

Forestdale Heights Lodge, B'nai Brith Canada

KOL ECHAD

Volume 15, No. 2

October 2016

Elul 5776/Tishrei 5777



Shanah Tovah

COVER ART

Is there anything better than a round challah on Rosh Hashanah? Well, maybe a slice of challah with honey. As we begin 5777, we would like to wish all Lodge members and their families a sweet and healthy Rosh Hashanah. This year, the New Year begins in the evening on Sunday, October 2. Kol Nidre is Tuesday, October 11 with Yom Kippur the next day.



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PRESIDENT'S PEN

Stewart Indig

With the holidays quickly approaching, I decided to reflect back on the past year. Rosh Hashanah is a time when Jews gather with family and community members to reflect on the past year and the new one that is beginning. With respect to the Lodge, not much has changed. It is the same discussions on the same topics with the same people. Comradery in the simplest form. We did, however, see an increase of four (4) new members. How fantastic is that? Boy, if we can do that every year, half our woes would be solved. I will continue to harp on membership, because it is the key to our survival as a Lodge.



On a personal level, I feel lucky and honoured to be President of Forestdale Heights Lodge. The Jewish New Year is on the first day of the 7th month. This will also be year 5777. Seven is also a lucky number. This year just so happens to be our 50th year being a Lodge. That means that this is the 49th year, which is seven (7) squared. How lucky am I? I think it would be fitting to get seven new members this year. I need your help in achieving this goal.

I am reflecting on the amazing year we are embarking on. With the addition of two new granddaughters, Cathy and I are truly enjoying family time. It is absolutely amazing watching both Gaby and Maya grow. They have each become independent children. Although they are quite young, they know what they want. Again, how lucky am I? I am President of a great lodge, have an amazing wife, great kids, and now two adorable grandchildren. My goal for the upcoming year is to lose weight, so I can make sure I am around for the family. Another goal is to make sure that the Lodge sticks around as well.

Cathy and I wish for you that the year ahead will be filled with peace, happiness, and good health.

Shanah Tovah Umetukah.

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.

Editor
Jeff Rosen

Advertising
Harvey Silver

Editing Staff
Marc Kates,
Lisa Rosen, Debbi Silver

Printing/Mailing
Aaron Pacter
Michael Pacter

AT A GLANCE

October 16	Breakfast Meeting - <u>CANCELLED</u>
November 14	Dinner & Budget Meeting
December 12	Dinner Meeting & Speaker
January 9	Dinner Meeting
February 13	Nominations/Dinner Meeting
March 11	Purim Programme
March 13	Elections/Dinner Meeting
April 3	Dinner Meeting
May 8	Dinner Meeting
June 4	Gala 50 th Anniversary Installation

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Kol Echad Poll

Would you rather receive the bulletin in the mail, as an e-mail or a combination of the two (some months in the mail, some electronic). Send responses to jelijo@sympatico.ca

EDITOR'S DESK

Jeff Rosen



It was a call I had expected to receive, but one that I definitely did not want to get. I knew that my cousin had end-stage cancer and was spending her final days in a hospice. Still, it was hard to hear that my 67-year-old American relative had passed away.

I wish I could say that my cousin, Marsha Sherris, and I were

close. Unfortunately, I knew only glimpses of her life, snapshots in time. However, based solely on these I grew to admire the person she was in her early years, and the woman she became as time passed.

My earliest memory of my beloved cousin was her working with animals at Fantasy Island in New York. My childhood self thought that my teenage cousin was just “so cool,” doing what seemed best job in the world. Only in looking back did I realize that this is who she was. It was Marsha doing what she wanted, living her life on her own terms.

At 21, she married the love of her life, a man almost twice her age. In an instant, she went from being a young, single woman to a stepmother to four children, the oldest who was just five years younger than she was. How did she do it, you may ask. I guess that will remain her secret. At her funeral, one of her stepchildren – all of whom attended with their families – praised her as a role model and friend who they grew to love and admire over the years.

Surprisingly, she did not just draw her stepchildren into her sphere of life. She insisted that her husband's former spouse be included in family and holiday celebrations. Her reasoning was that the children needed their biological mother. I'm sure this woman found it bizarre in the early years, but from what I learned, over time, the two women developed a friendship and came to regard each other as sisters.

Continued on next page



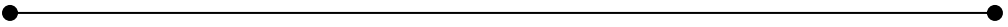
Some say that everyone has only one sole mate. My cousin provided this wrong, finding an amazing second companion when she was 48, one with whom she shared her life with for almost the past two decades. Together they travelled the globe, meeting with and befriending strangers and “boldly going” where she had not gone before.

Unfortunately, some years ago she crossed paths with something a little less friendly. Fortunately, she won round one in her fight against cancer. Remission allowed her to continue to “live, laugh and love.” Regrettably, it eventually re-entered her life, this time with a vengeance.

As her time drew to a close, we were told that she accepted it with grace, saying that she had done what she wanted to do, that she had lived her life to the fullest and had no regrets.

In the end, isn't that what life's all about? We all know that no matter how precious, our lives will someday end. Some choose to stop living at a certain point and wait for the inevitable conclusion. Others simply pause along the road of life, look to the left, look to the right and plow forward with life...to their final day.

As we prepare to usher in 5777, I would like to wish *everyone L'Shanah Tovah U'Metukah*, A Sweet and Happy New Year. May you enjoy good health and may you continue to enjoy life to the fullest.



FUNDRAISING

Forestdale Heights Lodge is once again selling the popular Entertainment books.

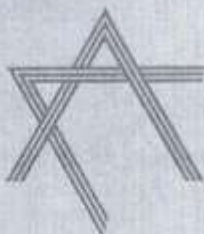
The price is \$35 for 1; \$65 for 2; \$90 for 3.

Lodge members can purchase through FHL or log on to the Entertainment website and make purchases in Canadian funds. The

site also allows for the purchase Entertainment books for other cities.

Go to <https://fundraising.entertainment.com/> to log in and make a purchase. Every online purchase benefits Forestdale Heights Lodge.

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SANDY'S SCRIPT

Sandy Gordon



In my last column, I wrote about our Montreal trip. This month, I have the pleasure of writing about a first time adventure to Williamstown, Massachusetts. We had no idea how long it would take to get there, as in most cases, even though you know the distance, unforeseen circumstances always arise. In our case, the biggest culprit was roadwork. But you grin and bear it and make the best of a slow situation.

As usual, we were depending on our GPS. Everything was hunky dory until we entered a very winding mountainous roadway. Our GPS showed that there were only 39 kilometers to go and there were no destination signs around us. Signs, instructing us to slow down, met us at every winding turn and we were forced to proceed at a snail's pace. Of course, this being a regular thoroughfare for locals, there were cars behind us banging on their horns. As soon as they were able, an entourage of cars sped by. "Go," I said, "be well, we are going to proceed at our own pace."

We finally saw the sign, Welcome to Massachusetts, and about a kilometer later a second one, Welcome to Williamstown. It was amazing. There were mountains all around the town, the lawns were a rich green and the architecture was gorgeous. I felt like I was on a movie set. It reminded me of our visit to Jasper, Alberta.



Continued on next page



We checked into the motel and called my cousin, whom I had not seen in a number of years. We did the touristy thing and visited their art gallery called the Clark Institute, where I saw original Renoir works. What a thrill that was. They had a marvelous restaurant there and we enjoyed the environment of the facility both inside and out.

With a population of about 8,000, the town only has one set of lights. It is a quiet town yes, peaceful and so outstanding. Both Barry and I said, "We could live here!"

Williamstown was first settled in 1749 (the same year as Halifax, Nova Scotia, where I was born) and was named after Col. Ephraim Williams. It was originally called West Hoosac. The primary industry is agriculture, specifically dairy farming, sheep herding and wool production. So if you are looking for beauty, serenity, quiet, open space and clean air, visit Williamstown, Massachusetts.

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UPCOMING

This season we are doing something different in terms of recruiting guest speakers. Instead of looking elsewhere, this year's roster of speakers will come from within our ranks.

On December 12, Carl Zeliger, who is a lawyer, will talk about the importance of wills and having a power of attorney.

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

COMMUNICATIONS



In the spring we asked members of Forestdale Heights Lodge their thoughts on the Lodge's website, kolechad.ca. We received a few responses. Those who did respond agreed that the website should remain active. A few members suggested that it contain unique content.

Responding to the suggestions, the website has been updated and unique content has been added. We have added news feeds to Jerusalem Post, CBC and Reuters News. They can be accessed from the left side panel on the site's main page. As well, they can be found under Special Features. These trusted news sources join our feature correspondents, Sheldon Kirshner and Masada Siegel, both respected journalists in their field.

As well as content, the site contains a unique feature found within the Kol Echad circle on the top left corner of each page. If you click on the circle from any page, it will return you back to the main page.

Like everything else in this Lodge, the site and this bulletin will continue to evolve. All Kol Echad needs is your input and participation.

שנה טובה ומתוקה!



Best wishes for a Happy & Healthy New Year



Cathy & Stewart Indig & family

*Shanah
Tovah*

Ray & Rosalie Moscoe
wish all our Lodge
Brothers and Sisters
a healthy and prosperous
New Year



**I wish all members of
Forestdale Heights Lodge
a Happy and Healthy New Year**

Shanah Tovah!

Councillor Valerie Burke
Thornhill Ward 1
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vburke@markham.ca



*Best wishes for a
Happy & Healthy New Year*

**Carl and Debby Zeliger,
Rach and Doron, Becca and Daniel and Josh**



Shana Tova to all my Family & Friends
Michael Kates & Family
Marc, Rachel, Seth, Eve, Joelle
Lonny & Mitchell



*Shanah
Tovah*



**Best wishes for a year of health and happiness
to everyone in Forestdale Heights Lodge**

Jeff, Lisa & Jordana Rosen



*Wishing you all
a very Happy and Healthy New Year*
Honey & Albert Ohana & Family



*The Silver family wishes everyone
a very Healthy and Happy New Year*

Harvey, Debbi, Lisa
Mark, Shawna, Zoe, Jaime & Ezra



*We would like to wish
all our friends at
Forestdale Heights Lodge
and their families
a very Happy and
Healthy New Year*

Ivan and Elizabeth Bloom

*Best wishes for a
Happy and Healthy New Year*

Sandy and Barry Gordon
& Family



*To all our friends
A Healthy & Happy New Year
Shana Tova*



Rhona Leviston
& Richard Kotzen

Ruth & Aaron Pupko



*Wishing all our
family and friends
a Happy, Healthy
New Year*

*Wishing all our Friends & Family
A Healthy, Happy & Prosperous New Year*



Marla & Avery Matlow





GOOD & WELFARE

Birthday

Rosalie Moscoe	October 4
Carl Zeliger	October 12
Sandy Gordon	October 15
Edie Arkin	October 22
Ivan Bloom	October 30



Anniversary

David & Arna Gorender	October 26
Harvey & Debbi Silver	October 28



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

KOSHER FOOD BANK



Forestdale Heights is a supporter of the Pride of Israel Kosher Food Bank. Members are requested to bring an item of non-perishable kosher food to each Lodge meeting.

The food items should bear a kosher certification.
Donations collected at each meeting will be delivered the following day.

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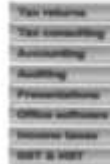
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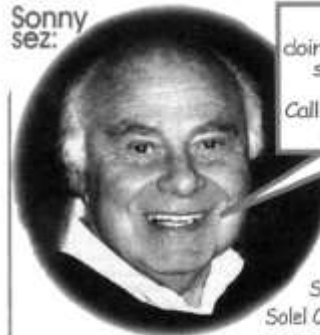
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TALKING POINTS

Debbi Silver



It's September 5, the sun is shining and it is 24 degrees. It's a beautiful day in the neighbourhood.

In my last column, I mentioned that we were going to Montreal to spend time with family and friends. It so happens that Avery and Marlo Matlow were there at the same time. We couldn't believe it, but they had never been to the Orange Julep.

For those not in the know, the Orange Julep restaurant or The Big Orange, is a roadside attraction and fast food restaurant in Montreal. The building is in the shape of an orange. The Matlows were even staying right across the street at Ruby Foo's. (See picture below.)

We had an amazing time, visiting my aunt who turned 87 years young. We ate at the best restaurants, and were lucky enough to have a friend who took us to the famous Atwater Food Terminal, as well as to Old Montreal. Even though I am from Montreal, we felt like tourists.

Now we are home packing for our cruise, which is leaving on September 10. Stay tuned for more info in the November bulletin.

I was happy to attend my first executive meeting at Stewart's home, as a member of Forestdale Heights Lodge at the end of August. The attendance was great. There were many items on the agenda. We were able to get through many of them. The most important thing was to find chairmen for different programs. Unfortunately, that did not happen. If you are interested in participating in the Lodge there is nothing better than becoming a chairman. You can even pick one event that you would like to plan. Please consider it; the Lodge needs man (and woman) power. **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

Since we will not be at the next meeting, Harvey and I wish everyone *Shanah Tovah*.



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

1988 – FHL Presidents: Al Reider/Michael Kates

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney; Ontario Premier David Peterson

January 15 – In Jerusalem, Israeli police and Palestinian protestors clash at the Dome of the Rock; several police and at least 70 Palestinians are injured.



January 26 – The Phantom of the Opera, the longest running Broadway play ever, opens.

January 28 – Canada’s abortion laws are repealed by the Supreme Court.

February 29 – A Nazi document implicates Kurt Waldheim in World War II deportations.

March 24 – An Israeli court sentences Mordechai Vanunu to 18 years in prison for disclosing Israel’s nuclear program to The Sunday Times.

April 16 – Israeli commandos kill the PLO's Abu Jihad in Tunisia.

April 25 – In Israel, Ivan Demjanjuk is sentenced to death for war crimes committed in World War II. He is accused by survivors of being the notorious guard at the Treblinka extermination camp known as “Ivan the Terrible.” The conviction is later overturned by the Israeli Supreme Court.

August 11 – Al-Qaeda is formed by Osama bin Laden.

September 29 – STS-26: NASA resumes Space Shuttle flights, grounded after the Challenger disaster, with Space Shuttle Discovery.

November 1 – In the Israeli election, Likud wins 47 seats, Labour wins 49, but Likud Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir remains in office.

November 8 – United States presidential election, 1988: George H. W. Bush is elected over Michael Dukakis, becoming the first sitting Vice President of the United States in 152 years to be elected as President of the United States.

November 15 – Israeli–Palestinian conflict: An independent State of Palestine is proclaimed at the Palestinian National Council meeting in Algiers, by a vote of 253–46.

November 21 – Canadian federal election, Brian Mulroney and the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada win a second majority government.



FUNNIES

IN THE SERVICE

One Shabbat morning, Rabbi Levy noticed seven-year-old David staring up at the large plaque hanging in the shul lobby. It was covered with names and small American flags were mounted on either side of it. David had been staring at the plaque for some time, so Rabbi Levy walked over to him and said quietly, “Shabbat Shalom, David.”

“Shabbat shalom, Rabbi,” replied David, still intent on the plaque. “Rabbi, what is this?”

“Well, David, it’s a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service.”

Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque. Then little David, in a barely audible whisper, asked, “Which service, Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur?”



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HEALTH IN HARMONY

Rosalie Moscoe

Year 5777 coming up! It sounds like a date far into the future, somewhere in another galaxy. But truly, it's our upcoming year in the Jewish calendar, coinciding with the modern era year 2016/17. This New Year is based on Jewish history – so many thousands of years before us, and we're still here to talk about it!

I think about all my ancestors on each side of the family and how they came to produce my family and me. Truly, it's astounding. And we continue to recite familiar script and songs that drag us back to our roots each year. I find the services relaxing and peaceful and enjoy hearing the familiar tunes and singing along to those words that I know and then humming the rest.

It's an event; everyone dressed in their finest attire, wishing all those familiar faces in shul, "*Shana Tova!*" We mark the occasion, celebrating with family, sometimes around a small table and other years around a long one, eating familiar dishes such as Bubie's chicken soup (oy, now that Bubie is ME!)

I know these proud traditions will be carried on by my family and for that, I give thanks. We, as a people, have so much to be proud of – our rich heritage, our love of education, our overall standing in the community, our splendid accomplishments and our strong will to make the world a better place through community action. However, I believe the closeness of family and how this is the basis for Jewish life is what has kept us strong. This strong connection with family and our everlasting belief in Hashem and His glories that He has created are the reasons we come to shul on the High Holidays – to be thankful, to take time for introspection and healing, and to grow as a person.

So on this New Year that seems to come around faster each year, I hope and pray for peace in the world. From our family to yours, I, along with Ray, wish all of you – our dear Forestdale Heights Lodge brothers and sisters, a happy, healthy, prosperous and peaceful New Year.



AS I SEE IT

Marc Kates



Dorothy Gale was only partly right when she famously stated, “There’s no place like home,” but she could have easily added, “but there’s also no place like Israel.” For 10 glorious days, the five of us trekked to the Holy Land, discovered new hidden gems, and were completely enchanted by our time there. Our trip concluded with an already formulated list of places to go and things to do the next time we travel to Israel.

When asked about our impressions about Israel, the pages of Kol Echad are insufficient to share in detail our observations and experiences. I will therefore attempt to curtail my comments, and only mention a few items. Perhaps future editions of Kol Echad will include more Israel insights.

- Israel is an ever-changing landscape. We were struck by the rapid pace of change throughout the country. Since our last visit, the light-rail train in Jerusalem is operational, and new building projects and condominiums seem to pop up everywhere. We learned of the Jerusalem High Speed Link, currently under construction, connecting Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in just a travel time of 30 minutes.

- En francais, s’il vous plait. While Hebrew is spoken everywhere in Israel, the proliferation of French being spoken on the streets truly shocked us. The recent attacks and anti-Semitism in France has been the impetus for thousands of French Jews to make *aliyah*. Unlike their Russian brethren, French Jews are finding it extraordinarily difficult to acclimate to their new surroundings.

Continued on next page



- Tourism is still a major sector of the Israeli economy, but if one is not part of an organized tour group, it is difficult to see tourists outside of the large cities. It is interesting to note that there were a number of Chinese tour groups. These Chinese tourists are part of the emerging upper class in China. They are eager to spend their newly acquired wealth.

- Israeli not Jewish. Sometimes it is often difficult to experience “Yiddishkeit” in Israel. It seemed challenging to find kosher restaurants in Tel Aviv. In Tel Aviv’s new Sarona Market, clams, shellfish and oysters are put beautifully on display. Having non-kosher products out in the open would seem unthinkable years ago. Tel Avivians pride themselves on being anti-religious.

Israel is an incredible place. It never stays put and is always moving forward. Perhaps this is message that we should take forward with us into the new year. May the new year be filled with sweetness, hope, health and peace. *Shanah Tovah.*

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