was the future of our respective publications. The *best minds* from both lodges met, and the result was the creation of a new, combined bulletin in the spring of 2002. (*The first issue was eight pages.*) We would now speak with One Voice or Kol Echad.



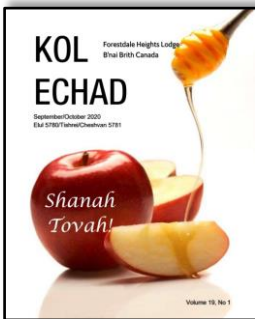
Unfortunately, the merger was not a success. Fortunately for us, we retained custody of the child, and for the next 18 years, the bulletin thrived, adding new columnists and, later, advertisers.

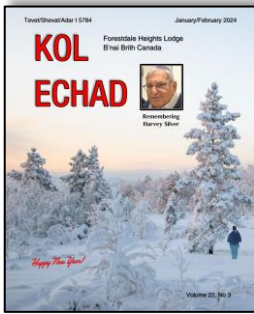
Then, in the spring of 2020, Harvey Silver and I sat down to talk (*notice how much happens in that season!*). Most of you were unaware, but I was ready to walk away from the keyboard at that point. After years of helming this publication, I was simply burned out. Harvey proposed an alternative solution, suggesting we reduce the number of issues yearly to lighten the workload. I loved the idea, and it worked perfectly, especially as the pandemic started shortly afterwards and the Lodge moved into a virtual world. At that point, Kol Echad 2.0 came into existence. The print issue

was 28 pages. Like most reboots, I think it was even better than what had come before. With fewer deadline pressures, we had more time to be creative and to produce an even better publication.

That brings us to the present and, with it, Kol Echad 3.0. The Lodge has undergone significant changes in the past four years. Unfortunately, Harvey, who used to help with essential work behind the scenes and was a key person I could turn to for advice, passed away last year. As a result, we decided to discontinue the print publication for Lodge members.

**Continued on next page**





Despite this significant change, we are excited about this re-launch, which we know will be even better than what came before. With no page limits, we can extend our deadline until the end of the month, allowing us to produce even more high-quality content. We are proud that this appears to be B'nai Brith Canada's last lodge publication. We must have done something right. (*The last issue was 45 pages!*)

Will this new venture work and be a success? Your guess is as good as mine is. The future is always an unknown. Change is always scary but is necessary. To remain in one place is to stagnate.

I am reminded that in baseball, a batter gets three chances before being struck out and leaving the field. As we await the release of the second issue of KE 3.0, it feels like we are at the plate, wondering what the outcome will be. Regardless of the result, I assure you it will be entertaining.

So, let's stay tuned.

**Jeff**

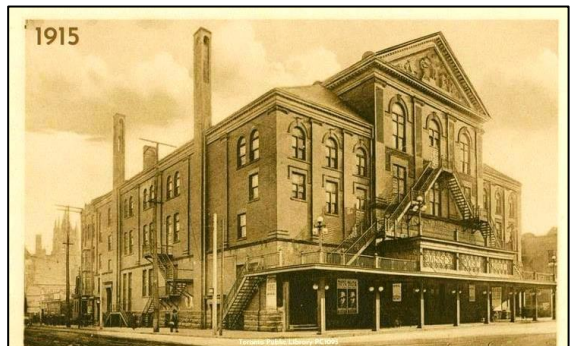
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## Massey Hall

Looking southwest towards Massey Hall at 178 Victoria St and Shuter St in the Downtown Yonge area of Toronto.

Built in 1894 by Hart Massey, industrialist and operator of a large farm equipment manufacturing company, the concert hall was designed by architect Sidney Badgley.

The building received heritage status from the city in 1973.



Massey Hall, Toronto, Can.



# PERSPECTIVES

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## **CELEBRATING PASSOVER AROUND THE GLOBE**

The scattering of the Jews around the world over thousands of years to nearly every continent has meant that our traditions have evolved and been adapted to many different cultures and settings. As we join our own families and friends for seders in the Bay Area, we take comfort in knowing that Jews in every corner of the world will be having their own seders.

### **In Morocco – Inviting neighbours over to eat sweets**

Families of Moroccan and Algerian descent rejoice in the end of Passover with a Mimouna, a celebration that includes a feast of lavish sweets and pastries.

A table is heaped with items symbolizing luck or fertility, many repeating the number 5, such as dough with five fingerprint marks or five silver coins. Fig leaves, live fish, stalks of wheat, and honey might also be included. Among some Moroccan Jews, participants enter the ocean and toss pebbles behind their backs to ward off evil spirits.



### **In Ethiopia – Destroying earthenware dishes**

Ethiopian Jews strongly identify with the story of Passover and, because they lacked Haggadot in Ethiopia, observe a local tradition of reading Exodus directly from the Torah. In some Ethiopian families, the matriarch destroys her earthenware dishes and makes a new set to mark a proper break from the past. During the holiday, Ethiopian Jews refrain from eating fermented dairy, such as yogurt, butter, or cheese. Matzah is homemade, often fashioned from chickpea flour, and on the morning of the Seder, a lamb might be slaughtered.

**Continued on next page**





## **In Afghanistan – Whipping each other with scallions**

Jews have lived in Afghanistan since at least the Babylonian conquest more than 2,500 years ago, but, very sadly, almost none remain today. One distinct local tradition was using scallions or leeks to stand for the Egyptian slave drivers' whips, using them to lightly “whip” each other's backs. Today, the largest group of Afghan Jews in the world is comprised of 200 families in Queens, New York.

## **In Poland – Re-enacting the crossing of the Red Sea**

Hasidic Jews from the Polish town of Góra Kalwaria re-enact the crossing of the Red Sea on the seventh day of Passover by pouring water on the floor, lifting up their coats, and naming the towns that they would cross in their region of Poland. They raise a glass to each town and thank G-d for helping them reach their destination.

## **In Spain – Tapping guests on the head**

In a custom that began in Spain in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the seder leader walks around the table three times with the seder plate in hand, tapping it on the head of each guest. Many Moroccan, Turkish, and Tunisian Jews adopted this Sephardic tradition, which is said to bless those whose heads are tapped. This is sometimes connected to the Talmudic custom of “uprooting” the seder plate so guests might ask questions about the Jews in Egypt.

## **In South Africa – Apples are the key ingredient.**

South Africa has a vibrant and thriving Jewish community with a history that reaches back to immigration from Europe in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Today, around 70,000 Jews remain.

Despite the adherence to tradition, local influences still sneak into the seder meal. They have traditional gefilte fish, but it's more ball-shaped and has a yellow tint from saffron. Most striking is South Africa's positioning in the southern hemisphere, which means North America's familiar autumn produce is in season during South Africa's Spring. The result: apples are a vital ingredient in the Passover menu – from the traditional charoset to the bits of green apple lending crunch and sweetness to chopped herring and apples stewed with cinnamon and cloves for dessert.

<https://bit.ly/3Sij1hx>



# REMEMBERING BRIAN MULRONEY

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B'nai Brith Canada joins the nation in mourning the loss of former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, a distinguished leader who served Canada with dedication and vision. Throughout his tenure, Mr. Mulroney demonstrated a steadfast commitment to fostering inclusivity, justice, and international cooperation. He was a true friend to the Jewish community and the State of Israel.

His contributions to strengthening Canada's multicultural fabric and his efforts in promoting human rights and freedom on the global stage will be long remembered.

We extend our deepest sympathies to his family and loved ones during this sad time. May his legacy inspire future generations to build a more compassionate and united world.



# PESACH 2011

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*In April 2011, Kol Echad received and ran the following article leading up to Passover. With the holiday coming up, we thought it was the perfect time to reprint the piece. We hope you enjoy it.*

Passover is known as the “Holiday of Freedom,” commemorating the Jewish exodus from Egypt following 200+ years of slavery. Passover is regarded as the “birth” of the Jewish nation, and its lessons of struggle and identity continue to form the basis of Jewish consciousness 3,300 years after the event.

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. However, time has changed the festival for us, and I have been blessed that I no longer hold Seders in our home. So, my sense of humour is restored.

In spite of not liking the pre-Pesach preparation, one of the most wonderful parts of Passover is the unique tradition that each family holds dear. The special touches that families add are what make it a holiday to look forward to each year. The aroma of the chicken soup and knedelach, wafting through the house, is all part of a tradition started by our parents, handed down from their parents and so on and so on. It’s setting up the kids’ table or simply thinking about being “the one” to find the afikomen. We need to make Pesach a special time for everyone.

Since the idea of the Seder is to get children interested and involved, the Ten Plagues is a good opportunity to add an experiential, dramatic element to the evening. Plan ahead with some props, and you’ll see how much fun the Seder can be for children and adults. It has been our tradition for many years now to toss dollar store locusts, cattle, and bugs at our Seder, as we are reminded of the plagues, bringing excitement and fun for not only the little ones at the table, but to the adults alike.

It’s a nice laugh in the middle of retelling the Exodus, and the kids will remember the tradition for a lifetime. May the traditions continue, and maybe next year in Jerusalem.

***Bonnie Kates***





Sending warm thoughts and blessings as you gather at the Seder to celebrate with those you love. *Ruth and Aaron*

Wishing everyone peace, good health and happiness. *Debbi Silver & Family*

A happy and healthy Passover to all. *Cathy & Stewart Indig & Family*

Wishing all members and their families a happy, healthy and meaningful Passover holiday. *Carl and Debby Zeliger & Family*



We would like to wish  
all members of FHL  
a very happy Pesach

**Chag Sameach!**

*Jeff, Lisa  
and Jordana Rosen*





**Ira & Paula Kuchinsky**

Wish a very  
**Happy Passover**  
to our friends  
& fellow  
Lodge members

Happy, healthy & safe Passover.  
May 2024 bring us all a better year.  
*Honey and Albert & family*

*Eddie and Marilyn Arkin* wish our  
friends and our family a healthy and  
happy Passover.

The Kates Family extends to its FHL  
family its best wishes for a

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*Marc, Rachel, Seth, Eve and Joelle*



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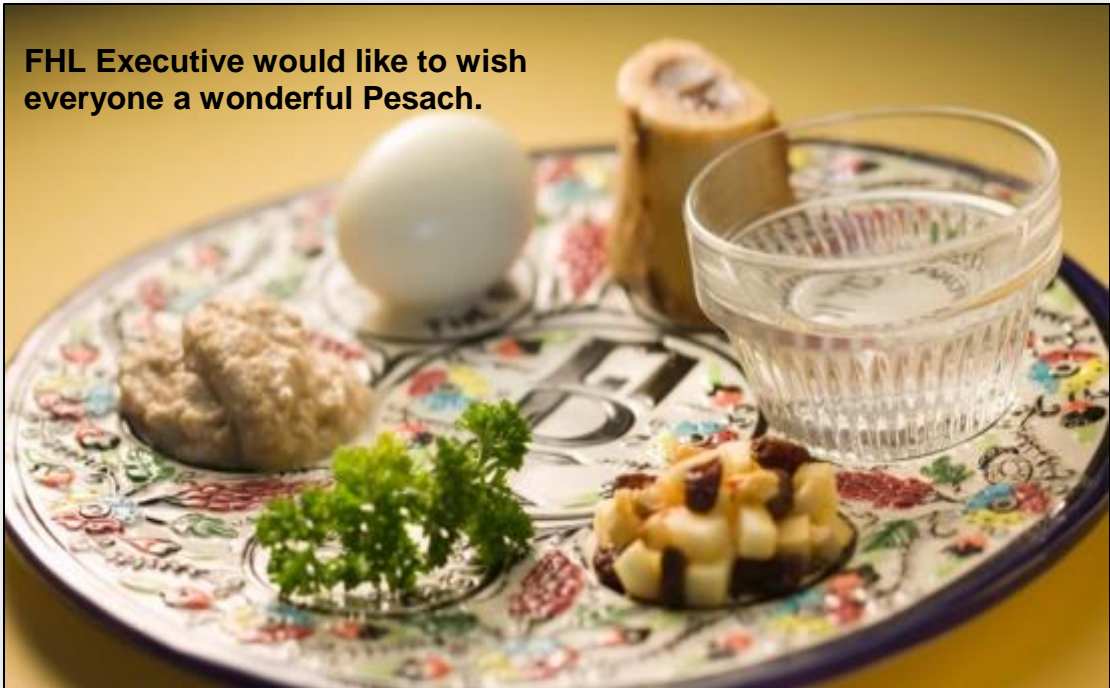
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**To all our Lodge sisters,  
brothers and their families,  
we wish you health,  
peace, prosperity and  
all the joys of Passover**

***Raymond and Rosalie Moscoe  
& Family***



**FHL Executive would like to wish  
everyone a wonderful Pesach.**







Wishing you and  
your family a

**HAPPY**  
*Passover*

Chag Pesach  
kasher vesame'ach



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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT • THORNHILL

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# HAPPY PASSOVER

## CHAG PESACH SAMEACH

Wishing you a Passover full of  
joy, love and blessings.



**HON. MARCO MENDICINO**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR EGLINTON-LAWRENCE**

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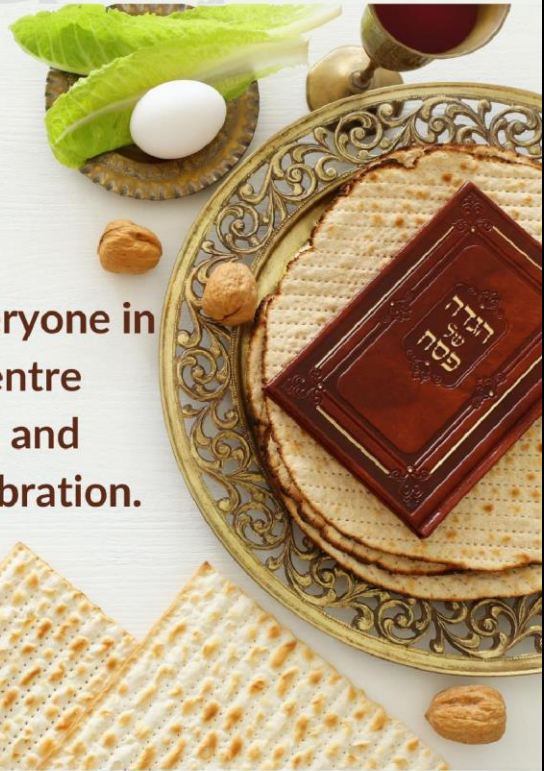
*Happy Passover*  
*Chag Sameach*



# Happy Passover



Wishing everyone in  
York Centre  
a joyous and  
happy celebration.



## חג פסח כשר ונח

Hon. Ya'ara Saks | Member of Parliament for York Centre  
416-638-3700 | [yaara.saks@parl.gc.ca](mailto:yaara.saks@parl.gc.ca)



Happy Passover!  
חג פֶּסַח וְשִׁמְחָה



**MICHAEL KERZNER**

MPP/Député - York Centre

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From my family to yours  
Chag Pesach Sameach!

חג פסח שמח



**LAURA SMITH**  
MPP - Thornhill

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A message to Forestdale  
Heights Lodge members

Wishing you and yours a  
healthy and happy Passover



**Keith Irish**

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James  Pasternak

Councillor | York Centre - Downsview



*Happy Passover*

חג פסח כשר ושמח!



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Speaking at B'nai Brith Canada Chanukah Celebration at Bernard Betel Centre



Giving a speech during the annual Israel Flag Raising Ceremony in celebration of Yom Haatzmaut at City Hall



Joining friends at the annual UJA Walk for Israel event



Celebrating Rosh Hashanah with Rabbis Yirmi and Chai Cohen at City Hall



# HARMONY

Rosalie Moscoe

**P**ositive Personal Power. What does this mean? It means grabbing hold of your strength of character (even if you are afraid) and capturing the essence of what is right for you. When you're frustrated or angry, it's often difficult to know what is right. Life is trial and error, and mistakes can become lessons to be learned. We need to galvanize our confidence and learn ways to live healthfully.

It must start with thinking positively – that innate feeling that things will work out well, no matter what! Every great act or accomplishment in our world is pioneered as a thought. The following are some positive thoughts that exist within you. You can echo these phrases daily to help inspire yourself to attain your highest Positive Personal Power. May this year bring you an open heart and the excitement of new projects to energize and fulfill you!

- I choose to be calm, present and in charge.
- I honour my boundaries and will practice saying NO, giving myself permission to seize time for me.
- I formulate healthy choices for my food, my activities and my fitness.
- I am grateful for all I have and the people in my life.
- I can create the power, confidence, and strength to complete my goals.
- I surround myself with optimistic people and will not be brought down by those who are negative.
- I will embrace love into my heart and send it out in small ways through positive deeds and messages.

When we live in the moment with positivity as our companion, that is what we will attract.



# IN THE NEWS

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## **B'nai Brith Canada Calls For Concrete Measures to Combat Antisemitism Following Introduction of Online Harms Act**

**February 26, 2024**

**OTTAWA** – Amid an unprecedented rise in online hate against Jews, B'nai Brith Canada is concerned about the lack of attention being given to combating antisemitism in the Online Harms Act (Bill C-63), introduced Monday by Arif Virani, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada.

“We applaud the Government for tackling important issues that focus on online harms, predominantly the exploitation of minors,” said David Granovsky, Director of Government Relations for B'nai Brith. “However, we remain concerned about a lack of specific recognition in this bill toward rising levels of hate, in the form of antisemitism, in Canada.”

Following major increases in instances of anti-Jewish hate in Canada since the Oct. 7 attack of Israel by Hamas terrorists, there is a conspicuous absence of language in Bill C-63 dedicated to antisemitism.

As a result, B'nai Brith will ask for Bill C-63 to be amended to reflect key recommendations that were outlined in B'nai Brith's 2021 report titled “How Social Media Algorithms Fuel Hate Speech and Misinformation,” which included proposals for investing in a responsible and more comprehensive algorithm against antisemitism and other forms of hate online.

Also missing is the need for the Government to work with the federal and provincial human-rights commissions to further develop a public education mandate which focuses on understanding, reporting, and countering online hate, including antisemitism.

As a stakeholder involved in the discussions leading up to the tabling of Bill C-63, B'nai Brith submitted recommendations to the Department of Justice and the House of Commons. B'nai Brith also shared its views through its participation in a government roundtable in 2022.

**Continued on next page**





In addition, B'nai Brith wrote to the Ministers of Justice and Canadian Heritage about the need for punitive measures targeting online retailers – such as Amazon and privatecollections.ca – that facilitate the sale of products that violate Canada's Federal Anti-Racism Strategy.

As the need to address antisemitism and other forms of online hate are more pressing than ever before, parliamentarians now have a unique opportunity to adopt B'nai Brith's recommendations reflecting the concerns of Canadian Jews.

## **B'nai Brith Condemns Planned Support for Terrorism at International Women's Day Rallies in Canada**

**February 29, 2024**

**TORONTO** – B'nai Brith is outraged that International Women's Day (IWD) rallies across Canada are planning to commemorate terrorism while ignoring the violence perpetrated last October by Hamas terrorists against innocent Israeli civilians, including women and girls.

IWD, on Mar. 8, 2024, is intended to celebrate women and their contributions to society. It is also a time to advocate for women's rights and challenge gender-based discrimination.

Instead of using this day as an opportunity to raise awareness about Israeli women and girls who were raped, mutilated, and killed on Oct. 7, or to demand the release of those still held hostage in Gaza by Hamas terrorists, some groups in Canada will be supporting their captors.

For instance, promotional materials for women's marches in Toronto and Vancouver feature figures such as Leila Khaled, who participated in the 1969 hijacking of TWA Flight 840 and the 1970 attack on El Al Flight 219 as a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a listed terrorist entity in Canada.

Other extremists cited as luminaries of Palestinian "liberation" include Ahed Tamimi, who was arrested for attacking Israeli soldiers and later for inciting violence against Jews on social media.

"The public must see the hypocrisy in these attempts to manipulate IWD into anti-Israel propaganda," said Richard Robertson, B'nai Brith Canada's Director of Research and Advocacy. "IWD is a day to promote the universal struggle for women's rights, and to celebrate women's accomplishments – not to glorify terrorists, even if they are women. If anything, this should be a moment to express global revulsion towards Hamas' cruel treatment of women on and after Oct. 7.



# FOOD SENSATIONS

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## THE “BEST EVER” PASSOVER BROWNIES

### Ingredients

5 eggs  
2 1/2 cups white sugar  
1 1/4 cup vegetable oil  
1 1/4 cup matzo cake meal  
1 1/2 cups unsweetened cocoa powder  
1 1/4 cups chopped walnuts

### Directions

1. Beat eggs and sugar. Add oil. Mix in cake meal and cocoa. Add nuts (or use them as a topping).

2. Bake in a greased 9 x 13-inch pan at 325 degrees F for 35 minutes.

The secret to moist brownies, Pesach or otherwise, is to underbake them. Check them at 30 minutes.

I also put nuts on top rather than in the brownies for two reasons: They make the top look good without having to frost them, and, for those who don't or can't eat nuts, they are easily removed without searching for them.

***Stewart Indig***



# FOOD SENSATIONS

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## STRAWBERRY APPLE PEAR FRUIT COMPOTE

### Ingredients

6 Granny Smith apples  
6 Bartlett pears  
2-3 cups strawberries (frozen or fresh)

### Directions

Peel and core the apples and pears.  
Fill a pot with about 1 1/2 inches of water.  
Add the apples and pears.  
Bring to a boil, and then simmer for 45 minutes.  
Add in the strawberries and let the mixture cool for a little while.  
For chunky apple sauce, mash the fruit. For smooth apple sauce, strain and blend.  
Don't waste the liquid! Drink it hot, like a fruity tea, or add some ice for a refreshing cold drink.

Yields: 8-10 cups

**Miriam Szokovski**

<https://bit.ly/48POhLl>



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# FOOD SENSATIONS

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## EASY 4-INGREDIENT BRISKET

### Ingredients

2 large Spanish onions  
3 medium carrots  
1 large parsnip  
2.5 lb. second-cut brisket  
Salt  
1 cup dry red wine



### Directions

Slice the onions into thin half-rounds. Place half in the bottom of a baking dish (I prefer glass or ceramic).

Shred the carrots and parsnip. You can use a food processor or blender. Smaller pieces are better. You want approximately equal amounts of carrot and parsnip, so adjust your amounts accordingly (sizes vary).

Pat the brisket dry and sprinkle with salt on all sides. Press the shredded carrot and parsnip into the meat as if you were encrusting or breading it. Carefully (so the carrot and parsnip don't fall off) place the piece of meat, fat side up, on top of the onions. Cover with the remaining onions.

Pour the wine in slowly, cover the pan tightly with foil, and place in the oven.

Cook at 400°F for 1 hour. Reduce temperature to 250°F and cook for an additional 2-3 hours. Time will vary depending on the thickness of your meat, your oven, and the type of pan you use. You're looking for "fork tender," which means the meat gives no resistance when you poke a fork into it.

Refrigerate overnight. Slice thinly against the grain and return to the sauce. Reheat in the oven or stovetop. Freezes well or stays good in the fridge for 4-5 days.

Serves 8

**Miriam Szokovski**

<https://bit.ly/4aSUPuq>



# CORRESPONDENCE

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AID TO  
**DISABLED VETERANS OF ISRAEL**  
(CANADA)

9 January 2024

Ms. Ruth Pupko  
President  
Forestdale Heights Lodge

Dear Ms. Pupko:

On behalf of Beit Halochem Canada, Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel, we thank you for your most generous contribution of \$1,000.00

The October 7<sup>th</sup> terror attacks made clear that, while we long for peace, the need to defend Israel is always present. We remain steadfast in our solidarity with Israel and her citizens and share in the unspeakable grief of the thousands who have lost loved ones.

As the only organization legally responsible for the well-being of Israel's wounded veterans, our role is more critical than ever. Over 2,500 men and women are expected to join Beit Halochem's leading-edge rehabilitation centres across Israel.

We thank you, once again, for your commitment to assisting Israel's disabled veterans. Your support to Beit Halochem Canada is more significant than ever. Together, we will *Help our Heroes Heal*.

Sincerely,

Lisa Levy  
National Executive Director



# CORRESPONDENCE

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January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

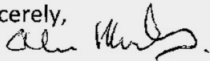
Forestdale Heights Lodge  
c/o Mr. Carl Zeliger

Dear Members:

On behalf of the Kosher Food Bank and the Pride of Israel Synagogue, I would like to express our deepest gratitude to Forestdale Heights Lodge, Bnai Brith, for providing your generous donation to our food bank.

At the Kosher Food Bank, your donation not only helps us meet the immediate needs of our community but also reinforces a sense of unity and compassion.

Sincerely,



Alan Marks,  
Chairman



59 Lissom Crescent, Toronto, Ontario M2R 2P2  
Phone: (416) 226-0111 Fax: (416) 226-0128







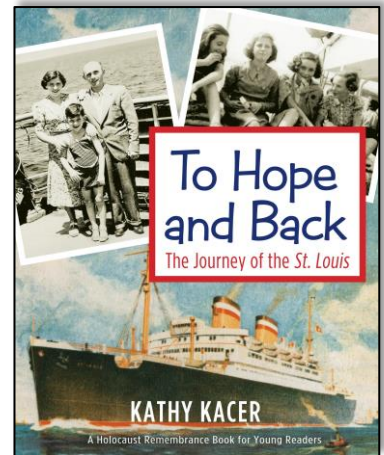
## AS I SEE IT

Marc Kates

I am waging my own silent war. The enemy is antisemitism, and the battlefield is my classroom. In my last Kol Echad article, I shared that my class was reading the Holocaust novel “Daniel’s Story” as part of the curriculum. I had to teach the concepts of “Zionism” and “Palestine” as they were mentioned in the novel. In recent months, these two concepts have been grossly distorted and misunderstood. I had the chance to set the record straight, and not have others define these terms for me.

I am a member of the Toronto Jewish teachers support group on WhatsApp. It apprises me of what many of my colleagues are experiencing across the city in the form of antisemitism. I hear about student walkouts, the harassment of Jewish students and teachers, and the laissez-faire attitude of many school administrators. I am horrified by some of the posts. Reading the latest postings is akin to rubbernecking at an accident – you don’t want to look, but you do anyway. I have no social media, and unlike most people, I know that the world doesn’t care what I ate for dinner, how I spent my vacation, and what crazy mischief the dog has been up to. Many of my colleagues are using social media to combat the antisemitic posts of others, but I see this as futile. When they do post a pro-Israel comment, many of them are booted out from their Facebook groups. They are being sidelined for taking a stance, and are harassed online. The union representatives are worse, and it sickens me that I know that my school’s union executive member is a blatant Israel hater. Is confronting her going to solve anything, change her mind, or for her to have an “aha moment?” Of course not. One of my colleagues recently made a Jewish student of mine very uncomfortable by asking him a very inappropriate question. I know that she has been posting offensive anti-Israel posts on her Facebook account. My response has been to simply be civil to her, and “good morning” is the extent of our social interactions.

**Continued on next page**



In my classroom, however, I am a champion of justice, equity, and diversity. I celebrate and acknowledge each and every specially designated heritage month, and try to create a community of respectful learners who value the uniqueness of each other. We created rangolis for Hindu Heritage Month, explored an artist who represents the Tamil community, and, most recently, painted bamboo paintings in honour of Chinese Heritage Month. I know that many of my colleagues do not do this, as these acknowledgements just take time away from the curriculum. I argue that celebrating these diversities is MORE important than the curriculum. How fortunate are we, that even despite the rise in hatred, we live in Toronto, the most multicultural city in the world.

A new teacher recently took over a class whose teacher is on medical leave. Since she had not yet begun to talk about the Holocaust, I encouraged her to team up with me, and have my students, the current Holocaust “mavens,” lead literature circles with her students, many of whom have never been introduced to the Holocaust. I was happy for her to come on board, and I love watching my students read together with hers, the new Kathy Kacer novel, “To Hope and Back,” about the voyage of the SS St. Louis. The St. Louis was the ship that left Nazi Germany destined for Cuba, but was not allowed to dock there. The United States and Canada also refused, and the steamliner had no choice but to return to Europe. In 2018, the Canadian government officially apologized publicly for refusing to accept those 907 Jewish passengers.

In my own way, I am building up an army of thinkers who truly believe in standing up for those less fortunate and for those fleeing persecution. My students come from a variety of diverse backgrounds, and in a small school in midtown Toronto, I am helping to shape the future of a much more accepting and inclusive Canadian society.

**NHL All-Star Game anthem singer wears pro-Palestinian attire, sparks outrage: ‘Mind-boggling’**

<https://bit.ly/3Owiur6>



# COMMUNITY

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**UJA**

**WE  
BELIEVE  
YOU**

AN EVENING OF SOLIDARITY  
WITH THE WOMEN OF ISRAEL

To mark International Women's Day, join us to honour the women of Israel. On October 7, the country suffered inconceivable tragedies, including horrific violence targeting women. Together, we will hear from family members and advocates who were inspired to stand up and speak out over the past few months.

[Register](#)

**CLICK IMAGES  
FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**Save the Date**

**March 24, 2024 1PM**

Calling All Women  
For International Women's Month  
Take a Stand Against Hate  
Esteemed Speakers, Music and Much More





# COMMUNITY

שַׁעְרֵי שׁוֹמַיִם  
SHAAREI SHOMAYIM



## SHUK TO THE CORE

### ISRAELI VENDOR FAIR

*Come together to support artists and vendors  
from across Israel*

Sunday, March 10, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Shaarei Shomayim - 470 Glencairn Ave

Jewelry • Judaica • Art • Toys • Crafts • Books

\$5 suggested entrance fee (Funds go directly to vendors)



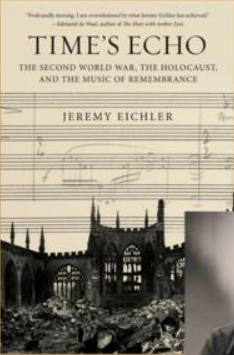
Refreshments for Sale



# COMMUNITY


**An Evening with  
award-winning author  
Jeremy Eichler**

Monday  
April 8, 2024  
at 7:30pm



Join us for an evening with award-winning author, American music critic and cultural historian, Jeremy Eichler, as he discusses his newly launched book.

"Time's Echo - The Second World War, The Holocaust and The Music of Remembrance"



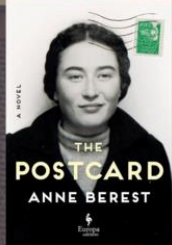



Time's Echo has been named the 2023 Jewish Book of the Year from the Jewish Book Council

Followed by a kosher dessert reception and book signing

Vaughan JCC 9600 Bathurst Street, Vaughan, ON - Shirley Auslander Hall  
To purchase tickets [CLICK HERE](#)

**CLICK IMAGES  
FOR MORE  
INFORMATION**

## Beit Rayim Book Club

 <p><b>THE POSTCARD</b> ANNE BEREST</p>	 <p><b>THE JAZZ CLUB SPY</b> ROBERTA RICH</p>	 <p><b>My Name Is Barbra</b> Barbra Streisand</p>
Wednesday Mar 6th	Wednesday May 1st	Wednesday July 3
<a href="http://www.beitrayim.org">www.beitrayim.org</a>		



# CVS: PURIM

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Following a longstanding Lodge tradition, Forestdale Heights will once again hold its popular Purim Megillah program on Saturday, March 23 at 4300 Bathurst Street.

If you haven't already done so, please get in touch with Carl Zeliger at [czeliger18@gmail.com](mailto:czeliger18@gmail.com) and let him know if you are available.

The program is scheduled to start at 8:45 p.m., but volunteers are requested be there at 8:30 p.m.

*Thank you.*





# FORESTDALE FUNNIES

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I have everything I wanted as a teenager, only 60 years later. I don't have to go to school or work. I get an allowance every month. I have my own pad. I don't have a curfew. I have a driver's license and my own car. The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant, and I don't have acne. Life is great. I changed my car horn to gunshot sounds. People get out of the way much faster now.

Gone are the days when girls used to cook like their mothers. Now, they drink like their fathers.

I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes five years in a row. I decided to stop calling the bathroom "John" and renamed it the "Jim." I feel so much better saying I went to the Jim this morning.

Old age is coming at a terrible time.

When I was a child, I thought "nap time" was a punishment. Now, it feels like a short vacation.

The biggest lie I tell myself is... "I don't have to write that down; I'll remember it."

I don't have gray hair... I have "wisdom highlights" I'm just very wise.

If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would've put them on my knees.

Last year, I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet.

Why do I have to press one for English when you're just going to transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?

Of course, I talk to myself. Sometimes, I need expert advice.

At my age, "Getting Lucky" means walking into a room and remembering what I came in there.

I have more friends I should tell this to, but I can't remember their names right now.

Snow White, Superman and Pinocchio are out for a stroll in town one day. As they walk, they come across a sign: "Beauty contest for the most beautiful woman in the world." "I'm entering" says Snow White. After half an hour she comes out and they ask her, "Well, how did you do?" "First Place," says Snow White. They continue walking and they see a sign: "Contest for the strongest man in the world." "I'm entering," says Superman. After half an hour he returns and they ask him, "How did you make out?" "First Place," answers Superman. "Did you ever doubt?" They continue walking when they see a sign: "Contest! Who is the greatest liar in the world?" Pinocchio says "this is mine" Half an hour later, he returns with tears in his eyes. "What happened?" they ask. "Who the hell is Donald Trump?" asks Pinocchio

# FORESTDALE FUNNIES

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## MODERN HAGGADAH SELECTIONS

1. We were slaves to our employers, working seven days a week with no benefits, and then the unions were organized, and decreed a five-day working week and many days holiday during the year. Now, if the unions had not gotten their act together, then we, and our sons, and even our grandsons, would still have to receive lowly wages. But our daughters and granddaughters still await their salvation.



2. There are four types of children who ask questions on Pesach: the wise one, the bad one, the simple one, and the one who does not know to ask.

What does the wise one ask? I don't know. I couldn't understand him either. Him you must send to a school for gifted children.

What does the bad one ask? He says, "What is this holiday to you?" Because he excludes himself from the community, you must exclude him from your table, and he will go back to his employer and get paid double-time and a half for working on Pesach.

What does the simple one ask? He simply asks, "What is this?" You will say to him, "This is dinner."

As for the one who does not know to ask, you must go to his room, wake him up and say, "Next year, remember to come to the table!"

What did the Teddy Bear say when he was offered the afikomen? No thanks, I'm stuffed.

What do you call steaks ordered by 10 Jews? Filet minyan

Did you hear about the gefilte fish that went deaf? He had to buy a herring-aid.



# LOOKING BACK

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**The McLaughlin Planetarium was open from 1967-1995.**

**The planetarium was closed by the Ontario's Progressive Conservative government, under Premier Mike Harris, despite being profitable and having climbing attendance.**



# LOOKING BACK

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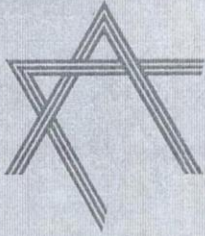


**The first movie theatre Yorkdale Mall in Toronto in 1963.**

**Archives of Ontario photo**







# Steeles Memorial Chapel

**[www.steeles.org](http://www.steeles.org)**

**At Steeles Memorial Chapel, we take pride in providing the Jewish community with a service that is sensitive, caring and helpful in your time of need. Our professional staff takes every detail into careful consideration.**

**For some, it is the relief and peace of mind knowing that their wishes are now recorded and will someday be honoured by their family. For others, it is to unburden loved ones of financial decisions at an emotional time.**

**For information on prearranged funeral services, please call us at**

**(905)881-6003**

**or visit**

**[www.steeles.org](http://www.steeles.org)**

*Serving the Jewish Community since 1927.*

# B'NAI BRITH CANADA

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## CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING ANTI-HATE HOTLINE

B'nai Brith Canada operates the country's only Anti-Hate Hotline combating antisemitism and racism. If you have been the victim of an antisemitic incident, we encourage you to fill out the form at <https://bit.ly/3irmAAz> or call our toll-free Anti-Hate Hotline at 1-800-892- 2624.

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