# M # B U L L E T I N

Congregation Agudas Israel Rabbi Claudio Jodorkovsky 715 McKinnon Ave, Saskatoon S7H 2G2 Website: www.agudasisrael.org (306) 343-7023 Fax: (306) 343-1244 President: Kevin Sharfe



# Divrei Harav – Rabbi Claudio's Message

**Are Jews White?** 

by Rabbi Claudio Jodorkovsky

In February, actress and TV show moderator Woopie Goldberg made a comment about the Holocaust and racism which sparked

heated reactions in Jewish and non-Jewish circles alike. She said that the Holocaust wasn't about race, but about "white people doing it to white people". Her comments made many people upset, some even suggesting they were antisemitic, prompting ABC to suspend her for two

weeks so she could "take time to reflect

and learn about the impact of her comments". But while Goldberg made an unfortunate mistake – and promptly apologized – ABC's reaction was also unfortunate, exaggerating the incident and facilitating two major issues: It fed antisemitic conspiracy theories about Jews being all-powerful – specially when it comes to media – and also, diverted the conversation towards Goldberg's punishment, when it should have been about Holocaust education and the incorrect belief that Jews are "white people".

Woopie Goldberg showed herself ignorant about the Holocaust. One of the most basic elements of this historic calamity is the fact that the genocide wasn't about Jewish religious beliefs but rather based on a pseudo-scientific theory that considered Jews an inferior race — no matter how religious they were or even the colour of their skin. The Nazis targeted anyone with at least one Jewish grandparent: Religious, secular and atheist Jews for alike. It seems that Goldberg also didn't know that there are Jews with different skin colours (a one-day trip to Israel can teach you that) and ironically, she also seemed disconnected with the fact that she considers herself Jewish, as she articulated in an interview with The Jewish Chronicle in May

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Sunday, April 10, 2022 • 2:00 pm Jewish Community Centre 715 McKinnon Ave S, Saskatoon, SK (\$45 – \$30)

> Jardena Gertler-Jaffe, Soprano

Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra Chamber Ensemble

Saskatoon's own Jardena Gertler-Jaffe is passionate about finding ways that the vocal arts can challenge, transform, and innovate in the twenty-first century. Her personal projects merge classical music with issues of social justice and representation within the arts. Jardena has hand-picked a stunning program that showcases not only her vocal talents but her incredible work as an interpreter of Yiddish art song and Jewish liturgical works. This concert will include Kaija Saariaho's Changing Light, Alexander Krein's Esquisses hébraïques ("Jewish Sketches"), alongside works from Philip Glass, Osvaldo Golijov, and Alex Weiser's and all the days were purple. Meditative and devotional in scope, and all the days were purple sets Yiddish and English poems to music in a song cycle that seeks out the divine while reflecting on the longing, beauty and tumult of life.

This performance will take place live in-person and live stream on ConcertStream.tv 24 hour live stream tickets for this event are priced at \$19.99, \$35, \$50.



Get ready to party again at the 30th Annual Silver Spoon Dinner

**Monday, May 2, 2022** 



Tickets go on sale on-line at www.eventbrite.ca starting at noon on Wednesday, January 19th.

Ticket price: \$225

The Silver Spoon Dinner, famous for bringing celebrity speakers to Saskatoon, is thrilled to announce this year's special guest,

Multi-Platinum Canadian Singer/Songwriter

Serena Ryder

more on page 10



#### Dear Members and Friends,

Throughout the pandemic we have tried to consider the needs and concerns of our members and guests. As regulations relax throughout Canada and as risk exposure to Co-vid changes in Saskatoon, we will be transitioning into masks being optional. Effective April 11th, wearing a mask inside Congregation Agudas Israel Synagogue and Jewish Community Center will be optional. As always, we will continue to monitor the situation and adjust our protocols whenever appropriate.

Thank you. Kevin Sharfe, President

This page is sponsored by Gladys Rose of Toronto

### FROM OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY

The Mission Statement of Congregation Agudas Israel
Congregation Agudas Israel is a spiritual, religious, educational and social home committed to deepening the quality of Jewish life in Saskatoon and district. We are an evolving link in the historical traditions of the Jewish people. We are a progressive, democratic and sensitive congregation responding to the widest spectrum of Jewish thought and practice.

Written at the 2002 Kallah by the members of Congregation Agudas Israel

### **Mazel Tov and Congratulations To:**

Jordan and Kevin Sharfe and to Elaine and Sherwood Sharfe on the birth of a son and grandson, Ezra Sherwood.

Congratulations to Ose Senibo and Valentine Emeka Chukwuanu who were married on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November, in Lagos Nigeria.

Bruce Cameron, Daphne Taras, Heather Englebert, Kaiti Hannah, and Victoria Taras on the celebration of the B'nai Mitzvot on Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. Kiddush Luncheon to follow service.

Arden Sasko, daughter of Bryce and Ronin on winning Gold All Around in her competition this past weekend!

Matthew Ditlove and Mary Hipperson and to Mark and Wendy Ditlove on the birth of a son and grandson, Sam (Schmuel) Donald.



Bruce Cameron who has provided home made Challah for Shabbat morning services and to Seth Shacter for his unfailing commitment as Gabbai for services.



Dr. Steven Goluboff has assumed the Chairmanship of Chevra Kadisha and will join the Board of Trustees. Thank You to Dr. Lesley-Ann Crone for her many years of dedicated service as Chair of Chevra Kaddisha.

If anyone would like a visit from the Rabbi please let him know directly or through the office. The hospitals no longer will give out information regarding patients who have been admitted.

### **Condolences To:**

Wendy and Mark Ditlove on the death of Wendy's brother-in-law, Vern Karasick of Edmonton. Vern and Debbie (Bondar) Karasick were members of CAI for many years.

Leila and Steven Goluboff and family on the death of Leila's mother, Eileen Cookman on March 4th, 2022. She will be fondly remembered by her husband Victor, granddaughters, Sarah and Shaina, great grandchildren, Cohen, Goldie, Skyler, Sawyer and Piper and her large extended family and friends.

New Members .... see page 15

E-transfer is available for paying of dues or fees going forward. You can send money's directly to administrator@agudasisrael.org and the security question should be the city the synagogue is located.



WE INVITE YOU TO SHARE IN OUR JOY AS WE ARE CALLED TO THE TORAH AS B'NAI MITZVAH

SATURDAY THE 2ND OF APRIL, 2022 AT 10AM

> Congregation Agudas Israel 715 McKinnon Ave, Saskatoon

KIDDUSH LUNCHEON TO FOLLOW

**Bruce Cameron** Heather Englebert Kaiti Hannah Daphne Taras Victoria Taras

If you can't join us in person, join us on Zoom! Meeting ID: 306 343 7023 Passcode: cai

### **Editorial**



by Matthew Taras, Editor-in-Chief

Since the last Bulletin the world has gone through a transformation: the perceived end of covid, war in the Ukraine, truckers in Ottawa. There have been

multiple wake-up calls in the last two years.

Often during a moral panic, we can lose sight of what is close to home. Here in Saskatoon, we must be mindful of the future. We are incredibly lucky to be in an area of the world that is safe from danger, from war, and from famine. We have the freedom to practice our religion and to identify openly as Jewish.

But that is not to say that our own community is not vulnerable. We are vulnerable to external security threats. We are vulnerable to financial difficulties in the wake of a pandemic. We are vulnerable to ignorance and bigotry and lack of understanding in others.

We are also vulnerable to a lack of succession

planning. The community has members who are currently so vital to the continued health and operation, I see them as indispensable. Everyone in our community relies on a few to do their duty.

Unfortunately, we must all face up to certain realities. For anyone who has contemplated the loss of a parent, part of that is recognizing that we may need to step up into an outsized role we training, of building the skill sets necessary for don't have confidence we can fill. Can I be the a functioning community. The process needs leader my father was? Can I step into the responsibilities he carried, seemingly effortlessly, with the same confidence and ability he did?

These are the questions that our community is faced with today. Not the literal death of a parent, but the need to pass the torch of leadership to new members. Those new leaders and community members must rise to inhabit vacant positions, lend their skills to the community so that we may all benefit. Leaders cannot simply remain idle, or park themselves within positions and hope it works out when the time comes for

But this cuts both ways. For those of who wish to retire from the mantle of community leadership, new leaders need stewardship and guidance to reach the high bar that has been set by your example. The reality is you cannot simply vacate your positions and hope new people will succeed. Successorship may take years of to begin early and often, or we leave ourselves vulnerable.

Every Bulletin since I have become Editor, has reported on new community members joining our synagogue, and changes to the composition of the Board or committees. I am incredibly proud of the growth and change within our small community. Let's continue to grow together, and with an eye towards the future. That means preparing those younger than us to walk in our footsteps as we age and being prepared to walk in the footsteps of the giants who came before us as well.



# Researching Raquel: A Spark for Jewish Genealogy

by Sarah Tekatch

have lived and loved,

in other places and other times. The Third Daughter, by Talia Carner, came up as a recommendation, a novel spanning Russia during pogroms and moving to Argentina. I haven't read that much about pogroms, and nothing about early Jewish communities in South America, so I was intrigued.

After reading the book, which I also recom-

### I love historical mend, I read the author's notes discussing the fiction. I learn about historical basis of the book. Raquel (Rokhl) the world and get out Liberman, born July 1900, was a Polish imof my head, learn- migrant to Argentina, and a victim of human ing facts and stories trafficking, the central topic of the novel. But about how people may she was not solely a victim, Raquel helped bring down the Zwi Migdal, the organized

The book taught me something new about the Jewish experience and sparked more than historical knowledge. Liberman is my maiden name. The Liberman side of my family came to North America from Poland, also in the early 1900s, eventually settling in Montreal where my father was born. I wondered if I could be related to this woman? Please, please, let me be related to her.

crime ring that trafficked and enslaved thou-

sands of young Jewish women from Europe.

I have a sense of pride in my Jewish heritage and connection to Jewish peoplehood. This book became an invitation to learn more. Raquel Liberman's story is one story, how many others could I learn about? For example, there was a time when many Jews were unable to access medical care and employment in most of Montreal's hospitals. So what did they do? They built a Jewish Hospital. The cornerstone of the institution, a policy that has remained in effect ever since: a commitment to offer health care and employment to all individuals, regardless of their religious, ethnic, cultural, or linguistic background. This

hospital continues to be a prominent healthcare institution.

I don't have much connection to that hospital, and my connection to Raquel has yet to be determined, but I've done a DNA test, read archives of the Canadian Jewish Review, watched JewishGen YouTube videos, and am on the journey of building my family tree. I have discovered many things that I would not have learned about otherwise. I found an oral history, written in 1976, for Hyman Dankner, a bakery owner in Rochester, New York, and my great uncle. I am reading an autobiography for Hugh Segal, my dad's cousin, and discovered they were born just days apart. I have connected over zoom with Bornsteins from the US, who are related to me through my great grandmother, Sarah Sturman.

Beyond my own family, it is another entry point into learning about Jewish history and connecting to the Jewish Community. There is a kind, 74-year-old man, passionate about genealogy, who is helping my research by reading Hebrew off tombstones and posting pictures and information to profiles. The mystery is yet to be solved, but maybe one day I'll have more than my own story to tell.

Editpr's Note: Sarah is a Public Health Nurse and lives in Saskatoon with her husband Jerald and son Ronen who attends CAI Hebrew School.

### THE BULLETIN

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# **Obituary Of Eileen Soffer, (nee Spencer)**

January 16, 1932 – Colne, Lancashire, United Kingdom January 12, 2022 – Calgary, Alberta

Eileen Soffer, passed away peacefully in Calgary, Alberta on Wednesday, January 12, 2022.

Eileen was born in Colne, Lancashire in

Northern England on January 16, 1932. After training as a nurse in Manchester, Eileen worked at the Abergele Children's Sanitorium in Wales for three years. She then served as a lieutenant in the Royal Army Nursing Corps stationed in Germany. While working at the Jewish Hospital of London in the late 1950s, she met and fell in love with Heskel. They were married on July 2, 1960. In May 1962, they immigrated to Turtleford in Northern Saskatchewan where Heskel had been recruited as a family physician. They eventually settled in North Battleford where Eileen assisted Heskel in establishing and running his private family practice while

raising their young family. In 1990, she moved to Saskatoon, four years after the passing of her beloved husband, where she remained until 2010. For the remainder of her years she resided in Calgary, Alberta, close to her son Robert and his family.

Eileen was an active member of the North Battleford Jewish community. She volunteered for a number of other organizations including the Haddassah-WIZO and UNICEF. Eileen was fond of the theatre, loved attending the symphony in Saskatoon and was an avid reader. She developed a passion for golf late in her life and in the summer, she could frequently be found enjoying a game of golf with friends and family. Eileen was fortunate to be able to travel. Many trips were made to Israel and England to visit family. However, there was no place she enjoyed more than the family cottage at Jackfish Lake. Summers would be spent at the lake while her three sons were growing up, and well into her late 70s. The summer would be spent enjoying the company of family and friends, reading a good

book and enjoying the sun and fresh air. Eileen will be remembered for her elegance, sense of humor, strong family ties and compassion.

Eileen is survived and lovingly remembered by her three sons, Raymond (Gail), Robert (Kristin), and David (Cate). Lovingly known by her seven grandchildren as 'Safta', she will be remembered by Joshua and Jamie (Ray), William, Aeriel and Gabrielle (Robert), and Maxwell and Jillian (David); as well as one great-grandchild Carson (Joshua). She will also be remembered with fondness by numerous nephews and nieces from both her and Heskel's families located around the world. Eileen was predeceased by her husband Heskel, sister Mary, and brother Alan.

A Memorial Service is anticipated to be held in the Summer of 2022. If friends so desire, in lieu of flowers, memorial tributes may be made directly to the Alzheimer's Society of Canada https://alzheimer.ca/en. Condolences, memories, and photos may be shared and viewed at www.McInnisandHolloway.com.



# "They Didn't Know We Were Seeds" Exhibit

Recently, our BBYO chapter had an event different from any we've done so far this year. The "They Didn't Know

We Were Seeds" walk-through exhibit is a collection of portraits of both Holocaust survivors, and residential school survivors. Earlier this month, we discussed at

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our board meeting how this felt especially relevant at the time, given what was going on with the protests in Ottawa. Seeing videos of people waving swastika flags in the streets at protests all over the media, we collectively felt horrified, but motivated. We needed to come together and hear these stories, now more than ever. The exhibit itself did not disappoint. Walking through the collection of those 18 portraits, of



both Holocaust and residential school survivors, was both mesmerizing and heartbreaking. We were fortunate enough to be joined by the artist of the gallery, Carol Wylie, and listen to her talk about her inspiration for creating the collection. We got to ask her questions about her conversations with the subjects, and the backstory behind the words included in some of the portraits. It was an overall powerful experience, and one that we are grateful to have shared as a group. This exhibit is still touring around Saskatchewan and other provinces. Please reach out to Carol Wylie for bookings in your city. I encourage you to go see it and experience the lifelike portraits.



Experience is what we call the accumulation of our mistakes.
- Yiddish folk Saying

# We're the Boys Who Eat No Ham

by Norman Gladstone, December 1, 2021

A recollection based on fact, faded memory and some myths that have emerged over time, with a little embellishment for the sake of a good story. But, it

did happen, almost like it is told.

It was November 1958 and I was thirteen years old. Winter had come to Saskatoon, covering everything with snow, and the grey clouds hung so low over the city it was hard to see where the flat earth ended and where the sky began. It was a bleak scene, reflecting the bleakness in the rest of the world. Khrushchev, Eisenhower, Diefenbaker, nuclear bombs and communists dominated the news all the time. On the radio, Buddy Holley was singing about "Peggy Sue", the type of girl I yearned for as much as Buddy. All the kids I knew had hulahoops, except me. I had pimples.

As if things weren't bleak enough, the future of the first ever all-Jewish boys hockey team that played in the Playground League was in doubt, as was my career as its goalie. We had lost our first three games of the season by scores I am still too embarrassed to mention, even to this day, over sixty years later. But, what I am able to tell you is that it was a hockey season I never forgot, as if it were, well, yesterday.



- 1. What does 'parve' mean?
- 2. A mammal must have which two features to be kosher?
- 3. A fish must have which two features to be kosher?
- 4. What does the word "kosher" literally mean in English?
- 5. What is the purpose of kosher salt?
- 6. Who is said to be the first Jewish person?
- 7. A new month in the Hebrew calendar begins with which phase of the moon?
- 8. What is the Hebrew name for the Book of Leviticus?
- 9. Which famous ancient king is said to be the author of the Song of Songs?
- 10. Where was the first synagogue in Canada?

Our coach was Ralph Katzman, who was just five years older than us, yet enough years to separate the man from the boys. After our third loss, he called the team together for a talk. We gathered around him, eager to be inspired.

"Listen, guys, this is how it is," Katzman said. "Some teams are good and some teams are lousy. We're a combination of the two. This team is good and lousy."





Mitch and Barry Kassen Jewish Hockey Team, April 1959

Some of the guys sniggered because they thought it was a clever joke. Good and lousy. I wasn't one of them. After our initial 9-0 loss to Sutherland, I was still in pain. Oh, no, I said it. Yes, nine zip. Now you know, when I said I wasn't going to tell. Humiliating. That's what it was. The following two games were about as bad, so now you get the picture.

"What I want you to do," Katzman instructed, "is to go back to your schools tomorrow and ask some of your friends who aren't playing for other teams to join us."

We all knew that would mean the end of the all-Jewish team, but we were down to five who could skate and two who couldn't, so we had no choice but to listen to Katzman, otherwise we couldn't carry on. Even with my best friend Peter Gropper, plus the twins Barry and Mitch Kassen and Richard Goluboff, who were all pretty good players, we still had no one to play right wing. Harvey Bernbaum could shoot, but couldn't skate. Cyril Teplinsky could skate, but couldn't shoot. Ronnie Shore couldn't do either. If he lifted his stick off the ice he would fall over. Then there was me in goal. The human sieve.

I liked the idea of an all-Jewish team, with our blue and white sweaters with the Star of David and "Jewish Community Centre" emblazoned on the front. That was us, the Centres. While all the other teams had names like Tigers or Warriors, we were the Centres, a name that wouldn't scare or impress anyone, including ourselves. To help overcome that, Katzman tried to get us fired up with some chants:

All you sons of Moses, with your crooked

noses

Fight, fight, fight for JCC.

Izzy, Ikky, Jacob, Sam, we're the boys who eat no ham

Yehhhhhh, Centres.

It didn't help.

Not everyone in the Jewish community was positive about our team. My parents were outwardly worried, if not hostile.

"I don't like it," my mother said bluntly. "We shouldn't make ourselves so separate. We should blend in, we don't need to be noticed. Who needs trouble?" My father agreed.

I couldn't believe what they had said. It was like we belonged to some secret society or had some dreaded disease no one should know about. The Catholics had a team so, why shouldn't we? And what trouble? My parents may have been paranoid about Nazis, but in all my life to that point no one had ever called me "dirty Jew" or anything close. All those stories I had heard about antisemitism happened elsewhere. I didn't think all that much about being Jewish, it was just something I accepted without questioning, like having ears. Other than not having Christmas lights on our house, I felt like everyone else. So, it scared me to hear my parents talk like this, like we didn't belong. Then, to top it off, my mother turned to me and added, "Don't win too many games. We don't want people to think we are better than them." That encouraging bit was something that was going to be easy to fulfill.

Not long afterwards I overheard our Jewish neighbour from down the street say to my dad, "what do Jews know about playing hockey, anyway?"

How could he say that? Hadn't he heard about Hymie Buller, Saskatoon's very own, who had played for the New York Rangers or Larry Zeidel from Montreal who was once with the Blackhawks? Knowing there were Jews playing in the NHL made me feel proud.

My parents never came to any of the games. My mother said it was too cold to stand outside in ten below zero weather and my father was at his store all the time. My sister was there when we lost 9-0 (there, I said it again) and stood behind the goal and yelled "NORMIE" at the

continued on page 12

# The Jewish Community: Advocating for Those in Need by Michelle Ausfresser, CIJA, February 17 (reprinted with permission)



Life with any kind of disability, whether medical, physical, or mental, can be a huge challenge. Sometimes just getting through a normal day can be a triumph.

There are programs and government services that help, but navigating the labyrinth of federal and provincial programs, understanding tax credits, or applying for assistance present real challenges. For those of us, like me, who have a disability and are also raising

children with a disability, balancing everyday life, going to medical appointments, and accessing what supports are available are often completely overwhelming.

According to Statistics Canada's most recent Canadian Survey on Disability (2017), more than six million Canadians (22% of the population), identify as living

with a disability. Persons with disabilities have shorter life expectancies, disproportionately live in poverty, and earn less than Canadians without disabilities.

Today, February 17, is Jewish Disability Awareness Day. Members of Canada's Jewish community, supported by Jewish Federations across Canada and the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), are joining to raise awareness among elected officials about the serious challenges faced by Canadians living with a physical, intellectual, or medical disability. At the core of Jewish tradition is a sense of shared responsibility to repair our world. On Jewish Disability Awareness Day,

together, we advocate for a system that is more transparent, more accessible, and easier to navigate, so that all Canadians – Jewish and non-Jewish alike – can access programs that make life for those living with a disability and their loved ones a little bit easier.

We are proposing several concrete policies that will improve the lives of all. We are asking our federal representatives to reform the Disability Tax Credit to ensure it is

> more inclusive, particularly for those with disabilities that make gaining and retaining employment difficult. We are also advocating f o r t h e implementation of the Canada

Disability Benefit (CDB), promised during the previous election as a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create meaningful change for people living with disabilities and to reduce the uncertainty many of us face every day.

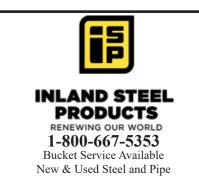
The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed a crucial need for caregivers. Many of the most vulnerable members of our community faced extremely challenging situations over the last two years and did not have access to the assistance that was so urgently needed. Elderly and disabled Holocaust Survivors, for example, were isolated in their rooms with diminished access to crucial care. Single mothers with children living with

disabilities were forced to spend significant sums of money on babysitters because parents were not able to bring siblings to medical appointments. Or they missed important medical appointments because of lack of childcare.

Canadians recognize that individuals with disabilities need help. We have made progress in providing services to vulnerable communities. But we can do better. As an individual living with a disability, I am glad that organizations like my local Jewish Federation and CIJA provide me with a platform to make my voice heard to government on these issues that are so important to me, my family, and the millions of Canadians living with a disability. On this important day of advocacy, we are making real and lasting change to reduce barriers, increase accessibility, and enhance the services provided to vulnerable Canadians to the benefit of all.

Michelle Ausfresser is a disability advocate who helps Albertans access disability supports and other services. Michelle is also the Edmonton Regional Representative to CIJA's National LGBTQ2+ Advisory Council.

Subscribe to Canadian Jewish Advocacyby CIJA · Launched a month ago. A blog about combating antisemitism, educating Canadians about the important role Israel plays in Jewish life and identity, and Jewish life in Canada.



President: Mark Ditlove

Saskatoon







by Zoe Litman

As the days grow longer with the promise of spring we are looking for renewal in Sisterhood as well. We recently held an

online membership drive and I encourage everyone who has been a member to renew and newcomers to join the organization. Our Congregation Agudas Israel Sisterhood affiliate is facing many challenges today coming out of the pandemic. After a hiatus we are looking forward to more activities and the opportunity to gather in person.

Working with other women in Women's League activities brings many rewards including a sense of community and camaraderie.

### **Sisterhood Notes**

Sisterhood volunteers provide the refreshments at most community celebrations and activities. We attempt to serve traditional foods to link us with our culture and offer new generations a chance to sample Jewish dishes. Many of our memories are linked to the special foods our parents and relatives served us at holiday time- whether it is latkes or Hamantaschen. Our celebrations are enhanced and memories created.

Because of the restraints of Covid food could not be served at the past Channukah party so Sisterhood distributed goodie bags filled with Channuka treats. We recently provided hamantaschen – the traditional three cornered filled cookies- along with the meal at the Synagogues's Purim celebration in March.

Today's modern women have many roles-

both in the workplace, the home and the community. Lives are full with activities and time is a precious commodity. But Sisterhood needs to increase membership and without members' participation our community will suffer. While volunteering in Sisterhood activities new acquaintances are made, friendships formed and community ties forged. One of the important functions of Sisterhood is to strengthen community ties among our congregation. It is a vital aspect of a strong and vibrant community.

This is even more important in Congregation Agudas Israel with our small numbers. Every person matters and is needed. If we are to survive as a community it is imperative that every opportunity to come together be taken. Belonging to, volunteering and participating in Sisterhood will further that goal.

**Spiritually Speaking**This article was previously published in the Times Colonist under the title:

This article was previously published in the Times Colonist under the title.

Truck Freedom convoy illustrates need to uphold dignity for all

by Rabbi Matthew Ponak, Victoria BC



It was very painful to see Nazi flags flown in Ottawa last month. Recent reports of racist and

anti-semitic remarks in Victoria during protests create unsafe and uneasy feelings within our communities. Though not representative of the Truck Convoy as a whole, these events remind us of the increase in fear-based rhetoric in Canada.

What can we do?

As an Ashkenazi Jew with relatives that perished in the Holocaust, I feel shocked and angry. A part of me wants to publicly declare that those who fly swastikas are "monsters," or "pure evil." But, my wiser side knows better.

To quote the compassionate intellectual Brene Brown, "Shame is not a tool of social justice." She also states, while observing the critically-dissolving social connections between



Americans, "There is a line. It's etched from dignity. And raging, fearful people from the right and left are crossing it at unprecedented rates every single day. We must never tolerate dehumanisation—the primary instrument of violence that has been used in every genocide recorded throughout history."

Although born and raised in Canada, I lived in the US from 2010 until 2020. I was quite relieved to move back home, largely because of the levelheadedness that exists here. Since returning, I felt a sense of security until witnessing the massive numbers and impact of the Freedom Convoy. For the first time, I reflected on the rise of national-populism worldwide and thought, "It could happen here."

It does not need to, however. We can all play a part in cooling these tensions. And, I do not mean only racism and xenophobia. I also include contentions surrounding vaccine mandates and dubious science, and all disagreements that grate on our social fabric.

At the heart of many of these issues is isolation and anxiety. We are spending so much time alone in front of our computers. Unregulated social media algorithms can potentially draw people further into conspiracy theories. Against these influences—regardless of our own stances—we need to be aware of the power of listening and the damage of belittling.

Quiet attention invites sharing and insight. This tool of healing is a potent societal balm. The posture is best summed up as, "I disagree with you but I respect you: I'm listening." (Cases of violence are different, of course, and require physical intervention).

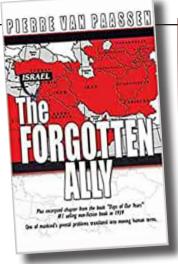
The overwhelming majority of Canadians know that white supremacism and neo-nazism articulate an incredibly dangerous narrative. We need to be outspoken in our opposition, period. And, though it may seem counter-intuitive, we also need to speak with respect, love, and humility. We can be firm without being dehumanising. It has been shown that people who join alt-right movements often do so from a place of personal trauma and alienation, as opposed to outright hatred.

The posture of openness is valuable with any matter of civic discourse. For example, if you are alarmed by vaccine hesitancy, I implore you to use dignified language online. If someone close to you is drawn to propaganda, a powerful response is to listen with an open heart. They may nuance their own views just by having a chance to speak and you may learn about what they are experiencing.

Two thousand years ago, the Jewish sage Ben Zoma said, "Who is wise? The one who learns from everyone.... Who is honoured? The one who honours others." Even in difficult circumstances, society benefits from this approach.

For the sake of all of us: nobody deserves to be othered. Let us work for a society that upholds the humanity of all—including those we disagree with.

Rabbi Matthew Ponak is the co-founder of the Mekorah Institute, an online spiritual center inspired by Jewish wisdom and open to people of all backgrounds. Learn more at Mekorah. com



#### Forgotten Ally by Pierre Van Paasen

This is a book written during WW2, that highlights the huge contribution made by the Palestinian Jews to the British war effort in North Africa. They put aside their



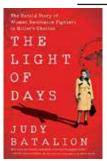
differences with the British knowing who their real enemies were. The title, Forgotten Ally, refers to the sudden memory loss experienced by Great Britain in the years immediately following the end of the war. That Jewish effort alone should have been sufficient reason to grant the Jewish people a homeland (my opinion). This story is so little known and is so important to the history of Israel that it should be in every synagogue library.

About Pierre Van Paasen

Shortly after World War One, Van Paasen started his career as a journalist at The Globe,

a Canadian newspaper in Toronto. His next job as a journalist was at the great southern liberal newspaper, The Atlanta Constitution. This is where Van Paassen actively became interested in Jewish affairs after interviewing a Rabbi from New York who had just returned from Mandatory Palestine. From this point on, Van Paassen took a great personal interest in the plight of European Jews https://www.amazon.com/Forgotten-Ally-Pierre-Van-Paasen/dp/0977102106.

Pierre van Paasen (1895- 1968) was a Dutch-Canadian-American journalist and author of 16 books



The Light of Days by Judy Batalion from the Alice Turner library bookshelf.

Witnesses to the brutal murder of their families and neighbors and the violent destruction of their communities, a

cadre of Jewish women in Poland—some still in their teens—helped transform the Jewish youth groups into resistance cells to fight the Nazis. With courage, guile, and nerves of steel, these "ghetto girls" paid off Gestapo guards, hid revolvers in loaves of bread and jars of marmalade, and helped build systems of underground bunkers. They flirted with German soldiers, bribed them with wine, whiskey, and home cooking, used their Aryan looks to seduce them, and shot and killed them. They bombed German train lines and blew up a town's water supply. They also nursed the sick, taught children, and hid families.

Yet the exploits of these courageous resistance fighters have remained virtually unknown.

Judy Batalion was born and raised in Montreal, where she grew up speaking English, French, Yiddish and Hebrew, and trying to stay warm. She studied the history of science at Harvard then moved to London to pursue a PhD in art history......

Her stories about family relationships, the generational transmission of trauma, pathological hoarding and militant minimalism came together in her book White Walls: A Memoir About Motherhood, Daughterhood, and the Mess in Between (NAL/Penguin, 2016). https://www.judybatalion.com/about



Gideon's Spies by Gordon Thomas from the Agudas Israel Synagogue library. Created in 1951 to ensure the future of an embattled Israel, the Mossad has been responsible for the most audacious and thrilling feats of espionage, counterterrorism, and

assassination ever ventured. For the first time ever, resulting from closed-door interviews between the author and Mossad agents, informants, and spymasters, as well as classified documents and top-secret sources, the truth about the Mossad is about to be revealed. From the Mossad agent in the Clinton White House who enabled Israel to call the shots in the ongoing Middle East

peace process to the nuclear secrets smuggled out of the U.S. and used to jump-start Israel's own atomic weapons program, Gideon's Spies reveals the Mossad as it truly is: brilliant, ruthless, flawed, but ultimately awesome https://www.amazon.com/Gideons-Spies-

https://www.amazon.com/Gideons-Spies-Secret-History-Mossad/dp/0312252846

Find out who really was behind the Pope John Paul II assassination attempt.

Gordon Thomas (21 February 1933 – 3 March 2017) was a British investigative journalist and author, notably on topics of secret intelligence.[1][2] Thomas was the author of 53 books published worldwide[3] including The Pope's Jews,[4] Secret Wars,[5] and Gideon's Spies,[6] with sales exceeding 45 million copies. Thomas got the scoop on the nationalisation of the Suez Canal for the Daily Express in 1956.[7] He was a cousin of the poet Dylan Thomas.

Editor's Note: Dan Ronis is a new member of CAI.



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### A Note From the New Chairman of Chevra Kadisha

by Dr. Steven Goluboff

Dr. Lesley-Ann Crone, after years of dedicated service has retired from the vital role of Chairperson of Chevra Kadisha. She leaves

a legacy of accomplished service to many families and a well-organized system to provide comfort and care to families in mourning. With the retirement of Ralph Katzman who managed our cemetery for decades, our Synagogue is fortunate to have had them both. We are fortunate to have renewed a contract with Giles Saunier as the Cemetery Manager who has agreed to continue for at least another year. He is dedicated and respectful of Jewish tradition and law and our community members' needs related to funeral and unveilings. The call for a successor took some time. Many men and women served with Lesley-Ann and provided the mitzvah of Taharah, Chesed Shel Emet: The Truest Act of Kindness, the ritual cleansing and preparation of the body and soul for burial. Thank you as well to Rabbi Claudio who has supported and mentored Chevra Kadisha and provided pastoral care to many families. Death is a time that requires sensitivity and understanding of the complicated dynamics that may exist when making decisions about burial practices. There is no mitzvah more important than participating with Chevra Kadisha and performing Taharah. "The highest act of gemilut chesed (acts of loving kindness is that which is done for the dead, for there can never be any thought of repayment." Tanchuma Vayehi 107Aa.)

Lesley-Ann was thoughtful enough to give me a book by Anita Diamant - Saying Kaddish, to help me prepare for this responsibility. From the Preface:

The Jewish community is also part of a larger cultural shift that encourages frank and open conversation about the difficult choices at the end of life and the benefits of creating medical directives and naming health care proxies. Hospice, palliative services, and spiritual care have provided relief and comfort for terminally ill patients and support for loved ones and caregivers.

We are far more inclusive that we were twenty years ago. Jews by choice, Jews of colour, non-Jewish family members and LGBTO Jews are welcome and cherished in most (though not yet all) communal settings.

The rituals, prayers, and customs in this book are meant for everyone who needs them. The idea that all human beings are created b'tzelem Elohim, in the image of God, is a foundational Jewish belief that finds expression in the ways Jews care for the human body after death. The same plain white garments and the same simple wooden coffins are provided for all, regardless of gender or status, wise or foolish, having left a legacy of good deeds or a trail of tears.

My first mandate as Chairman of Chevra

Kadisha is to continue the exemplary work of those that preceded me, including Lesley-Ann Crone, June Avivi, Bruce Cameron, Walter Gumprich, Barb Donen and others. My second mandate is to enhance and build Chevra Kadisha with new participants and ultimately a new Chairperson within the next couple of years. I welcome anyone to contact me who is willing to get involved in this righteous work. I also welcome any inquiries regarding our funeral



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Editor's note: Steven Goluboff is a former CAI President, Bulletin Editor-in-Chief and is presently a member of the Synagogue and Ritual Committee, Financial Affairs Committee and Membership Committee. He is also the Mohel for Congregation Agudas Israel. s.goluboff@ shaw.ca 306-241-2141

services and policies.



# It's Really a Go!!!!

by Linda Shaw, Co-Chair

I am so excited that we are going to be holding the Silver Spoon Dinner in-person - for real this time. Omicron outbreaks and COVID surges in December and January had us wondering if our gala would EVER happen again.

We are all SO ready to have fun and fundraise once again. Our charities – Congregation Agudas Israel, Canadian Hadassah-WIZO, Ronald McDonald House and Saskatoon Interval House – are all counting on our success.

Our committee only decided at the beginning of February that we could go ahead with the Dinner and all indicators point to it being a huge triumph. Tickets are selling, prizes are coming in and the interest in major sponsorships is high. We are really going to pull this off.... in less than three months.



You should know that the Air Canada

Foundation has already agreed to donate our grand prize for the Balloon Pop: Tickets for Two anywhere Air Canada flies in North America, including Hawaii, Mexico and the Caribbean. Fantastic!

We have several Platinum Sponsors already on board: CIBC Wood Gundy (Steig and Justin Holmes) have agreed to sponsor the Sterling Award, Bonnie Guillou of BMO Nesbitt Burns will sponsor the Flowers and Richard Kilburn of IG Private Wealth Management will sponsor the Wine and the "Safe Ride Home" program.

Braid Flooring, Midwest Laser, Micro Oil Inc., Centennial Plumbing, Heating and Electrical and Scharfstein LLP also deserve our thanks for stepping up so quickly to be sponsors.

Many local businesses have already committed to donating fabulous items and experi-

ences as Silent Auction prizes, and we're very grateful to them all. Of course we can still use many, many more prizes so we can make this the "Best Silent Auction Ever".

So now CAI members and friends it's time for you to help too. **We need volunteers** before, during and after the Dinner. We need you to sell tickets, ask for and pick up prizes, nominate an exceptional volunteer for the Sterling Award and generally promote Silver Spoon Dinner where ever you go.

One more idea: Support local businesses – get your nails, hair and makeup done, get a massage and buy a new dress, shoes and jewelry for the Dinner.

This will be our 30<sup>th</sup> Silver Spoon Dinner. Serena Ryder will speak and sing. We will be out with friends once again. So many reasons to celebrate. It is going to be great!

Celebrate with us on Monday, May  $2^{nd}$ , 2022.

### Divrei Harav... continued from cover

2012, when she was asked about the origin of her last name.

Though interesting as her comments and what happened next was, it is a shame that Goldberg's unfortunate remarks couldn't trigger an important conversation we need to have about definitions and identity: What are we? Are we a race? A religion? An ethnic group? A culture? Are we all of them, or none? Are Jews white?

I don't have enough space in this column to share with you what I think about each of these categories. I have shared some of my views in sermons and classes, but for the sake of this article I will just say that definitions, although necessary, can be tricky and sometimes dangerous. They limit complex historical experiences, personal and shared, into definitions that leave out many elements of what they really represent for us and our reference groups. Is Judaism a religion? Yes and no. Are Jews an ethnic group? Yes and no. How a "yes" and a "no" can live together? Welcome to complexity. Complexity is important because it's the only way to avoid having people giving incorrect explanations

about the Holocaust, or superficial comments about what Jews are or aren't. Simplicity is where ignorance lives and conspiracy theories reign. Narrow and shallow understandings help dictators and antisemites. That's why definitions need to be challenged and always carefully used. They are useful in some circumstances, but very dangerous if we don't understand their limitations. The first step to make our world a better place is to fight simplicity, be critical about easy answers and to embrace complexity.

The concept of race, for example, is not a scientific postulate but rather a constantly changing and fluid social construct. It doesn't have a biological support: What percentage of "white" genetic material do I need to be considered "white"? Frequently I am asked to fill forms about my race and ethnicity. What should I answer? Why "Jewish" is usually not there? Should I answer "Caucasian" rather than "Hispanic" because I was born in Chile but my ancestry is European? Does "Hispanic" mean an indigenous South-American ethnicity or actually "Hispanic" (related to Spain, which is a country in Europe!)?

Race is a concept that lives somewhere between how we see ourselves and how others see us, influenced by a historical, geographical and political context. Religion too is a very limited and superficial definition. You can't find the word "religion" in the Torah, it is a foreign concept imposed on Jews to define themselves, which leaves out many important elements of our tradition: You can't be a "religious Jew" without belonging to the Jewish people but traditional Judaism allows you to belong even not being a "religious Jew". "Cultural Judaism" is also a very contested term because secular expressions of Judaism also include religious texts and symbols, even when they are studied or used for their humanistic value. Ironically, our enemies were the first ones to be concerned about our definition: Pharoah in Egypt and Haman in Persia.

We must not be tempted by the pressure of simplification. Let's do Tikkun Olam by encouraging learning and intellectual criticism, fighting ignorance and embracing complexity.

This page is spsonored by Debbie Diament (daughter of Rabbi Saul and Ann Diament), of Toronto

# Biography of the Month: Mort Sahl

### by Stan Schroeder

Morton Lyon Sahl was born on May 11, 1927, in Montreal, to a Canadian mother and a New York father who managed a tobacco shop. The family moved to the United States where Sahl's father, Harry, worked for the Department of Justice in various cities.

They eventually settled in Los Angeles, where young Morton joined his high school ROTC program and excelled at speech. His mother said he had started to talk at 7 months and by age 10 already spoke like a man of 30.

After high school, Sahl joined the Air Force, spending 31 months at a remote Alaskan airfield where he edited the post newspaper, Poop from the Group. Discharged in 1947, he entered college.

Sahl got his break performing in San Francisco years after graduating from college, performing sets at a club known for attracting an intellectual crowd. His jokes about national politics eventually earned him a following and he started appearing on late night shows and performing in clubs across the country.

After appearing in several movies in the 1950s and early '60s, his career took a dive after the assassination of John F. Kennedy in 1963, which Sahl came to believe had been orchestrated by the CIA. But he continued to act and perform stand-up into his 90s.

In 1982, Sahl played the role of Werner Finck, a German-Jewish satirist, in a 5-hour TV special. In 2003, the National Foundation for Jewish Culture honored Sahl with the Alan King Award in American Jewish Humor.

But Sahl explained to The Jewish News of Northern California in 2004 that he never emphasized his Jewishness on stage because it wasn't a major part of his upbringing.

"I never stressed it," he says, "because I didn't have those kinds of parents. I grew up in a homogenized neighborhood, and was a kind of a mail-order, cardboard Jew."

Speaking with the paper not long after the premiere of Mel Gibson's "Passion of the Christ," Sahl opined on the movie and antisemitism.

"Terrible movie," he said. "Two hours of unrelieved sadism. But the Romans are nice! I think everyone's second nature is anti-Semitism, so all the anxiety [over the film] is justified."

Credited as the first to give stand-up acts an iconoclastic edge, Sahl skewered presidents from Eisenhower to Trump, paving the way for comics like George Carlin and Jon Stewart.

Sahl also suffered a personal tragedy in 1996 when his only child, Morton Jr., died at age 19. Ten years later, the subject was so raw that mention of his son's name could bring

him to tears.

"My kid was like a more human version of me," he said.

Through the tough times, he continued to work the college circuit and small clubs.

Although he never regained his former stature, he eventually returned to making a comfortable living with comedy.

He continued to carry his newspaper on stage with him, although as the 21st century dawned he joked that he should probably have replaced it with a laptop.

At age 80 he also began teaching a class in critical thinking at Southern California's prestigious

Claremont McKenna College. It was a return to the academic life Sahl had known decades earlier when he earned a degree in urban planning from USC in 1950. Putting plans for graduate study on hold, he decided to make money writing jokes for comedians. He took to the stage himself, he once said, when he discovered the ones he was writing for were "too dumb" to get the material.

A new generation of comedians, including Bill Cosby, George Carlin and the team of Mike Nichols and Elaine May, was inspired by Sahl. David Letterman continued the iconoclastic tradition, and more recently Jon Stewart, Stephen Colbert and John Oliver. Woody Allen would liken his work to the jazz of Charlie Parker and reviewers compared him to Will Rogers, who tweaked politicians in a gentler manner.

At times he could produce a concise wisecrack, as he did after three hours into a screening of the endless Otto Preminger epic "Exodus" (1960) about the founding of

Israel. Sahl was reported to have stood up and exclaimed: "Otto, let my people go!"

Sahl's disdain could skewer the left as well as the right. The Americanist Stephen Whitfield noted that Sahl scorned the African

American revolutionary Angela Davis for choosing "to express her anger with the system by joining the Communist Party" and thereby adhering to a movement consisting of "850 86-year-old Jewish people on the Lower East Side of New York and about a thousand FBI agents."

With such observations, Sahl influenced Jewish creative spirits in many different domains, from fellow comedians to filmmakers and even novelists. Often mentioned alongside his

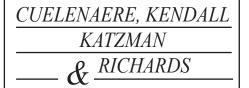
contemporary Lenny Bruce, Sahl was the antithesis of Bruce in that he shunned alcohol, drugs and profanity.

In June 2007, a number of star comedians, including George Carlin and Jonathan Winters, gave Sahl an 80th birthday tribute. In 2008, Sahl moved from Los Angeles to Mill Valley, a suburb of San Francisco, where he became friends with comedian Robin Williams, who lived nearby.

Mort Sahl, a Jewish satirist who was credited with making caustic political and social satire popular in stand-up comedy, died in Mill Valley, CA October 26, 2021 at 94.

Editor's Note: Stan Schroeder is the Editor of Congregation Shir Ami's "Shir Notes" in Los Angeles which also won a Gold Medal for "Bulletins." He writes biographies of famous Jews and has offered to share them with us. This article was first published in the Shir Notes. Steven Goluboff and Stan met each other in Jerusalem to discuss their community Bulletins several years ago





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**244-4414** Fax: 244-1545 400 - 15 23rd St. East - Saskatoon top of her lungs every time I let in a goal. By the time I got home after the game my urge to kill her had dissipated, but I made her promise she would never come to another game.

The next game we brought our school mates Trevor Treen, Lyle McCallum and David Grantham. We didn't do the chant about Moses or eating no ham when they arrived. Times had changed. With those three on the team, things improved a little. We only lost 4-1 to Haultain and 3-0 to North Park and were starting to feel pretty good about ourselves until Katzman told us we shouldn't. He then revealed a secret that would change our lives: he knew a rink rat at the Saskatoon Arena who wasn't playing for any other team and would bring him out to our next game.

A rink rat. A real live rink rat. A wave of astonishment and fear washed over us. Rink rats were the guys who scraped and flooded the ice by hand at the indoor Arena, home of the professional Saskatoon Quakers. It was common knowledge and universally accepted that all rink rats were from the West Side, the rough part of town where the Ukrainians and Poles lived. It was an absolute, indisputable fact the rink rats didn't go to school, didn't work, didn't have parents or family, drank beer and had all been to reform school or prison or both. We were terrified.

The next evening Peter and I arrived at Thornton School outdoor rink on Lorne Ave. All we could talk about was the rink rat Katzman was bringing. We got to the shack, where a few of the guys were already putting on their gear. I found a spot next to Peter on the crowded bench and started lacing up my skates when the door sprung open. All the chatter in the shack stopped instantly. We all turned our heads in unison towards the door, our fingers stopping in mid-action with whatever they were doing. The only noise was from the kerosene heater hissing away in the corner of the shack. The only movement was the single bare light bulb swaying on the frayed cord hooked to the ceiling. We looked. We stared. Our jaws dropped in unison. There stood Katzman in the doorway and in front of him stood the rink rat. He was no taller than any of us, but something about him made him seem so much older. Maybe it was the fulllength black woolen coat or perhaps it was his blond ducktail hair, swept back so it fell over his upturned collar. Maybe it was his flat, pock-marked face and steely grey eyes that looked like two pin balls. Or, maybe it was the lit cigarette dangling from his lower lip.

"Hey, everyone, meet Mike. Mike Kaplycz." Katzman announced cheerfully.

None of us said a word. We watched the smoke curl up from Mike's lip. Who smoked at thirteen? We quickly made a lot of room on

the crowded bench for Mike so he could suit up. Peter leaned over to me and whispered, "I think he shaves."

We stepped onto the ice that evening not knowing what would happen. When the game ended, we were ecstatic, yelling, shouting and cautiously, tentatively patting Mike on the back like he was some half—civilized beast on a leash. The next day in the late-afternoon edition of the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix there was a small story under "Playground Hockey Results" that read:

"Norm Gladstone recorded his first shutout of the season and Mike Kaplycz scored 5 goals and Peter Gropper one as Jewish Centre defeated Christ the King 6-0."

My mother read it and went pale.

"Oy, vey," she lamented, the palm of her hand going to her cheek as it always did when she was worried. "Nisht geet," she added again in Yiddish. Not good.

Then she started yelling at me. "You couldn't beat another team six nothing? You had to beat, God-forgive-me-for-saying-such-words-that-they-should-pass-my-lips-out-loud, Christ the King? Where are your brains? You couldn't let in a few goals?"

I was completely dumbfounded and confused. I thought she would be happy for me, seeing my name in the newspaper for the very first time in my life. We had won. We were winners.

"Who are you playing next? Pope Pius?" she asked sarcastically.

"No, King Edward," I replied, still not catching on.

"Don't make jokes," she scolded. I just stared at her, not knowing what she was talking about.

We beat King Edward Monarchs 4-0. I got my second shut-out in a row and Mike scored two of the four goals. We were on a roll. That same evening when Mike left the shack after the game, Peter and I followed, on our way to the bus. We kept a few steps back, not daring to say a word to him, the crunching snow beneath our boots making the only sound. Up ahead, in the dark, we could see a couple of West Side greasers in black leather jackets, guys we called "hoods".

"Hey, Mike," one of the hoods called out. "Who are you playing for?"

"The Jewies," Mike replied.

Peter and I flashed a surprised look at each other.

"The Jewies? Did he say Jewies?" Peter quietly asked me. "Is that bad?"

Neither Peter nor I had ever heard that word before and I didn't know how to answer. After thinking it over I finally replied, "Who cares? Don't worry about it. We're winning, aren't we?" Jewies, kikes or whatever he wanted to call us, I figured it was a small price to pay to keep winning.

Mike was a phantom on the ice, taking the puck from behind our net and making long dashes all the way to the other end, stick-handling and skating like no one we had ever seen. When he had a cigarette in the shack between periods, we kept quiet. We never talked to him, never joked, never hung out with him after a game. And, yet, he made us feel great and made us play like we were stars. The team skated harder, shot better and I made spectacular saves in goal I never thought possible.

Surprisingly, we started to get some spectators. The first were a group of girls I didn't know, who wore lipstick and earrings, chewed gum and, I swear, had breasts. They cheered for Mike everytime he touched the puck, which was all the time. Then our parents started to show up, along with a few people from the Jewish community, including our neighbour who was sure Jews didn't know anything about hockey. I wanted to say to him, "this is what Jews know about hockey," but I didn't have the nerve. Besides, I knew that wasn't true, because it was Mike the Ukrainian who made us better than we really were.

We were unstoppable with Mike. We went from dead last in November to first place in February and finished first in the league. When we went to synagogue on Saturday mornings people came up to us saying, "mazel tov", while shaking our hands. They were proud of us. Even my mother, her disapproval abating, gave me a hug.

In some way, I felt a bit of a fake accepting their congratulations because I knew it wasn't an all-Jewish effort. We were part of a team made up of kids whose heritages were not only Jewish, but Ukrainian, English, Scottish or goodness knows where else. It didn't matter. The non-Jewish boys didn't seem to have any problem putting on the team sweaters with the Star of David. In the end, none of us cared where anyone came from or what religion they were or what our parents thought. Playing hockey was something we did together, without letting anything else get in our way. Mike, as the outsider, the one who was the least part of us, was the one who bound us together. Even though we lost in the final championship game, it was Mike who made us soar higher than we were supposed to and for a brief winter season, made us feel as if we had wings.

Norman Gladstone lives in Vancouver, BC and still gets together with old teammates Peter Gropper, Barry Kassen and Richard Goluboff, friendships he holds dear. normanjgladstone@ gmail.com As my father planted for me before I was born,
So do I plant for those who will come

after me.

from the Talmud

TO

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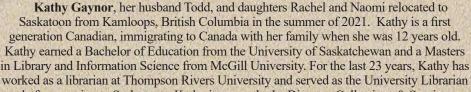




<b>X</b> 7-1		Katz, David	Apr 20 (19)	Shnaper, Maya		June 11	Sivan 12
<b>Yahrzeits</b>	)	Wasserman, Bud	1 (1)	Stollar, Percy		Golumbia, Samuel	
		Winocour, Kasiel		Singer, Helen	May 18 (17)	Russell, Florence	
March 12	Adar-II 9	Barsky, Allan	Apr 22 (21)	Golumbia, Clara	May 19 (18)	Cornfield, Sophie	Jun12 (13)
Shnay, Fred	Mar 13 (10)			Horwitz, Lewis		Prober, Abraham	
Mitchell, Maurice	Mar 14 (11)	April 23	Nissan 22	Panar, Sidney		Richman, Clare	
Raisen, Ann	Mar 15 (12)	Filer, Goldie	Apr 24 (23)	Strayer, L.		Golumbia, Bessie	Jun 13 (14)
		Goldstein, Sadie		Vickar, Marion	M 20 (10)	Levinton, Rose	
March 19	Adar II 16	Goldstein, Stuart Portnaya, Liza		Davidner, Michael Winestock, Joseph	May 20 (19)	Steiger, Nettie Hillman, Harry	Jun 14 (15)
Schlucker, Vera Lettman, Anni		Wine, Enid P.	Apr 25 (24)	winestock, Joseph		Schacter, Samuel	Juli 14 (13)
Steiger, Harry		Fessler, Rosa	Apr 26 (25)	May 21	Iyar 20	Margolis, Seda	Jun 15 (16)
Steiger, Harry		Braun, Tibor	Apr 27 (26)	Katz Schell, Minnie	1,41 20	Baron, Bathsheba	Jun 16 (17)
March 26	Adar II 23	Filer, Clara	1 ( )	Laimon, William		Ditlove, Marlene	
Goodman, Pearl		Grotsky, Molly		Burtnick, Anthony	May 22 (21)	Mallin, Jack	
Forgan, Rebecca		Teitelbaum, Judel	Apr 28 (27)	Scharfstein, Tillie		Sandbrand, Amelia	
Ginsberg, Solomon		Volansky, Aaron		Shendelzon, Feiga		Fenyes, Zoltan	Jun 17 (18)
		Baron, Bertha Roe	Apr 29 (28)	Sugarman, Lena		Green, Selma	
April 2	Nissan 1	Lertzman, Keos		Davidner, Sam	May 23 (22)	Trachtenberg, David	
Lehrer, Clara		Levitan, Bernice		Oliman, Benjamin		- 10	
Horowitz, David	Apr 3 (2)	Morgan, Jacob		Smith, Sadie	M 24 (22)	June 18	Sivan 19
Adilman, Jack	Apr 4 (3)	Ross,Allen		Dragushan, Solomon Green, Herman	May 24 (23)	Buckwold, Clarice Churchill, Sonia	
Goldenberg, Jacob Micha		April 30	Nissan 29	Berlow, Mildred	May 25 (24)	Landa, Sam	
Barsky, Jacob Buckwold, Dorothy	Apr 5 (4)	Bernbaum, Mordcha Jose		Friedman, Cherna	May 23 (24)	Levitt, Lottie	
Kolominsky, Kariton		Broudy, Albert	.pii	Gladstone, Leah		Adler, Bertha	Jun 19 (20)
Ponak, Sarah		Mazer, Sarah		Hock, Sam		Gladstone, Bessie	
Teitelbaum, Abraham		Shechtman, Morris		Rabinovitch, David		Ames, Bessie	Jun 20 (21)
Brown, Samuel	Apr 6 (5)	Shore, Jennie		Roth, Edith		Bernbaum, Frances	` /
Levy, Marco	1 (/	Aarons, Isadore Baruch	May 1 (30)	Sandbrand, Sylvia		Lehrer, Anna	
Shafer, David		Brant, William		Salsberg, Esther	May 26 (25)	Drabinsky, Sophie	Jun 21 (22)
Caplan, Samuel	Apr 7 (6)	Davidner, Herschel		Mendel, Fred	May 27 (26)	Krolik, Sheila	
Frank, Bert		Flikshteyn, Leonid	May 2 (Iyar 1)	Muscovitch, Rachel		Melamede, Myron	
Goldenberg, Joe		Meth, Norbert S		Shear, Ruth		Gladstone, Bert	Jun 22 (23)
MacDonald, Kenneth		charfstein, Joe		May 20	Ivon 27	Schwartz, Clarice	Jun 22 (24)
Morgan, Dora	A 0 (7)	Sugarman, Isador Swartz, Max		May 28 Goodman, Eliezer	Iyar 27	Claman, Jacob Flikshteyn, Welver Beryl	Jun 23 (24)
Gersher, Lazer	Apr 8 (7)	Udin, Mrs. Mani		Minovitz, Broche	May 29 (28)	Goluboff, Grace	
Jaffe, Judah M.		Kaplan, Nechamah	May 4 (3)	Rapaport, Fanny	May 29 (26)	Bondar, Ruth	Jun 24 (25)
April 9	Nissan 8	Strauss Gertler, Ann	May 5 (4)	Spector, Ethel		Levine, Herman	Juli 24 (23)
Pollak, Miroslava (Mirka)		Bermack, Jack	May 6 (5)	Gertler, Frank	May 30 (29)	Zaitlen, Sam	
Rose, Gerry	,	Bobroff, Sheila	, , ,	Litman, Jack H.	, , ,	,	
Horowitz, Rachel	Apr 10 (9)	Germek, Joseph		Kaslow, Jack	May 31 (Sivan	1)	
Shaket, Miriam	1 ()	Katz, Orville		Kutz, William			
Goldberg, Max	Apr 11 (10)			Sharzer, Bernard			1
Melamede, Sarah		May 7	Iyar 6	Bruser, Abraham	Jun 2 (3)	Quart	erivi
Greenblat, James	Apr 12 (11)	Clein, Simon		Epstein, Rita		Q data1	
Zickerman, Jolan		Fayerman, Samuel		Mazer, Jacob			
Feldman, Keiva	apr 13 (12)	Nisenholt, Max Ruttle, Irwin		Rose, Arthur Hoffer, Abram	In 2 (4)		
Filer, Fanny		Friedman, Rebecca	May 9 (8)	Tartar, Ben	Jun 3 (4)		
Livergant, Sarah Bernbaum, Frank	Apr 14 (13)	Cyprus, Gertrude	May 10 (9)	rartar, Den		Answe	ers
Heller, Dorey	11p1 17 (13)	Avol, Mirla	May 11 (10)	June 4	Sivan 5	1. Food that is ne	
Korbin, Wolfe		Sharzer, Max		Epstein, Albert		nor dairy	
Reznick, Max		Mitchell, Robert	May 12 (11)	Katzman, Joe		2. Cloven hooves	chews its
Baron, Edward	Apr 15 (14)	Sternberg, Sam		Lefebvre, Anita		cud	, 6116 115 115
Cameron, Alice		Conn, Tully	May 13 (12)	Lehrer, Bernard		3. Fins and scales	
Fayerman, Alex		Koffman, Edith		Cohen, Harry	Jun 5 (6)	4. "Fit"	' I
Green, Joel		Mizrahi, Aharon		Grobman, William	T (0)		hland from
Scharfstein, Simcha		Rogers, Minnie		Gonor, Ruth	Jun 7 (8)	5. To help remove	
A	NI: 15	May 14	Iyar 13	Korbin, Libba Litman, Rose		meat to render	ii kosner.
April 16	Nissan 15	May 14 Handelman, Maurice	lyar 13	Manolson, Rose		6. Abraham	
Gertler, Maynard Neumann, Leopold		Pollak, Viktor		Swartz, Paul		7. The new moon	
Neumann, Leopoid Neumann, Solomon		Fogel, Karen Jane	May 16 (15)	Brounstein, Goldie	Jun 8 (9)	8. Vayikra	l
Soffer, Heshkel		Sadowsky, Sam	1,10, 10 (13)	Furman, Semyon	Juli 0 ())	9. King Solomon	l
Berenbom, Sara	Apr 17 (16)	Adelman, Sarah	May 17 (16)	Hock, Lloyd	Jun 9 (10)	10. In Montreal. S	Shearith
Avivi, Tamara	Apr 18 (17)	Gitlin, Robert	` ` '	Dorney, Ida	Jun 10 (11)	Israel synago	gue opened
Bobroff, Abraham	- ' '	Kamenicky, Anton				in 1768.	l
Kaplan, David		Segal, Hyman	I				

# Synagogue Sightings we

### **Welcome to New Members:**



before moving to Saskatoon. Kathy is currently the Director, Collections & Service Infrastructure at the Saskatoon Public Library. Kathy loves to travel having been to Finland, France, Spain, Israel, Italy, The Netherlands, Estonia, and crisscrossing all across the United States and Canada.

**Todd Leier** grew up in Saskatoon and after high school joined the Canadian Armed Forces, serving in the Air Force. After leaving the military, Todd earned his Computer Aided Design

diploma and has worked in a variety of positions around North America – working in Alaska, Boston, Halifax, and Calgary. Todd and Kathy met in Kamloops and they married in 2015 in Maui – with Rachel and Naomi present. In his spare time, Todd loves gardening, home renovations, and travelling having visited Spain, Morocco, and crisscrossing across Canada and the United States.

**Rachel Silverberg** was born in Kamloops and in 2017, Rachel moved to Saskatoon to attend the University of Saskatchewan earning a Bachelor of Arts and Science (honours) degree in health studies. Rachel is currently in her 1st year of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan. This summer Rachel is working on a research study about long Covid. When not studying, Rachel spends her time with her cat Maeve, tending to an extensive indoor plant collection, riding her bike up and down the Meewasin valley and hanging out with her friends.

**Naomi Silverberg** was born in Kamloops and graduated top of her class in the International Baccalorate program. Throughout high school, Naomi excelled not only academically, but also in gymnastics – earning many trophies, awards and competed in Finland in 2015. Naomi started her studies in Biology at the University of Saskatchewan and hopes to pursue a career as a physiotherapist. Outside of school, Naomi can be found hanging out with her friends, travelling, reading, or working out in the gym.

Kathy, Todd, Rachel and Naomi are excited to call Saskatoon home and be members of the Saskatoon Jewish Community at

Congregation Agudas Israel.

Elana Geller and family. Elana Geller and Alex Beldan met while studying philosophy at the University of Western Ontario. While Elana's family is from the old Jewish community in the North End of Winnipeg, she grew up in many parts of Canada and lived in Israel twice, once for two years as a teenager, and again, after leaving high school for a year. Alex grew up in Alberta and Toronto. After grad school, we eventually settled in Saskatoon with jobs at the U of S. We have two children in Hebrew School: Rowan (7) and Finn (4), both born in Saskatoon. We are happy to be new member of Agudas Israel.

Gideon Weisman and Emily McKay would like to thank the community for their very warm welcome as they joined the shul in the past few months. Emily moved from Oshawa to Saskatoon in 1988, and Gideon moved to the city in 2015. Emily is Protestant, and Gideon's Jewish roots go back through Capresti, Moldova; Bucharest, Romania; and Rudki and Lodz, Poland. His parents grew up in Uzbekistan and Barbados, meeting each other in Toronto in the 60s. Gideon grew up in Toronto and moved to La Loche, Saskatchewan, to teach in 2011. Both Gideon and

Emily are high school teachers in Saskatoon Public Schools, and have been married since 2020.

Gil, Corrine and Romy (12) have recently moved to Saskatoon from Israel. We are currently here for 1 year, but who knows. We enjoy watching superhero movies (particularly Spiderman) and other fantastic storylines. We are just starting to get the hang of standing on the ice with skates without falling, hoping to be pros ASAP. Happy to be part of this community.

Josie Ward and Jennifer Greenhill are the newest members of the Congregation Agudas Israel. They recently moved to Saskatoon from New York City. Josie is originally from San Diego, CA and Jennifer is

originally from Chicago, IL. Josie works as a graduate researcher at USASK where she studies renewable energy transitions in the Arctic. Jennifer is an interior designer and works for a local office furniture supplier. In their free time, they enjoy exploring the city of Saskatoon, crafts and reading. They are very excited to join the Congregation of Agudas Israel and to meet everyone.



Shoshana Szlachter

**Lev Lynds** 



sat 19 16 Adar-1	II <b>Tzav</b> *Steven Simpson	sat	7	Iyar 6	Kedoshim	*Joel Bernbau
SUN <b>20</b> 17 Adar-1	п	sun		Iyar 7		
mon <b>21</b> 18 Adar-	II Adult Bar & Bat Mitzvah Class 7:00 pm	mon	9	Iyar 8		
tue <u>s</u> <b>22</b> 19 Adar-1	п 🛁	tues	10	Iyar 9	Board Meeting 7 pm	
	II Lunch & Learn 12 pm / Movie Night 7:30 pm	wed			Lunch & Learn 12 pm	
thurs <b>24</b> <sub>21 Adar-1</sub>		thurs				
fri <b>25</b> <sub>22 Adar-1</sub>		_		Iyar 12		
	II Shemini - Shabbat Parah *Nicky Gitlin	_		Iyar 13	Emor	*Grant Scharfste
SUN <b>27</b> 24 Adar-		_		Iyar 14		
mon <b>28</b> <sub>25 Adar-1</sub>	THOUSEN THE PROPERTY OF THE PR	mon				_ / ~
	II Book Club 7:00 pm	tues				<b>@</b>
	II Lunch & Learn 12 pm	wed		•	Lunch & Learn 12 pm / Movie Nig	ght 7:30 om
thurs <b>31</b> 28 Adar-1	II	thurs				
	A			Iyar 19		
•	Adar II Nisan 5782	_		Iyar 20	Behar	*Robert Englebe
fri <b>1</b> 29 Adar-		_		Iyar 21		
_	Tazria - Shabbat Hachodesh / Adult Bar & Bat Mitzvah Ceremony 10 a				OFFICE CLOSED	BOOK
SUN <b>3</b> Nisan 2	*Steven Goluboff	tues		•	Book Club 7 pm	CLUB
mon 4 Nisan 3		wed			Lunch & Learn 12 pm	
	Board Meeting 7 pm	thurs		- '		
	Lunch & Learn 12 pm / Movie Night 7:30 pm			Iyar 26		
thurs <b>7</b> Nisan 6		_		Iyar 27	Bechukotal	*Kevin Shar
fri <b>8</b> Nisan 7		sun	29	Iyar 28		
sat 9 Nisan 8	Metzora - Shabbat Hagadol * Malvina Rapko	mon	30	Iyar 29		
SUN <b>10</b> Nisan 9	Symphony Concert 2pm / B'nai Brith Meeting 7 pm	tues	31	Sivan 1		
mon 11 Nisan 10	T	_				
tues <b>12</b> Nisan 11		June	20	)22 •	Sivan Tammuz 57	82
wed <b>13</b> Nisan 12	Lunch & Learn 12 pm	wed	1	Sivan 2		
thurs 14 <sub>Nisan 13</sub>		thurs	2	Sivan 3		
fri <b>15</b> Nisan 14	Community Passover Seder 6:30 pm / OFFICE CLOSED	fr <u>i</u>	3	Sivan 4		
sat 16 Nisan 15	Passover *Jan Gitlin	sat	4	Sivan 5	Bamidbar - Erev Shavuot	*Michael Scharfste
SUN <b>17</b> Nisan 16	5	sun	5	Sivan 6	Shavuot Service 10 am	
mon <b>18</b> Nisan 17	,	mon	6	Sivan 7	OFFICE CLOSED	
tues <b>19</b> Nisan 18		tues	7	Sivan 8	Lunch & Learn 12 pm / Board Me	eting 7 pm
wed <b>20</b> Nisan 19	Lunch & Learn 12 pm	wed	8	Sivan 9		
hurs <b>21</b> Nisan 20		thurs	9	Sivan 10		
fri <b>22</b> Nisan 21	OFFICE CLOSED	fr <u>i</u>	10	Sivan 11		
<b>sat</b> <i>23</i> Nisan 22	Passover - Yizkor *Seth Shacter	sat	11	Sivan 12	Nasso	*Martha Scharfste
Sun <b>24</b> Nisan 23		sun	12	Sivan 13		
mon <b>25</b> Nisan 24	:	mon	13	Sivan 14		_
tues <b>26</b> Nisan 25		tues	14	Sivan 15		
	Lunch & Learn 12 pm				Lunch & Learn 12 pm / Movie Nig	ght 7:30 pm
thurs <b>28</b> Nisan 27	•	thurs		-		
fri <b>29</b> Nisan 28		_		Sivan 18		
sat <b>30</b> Nisan 29					Beha/alotecha	*Harold Shiffma
Ivisdif 27	wratthew Taras			Sivan 20		
May 2022 •	Nissan Iyar Sivan 5782	_		Sivan 21		
SUN <b>1</b> Nisan 30				Sivan 22		
Juli 📕 Misan 30	Silver Spoon Dinner Spoon	_		Sivan 23		
mon 2 11	Dinner Spoon Dillier	thurs				
•		tiiui <u>S</u>				
tues <b>3</b> Iyar 2	Lunch 9.1 cavn 12 nm	fri	211	C:		
tues <b>3</b> Iyar 2 wed <b>4</b> Iyar 3	Lunch & Learn 12 pm			Sivan 25	Shilach	on The
	Lunch & Learn 12 pm	sat	25		Sh'lach	*Zoe Litma * Bema Ros