



THE BULLETIN

Congregation Agudas Israel

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Rabbi: Claudio Jodorkovsky

Co-Presidents: Robert Engelbert and Michael Scharfstein

Silver Spoon Dinner 2026


Dear Bulletin Readers, I've done this before... Submitted my column from the Mexican shore. I'm escaping cold winter here where everything's tropic While still writing to tell you 'bout my belove-ed topic... The Silver Spoon Dinner It's coming this spring. What's going to be different? We're ALL going to SING! We don't have a "speaker". We've set the bar higher For interactive amusement with CHOIR! CHOIR! CHOIR! They're two guys who've charmed millions with their talent and shtick They are favourites of mine. (Get your tickets real quick!!!) Their fun banter and humour and music direction. Will lead us to sing "Mamma Mia" to perfection.

It's going to be awesome – on this I've no doubt. Silver Spoon will still reign as "The Best Girls' Night Out". With the pampering touches that we're famous for And great food and free drinks (and cute guys there to pour). Our Silent Auction - always famous - with items so nifty. We'll have raffles for Traxx Shoes and of course, 50/50s. Balloons to win Air Canada's sweet "Trip for Two" (If you win, perhaps, I'll Carnival here with YOU).

We'll raise oodles of funds for our Jewish Community While we'll also raise feelings of harm'ny and unity. We help Ronald McDonald and Interval Houses While we gals all make merry (without all our spouses). We've signed on some sponsors, got prizes galore But I need all your help to secure hundreds more. And while I'm in the sun (so I'll never get rickets) I want everyone's help selling many more tickets.

Plan to come and attend and for sure VOLUNTEER Rosy's once again signing up helpers this year. Our committee and YOU will make this year a winner. We'll see you and your friends at the Silver Spoon Dinner.

by Linda Shaw and Robin Sasko
Co-chairpersons



**“Yom Hashoah Memorial
Sunday, May 24th, 1:30p.m.
Agudas Israel
Keynote Speaker: Norman Gladstone**

Join us at the 34th Annual






Monday, May 4, 2026 • 5:30pm
TCU Place, Grand Salon



Choir! Choir! Choir! is an interactive musical show led by directors Daveed Goldman and Nobu Adilman, inviting everyone to sing together, regardless of experience. Join the fun at this year's Silver Spoon Dinner, Saskatoon's premier Ladies' Night Out, featuring luxury, laughter, and support for local charities. Enjoy a night of pampering, dining, and entertainment, with the chance to meet the 2026 Sterling Award Winner and bid on exciting Silent Auction items.

Tickets will be available at www.silverspoondinner.com and www.eventbrite.ca
at noon on January 21st
Price per ticket - \$250 (plus service charges)

Announcing
The Dennis Ditlove Camper Fund



Because Jewish summer camp is critical to the development of Jewish identity
Financial support from \$500 to 100% of camp fees
For details: see page 17
(this program replaces the B'nai Brith camper support)

The generosity of the Ditlove Family has made this new program possible.

This page is sponsored by Gladys Rose z'il of Toronto

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT BULLETIN IS MAY 15, 2026

Artist Profile: Nik (Veronika) Chermensky

Nik (Veronika) Chermensky is a Russian-Jewish animator, filmmaker, and artist who recently relocated from Israel to Canada to pursue an MFA at the University of Saskatchewan. Anchored in memory, Nik's work invites the viewer to journey through time, place, space, and states of mind. Nik's work has been screened and exhibited internationally in Serbia, Mexico, Israel, and Canada.



My work explores challenging narratives that often defy verbal articulation. Working primarily in film and animation, I merge hand-drawn or painted aesthetics with digital animation and motion graphics to immerse viewers in mental states that evoke transcendental experiences. Drawing and painting are

mediums through which I explore the states and ideas I later develop in my animation practice.

Having lived in Russia and Israel, and having had the chance to see their cultures and histories from the inside,

I realized how much fear, pain, and guilt I carry—not just from exceptional tragedies but from everyday experiences. My work



embodies many stories that confront the seemingly incongruent narratives I have been told and brings them into a space for shared reconsideration.

Veronika's show runs in the Agudas Israel main hall from March until May.

Artist Statement

For years, I believed storytelling was not for me, yet I often feel compelled to share stories and emotions with others.

Yom Ha'Shoah Memorial

by Ron Gitlin

Congregation Agudas Israel will be holding the Yom Ha'Shoah Memorial Service on Sunday May 24th, at the synagogue at 1:30 pm. This year's keynote speaker will be Norman Gladstone. Norman was born and raised in Saskatoon and moved to Vancouver with his wife, Birgit Westergaard, in the late 1970s. He will be speaking about the rescue of Danish Jews due to a personal connection as his wife Brigit is Danish and her father was a member of the Danish underground resistance. As a Holocaust educator, Norman will share the story of a remarkable civilian-

led rescue effort.

In the darkest of times, Danish citizens chose courage over fear, compassion over indifference, and action over silence. Their collective bravery saved thousands of Jewish lives and stands as a timeless reminder of the power of moral conviction.

Through reflection and remembrance, we will honor both those who were lost and those whose courage illuminated history. This program will explore the enduring lessons of choice, responsibility, and the strength of community in the face of injustice.

Norman has been associated with the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre for

over 30 years. He has been awarded a lifetime membership, and currently sits on the Board of Governors. He holds a BA in history from the University of British Columbia.

Please join us as we remember, reflect, and reaffirm our commitment to stand against hatred in all its forms.

Sunday May 24th

Time: 1:30pm

**Location: Congregation Agudas Israel,
715 McKinnon Ave.**

We hope you will attend this meaningful and inspiring service.

TALMUD STUDY GROUP

WITH RABBI CLAUDIO

Come to be part of a 2,000 year old conversation that is still relevant today. You'll enjoy the lively discussions that characterize Talmudic study and learn the famous logic that has embodied Jewish scholarship through history.

Every Thursday from 7 to 8:15pm

To register please contact Rabbi Claudio:
rabbi Claudio@gmail.com

Congregation Agudas Israel Art Committee Invite You to our

PURIM MASK DECORATING

March 1st - 1-3pm

Agudas Israel Main Hall

All Ages Welcome - Free (All Materials Provided)

This page is sponsored by Colleen & Joe z'il Golumbia of Vancouver Island



Editorial

by Lisa Shiffman,
Editor-in-Chief

Usually I take this opportunity to comment on the contents of The Bulletin but I felt the need to get a bit more personal this time. Around a month and a half ago I saw something on social media that made me very upset. I saw that the people of Iran were fighting back against the regime that has held them hostage in their own country since the late 1970s, and though I was proud of them for standing up for their rights, I was also concerned that well, it wouldn't work out well for them. As we know, the IRGC has a chokehold on the country of Iran. We see this in how they deal with protestors. In Canada we allow peaceful protest, but in Iran it is a very different story. Protestors are being shot by the IRGC for protesting. That's it. They are not vandalizing anything. They do not have weapons. They are just marching together for basic rights and for democracy. For their efforts, they are shot from rooftops as the government tries to regain control over the people. Seeing videos of this happening on social media really shook me so I started regularly attending the rallies and marches. I've made many friends and connections with the Iranian community, whom I can guarantee, would stand with us if we ever

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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

Mazal tov to:

Matt and Georgina Steen who celebrated their wedding on Feb 8

Condolences to:

The Ditlove family on the passing of **Dennis Ditlove**. May his memory be a blessing.

The family of **Zara Gurstein** on her passing. May her memory be a blessing.

The family of **Boris Isaakov** z"l. Maybe his memory be a blessing.



Welcome to our newest member

My name is **Ruslan Isaakov**. I'm Boris Isaakov's youngest child.

We have lived in Saskatoon since 1981.

The family immigrated from Baku, Azerbaijan (USSR).

The Jews of Azerbaijan are known as Mountain Jews.

Quba, Azerbaijan is the only town outside of Israel where Jews live together. The Mountain Jews have lived in the Caucasus Mountains for approximately 2500 years. Our ancestors left the Holy Land when the Babylonians destroyed our first temple and ended up in the Persian

Empire. Jews of Azerbaijan speak Juhuri.

At around 1990, 99% of our relatives moved to Israel.

Community Events!

Get ready for Purim!

Come decorate your own Purim mask with Congregation Agudas Israel Art Committee—fun for kids and adults alike! March 1, 1–3 pm, Agudas Israel Main Hall. Free event. All materials provided. No registration required.

Congregation Agudas Israel and Hebrew School invite you to celebrate Purim with us! Join us on Tuesday, March 3 at 5:30 pm for a joyful evening featuring a Megillah reading, entertainment, and an "Around the World" themed potluck dinner. Delicious hamantaschen will be provided by Sisterhood. Admission is free and everyone is welcome. Registration is required for those participating in the potluck. For more information, please contact Rosy Kreindel.

Join us for our next **Book Club** meeting as we discuss *Hostage* by Eli Sharabi, a powerful and deeply moving memoir. In *Hostage*, Eli Sharabi shares his firsthand account of being taken captive by Hamas on October 7 and the unimaginable emotional and physical ordeal that followed. The book offers an intimate look at resilience, survival, loss, and the strength of the human spirit in the face of profound trauma. We invite everyone to join us for a thoughtful and respectful discussion as we come together to explore this impactful story. Tuesday, March 24 at 7pm. Registration is required. Contact Rosy Kreindel to sign up or learn more.

THE BULLETIN

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This page is sponsored by Steven, Leila, Sarah and Shaina Goluboff and families



Divrei Harav – Rabbi Claudio’s Message

CAI: Walking Forward, Looking Inward

by Rabbi Claudio Jodorkovsky

We felt some relief a few weeks ago when the remains of the last hostage still captive in Gaza were returned to Israel. After more than two years, Ran Gvili’s body was brought to his family who were able to mourn and give him a proper burial. We felt that finally, after 27 months, it wasn’t October 7th anymore.

That dark Simchat Torah day in 2023 shattered our hearts. When we first heard it in the news, we thought it was just another terrorist attack. Then we watched the videos and heard about the hundreds – then more than a thousand dead, the Nova festival, the kibbutzim burned with children inside, and the 250 hostages in Gaza. It took some time to realize the magnitude of the massacre, comparable to the Pogroms in Ukraine and Russia in the 19th and 20th centuries. And as our brothers and sisters in Israel were still burying the dead, Jews in the rest of the world were facing a very hard realization,

that blatant antisemitism was still accepted in our society. We thought there had been important advances in the fight against anti-Jewish hate thanks to antiracist education, diversity policies and hate speech legislation. But soon we realized that the war in Gaza was the best pretext for the old antisemitism to resurge masked as legitimate criticism of Israel. We saw violence in universities, harassment of Jewish students and academics, collective accusations, similar to what our grandparents had experienced, and we thought we would never see in our times.

But despite the difficulties of those two years, we also saw the best of our Jewish people. Communities around the world came together to mourn for the victims and to ask for the release of the hostages. We felt again that we are a strong family. Although most of us didn’t personally know the victims or the hostages, we all felt we were mourning together. We are a small people but a big family: We prayed together, we put on the walls

of our Synagogue pictures of the hostages, we carried our dog tags and yellow ribbons, we had empty chairs reserved for the hostages during Shabbat and holidays. The silver lining of this tragedy is that we embodied the principle of Kol Israel Arevim Ze Bazeh, all Jews are responsible for one another.

In a remarkable and meaningful coincidence, the week the remains of Ran Gvili came back to Israel we were reading in the Torah the passage about Moses carrying Joseph’s bones out of Egypt. Before he died, Joseph had asked his family not to leave his body in Egypt and instead to bring him to the Land of Canaan. Moses, despite the busyness of the Exodus, took the time to look for Joseph’s bones who had been buried for 400 years, teaching us that we don’t leave anyone behind. Later, during the 40-year journey through the desert, our ancestors were carrying two arks: one with the two Tablets containing the 10 commandments, and one

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Dennis Gerald Ditlove

November 25, 1936 — December 1, 2025

Dennis Gerald Ditlove was a man of integrity, kindness, generosity and most of all, humour. He was born on November 25, 1936 in the small town of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. He grew up in Winnipeg, Manitoba, the son Louis and Faye Ditlove, and if you knew him at all, you heard plenty of stories about his childhood there.

Dennis was a man of unparalleled resolve and an entrepreneur who built Inland Steel through grit and determination. He retired from Inland Steel in Saskatoon, SK in 1987, leaving behind a legacy of hard work, dedication, and innovation. His unwavering commitment to his work was only outshone by his love for his family and his community in Rancho Mirage, California. Dennis was a man of many talents and passions but he was best known for the relationships he cultivated with everyone he met, and his

unparalleled sense of humor.

Dennis is survived by his devoted wife, Nancy; and his loving children, Mark (Wendy) Ditlove, Shari Snow and Cindy (Stuart) Tapper; beloved grandchildren, Matthew (Mary) Ditlove, Jacob (Sydney) Ditlove, Danielle (Eli) Dresner, Emily (Max) Snow, Max Bermont, Jillian Snow, Jonah Tapper, Leo Tapper and Henry Tapper; and adored great-grandchildren, Sam and Wynn Ditlove, Goldie and Bernie Dresner. His legacy lives on in them, in the lessons he taught them and the love he gave. He was a pillar of strength and a beacon of wisdom in their lives, providing them with a firm foundation on which to build their own successes. Dennis was preceded in death by his parents, Louis and Faye Ditlove; his sister Zora (Walter) Stern; his first wife, Marlene Ditlove; and son-in-law Howard



Snow. While there is sorrow in his passing, there is also joy in celebrating a life well-lived, a life that left indelible marks on the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

This page is sponsored by Dr. Alan Rosenberg & Dr. Lesley-Ann Crone and family

Boris Isaakov

April 16, 1936 — January 4, 2026

With sadness the family announces that the death of Boris Isaakov occurred at his residence in Saskatoon on Sunday morning, January 4th, 2026.

Boris is survived by his wife Porat Isaakov, oldest son Robert, daughter Mila and youngest son Ruslan, as well as granddaughters Amanda, Michelle, Sarah, and great grandchildren Noah and Emma. He was predeceased by his parents Zahar, Mizal Isaakov, sisters Rosa, Lida, Zhenya, and brothers Avshaloom and Leona.

Boris Isaakov (Hayim Ben Zahar) was borne on April 16th, 1936, in Baku Azerbaijan. World War II started when Boris was a baby. His father, Zahar, served in the Soviet Army and his mother Mizal worked in the local hospital. The children, including Boris, took care of themselves. Boris finished grade school and then served in

the Soviet Army. Upon returning home, he worked as an ambulance driver and later became a hat maker. In 1960 Boris and Porat married and Robert arrived in 1962, and Mila in 1964. Ruslan arrived much, much later in 1971. Boris had serious stomach ulcers and in 1977 travelled to Moscow for surgery where most of his intestines were removed. His health was never the same after. In Canada, Boris worked at the University of Saskatchewan until he retired in April of 2001 at the age of sixty-five.

Boris lived a very simple life. He never cared about fancy things. The most important thing to him was providing for his family. Getting Boris to spend money on himself was a big undertaking. In Canada his family did not get to see much of him during the week. He worked late and got home just before midnight. Ruslan, the youngest,



followed Boris around everywhere he went on the weekends. Boris looked forward to coming to services on Saturday mornings. It was just the last year he had a difficult time attending.

His family loves and misses him very much.



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Zara Gurstein, on January 26, at the remarkable age of 109, with her children by

her side.

Zara was the wife of the late Morris Gurstein; devoted mother of Mimi Goldenberg Bercovitch and Matthew Gurstein; cherished mother-in-law of the late Marvin Goldenberg and the late Danny Bercovitch; loving grandmother of Francine Goldenberg (Gary Glassman), Mark Goldenberg (Marla Karpman), and Lara Goldenberg; and proud great-grandmother of Kimberly, Scott, Evan, Jillian, and Isaac. Sister of the late Naomi Lyman and Gertrude Wippman.

Born on July 26, 1916, Zara lived a remarkable life spanning more than a century. Together with her husband Morris, she ran Gurstein Furs with great pride, which they established as a well-known fixture in

Saskatoon. Remembered for her vibrant personality and unmistakable energy, Zara was a well-known and respected personality in her community and her synagogue, where her dedication, presence, and impact can still be felt.

Zara's remarkable health and determination

allowed her to live independently for over a century. She often credited her longevity to her stretching exercises every morning and her glass of sherry every evening. The family expresses deep gratitude to the staff and caregivers who helped ensure Zara's final years were comfortable.

She will be deeply missed by her family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing her.

May her memory be for a blessing.

Zara Gurstein

July 26, 1916 — January 26, 2026

Jewish Community Support Groups*

The Jewish Community Mental Health Initiative at the American Psychological Foundation is dedicated to supporting ongoing clinician-facilitated support groups for members of the Jewish community.

These support groups provide a safe environment to connect the Jewish community. These groups help the community navigate the complex emotions and traumatic experiences of the current climate.

- Free and virtual for all participants
- NO weekly commitment
- Max of 10 participants to a group
- Groups facilitated by two mental health professionals*
- Different groups for each part of the community

TO SIGN UP OR FOR MORE INFORMATION:

*Although groups are facilitated by mental health professionals, they are NOT psychotherapy.

OR CLICK HERE

For more information on the Jewish Community Mental Health Initiative at APE, visit <https://ampsfndn.org/jcmh/>

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B'nai Brith Report

by David Katzman, President

Simon Wolle is now the CEO of B'nai Brith Canada, following the very tragic loss of Michael Mostyn.

Simon takes on this critical leadership role during the most difficult of circumstances, and I wish him all the best. BB Canada continues to actively address antisemitism throughout Canada. In Saskatoon, BB Canada was involved in the criminal charges against Brandon Moore (please see: <https://www.bnaibrith.ca/bnai-brith-canada-advocacy-prompts-saskatoon-hatemongers-arrest/>).

Thank you to everyone within and outside of B'nai Brith who did so much to sell tickets and provide auction items. The incredible success of the Dinner allowed our Lodge to provide Tzedakah: Leket (Israeli emergency food program), Saskatoon Community Foundation, Care and Share (opportunities for disadvantaged youth), the Buffalo Centre (a one-stop agency for police, medical, and psychological support for abused and neglected children), 30 Birds (support for Aghani women's educa-

tion, mostly in Saskatoon) and the Salvation Army. I cannot remember a time when our tiny Jewish community needed more support from the general community and our decades of concern for others has not gone unnoticed. By far, the biggest beneficiary is CAI. Our Lodge is also committed to supporting the next generation of leaders through our grants to BBYO and Hillel.

Matt Ditlove has very generously agreed to indefinitely fund a program, The Dennis Ditlove Camp Fund, so that more children from our Congregation are able to attend Camp BB/Riback. Funding can be as much as 100% of all camp fees but the amount is on scale combining family income and number of dependents. Contact me (dl.katzman@sasktel.net) or Matt Steen (matt.d.steen@gmail.com) more information. Early registration reduces disappointment!

Our Lodge was pleased to engage the services of Malvina Gersher to provide Jewish Cultural Education in schools. In December, she attended 6 classrooms at 3 different elementary schools.

Rabbi Claudio advised the Lodge that the Archbishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Church contacted him to apologize for a horribly antisemitic character, Moshko, participating in a church pageant. The Rabbi invited me to join him for a meeting with the Archbishop to move forward on addressing this ugly cultural remnant that has mostly disappeared (please see article on a similar incident at a different church: <https://thecjn.ca/opinion/opinion-ukrainian-christmas-pageants-in-canada-that-feature-antisemitic-depictions-of-jews-need-a-rewrite/>).

Finally, we will be discussing the attendance of our Lodge, and hopefully many Jewish community members, at a Pow Wow this fall. These are joyous events and this could become a wonderful annual tradition.

All Jewish adults and their significant others are invited to participate in our Lodge. For more information: dl.katzman@sasktel.net

Here to Tell: Faces of Holocaust Survivors

by Jan and Ron Gitlin, Co-chairs

Congregation Agudas Israel is honored to announce a special Holocaust survivors photography exhibition. "Here to Tell: Faces of Holocaust Survivors" show to be in Saskatoon April 29th-June 2nd at the Frances Morrison Central Library, featuring powerful and moving photographs of Holocaust survivors who made their homes in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

This meaningful exhibit shines a light on the lives, resilience, and legacy of survivors who rebuilt their futures in Western Canada after enduring one of history's darkest chapters. Through personal portraits and stories, the exhibit preserves their memories and ensures that future generations continue to learn, remember, and bear witness. This exhibit reflects the enduring message of "Never Again" and underscores the importance of standing against hatred, antisemitism, and intolerance in all forms.

All members of the community are

invited to attend, reflect, and honor the courage of these remarkable individuals whose lives have enriched our provinces and our country. There is no charge for this show.

May their stories continue to inspire compassion, understanding, and strength.



Quarterly



by Kaiti Hannah
Answers on page 16

1. How many new years are there in the Jewish calendar?
2. What are each of the new years, and when do they occur?
3. Which Canadian Jew popularized the iconic white cowboy hat associated with the Calgary Stampede?
4. Who was the first Jewish mayor of a major Canadian city?
5. Who was the first Jewish mayor of Saskatoon?
6. Where was the first Jewish settlement in what is now Saskatchewan?
7. In the Hebrew calendar, how often does a leap year occur?
8. What does the word 'havdalah' mean in English?
9. Of the 613 mitzvot, how many are positive (things to do) and how many are negative (things to avoid doing)?
10. What is the oldest surviving synagogue in Canada?

This Page is sponsored by Joan Taras and David Taras z'il of Calgary, Alberta



On Being Jewish

by Kathy Gaynor

Over the last 2.5 years, many within the Jewish community have found themselves confronting a familiar ache—one woven from betrayal, fear, and a creeping sense of hopelessness. Betrayal has come not only through violent acts or political abandonment, but also through the quiet indifference of neighbors, institutions, and friends who looked away when their voices were needed most. At worst, there has been a sickening realization that some of us have family members, friends and coworkers who align themselves with those forces that seek harm to the Jewish people. The shocking realization how quickly support can crumble, how easily trust can fracture, carves a deep wound that is both personal and collective. It is the kind of hurt that

makes people question their place in the world and wonder how the ground beneath them shifted so suddenly.

Fear, too, settles in quietly. It lives in the hesitation before speaking openly, in the second glance over one's shoulder, and in the quiet worry for loved ones. That fear is not always loud, but it is persistent—a whisper reminding the community of its vulnerability. Thoughts turn to that question that has been asked time and time again by the Jewish people, "When will that line of antisemitism be crossed before I need to think about leaving here because it isn't safe anymore?"

Yet even in this shadowed space, something powerful takes shape. Judaism becomes not only a heritage but an anchor: a way of remembering that survival and strength have always walked alongside sorrow. Friendships have grown stronger, knit together by shared understanding. Those

friends have become family; community has become refuge. Communities that once felt loosely connected have become circles of care, where people show up with more presence and purpose. What once felt like isolation has been replaced—slowly, but unmistakably—with belonging. What was once fear has become vigilance, what was once hopelessness has become purpose, and what was once betrayal has become a reminder of why the community must continue to stand together.

These last 2 years has demonstrated to me that loss can become the catalyst for clarity. From fear, a fierce commitment to endure. And from betrayal, a deeper devotion to one another. In facing darkness together, the Jewish community has found not only resilience, but a more luminous sense of self—held in common, held with pride.

New Library book for Agudas Synagogue by Dan Ronis

Spies in Palestine

Love, Betrayal, and the Heroic Life of Sarah Aaronson By James Srodes

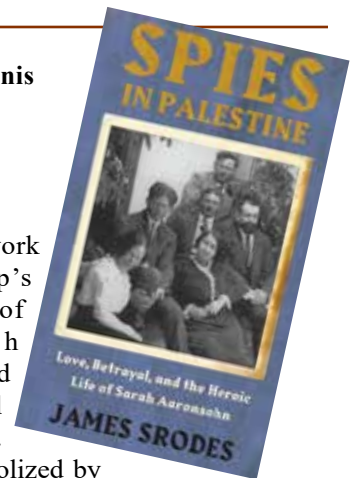
Sarah Aaronsohn was a twenty-first century woman in a nineteenth-century world. She and her siblings were born as part of the first wave of Jewish immigrants who fled the pogroms of Russia and Eastern Europe in the 1880s, settling in the province of Syria-Palestine. By the outbreak of World War I in 1914 the settlers had come a dramatic distance in creating the Eretz Israel of their Biblical prophecies. Sarah's home village of Zichron Ya'akov brought prosperity to their lands between the

Mediterranean coast and the Mount Carmel range. But when the Ottoman Turkish Empire sided with Kaiser Wilhelm II and the other Central Powers in World War I, the Jewish settlements faced cruel oppressions.

This book describes how the Aaronsohns, one of the most prominent families in the province, came to commit themselves and their comrades to the Allied side and how they formed the NILI espionage organization to spy against the Turkish Army. Late in the war, in 1917, Sarah assumed command of

the spy network as the group's penetration of the Turkish army reached a critical juncture.

Sarah was idolized by T.E. Lawrence, the fabled Lawrence of Arabia who dedicated his flowery biography, *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, to her.




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Conversion Isn't A Solo Act. So Why Is The Rabbi In 'Nobody Wants This' Acting Alone?

Reprinted with permission from Rabbi Lisa Ruben, a rabbi who has helped more than 750 people become Jews says the Netflix hit succeeds despite its flaws.

Season 2 of Netflix's "Nobody Wants This" has sparked plenty of debate — much of it centering on how the show depicts Jewish women. Critics have rightly called out the stereotypes: the no-nonsense, overbearing mother, the controlling wife, the self-absorbed sister-in-law. These portrayals can feel dated and, at times, unfair. When Jewish characters appear so rarely in mainstream pop culture, every depiction carries extra weight — and we should demand better.

But I also think the pile-on has missed something important. The best comedy often plays on stereotypes; not to validate them, but to expose them and exaggerate them in a way that subverts them. Humor and cultural caricature have always been intertwined. And in this case, I believe the show's existence — with Jewish characters at its center, created by a Jewish convert (Erin Foster), and crafted in consultation with a rabbi (Sharon Brous) — is something worth celebrating, not condemning.

Let's also acknowledge that "Nobody Wants This" gets several things right.

It is absolutely realistic for a rabbi to be single and dating. It is equally realistic that such a rabbi might meet and fall in love with someone who isn't Jewish.

The show's "meddling family" scenes may feel exaggerated, but anyone who has worked with interfaith couples — as I do, exclusively — will recognize the truth behind them. There are always family expectations, anxieties and loyalties at play. Jewish parents and siblings often struggle to reconcile pride in their traditions with concern about their loved one's choices. Those tensions are real, and the show portrays them with a measure of honesty beneath the humor. I have seen much worse in reality.

Where the series misses its deepest opportunity, however, is in its treatment of conversion. Nearly 70% of Jews outside the Orthodox community today marry non-Jews. That's an extraordinary opportunity for growth. Interfaith relationships,

approached thoughtfully, can be pathways into Judaism rather than exits from it.

And so I cannot understand, and found it hard to watch, how Noah, the rabbi, knows he wants to marry a Jew and wishes his girlfriend, Joanne, would convert. Yet, he doesn't connect her to another rabbi or to a community that could guide her. Instead, he takes on the task of educating her himself — randomly and haphazardly (creating some seriously awkward scenes).

In real life, conversion is never a solo act. It unfolds within a community, guided by experienced mentors, study, and experiences. For Rabbi Noah, outsourcing that role to another colleague would not only have been more authentic — it would have modeled something beautiful: that Jewish learning and growth is relational, communal, and deeply supported.

Had they found our Center for Exploring Judaism, I would have taken Joanne under my wing. I would have invited her to community gatherings, and encouraged Noah and Joanne, as a couple, to join one of our classes — where she could see that she is not alone. I would cherish the chance to build a relationship with her grounded in honesty, warmth, and patience. I would remind her, as I do with all my students, that we have no agenda. We are here simply to walk this path of discovery alongside you. And we're thrilled by your interest!

Conversion, I'd explain, is an organic process — of learning, practicing, and thoughtfully trying things on for size. Come in. Learn. Experience. See what feels right. There is no exam, no checklist, even for those who ultimately choose to convert to Judaism. The only true test is the one that unfolds throughout the rest of your life. Joanne, do you feel like an imposter? Or, well informed by what you've learned, are you living your truth?

All this said, I think the criticism that the show might be "bad for the Jews" is unwarranted. At a time when antisemitism is at a modern high, the very fact that Judaism, rabbis and Jewish families are the subjects

of a major Netflix series is itself meaningful. "Nobody Wants This" is neither ignorant nor malicious; it's messy, human, and, yes, a little cringey — much like Jewish life itself. And above all else, it's a rom-com. Let's all take a breath.

The irony of the title isn't lost on me. Because in fact, Jews should want this. We should want Jewish stories on screen — even imperfect ones. We should want portrayals that spark discussion about how we love, live, and grow as Jews in the modern world. And we should want our communities to see interfaith love not as a threat, but as a chance to expand the circle

The truth is, everybody should want this.

The UJAC/CAI donations support and strengthens Jewish life in Canada, Israel and worldwide, ensuring our community remains proud, resilient, and united.

Thank you to the donors to the 2025 UJAC Campaign.

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Cemetery Rebuild Fund

by Grant Scharfstein

In the early morning of January 21, 2026, tragedy struck Congregation Agudas Israel. The shop where we store all our equipment and supplies to keep our cemetery beautiful was destroyed by fire. Attached are before and after pictures showing the devastating effects of the fire. Nothing was salvageable.



The history and importance of our Jewish Cemetery cannot be overstated. It is one of the most beautiful and well-maintained cemeteries in Saskatchewan thanks to the efforts of Ralph Katzman z"l.

No official cause of the fire has yet been determined. We are awaiting word from the insurance adjusters expert as to what he has found.

We need to rebuild. We have no choice. We have already started by borrowing and buying some items as we need to be ready for a funeral



at any time. In fact, we had a funeral at the cemetery on January

28th. With the generous support of neighbors and friends we were able to accommodate the funeral for the family.

We need your help now. Although we have some insurance coverage, the insurance will not be enough to rebuild as we need to. We are asking for your generous support in donating to our Cemetery Rebuild Fund.

Many of you have loved ones interred in our beautiful cemetery.

Help us keep the cemetery a place of which we can be proud.

There are a few ways you can



donate. First, we have started a 'GoFundMe' page that you can

access at the link below. If you donate through the GoFundMe page you will get

a charitable receipt directly from PayPal Giving Fund Canada.

<https://gofund.me/9f9e82e0f>

Second, you can also donate through GoFundMe by logging on to the Congregation Agudas Israel website and clicking on the Cemetery Rebuild Fund Donation icon and follow the instructions to donate.

Third, you can click on the DONATE button on the top right hand side of the Congregation website and choose either e-transfer or the regular PayPal.

Fourth, you can also send a cheque payable to Congregation Agudas Israel and indicate on the cheque that it is for the Cemetery Rebuild Fund. Finally, you can call Myla at the Congregation office at (306) 343-7023 ext. 1 to make a donation.

I want to thank you for your time and consideration and your very generous donation to this emergency fund raising campaign. If you have any comments or questions do not hesitate to contact me at gscharfstein@scharfsteinlaw.com, or call me at (306) 653-2838

Cultural Heritage Month

Harold and Lisa Shiffman represented the Jewish communities of Saskatchewan as attendees of a legislative sitting where cultural heritage months were recognized as a standing event.



In the past, applications to have one's heritage month had to be submitted on a yearly basis. May will now be recognized by the provincial government as Jewish Heritage Month.

Pictured: Harold Shiffman, Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport - Alana Ross, Lisa Shiffman.



Homage, 2025. Acrylic on paper, 64 x 58 in.

**Betsy Rosenwald:
To Understanding,
Through Understanding**

January 22–May 2, 2026
Opening reception: January 29 at 7 p.m.

Ukrainian Museum of Canada
Spadina Crescent E, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3H5
306-244-3800
info@umcnational.ca

This exhibition brings together new drawings and paintings created by artist Betsy Rosenwald during her 2025 residency at the Ukrainian Museum of Canada. *To Understanding, Through Understanding* explores the complex, intertwined identities that emerge from centuries of migration, settlement, cultural exchange, and conflict in Ukraine and its neighbouring regions.

Rosenwald arrived at the museum with only a broad sense of her family's roots. Although she had grown up identifying as "Russian Jewish," the escalation of Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022 sparked a deeper recognition: the names of Ukrainian cities dominating the news—Lviv, Belz, Bila Tserkva, Shepetivka—were in fact the places her great-grandparents and grandparents had lived. During her residency, conversations with Museum staff and engagement with the Museum's collections encouraged her to delve into the histories of these regions and the experiences of Jewish communities within them.

The resulting body of work traces Rosenwald's journey of rediscovery, weaving together personal and regional histories. Her paintings and drawings consider how family stories fit within the broader, often turbulent history of Ukraine, and how the past shapes contemporary understandings of identity and belonging.

By situating her family's migration story within the long arc of Ukrainian history, Rosenwald invites visitors to reflect on the forces that shape communities, the resilience of cultural memory, and the ongoing impact of displacement and conflict. *To Understanding, Through Understanding* is both an intimate exploration and a deeply resonant look at how we come to know who we are—and where we come from.

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This page is sponsored by Jeffrey and Sherril Stein.

Stoicheff Usask Presidency Ends On \$10-Million High Note

Article courtesy of the University of Saskatchewan news.usask.ca

With a \$10-million gift from alumni Xiaoping (Bob) Xu (MA'92, LLD'17) and Ling (Linda) Chen (MA'90), a decade of visionary leadership by University of Saskatchewan (USask) President Peter Stoicheff has been honoured.

The gift will support the USask School for the Arts in the College of Arts and Science, with funds going towards enhancing the David L. Kaplan Chair in Music and strings program, theatre expansion, student supports, and curriculum modernization.

In a letter explaining the generous gift, Xu and Chen expressed their gratitude for Stoicheff's commitment to excellence.

"In profound appreciation for your leadership and dedicated service to our alma mater, and with deep gratitude for the education that transformed our lives, Linda and I are delighted to commit \$10 million to the University," wrote Xu and Chen.

"This gift is our way of expressing the lifelong gratitude we feel," the letter continued. Bob goes on to say, "I still reflect on my convocation speech, in which I noted that the University of Saskatchewan's generosity in the 1980s felt like an unfathomable gift. That experience—the spirit of giving and belief in potential—established fundamental values that shaped who I am today. It is that core spirit that I hope this donation will help sustain."

After a decade of serving the university as president and vice-chancellor, Stoicheff stepped away from this role on Dec. 31, 2025.

"This is a transformational gift for the School for the Arts, and I am inspired by Bob and Linda's commitment to creating educational opportunities for everyone through their extraordinary philanthropy," said Stoicheff, who previously served as dean of the College of Arts and Science. "Such generosity from our alumni demonstrates the lasting impact of education and affirms our aspiration to be what the world needs. I am truly humbled and honoured."

Xu and Chen are dedicated philanthropists and proud proponents of USask. The couple helped establish the David L. Kaplan Music Scholarship with a \$1-million donation in 2010 to provide financial support for music students at USask. In 2017, they donated

another \$2 million to create the David L. Kaplan Chair in Music, to develop a strings program in the department and provide music students with opportunities to travel and perform worldwide.

Xiaoping (Bob) Xu (MA'92, LLD'17) and Ling (Linda) Chen (MA'90) are dedicated philanthropists and proud proponents of USask. (Photo: Dave Stobbe)

Professor Emeritus David Kaplan, who passed away in 2015, was a gifted musician, composer, and conductor for 10 years of the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra. His career at USask spanned more than 40 years, including 22 years as Department Head of Music.

"He embraced us with profound love and care when we first arrived to Canada from China in the 1980s as graduate students," said Xu of Kaplan at the time of the 2017 donation. "His strength of character, warmth and unconditional devotion to his students serve as the model by which we—and countless others—live our lives. The way he treated us left a deep impression on me, and I thought of him as a role model as I started my own career as a consultant for Chinese

students who wanted to study overseas." Since graduating from USask with a

master's degree in music in 1992, Xu co-founded New Oriental Education & Technology Group in 1993, the largest provider of private education in China, training more than 15 million students. He has also established ZhenFund, China's largest and foremost seed fund that invests in emerging start-up businesses to help promote and support innovation among youth in China and beyond.

Xu's innovative investment strategies earned him a spot on Forbes Magazine's Midas List of the world's top 100 venture capitalists.

In 2017, USask conferred an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree to Xu, and he gave an inspiring and touching address.

"Sometimes we get more than we deserve. I know this, because it is how I have always felt, about what I received from the University of Saskatchewan," he said in the address. "The university has honoured me, but really, I am here today to honour the university."



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This page is sponsored by Dr. Edward Kaplan of New Haven, Connecticut

Let's "Dish" About the Seder Plate!

In ancient times our sages taught that in anticipation of the Passover holiday, we Jews should prepare a specially made, large wicker container in which to place Passover's symbolic foods. This wicker container would then be displayed on the seder table.

That's right. The first seder plate wasn't made of china or ceramic, pewter or silver – it was more like a wicker basket. And it most likely wasn't round. In fact historians tell us that the actual name was "ke'arah" which is the Hebrew word, not for "plate" but for "tray."

We find the first mention of what was

to become the central focus of the seder table, the plate or the "ke'arah," in the Mishnah. Written in about the third century CE, the Mishnah, which is the earliest compilation of Jewish Oral Law, features most of the rituals and prayers required for the Passover seder including directions for preparing what has become known as the seder plate.

Later, during the medieval period when Ashkenazi Jews began to write and publish "haggadot," (the booklet used at the Passover seder to explain the meaning of the Exodus from Egypt), drawings of a large, round seder plate began to appear in the illustrations. However, the haggadot published by the Sephardi Jews of Spain, Portugal, Italy, as well as in the Middle East, often depicted the seder plate as the traditional wicker basket.

But before long Sephardi Jewish communities whose artisans had learned to create ceramic art moved away from the wicker basket and in 15th century Spain began to craft large ceramic plates replete with illustrations highlighting not only Jewish but Islamic culture as well. Thus the Passover Seder Plate as an art form was born.

In 18th-century Germany, Jews who were asked to make seder plates made of pewter began to add engraved illustrations, Hebrew phrases and inscriptions were added to the plates themselves, while wealthy families in 18th and 19th century Germany commissioned ornate silver plates that featured intricately engraved scenes from

the haggadah. Later on Jewish artisans were commissioned to create a three-tiered seder plate with a special opening designed to contain the three pieces of matzah, the unleavened bread that was carried by Jewish women during our escape from slavery in Egypt.



Today seder plates are often passed down in families, from grandparents, to parents to children, and in some cultures the plate itself makes a grand entrance to the seder table.

In Morocco the seder plate is brought to the Passover table with great ceremony. Covered with a beautiful transparent cloth, the plate is carried by the seder leader as the assembled guests greet its arrival with a joyful song.


In Tunisia, Southern Italy and the islands of Sicily and Sardinia the seder plate is also welcomed with great aplomb as it is carried to the table by the "lady of the house." It is customary that she then holds the plate over the head of the seder leader who then takes the plate and standing behind each guest, holds the plate over each person's head. The seder begins in this manner to demonstrate that although we were once slaves in Egypt and carried heavy burdens on our heads, today we are free to choose to "carry" the seder plate, a symbol of the precious gift of freedom.

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Thank you to **Tom Mann**, who takes care of our Kosher needs.

Biography of the Month: Hannah Senesh

by Stan Schroeder

Ordinarily I choose someone who was born during the month of the Shir Notes issue. However I recently saw the movie *Blessed is the Match: the Life and Death of Hannah Senesh*. I have known the story of Hannah Senesh for many years, but I was so moved by the movie that I am choosing her so that I can share her life and legacy.

Hannah Senesh was born July 17, 1921 in Budapest, Hungary into an assimilated well-to-do Jewish family. Her father Bela, a journalist and playwright, died when Hannah was six. Her mother Katrina raised Hannah and her brother Giora, one year older. Hannah enrolled in a Protestant private school for girls which also accepted Jewish students (for three times the tuition). She was an exceptional student, had a charming personality, and was popular with her classmates. She excelled in literature and was elected as her class representative in the Literary Society.

However the school rules forbid a Jew from holding any office and a new election was held. This was a heavy blow for Hannah and a turning point in her life. Although Judaism had not been a significant part of her life, she now realized the effects of the virulent anti-Semitism in Hungary and became an ardent Zionist. At seventeen she joined Maccabea, a Hungarian Zionist students organization, learned Hebrew, and prepared to move to Palestine.

Despite her mother's concerns Hannah not only wanted to move to Palestine, she wanted to "work the land" in the labor Zionist tradition. So in September 1939 she set sail to study in the Nahalal Agricultural School and began to apply herself to the actual chore of living, learning, and building up the land of Israel. She was enthusiastic about her life ahead and wrote her mother of her experiences, including hand-drawn pictures. She was imbued with Zionist ideology, studying works of many of the various Zionist and Jewish thinkers. She also began writing her poems in Hebrew.

In 1941 she finished her studies at Nahalal. In the ensuing time, she visited various settlements to see where she would settle. Finally she decided upon Sdot Yam, a kibbutz near Haifa on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea. She was given a tent and survived a difficult and freezing winter

there. She was accepted as a member and became its Supply Officer.

At this time the war was raging in Europe and her heart was with her mother in Hungary and her brother in occupied France. A representative of the Palmach, the armed forces of the Jewish Agency, contacted her concerning a mission in Hungary. The purpose was to organize and prepare the Jews for escape from the inferno of Europe.

After several months she was accepted, but her assignment required special training and enlistment in the British army. For this she was transferred to Egypt. Upon completion of her training as a parachutist and radio operator she returned to Haifa where she met her brother, Giora who had just arrived in Palestine. The next day she left for the mission.

On March 15th, 1944 Hannah and several others were parachuted into Yugoslavia. While there at a partisan camp, Hannah wrote the poem *Blessed is the Match*:

Blessed is the match consumed in kindling flame. Blessed is the flame that burns in the secret fastness of the heart. Blessed is the heart with strength to stop its beating for honor's sake.

Blessed is the match consumed in kindling flame.

Partisans helped the team cross the border into Hungary on May 13th. Unfortunately they were quickly captured by the Nazis, probably alerted by an informant. Hannah was taken to a Gestapo prison in Budapest. She was tortured in an attempt to get the radio codes, but refused to divulge them. Her mother was imprisoned and tortured in front of her - she still refused. Hannah was executed November 8, 1944, leaving a last letter to her mother.

Her body, and those of six other paratroopers who died, were flown to Israel in 1950 and buried in the Martyrs section on Mt. Herzl in Jerusalem.

The movie is a remarkable tribute to a brave woman, a gifted writer, and a national heroine. It includes interviews with those who served with her and were imprisoned with her.

Stan is Editor of Congregation Shir Amil's in Los Angeles and as been a contributor to The Bulletin for many years.



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This page is sponsored by Alan, Linda and Sam Goluboff of Toronto

Iran and Israel: Longstanding Partners, Not Perpetual Enemies

by Kourosh Yousefi

To understand the relationship between Iranians and Israelis, one must first look back roughly 2,500 years to the era of Cyrus the Great, the Persian king who conquered Babylon and issued a decree allowing the Jewish people to return to their ancestral homeland — Jerusalem, the eternal capital of Israel — and rebuild their Temple. This historic act is widely regarded as a foundational moment in the enduring cultural and historical ties between Persians and Jews.

Cyrus's legacy has endured in Jewish collective memory and scripture, and even today, many Israelis speak of him with deep respect. Streets and public spaces in several major Israeli cities bear his name, reflecting a recognition of his historical role.

After Cyrus issued the decree, not all of the exiled Jewish population chose to return. Many Jewish families had established economic and social roots within the vast Persian Empire and opted to remain. Their decision helped give rise to some of the oldest continuous Jewish communities in Iranian history.

The Jewish presence in Iran was significant enough that the city of Isfahan — one of the oldest cities in the world — was historically referred to as “Yahudiyeh.” Today, despite the pressures that arose after the 1979 Islamic Revolution, a Jewish community continues to reside in Isfahan.

Additionally, several sites of deep religious importance to Jews are located in Iran, including the Tomb of Daniel in Shush, the burial place of Mordechai and Esther in Hamadan, and, according to some traditions, the Tomb of Habakkuk the Prophet. These sites stand as historical evidence of the longstanding Jewish presence in Iranian

lands.

A Strategic Relationship in the 20th Century

In the modern era, under Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, Iran maintained a close and cooperative relationship with the State of Israel. From the early 1950s until the late 1970s, the two countries engaged in robust political, economic, and, at times, strategic cooperation. Indeed, Iran was for a time the only majority-Muslim country in the Middle East with substantial, sustained ties to Israel — rooted in shared geopolitical interests and opposition to radical Arab nationalism.

During this period, Israel and Iran saw each other as strategic partners against common regional pressures. This alignment was driven by mutual concerns about pan-Arabism and a desire to contain regional instability.

Revolution, Change, and Hardship for Iranian Jews

The 1979 Islamic Revolution fundamentally transformed the relationship. With the overthrow of the Shah and the rise of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's theocratic regime, diplomatic ties were severed and

anti-Israel rhetoric became state policy. One of the consequences of this shift was a significant deterioration in the social and legal environment for Iranian Jews, leading many to emigrate — especially to Israel and Western countries.

Prior to the revolution, Iranian Jews were among the most established minority communities in the Middle East, with considerable participation in the country's economic life. However, after 1979, a combination of state policies and political climate made life increasingly difficult, prompting many to leave.

Despite this, the Iranian Jewish community retained a complex identity. Members of the Iranian Jewish diaspora

in Israel often reflect on a dual sense of belonging and loss — a testament to the deep historical roots that bind the two civilizations.

Shadows and Surprises in Modern Conflict

Even amid sharp official hostility between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the State of Israel, there have been moments of indirect cooperation. For example, during the Iran–Iraq War of the 1980s, Israel provided covert military assistance to Iran out of strategic concern about an Iraqi victory — despite the lack of formal diplomatic relations.

Yet, in recent years, tensions have escalated dramatically. Iranian leadership has embraced a hardline stance against

continued on page 16



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This page is sponsored by Lisa and Harold Shiffman.

Hamantaschen Tarts

Ingredients

Hamantaschen:

3/4 cup sugar

2 cups flour

1/2 teaspoon baking powder

1/4 teaspoon salt

1 stick butter

1/2 teaspoon vanilla

1 egg

2 tablespoons orange juice

1 cup uncooked rice

Pastry Cream:

2 cups milk divided in two (I used low fat but whole would probably be even tastier!)

6 large egg yolks

2/3 cup sugar divided in two

3 tablespoons cornstarch

1 teaspoon vanilla

1 jar marmalade



Instructions

To make the hamantaschen, combine the sugar, flour, baking powder and salt.

Add the butter, egg, vanilla and orange juice to dry ingredients and mix with fingers.

Combine and form dough into a ball.

Chill for 1-2 hours.

To make the pastry cream, whisk up half your milk, sugar and the cornstarch with all the egg yolks.

Whisk this every so often so it doesn't sit too long.

Then, add the rest of your milk and sugar to a pot and bring to a scald.

After your milk is scalded, temper into the egg mixture, whisk, and they put

back in the original pot you scalded your milk in.

Stir on a low to medium heat until your pastry cream gets thick.

Add the vanilla and strain out lumps onto a piece of saran wrap. Wrap her up and refrigerate until ready to use.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Roll dough out, and cut into circles with cookie cutter or wine glass.

Then fold the sides to form a triangle and push the side up a bit to make a wall.

Brush each hamantaschen with an egg wash, put a piece of parchment paper in each one and fill each one with rice, making sure to press into the triangle shape. We are going to blind bake these

to keep the middle area flat as a surface for our pastry cream! Blind baking is basically putting a fake filling so the tart or pie will keep its shape. I used rice. Bake until the sides start to brown, or about 7 minutes. Then remove the rice and parchment paper and bake for about 5 more minutes until the tarts are golden brown.

Now just fill your hamantaschen tarts with pastry cream- I piped it in but you can just use a spoon too. It doesn't have to be super pretty since we are covering these suckers with fruit!

Now just arrange your fruit on the tarts. I heated up some marmalade in a saucepan to brush on top to create a shiny glaze.

Editorial ... continued from page 4

were to hold a march or rally for any reason. One of the people I met at a rally is Kourosh (Cyrus) Yousefi. He has written an article about the relationship between the Iranian people and Israel, from his perspective and through including historical facts. Through Kourosh's writing and discussions I've had with his wife, Nikoo, I have learned more about the historical relationship between Israel and Iran, and how both countries are currently fighting the same fight. Though it took tragedy to bring us together, I feel honoured and humbled to have been accepted with open arms by the Iranian

community. My world has been greatly enhanced by meeting these brave, strong people. I know that over time, our paths will cross more and more frequently and though the bridge between the communities already exists, we will cross it regularly and maintain this new, yet old, friendship indefinitely. Thank you, Nikoo, Kourosh, Ali, Apooyah, Ellie and everyone else who has made us feel warm and welcomed as we stand with you. May your people experience the freedom you seek, in a very timely manner.

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Rabbi Claudio	Thank you for helping me with my Bar Mitzvah	Levi Gitlin

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715 McKinnon Avenue, Saskatoon S7H 2G2 will be gratefully received and faithfully applied.

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Thank you for your continued support.**

Israel, aligning with proxy movements and militant groups opposed to the Jewish state — a stance that has contributed to rising geopolitical conflict across the Middle East.

People vs. Regimes: A Persistent Divide

Despite intense political and military hostility between the governments of the Islamic Republic and Israel, popular attitudes among ordinary Iranians have not always mirrored official state policy. Many Iranians, both inside and outside Iran, maintain cultural sympathy or admiration for Israel rooted in historical memory and personal identity.

A striking example of this dynamic emerged in 2023 following a major terrorist attack on Israeli civilians. Iranians around the world — distinct from the Iranian government — marched in solidarity with Israelis, carrying Israeli flags and expressing support for Israeli civilians even as they protested the Iranian regime and its policies.

A New Chapter on the Horizon?

Today, observers note that the ongoing popular dissatisfaction with the Iranian government could create openings for renewed engagement between Iran and Israel in the future. Many Iranian activists and

diaspora leaders have expressed hope for a post-regime era in which bilateral ties could be restored and strengthened.

In 2023, the State of Israel invited Prince Reza Pahlavi, a prominent Iranian opposition figure and scion of the former Iranian monarchy, marking a symbolic shift and highlighting aspirations for a democratic and peaceful Iran. In his remarks in Israel, Prince Pahlavi described Iranians as “children of Cyrus the Great,” seeking a future grounded in tolerance, respect for human rights, and religious pluralism.

Proponents of this emerging vision speak of a future in which Iranians and Israelis share robust cultural, scientific, and economic cooperation — a goal they believe honors their shared history and common interests.

Shared History, Shared Challenges

When viewed in broad historical perspective, the relationship between Iranians and Israelis reveals that these two

peoples have never been inherent enemies. Instead, their connection has often been defined by deep cultural ties and shared adversaries.

In earlier eras, figures such as Hafez al-Assad, Muammar Qaddafi, Saddam Hussein, Yasser Arafat, and Hassan Nasrallah stood in opposition to both Iranian and Israeli interests. In the present day, leaders such as Naim Qassem, Khaled Meshaal, and Recep Tayyip Erdoğan are perceived in similar terms by many who advocate closer alignment between Tehran’s populace and Jerusalem.

What remains striking is that the determination of ordinary Iranians and Israelis to overcome these past and present adversaries has frequently served as a central pillar of solidarity and cooperation between them.

Kouros is a friend of the Saskatoon Jewish Community from the Saskatoon Iranian Community.

Quarterly QUIZ!

Answers

1. Four
2. The new year of trees (Tu BiShvat, 15 Shevat), the new year of years (Rosh Hashanah, 1 Tishrei), the new year of kings (1 Nissan), the new year of animals (1 Elul)
3. Morris Schumiatcher
4. Nathan Phillips, elected Mayor of Toronto in 1955.
5. Sidney Buckwold, elected 1957.
6. New Jerusalem near Moosomin, established 1884.
7. 7 times in 19 years.
8. Separation.
9. There are 248 positive and 365 negative mitzvot.
10. Congregation Emanu-el Temple in Victoria, BC, built in 1863.



Congregation Agudas Israel
Invites You to Our

PASSOVER

Community Seder

WEDNESDAY APRIL 1ST
SERVICE 6:30PM · SEDER 7PM

More Details to Follow. Contact rosy@agudasisrael.org for more information

Dennis Ditlove Camper Support

The Dennis Ditlove Fund will provide substantial financial support to increase the number children from CAI attending Camp B'nai Brith/Riback (<https://campbb.com/>). Jewish summer camp is a significant factor in developing Jewish identity as well as maturity, resilience, independence and significant friendships.

Just as in Calgary and Edmonton, the amount provided depends on family income (as per T4s) and the number of dependents. The support ranges from \$500 to 100% of the camp registration fees. No one from the Jewish community, including the Ditlove family, will ever see the information provided by each family.

1. send an email to EY (formerly Ernst and Young Chartered Accountants): jeff.pickett@ca.ey.com The email must have the name of the camper, the name and dates of the session, the total registration cost, and the number of dependents living at home. Be sure to attach the T4 or T4s from the adults of the home. No T4 is required if you are requesting the \$500 of support.

Pre tax Income	1 Dependent	2 Dependents	3+ Dependents
\$40,000	100%	100%	100%
\$50,000	90%	100%	100%
\$60,000	80%	90%	100%
\$70,000	70%	80%	90%
\$80,000	60%	70%	80%
\$90,000	50%	60%	70%
\$100,000	50%	50%	60%
\$110,000	50%	50%	60%
\$120,000	40%	50%	50%
\$130,000	40%	40%	50%
\$140,000	30%	40%	40%
\$150,000	30%	40%	40%
\$160,000	20%	30%	40%
\$170,000	20%	30%	40%
\$180,000+	\$500	\$500	\$500

2. You should receive an email from Mr. Pickett confirming the total that will be paid by the Ditlove Fund within 3 weeks.

3. Once you have the written confirmation, send your deposit to camp as soon as possible. Provide a copy of the email from Mr. Pickett so the camp will send an invoice to EY for the amount specified.

4. There may be special circumstances where more funding could be available. Please contact the B'nai Brith President, David Katzman (dl.katzman@sasktel.net).

This is the first year of this initiative and we will be seeking feedback from the community in the fall to improve the process.

For more information:

David Katzman dl.katzman@sasktel.net
 Matt Steen mattd.steen@gmail.com

Rabbi ... continued from page 4

with Joseph's remains. One honoured the past and one represented the future.

As we celebrate the return of the hostages, honour the victims and recognize the heroism of the survivors of October 7th, I would like to invite you to think about the challenges that are still ahead for us. The first one is the unimaginable levels of antisemitism we are experiencing around the world, including here in Canada. We have seen growing expressions of anti-Jewish hate in our country through violent attacks, vandalism, arson, harassment and intimidation. The traditional

Christian antisemitism is still present in some religious celebrations, through ritual texts that condemn Jews and plays that depict stereotypical Jewish characters who are greedy and not trustworthy. This demands that we act not from fear or reactivity, but through a stronger Jewish identity expressed in our commitment to learn more about Judaism, and by participating in synagogue and community events.

The second challenge is to never forget that as Jews we are commanded to respond to tragedy through empathy. After being

liberated from slavery, we were commanded not once but 36 times to love the stranger 'because we were strangers in the land of Egypt'. We might feel that October 7th finally came to an end, but the suffering of the people in Gaza continues. There is displacement and extreme poverty, orphans and widows, and so an empathetic response is our religious obligation regardless of any political views. One of the most dramatic Midrashim in our tradition is the one that imagines the angels singing the Hallel (Psalms of praise) to God when our ancestors had crossed the Red Sea and seen the Egyptian soldiers drowning in the water. God doesn't like the gesture and complains "My children are dying, and you celebrate with songs?!" I invite you to celebrate the return of the hostages and the end of a very difficult time for our people, while we engage in empathy for the ongoing tragedy in Gaza, hoping for a time of peace and prosperity for Israel and its neighbors.

B'bracha,
 Rabbi Claudio



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Yahrzeits

March 7	Adar 18
Jean Davidner	Sat 03-07 Adar 18
Lillian Levitt	
Lorraine Sklar	
Keren-Or Wilczek	
John B. Goodman	Sun 03-08 Adar 19
William Guttman	
Tiby L.E. Mathews	
Vera Schlucker	
Baby Segal	
Rosie Sellinger	
Ed Vickar	
Esther Freeman	Mon 03-09 Adar 20
Reva Hock	
Anni Leffman	
Malka Schmuck'vich	
Harry Steiger	
Gertrude Chertkow	Tues 03-10 Adar 21
Libbie Good	
Morris Gurstein	
Mendel Pepper	
Jacob Rabkin	
Anatoly Pekurovski	Wed 03-11 Adar 22
Reuben Brant	Thurs 03-12 Adar 23
Freda Epstein	
Harry M. Bondar	Fri 03-13 Adar 24
Rebecca Segal	
Yenta Shafer	
Goldie Wolfe	
March 14	Adar 25
Jennie Bobowsky	Sat 03-14 Adar 25
Fanny Shore	
William Sklar	
Max Taylor	Sun 03-15 Adar 26
David Berkovich	Mon 03-16 Adar 27
Pearl Goodman	
Keile Bodovsky	Tues 03-17 Adar 28
Richard Buckwold	
Rebecca Forgan	
Solomon Ginsberg	
William Katz	
Nathan Gladstone	Wed 03-18 Adar 29
Eva Kolominsky	
Clara Lehrer	Thur 03-19 Nissan 1
David Horowitz	Fri 03-20 Nissan 2
March 21	Nissan 3
Jack Adilman	Sat 03-21 Nissan 3
Jacob Michael Goldenberg	
Jacob Barsky	Sun 03-22 Nissan 4
Dorothy Buckwold	
Kariton Kolominsky	
Sarah Ponak	
Abraham Teitelbaum	
Samuel Brown	Mon 03-23 Nissan 5
Marco Levy	
David Shafer	
Samuel Caplan	Tues 03-24 Nissan 6
Bert Frank	
Joe Goldenberg	
Kenneth MacDonald	
Dora Morgan	
Lazer Gersher	Wed 03-25 Nissan 7
Judah M. Jaffe	
Miroslava (Mirka) Pollak	Thur 03-26 (8)
Gerry Rose	
Rachel Horowitz	Fri 03-27 Nissan 9
Miriam Shaket	
March 28	Nissan 10
Max Goldberg	Sat 03-28 Nissan 10
Sarah Melamede	

James Greenblat	Sun 03-29 Nissan 11
Jolan Zickerman	
Keiva Feldman	Mon 03-30 Nissan 12
Fanny Filer	
Barbara Gaynor	
Sarah Livergant	
Frank Bernbaum	Tues 03-31 Nissan 13
Dorey Heller	
Wolfe Korbin	
Max Reznick	
Edward Baron	Wed 04-01 Nissan 14
Alice Cameron	
Alex Fayerman	
Joel Green	
Simcha Scharfstein	
Maynard Gertler	Thurs 04-02 Nissan 15
Leopold Neumann	
Solomon Neumann	
Heshkel Soffer	
Sara Berenbom	Fri 04-03 Nissan 16
April 4	Nissan 17
Tamara Avivi	Sat 04-04 Nissan 17
Abraham Bobroff	
David Kaplan	
David Katz	Mon 04-06 Nissan 19
Bud Wasserman	
Kasiel Winocour	
Irwin Joseph Kahan	Tues 04-07 Nissan 20
Allan Barsky	Wed 04-08 Nissan 21
Goldie Filer	Fri 04-10 Nissan 22
Sadie Goldstein	
Stuart Goldstein	
Liza Portnaya	
April 11	Nissan 24
Enid P. Wine	Sat 04-11 Nissan 24
Rosa Fessler	Sun 04-12 Nissan 25
Tibor Braun	Mon 04-13 Nissan 26
Clara Filer	
Molly Grotzky	
Judel Teitelbaum	Tues 04-14 Nissan 27
Aaron Volansky	
Bertha Roe Baron	Wed 04-15 Nissan 28
Keos Lertzman	
Bernice Levitan	
Jacob Morgan	
Allen Ross	
Mordcha Joseph Bernbaum	Thur 04-16 (29)
Albert Broudy	
Sarah Mazer	
Morris Shechtman	
Jennie Shore	
Isadore Baruch Aarons	Fri 04-17 Nissan 30
William Brant	
Herschel Davidner	
Leah Gilbert	
April 18	Iyar 1
Leonid Flikshteyn	Sat 04-18 Iyar 1
Norbert Meth	
Joe Scharfstein	
Isador Sugarman	
Max Swartz	
Mrs. Mani Udin	
Nechamah Kaplan	Mon 04-20 Iyar 3
Ann Strauss Gertler	Tues 04-21 Iyar 4
Jack Bermack	Wed 04-22 Iyar 5
Sheila Bobroff	
Joseph Germek	
Orville Katz	
Simon Clein	Thur 04-23 Iyar 6
Samuel Fayerman	
Max Nisenholt	
Irwin Ruttle	

April 25	Iyar 8
Rebecca Friedman	Sat 04-25 Iyar 8
Gertrude Cyprus	Sun 04-26 Iyar 9
Mirla Avol	Mon 04-27 Iyar 10
Max Sharzer	
Robert Mitchell	Tues 04-28 Iyar 11
Sam Sternberg	
Tully Conn	Wed 04-29 Iyar 12
Edith Koffman	
Aharon Mizrahi	
Minnie Rogers	
Maurice Handelman	Thurs 04-30 Iyar 13
Viktor Pollak	
May 2	Iyar 15
Karen Jane Fogel	Sat 05-2 Iyar 15
Sam Sadowsky	
Sarah Adelman	Sun 05-03 Iyar 16
Robert Gitlin	
Anton Kamenicky	
Hyman Segal	
Maya Shnaper	
Percy Stollar	
Helen Singer	Mon 05-04 Iyar 17
Clara Golumbia	Tues 05-05 Iyar 18
Lewis Horwitz	
Sidney Panar	
L. Strayer	
Marion Vickar	
Michael Davidner	Wed 05-06 Iyar 19
Joseph Winestock	
Minnie Katz Schell	Thur 05-07 Iyar 20
William Laimon	
Elka Pillersdorf	
Anthony Burtnick	Fri 05-08 Iyar 21
Tillie Scharfstein	
Feiga Shendelzon	
Lena Sugarman	
May 9	Iyar 22
Sam Davidner	Sat 05-09 Iyar 22
Goldie Kassen	
Benjamin Ollman	
Sadie Smith	
Solomon Dragushan	Sun 05-10 Iyar 23
Herman Green	
Mildred Berlow	Mon 05-11 Iyar 24
Cherna Friedman	
Leah Gladstone	
Sam Hock	
David Rabinovitch	
Gladys Rose	
Edith Roth	
Sylvia Sandbrand	
Esther Solsberg	Tues 05-12 Iyar 25
Fred Mendel	Wed 05-13 Iyar 26
Rachel Muscovitch	
Ruth Shear	
Eliezer Goodman	Thur 05-14 Iyar 27
Broche Minovitz	Fri 05-15 Iyar 28
Fanny Rapaport	
Ethel Spector	
May 16	Iyar 29
Frank Gertler	Sat 05-16 Iyar 29
Jack H. Litman	
Jack Kaslow	Sun 05-17 Sivan 1
William Kutz	
Bernard Sharzer	
Abraham Bruser	Tues 05-18 Sivan 3
Rita Epstein	
Jacob Mazer	
Arthur Rose	
Abram Hoffer	Wed 05-20 Sivan 4
Ben Tartar	
Albert Epstein	Thur 05-21 Sivan 5
Joe Katzman	

Anita Lefebvre	
Bernard Lehrer	
Harry Cohen	Fri 05-22 Sivan 6
William Grobman	
May 23	Sivan 7
Ruth Gonor	Sun 05-24 Sivan 8
Libba Korbin	
Rose Litman	
Rose Manolson	
Paul Swartz	
Goldie Brounstein	Mon 05-25 Sivan 9
Semyon Furman	
Lloyd Hock	Tues 05-26 Sivan 10
David Taras	
Ida Domey	Wed 05-27 Sivan 11
Samuel Golumbia	Thur 05-28 Sivan 12
Florence Russell	
Sophie Cornfield	Fri 05-29 Sivan 13
Abraham Prober	
Clare Richman	
May 30	Sivan 14
Bessie Golumbia	Sat 05-30 Sivan 14
Rose Levinton	
Nettie Steiger	
Harry Hillman	Sun 05-31 Sivan 15
Samuel Schacter	
Seda Margolis	Mon 06-01 Sivan 16
Bathsheba Baron	Tues 06-02 Sivan 17
Marlene Ditlove	
Ralph Katzman	
Jack Mallin	
Amelia Sandbrand	
Zoltan Fenyes	Wed 06-03 Sivan 18
Selma Green	
David Trachtenberg	
Clarice Buckwold	Thurs 06-04 Sivan 19
Sonia Churchill	
Sam Landa	
Lottie Levitt	
Bertha Adler	Fri 06-05 Sivan 20
Bessie Gladstone	
June 6	Sivan 21
Bessie Ames	Sat 06-06 Sivan 21
Frances Bernbaum	
Anna Lehrer	
Sophie Drabinsky	Sun 06-07 Sivan 22
Sheila Krolik	
Myron Melamede	
Bert Gladstone	Mon 06-08 Sivan 23
Clarice Schwartz	
Jacob Claman	Tues 06-09 Sivan 24
Welver Beryl Flikshteyn	
Grace Goluboff	
Susanne Kaplan	
Ruth Bondar	Wed 06-10 Sivan 25
Herman Levine	
Sam Zaitlen	
Vera Barsky	Thur 06-11 Sivan 26
Benjamin Rachamim	
Israel Ragoff	
Kathryn Cooper	Fri 06-12 Sivan 27
Robert Floom	



Synagogue Sightings

Hannukah Party



Latke Making Bee



Jewish Employee Network and Hillel meet-up



Tu b'shvat



From Many Peoples Strength Celebration



Rally for Iran

March 2026 / 5786

April 2026 / 5786

May 2026 / 5786

sun	mon	tues	wed	thurs	friday	saturday
Mar 1 Adar 12  Purim Mask Decorating 1:00-3:00 pm	2 Adar 13	3 Adar 14  Purim Community Celebration & Potluck Dinner 5:30 pm	4 Adar 15	5 Adar 16 Torah Study Group 7:00 pm	6 Adar 17	7 Adar 18 Ki Tisa SHABBAT PARAH * Jordana Jacobson
8 Adar 19	9 Adar 20	10 Adar 21	11 Adar 22	12 Adar 23 Torah Study Group 7:00 pm	13 Adar 24	14 Adar 25 Vayakhel-Pekudel SHABBAT HACHODESH *Grant Scharfstein
15 Adar 26	16 Adar 27	17 Adar 28 Board Meeting 7:00 pm	18 Adar 29	19 Nisan 1 Torah Study Group 7:00 pm	20 Nisan 2	21 Nisan 3 Vayikra *Michael Scharfstein
22 Nisan 4	23 Nisan 5	24 Nisan 6 Book Club 7:00 pm 	25 Nisan 7	26 Nisan 8 Torah Study Group 7:00 pm	27 Nisan 9 Hebrew School Family Service 5:30 pm	28 Nisan 10 Tzav SHABBAT HAGADOL *Jan Gitlin
29 Nisan 11 Tefillin Club 10:30 am	30 Nisan 12	31 Nisan 13	Apr 1 Nisan 14 Community Seder Service 6:30 pm Seder 7:00 pm First Seder	2 Nisan 15 OFFICE CLOSED Service 10:00 am Passover	3 Nisan 16 OFFICE CLOSED Passover	4 Nisan 17 Intermediate Day *Gideon Weisman
5 Nisan 18 Intermediate Day	6 Nisan 19 Intermediate Day	7 Nisan 20 Intermediate Day	8 Nisan 21 OFFICE CLOSED Passover	9 Nisan 22 OFFICE CLOSED YIZKOR Passover	10 Nisan 23	11 Nisan 24 Shemini * Robert Engelbert
12 Nisan 25	13 Nisan 26	14 Nisan 27	15 Nisan 28	16 Nisan 29	17 Nisan 30	18 Iyar 1 Tazria-Metzora ROSH CHODESH *Kevin Sharfe
19 Iyar 2	20 Iyar 3	21 Iyar 4 Board Meeting 7:00 pm	22 Iyar 5	23 Iyar 6	24 Iyar 7 Hebrew School Family Service 5:30 pm	25 Iyar 8 Achrei Mot-Kedoshim *Dani Blakely
26 Iyar 9 Tefillin Club 9:30 am B'nai Brith Meeting 10:00 am	27 Iyar 10	28 Iyar 11  Cooking Club 6:00 pm	29 Iyar 12	30 Iyar 13	May 1 Iyar 14	2 Iyar 15 Emor *Harold Shiffman
3 Iyar 16	4 Shevat 17 	5 Iyar 18	6 Iyar 19	7 Iyar 20	8 Iyar 21	9 Iyar 22 Behar-Bechukoai *Daniel Katzman
10 Iyar 23	11 Iyar 24	12 Iyar 25	13 Iyar 26	14 Iyar 27	15 Iyar 28 YOM YERUSHALAYIM	16 Iyar 29 Bamidbar *Marsha Scharfstein
17 Sivan 1	18 Sivan 2 OFFICE CLOSED	19 Sivan 3 Book Club 7:00 pm 	20 Sivan 4	21 Sivan 5	22 Sivan 6 OFFICE CLOSED Service 10:00 am	23 Sivan 7 YIZKOR SHAVUOT * Shaina Goluboff
24 Sivan 8 Holocaust Memorial Service 1:30 pm	25 Sivan 9	26 Sivan 10 Board Meeting 7:00 pm	27 Sivan 11	28 Sivan 12	29 Sivan 13 Hebrew School Year End Service and Graduation 5:30 pm	30 Sivan 14 Nasso * Zoe Litman
31 Sivan 15 Tefillin Club 9:30 am	Jun 1 Sivan 16	2 Sivan 17	3 Sivan 18	4 Sivan 19	5 Sivan 20	6 Sivan 21