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September/October 2024

KOL ECHAD

Forestdale Heights Lodge
B'nai Brith Canada

עכשיו!



Volume 23, No 1

KOL ECHAD

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

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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Marc Kates
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Ruth Pupko

www.kolechad.ca

COVER ART



Images of people's eyes adorn 240 empty yellow chairs, representing the 240 people taken hostage during the Hamas attack on October 7, 2023.

The exhibit was one of many placed in the plaza now called "The Hostages and Missing Square" outside The Museum of Modern Art in Tel Aviv.

At the back of the rows of empty chairs, the wall says, "Achshav," meaning "Now," as a means of demanding the release of the hostages and bringing them home.

[Marc Kates photo]



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*Deceased

AT A GLANCE

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

Start time: 7:00 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings:

- September 10
- October 8
- November 12
- January 14
- February 11
- March 11
- April 8
- May 13
- June 10

Kol Echad schedule for the 2024-25 season

November / December – Chanukah Issue

Deadline: October 20

January/ February – Winter Issue

Deadline: December 20

March/ April – Purim/Passover Issue

Deadline: February 20

May/ June – Spring/Summer Issue

Deadline: April 20





PRESIDENT'S PEN

Ruth Pupko

I can't believe the High Holidays are right around the corner; I was at No Frills yesterday, and the honey jars were displayed right in front of the kosher section! The week goes by so quickly, and before you know it, it is Shabbat once again.

We had no meetings this summer except for our annual summer BBQ, which was hosted by Stewart and Cathy Indig. Thank you for a lovely night. We definitely missed the members who could not make it. We will work hard to find a suitable date for our annual Chanukah party, so ALL members can attend.

Sincere condolences to Marilyn and her family on the loss of her beloved husband and father. Eddie was a gentle soul, and his contribution to the Lodge will be missed. We will always remember and value his friendship.

We don't have a lot of members due to different circumstances, such as aging, passing away, etc., but we are still steering the ship. We will discuss the Lodge's future and the best direction moving forward at the September meeting. This will take a lot of thinking and pondering so that all our ideas and input will be discussed at future meetings. The best ships are friendships, and may they always be.

Let us pray for good health and peace all over the world and a special prayer for our brothers and sisters in Israel.

Shanah Tovah!

Ruth





EDITOR'S DESK

Jeff Rosen

...And a time to call it quits.

I've been thinking a lot about that quote recently. For a while, I pondered it in connection to my involvement with this publication. After 33 years of writing about politics, family members and friends who have since passed away, and the two most important people who have accompanied me on this journey, I wouldn't be honest if I didn't admit that I had considered saying au revoir/arrivederci to my online persona.

However, that is not the story here. I enjoy this "job" too much to walk away from it. The quote came to me in late June after the federal Liberal party lost the Toronto riding of Toronto-St. Paul's in a by-election.

While the federal Liberals have held the riding for the past few decades, it was never the exclusive domain of the Liberal party. From 1984 to 1993, it was held by Conservative MP and cabinet minister Barbara McDougall.

What it means, though, is that for most people, this riding has been painted red their entire lives. Those who dismiss the by-election results are living in a fool's paradise (*and that is coming from a die-hard Liberal*).

There is always a need for change, a need to move forward. To do otherwise is to stagnate. Political leaders always need to grasp this crucial message. The late prime minister, Brian Mulroney, secured two majority governments. When he finally stepped down in 1993, his popularity was a mere 12 percent. Despite his departure, voters overwhelmingly rejected his party and his successor, Kim Campbell, when voters went to the polls that year. The result was that his once dominant party was reduced to a mere two seats.

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To everything, there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted; A time to kill, And a time to heal; A time to break down, And a time to build up; A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, And a time to dance; ...

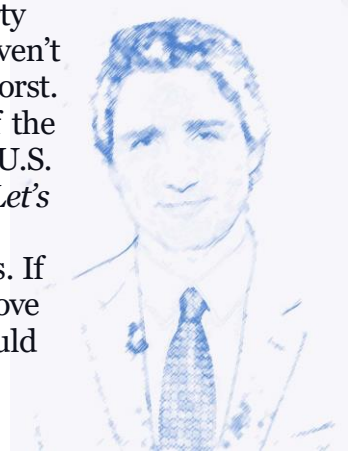
Ecclesiastes 3



Of course, he wasn't the only party leader to think himself infallible. In 1984, the Liberal Party's then-new leader, John Turner, led the party to a crushing defeat against Mulroney, leaving the party with only 40 seats. By this time, though, the public was tired of the Liberals, who had led the country for 15 years under Pierre Trudeau during the 1960s and 1970s.

That brings us to the present. Since 2015, the Liberal Party of Canada has led Canada for better and worse. They haven't been the best government, but they have not been the worst. They successfully steered the country through the worst of the COVID-19 hellhole and managed to massage former U.S. president Donald Trump's ego on more than one occasion (*Let's hope no PM ever has to do that again!*).

Those times are now past, consigned to the history books. If Prime Minister Justin Trudeau wants his party to move forward and continue to lead this great country, he should consider what is best for Canada.



To everything there is a season.

Prime Minister Trudeau's season ran from 2015-24. He should realize that, acknowledge reality and let history judge his record. The alternative will be to consign this great country to years of hardship and back-peddling under a vindictive, petty politician who has never held a job outside the public sphere.

Ultimately, I'll continue to hope for the best while praying we avoid the worst.

As we prepare to usher in a new Jewish calendar, let us hope 5785 is a better one for the Jewish community and the entire world. Let us also pray that sanity prevails as people across the globe go to the polls to elect new leaders.

From this desk to everyone out there,
Shanah Tovah

Postscript: *As well as the current Prime Minister, it is time for new leadership at the provincial level. The U.S. has it right. Two terms and it's time to move on; let someone else steer the ship of state.*



MILESTONES

Birthday

Rosalie Moscoe
Carl Zeliger

October 4
October 12



Anniversary

Jeff & Lisa Rosen

September 21



CONDOLENCES



FHL extends condolences to Marilyn Arkin and her family on the passing of her husband, Eddie Arkin, the senior vice-president of Forestdale Heights Lodge.

FHL extends condolences to Felice Luftspring and her family on the passing of her husband, Sheldon (Shelly) Luftspring, a past president of Forestdale Heights Lodge.



FHL extends condolences to FHL past president Arthur Eisenbaum and his family on the passing of his brother-in-law, Sheldon (Shelly) Luftspring, a past president of Forestdale Heights Lodge.

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.



SOCIAL/FHL BBQ



This year, our BBQ was held at the home of Cathy & Stewart Indig. It was a wet day, and the Indigs had both the outside and inside set up. Being that it was a small but intimate group of eight, we stayed inside as everything was wet outside. The BBQ was attended by Ruth Pupko, Debbi Silver, Carl & Debby Zeliger, Ray & Rosalie Moscoe and Cathy & Stewart Indig. Of course, everybody was so busy chatting that we almost forgot to take pictures.

The evening started with appetizers consisting of fried salami (a Lodge staple), veggies and chips. Also present was Cathy's potent but excellent punch. Next up, master chef Stewart BBQ'd chicken and salmon. Both were excellent tasting.

Continued on next page





The main course was served with a green salad, potato salad and coleslaw. The chatting continued with Ray discussing Jewish sports players. Eventually, we got around to dessert. A fruit flan (excellent), cookies and fruit rounded out the meal.

Chatting continued into the evening, and everybody went home with a doggy bag. Throughout the evening, we learned that Carl & Debby met in Israel, and Ray & Rosalie met through an Italian friend of Rosalie's. Also learnt was that Rosalie and I worked at Steinberg's but in different cities. It was indeed a great evening.

Stewart Indig



B'NAI BRITH CANADA

BBC OFFERS HOME CLOTHING PICK-UPS

Donate your used clothing from home!!

We are launching our new home pick-ups for clothing donations!

Simply prepare your clothes for donation in garbage bags and call 416-633-6224 x 120 to arrange for our truck to collect your donations – from your home.

Items will be donated to those in need, while excess clothing will be used to fund our foodbank.



CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING ANTI-HATE HOTLINE

B'nai Brith Canada operates the 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 1-800-892-6224.



**A police officer
came to my house
and asked me where
I was between 5 & 6.
He seemed irritated
when I answered:
"Kindergarten"**

COMMUNITY

New Canadian Human Rights Commissioner resigns

By Lila Sarick

The Canadian Jewish News

Birju Dattani, who was set to become Canada's new head of the Canadian Human Rights Commission, resigned on Aug. 12 after an independent report was sharply critical of his failure during the vetting process to disclose the numerous names he used on social media and in academic speeches.

Justice Minister Arif Virani commissioned an independent report after allegations emerged that Dattani had an anti-Israel and antisemitic track record. Dattani was poised to become the new chief commissioner on Aug. 8, but on Aug. 7, Virani confirmed that his office had received the report from a labour and employment relations law firm and was delaying the appointment.

Virani said in a press release on Aug. 12 that he made the report public to ensure transparency and that he accepted Dattani's decision to step down. "The findings speak for themselves."

"As I have said, maintaining the confidence of all Canadians in the Canadian Human Rights Commission remains my top priority," Virani said.

Dattani's decision to step down before even assuming the post was welcomed by numerous Jewish advocacy groups.

The report, by Sarah Crossley and Laura Freitag, with Filion Wakely Thorup Angeletti, a management labour and employment law firm, was critical of Dattani's failure to disclose the various names he had used in his professional life, specifically 'Mujahid Dattani.' He adopted the name 'Mujahid' when he was 19 and "embraced a Muslim identity," the report stated.

"On a balance of probabilities and based on the totality of evidence, we find that Mr. Dattani intentionally omitted the reference to 'Mujahid Dattani' on the Background Check Consent Form (and elsewhere) and at no time in the application or interview process disclosed that, in the past, he had used the name 'Mujahid Dattani,' the report stated.

The report was commissioned to investigate the allegations about antisemitism, but was not asked to examine the vetting process around Dattani's appointment, noted the authors.

Full story at

<https://bit.ly/3M3RIKk/>



PERSPECTIVES



Rosh Hashanah jams prepared by Libyan Jews

represents a play on words (a pun). The Yehi Ratzon platter may include apples (dipped in honey, baked or cooked as a compote called mansanada); dates; pomegranates; black-eyed peas; pumpkin-filled pastries called rodanchas; leek fritters called keftedes de prasa; beets; and a whole fish with the head intact. It is also common among Sephardim to eat stuffed vegetables called legumbres yaprakes.

Some of the symbolic foods eaten are dates, black-eyed peas, leeks, spinach, and gourd, all of which are mentioned in the Talmud: “Let a man be accustomed to eat on New Year’s Day gourds, and fenugreek, leeks, beet [leaves], and dates.”

Carrots can have multiple symbolic meanings at the Rosh Hashanah table. The Yiddish word for carrot is ma’rin, which means “increase.” By eating carrots, one asks for their merits and blessings to be increased. Sliced carrots are typically eaten to symbolize gold coins and hopes for continued wealth and prosperity. In Hebrew, the word for carrot is gezer, which sounds similar to the word g’zar - the Hebrew word for “decree.” Serving carrots on Rosh Hashanah symbolizes a desire to have God nullify any negative decrees against us.

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Pomegranates are used in many traditions to symbolize being fruitful, like the pomegranate with its many seeds. Typically, round challah bread is served to symbolize the year's cycle. From ancient to quite modern age, lamb head or fish head were served. Nowadays, lekach (honey cake) and gefilte fish are commonly served by Ashkenazic Jews on this holiday. On the second night, new fruits are served to warrant the inclusion of the shehecheyanu blessing.

The general Ashkenazic custom is to eat sweet foods, such as honey cake and teiglach, to auger a sweet year. The Sephardic and Mizrahi custom is frequently to eat light-coloured foods, or rather, to avoid dark ones, to avoid a dark year.

In Karaite Judaism

Unlike the denominations of Rabbinical Judaism, Karaite Judaism believes the Jewish New Year starts with the first month and celebrates this holiday only as mentioned in the Torah, that is, as a day of rejoicing and shouting. Karaites allow no work on the day except what is needed to prepare food.

In Samaritanism

Samaritans preserve the biblical name of the holiday, Yom Teruah, and do not consider the day to be a New Year's day.

Date

Initially, the date of Rosh Hashanah was determined based on observation of the new moon ("molad") and thus could fall on any day of the week. However, around the third century CE, the Hebrew calendar was fixed such that the first day of Rosh Hashanah never fell out on Sunday, Wednesday, or Friday.

Rosh Hashanah occurs 163 days after the first day of Passover and thus is usually (but not always) determined by the new moon closest to the autumnal equinox.

In terms of the Gregorian calendar, the earliest date on which Rosh Hashanah can fall is September 5, as happened in 1842, 1861, 1899, and 2013. The latest Gregorian date that Rosh Hashanah can occur is October 5, as happened in 1815, 1929, and 1967, and will happen again in 2043. After 2089, the differences between the Hebrew calendar and the Gregorian calendar will result in Rosh Hashanah falling no earlier than September 6. Starting in 2214, the new latest date will be October 6.

In 2020, the Jewish President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, announced that Ukraine would declare Rosh Hashanah a national holiday. This makes Ukraine the only country besides Israel where the day is a national holiday.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosh_Hashanah#Origin



HIGH HOLIDAYS 5785



This being a Jewish leap year, all the High Holidays start “late.” The chaggim do not begin until October, with Erev Rosh Hashanah on Wednesday, October 2. It continues on Thursday, October 3 and Friday, October 4, leading into Shabbat.

The following Friday, October 11, Kol Nidre starts, and Yom Kippur is on Shabbat, Saturday, October 12.

Erev Sukkot is Wednesday, October 16. Shemini Atzeret begins at sundown on Wednesday, October 23 and ends at nightfall on Thursday, October 24.

It is followed by Simchat Torah, which begins the evening of Thursday, October 24 and concludes the following day.



Chag Sameach!

[\[Adobe Stock photo\]](#)



שנה טובה ומתוקה!



Ruth & Aaron Pupko

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



Best Wishes to you and your respective families
for a Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Peaceful New Year

Debby and Carl Zeliger



SHANAN TOVAN

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

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



*Shanah
Tovah*

Wishing everyone a healthy and happy New Year
filled with love and joy.

The Indig and Levy families



We wish you all a happy
and healthy New Year!

*Shanah
Tovah!*

Ray and Rosalie Moscoe and family

Ira & Paula Kuchinsky



Wish our
Friends & fellow
Lodge members
a Sweet & Happy
New Year

Shanah Tovah

*Wishing the FHL family
a happy, healthy, and sweet new year*

שנה טובה



Marc Kates, Rachel Spitzer,
Seth, Eve, and Joelle



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

Jeff, Lisa & Jordana Rosen

WISHING YOU A SWEET NEW YEAR!

שנה טובה ומתוקה!



MICHAEL KERZNER

MPP/Député - York Centre

830 Sheppard Ave. W., Toronto, ON M3H 2T1
416-630-0080 • michael.kerzner@pc.ola.org
michaelkerznermpp.ca





Shana Tova U'metuka to the Jewish community in Eglinton-Lawrence, across Canada, and worldwide!

I am honoured to be your Member of Parliament and witness this community's resilience and bravery.

May 5785 be a year filled with joy and good health for you and your loved ones. Chag Sameach!



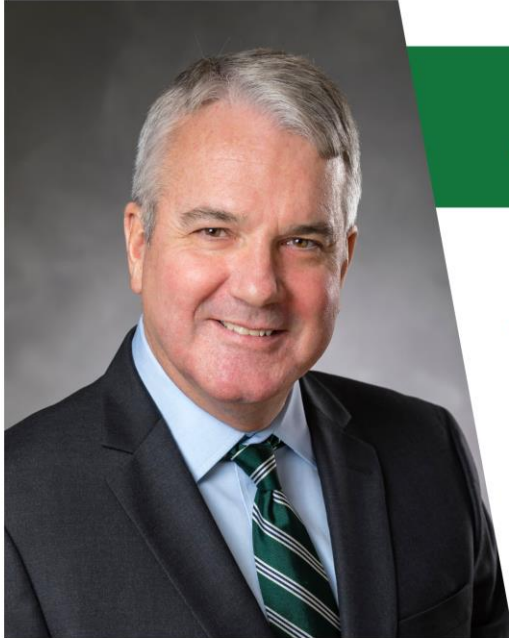
Hon. Marco Mendicino

Member of Parliament for Eglinton-Lawrence

 / MarcoMendicino
 @MarcoMendicino
 @MarcoMendicino

A heartfelt message to **Forestdale Heights Lodge Members**

Wishing you and yours a **healthy and happy Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.**
May you have a **good and sweet new year.**



Keith Irish

Councillor, Ward 1 Thornhill

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 [@keith.irish](https://www.facebook.com/keith.irish)



*The Executive of FHL
would like to wish
all Members and their Families
a Healthy and Happy New Year*



FOOD SENSATIONS



Yom Tov Challah

Ingredients:

- 1 package dry yeast
- 1 1/4 cups warm water
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/2 Tbsp. salt
- 2/3 cup oil
- 2 eggs
- 4 1/2 cups flour

Glaze

- 1 egg yolk, beaten
- 1 tsp. water
- Poppy seeds or sesame seeds



Preparation:

Dissolve yeast in water in a large bowl. Add honey and let stand 2 minutes, until yeast foams. Add salt, oil, and eggs and mix well.

Gradually add flour, 1 cup at a time, mixing after each addition. As the mixture gets stiff, use floured hands and begin kneading. Knead for 7 minutes, turning dough over often.

Let rise in a greased bowl until doubled in size, approximately 1 hour. Punch down dough.

Divide dough into thirds, shape as desired, and place in greased pans or baking sheets. Let rise again until doubled in size. If you place the dough into a flat bottom round bowl after braiding it, it will come out as a crown challah.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Brush with glaze. Bake for 45 minutes to 1 hour.



FOOD SENSATIONS



Sweet Brisket

Brisket, when correctly cooked and cut, is festive, fragrant, flavourful, and fork-tender. This simple brisket recipe produces moist, sweet meat. Enjoy this popular cut of beef for Rosh Hashanah or any Jewish holiday or Sabbath meal.



Prep Time: 15 minutes

Cook Time: 4 hours

Total Time: 4 hours, 15 minutes

Ingredients:

- 1 7-8 pound brisket, washed and drained
- 1/2 cup oil
- 1/2 cup Coca-Cola
- 1/2 cup dry red wine
- 1/2 cup honey
- 6-8 Tbsp. ketchup
- 2 onions
- 1 tsp. paprika

Preparation:

Place brisket in a roasting pan. Chop all seasonings in a food processor and pour over brisket. Cover and marinate in the refrigerator overnight.

Preheat oven to 325° Fahrenheit (165° Celsius).

Bake at 325°F (165°C) for approximately four hours, or until a digital instant-read thermometer inserted into the centre of the brisket reads 190° for well done.

When cool, thinly slice the brisket against the grain. It is essential to slice the brisket correctly. If the meat is not sliced against the grain, it will be tough.

Tip:

It is best to prepare the brisket a day before it is served, as the taste is enhanced after it sits in the fridge.



CORRESPONDENCE



Leket Canada

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Phone: (905) 525-5673 • Email: canada@leket.org • Web: www.leket.org

May 1, 2024

Forestdale Heights Lodge

Dear Debi Silver

On behalf of everyone involved at Leket, please accept our unbounded thanks for the recent gift you made to our cause. We hope you take pride in knowing you are helping so many have access to a basic human need-food.

By rescuing nutritious surplus food and bringing it to thousands of families your generosity will make an impact to alleviate hunger in Israel.

We look forward to your continued support to Leket.

Sincerely,



Joseph Gitler
Board Member





HARMONY

Rosalie Moscoe

Ray and I took a trip down memory lane, reminiscing our many years in Forestdale Heights Lodge – 54 for Ray and about 25 for me when they allowed women into B'nai Brith lodges. We recalled so many events, volunteering and accomplishments!

One volunteer event that comes to mind is the Out of the Cold program that was held at Beth Emeth once a month.

Those programs were a beacon for people experiencing homelessness to be able to sit down for a hot, delicious, nutritious meal that was served to all who arrived. It was a full evening event, with Bingo games, giving out prizes for the winners, playing music and singing songs. Each person received a parcel of new clothing and a TTC token to take with them. Some people slept there for the night. Everyone seemed to have a good time.

As for other homeless people, many of our members volunteered either packing up toothpaste, brushes and clothing, while others handed out those packages to the homeless on the streets or to churches and food banks to be distributed to those in need.

We were proud when Forestdale Heights was involved with other lodges in raising and donating money, which contributed to the purchase of an ambulance in Israel. At our meetings, we carefully decided which charities would receive our donations. We gave out thousands of dollars over the years wherever there was trouble, a fire in the north when Indigenous people had to vacate their homes, or a charity we felt needed our help. To this day, our donations continue, especially to Jewish charities and Israel. Of course, let's not forget the Passover and Chanukah deliveries we took part in, driving around the city to deliver to those in need. We truly practised tzedakah – meaning righteousness, fairness, or justice.

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FORESTDALE HEIGHTS LODGE
1967-2017

FUNDRAISING



So, where did we get this money for donations? – mainly from all the bingo games we held at various large venues in Toronto. We can't forget the designated pushka cans (with a slit on top) that were spread around many locations in North York, where people dropped in their coins which really added up for our donations! We were involved in large B'nai Brith conventions where we sent delegates to bring our ideas to the table to spread the good.

The Toronto Marathon was another great event that got many of our male members up at the crack of dawn. They set up the first booth to hand out water and other drinks to the runners. Our B'nai Brith banner was flying in the breeze. We enjoyed catered Lodge meetings at B'nai Brith house, where we discussed what organizations we would choose for donations and other ways to keep our Lodge alive.



If we are talking about FHL, we must mention the camaraderie that existed! Do you remember all the fun Chanukah parties when we handed out gifts to all our kids, played games and sang songs? We also had fun times as we recalled Lodge picnics when our kids were little, complete with wheel barrel races and prizes! We can't forget all the Lodge installations – catered affairs with entertainment and dancing.

Forestdale Heights Lodge spearheaded saving the B'nai Brith baseball league, which was about to fold. It became the largest organized men's baseball league in North America, with up to 1,200 players at one time. Because of the huge baseball league, B'nai Brith recruited many new young members. Also, our Lodge had two teams that participated in the basketball league.

Reading of the Megillah every year at Purim brought out many people at the B'nai Brith seniors' home on Bathurst Street, and our Lodge members were there to run it and take part. Of course, we can't forget our Lodge bulletin, Kol Echad, which bonded us together, and the work it took to get it looking spectacular. What a Lodge!

Yes, now we're older and attend to our families and grandchildren, and many of us may not have the *oomph* we had years ago, but those members (and many other past members) still can recall the wonderful events we carried out. Know that so far, we have accomplished essential and gratifying work through our Lodge and for B'nai Brith.

We wish all our brothers and sisters of Forestdale Heights Lodge a happy and healthy Rosh Hashanah. May it be a better year for all Jewish people.





AS I SEE IT

Marc Kates

One can tell a lot about a place by simply reading its graffiti. As I sit writing this article from Tel Aviv, the graffiti tells the story about a nation in pain. The October 7 terrorist attacks are omnipresent, although, for the rest of the world, they are ancient history, not much different from the archaeological sites that are strewn in this ancient land. The “Bring Them Home” slogan is plastered everywhere – on lamp posts, walls, and park benches. Pictures of the hostages glare out onto the streets of the city, their eyes frozen in a moment in time. On the park benches that line Rothschild Boulevard are pictures of the hostages, and how old they are. Many of the ages have been crossed out, and a new number has been placed beside their names, indicating that for these individuals, another year on this planet has been marked.

Hostages Square serves as the heart of a grieving nation. Reminders and monuments are everywhere, each with a different slant on the horrible events of October 7, but the message is clear – the hostages are needed back home. They are missed, and life is no longer the same. In the midst of Hostages Square stands a makeshift tunnel complete with sounds that echo the tunnels built by Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

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A digital clock also stands in the square, counting the days, hours, and minutes since the October nightmare occurred. The clock, now counting above the 300-day mark, pangs with every increase in number. A tent with the words Nova has a pair of bloodied mannequin legs sticking out. Each artistic installation is another representation of the sense of loss, the need to be united, and the resolve that together, we will prevail.

I had the opportunity to visit the Gaza Envelope and bear witness to the atrocities that occurred. I went to the Nova Festival site, saw the makeshift memorials, and saw the hundreds of vehicles removed and collected by the government. Visiting this area and seeing for myself is akin to going to Eastern Europe and visiting the Nazi death and concentration camps. I can now say, “I was there, I saw, and I know what evil looks like.”



In this topsy-turvy world, I also saw love. I saw how Israelis have banded together, despite the feeling of being utterly alone. I saw volunteers providing everything from free meals, tfillin, and underwear to soldiers in the field. **Continued on next page**

**Photos by
Marc and Lonny Kates**



We also did our tiny part by volunteering on the kibbutzim in the South, getting an education on grapefruit production. We listened to personal stories from those who work on the kibbutzim about that fateful day, and what they themselves experienced. They each offered their own perspective and their gratitude that here we were, two Canadian tourists, visiting a country on edge and the support we were giving our Israeli brethren when they feel completely abandoned.

Every Israeli we meet is willing to share their opinion and personal story, and when I return to Canada, I will share mine. I know that as the academic year begins, I do not know what awaits me and how I'll be questioned about my Yiddishkeit and about being a Zionist. Regardless of how things unfold, the sites I witnessed and the people with whom I spoke have further shaped who I am, my resolve to defend the State of Israel, and to support our greater Jewish family. I hope that by the time this article appears in Kol Echad, the hostages will be home with their families, and the graffiti on the walls will reflect a more united and grateful nation.

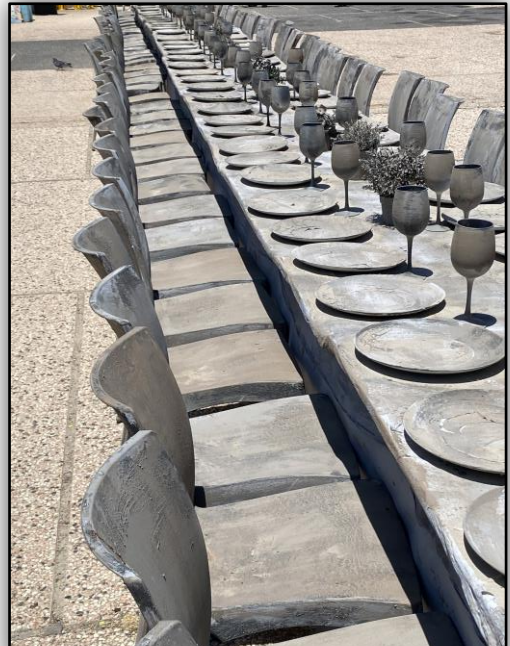
**More photos
on next page**





Left: A 25-metre mock Hamas tunnel was erected at Hostages Square, simulating a claustrophobic, dimly lit passage through which attendees can walk; the names of the hostages, messages from families to their captured loved ones and marks counting the days since they were abducted. The sound of distant gunshots played through speakers inside the tunnel is intended to simulate the dire conditions of the hostages.

Below: One of the art pieces at Hostages Square is an empty dinner table that holds an empty seat for each of the missing hostages.



FORESTDALE FUNNIES

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



It's time to look back into Kol Echad's past and revisit the world of Pincus Punim and his wife, Gittle, beloved characters created by our departed Lodge Brother Nate Salter. In our hearts, they and Nate will live forever.

Pincus was in bed with his wife, Gittle, and she says, "Pincus, you don't hold my hanteleh like you used to." He gives a greps and grabs her hand.

She then says, "Pincus, you don't kiss me on the neck like you used to." He kvetches and gives her neck a smooch.

Then she says, "Pincus, you don't nibble on my ear like you used to."

She then exclaims, "Pincus, where are you going?"

"To get my damn teeth," he replies.

When Pincus passed away, he was interred at Pardes Shalom. Gittle, with Yom tov approaching, wanted to visit him, say a small prayer and leave a small stone on his monument, as is tradition.

Unfortunately, when she got there, she couldn't remember where he was buried. She went to the office, and the Gabbai started looking into his records. Finally, he says to her, I cannot find a Pincus Punim, the closest we have is a Gittle Punim. That's the one she exclaimed. He always put everything in my name!

Scientists removed the left half of a man's brain and asked him to count to 10.

He said, "2, 4, 6, 8, 10."

Then they put it back, and removed the right half of his brain and asked him to count to 10.

He said, "1, 3, 5, 7, 9."

Finally they removed his entire brain and asked him to count to 10. He said,

"Oh I can count to 10. Believe me. People are saying I can count to 10 better than anyone in the history of our country. If you ask me to count to 10, I will count to 10 the likes of which no one has ever seen before."

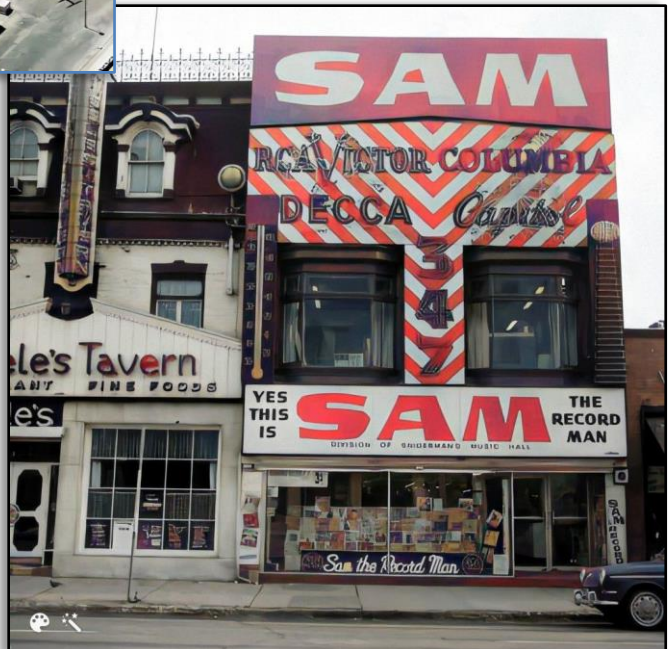


LOOKING BACK

Exhibition Stadium - 1980s



Sam The Record Man on Yonge Street in 1967 shortly after moving from their original College and Shaw location.



LOOKING BACK



Las Vegas Strip in 1969



FINAL THOUGHTS

Dear Metro, Sobey's, Loblaws, Walmart, Home Depot & all other stores with self-checkout....

You are heading towards almost exclusively self-checkouts now.

The lady/man checking receipts at the exit was stopping everyone.

I didn't choose to participate in that nonsense. I had already:

🛒 filled my cart

🛒 emptied my cart

🛒 scanned the items

🛒 refilled my cart

and so I just skipped the exit line and left.

I heard her saying, "Umm - Excuse me," as I kept walking and raised the receipt above my head, leaving the store.

You can either trust me to do self-checkout, or you can put your cashiers back in place like they used to be.

- I'm not interested in proving that I did your job for you.
- If you want me to be a cashier without training, that's your problem, not mine.
- Keep employing young people and give them job opportunities.

YOU DON'T PAY ME TO SCAN MY OWN SHOPPING.

YOU DON'T GIVE ME STAFF DISCOUNTS FOR WORKING FOR YOU.

SignedAll of us.

These are jobs that are needed by young and old





**FORESTDALE
HEIGHTS
LODGE**

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