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THE BULLETIN

Congregation Agudas Israel 715 McKinnon Ave, Saskatoon S7H 2G2 (306) 343-7023 Fax: (306) 343-1244
Website: www.agudasisrael.org
Rabbi: Claudio Jodorkovsky Co-Presidents: Robert Engelbert and Michael Scharfstein

Congregation Agudas Israel Yom HaShoah Memorial Service

by Jan Gitlin

On Sunday, May 4, 2025, Congregation Agudas Israel held its annual Yom HaShoah – Holocaust Memorial Service – at the synagogue. This long-standing tradition has for many years centered around the powerful voices of Holocaust survivors who have shared their personal stories with our congregation and the greater Saskatoon community. As the number of survivors able to travel and speak continues to diminish, we are adapting our format while remaining committed to preserving their legacy and educating future generations.

This year, we were deeply honoured to have Grant Scharfstein as our keynote speaker. Grant shared the powerful story of his journey to Poland with his father, cousin, and brother Jim. Through personal anecdotes, photographs, and videos, he offered us a deeply emotional and intimate look at their family's pilgrimage to sites of both loss and memory. Rather than focusing on the staggering number of six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, Grant highlighted the lives of five family members who perished—giving a human face to the tragedy and allowing us to connect more personally to their stories.

The program began with the singing of O Canada and a welcome from Rabbi Claudio Jodorkovsky, followed by greetings from co-president Robert Englebert.

During the ceremony, Ron and I were humbled and honoured to receive the Miklos Kanitz Holocaust & Human Rights Education Award.

Millia Shiffman shared moving reflections and a poem she wrote which was inspired by her experience participating in the March of the Living - a journey that connects youth with Holocaust history and remembrance.

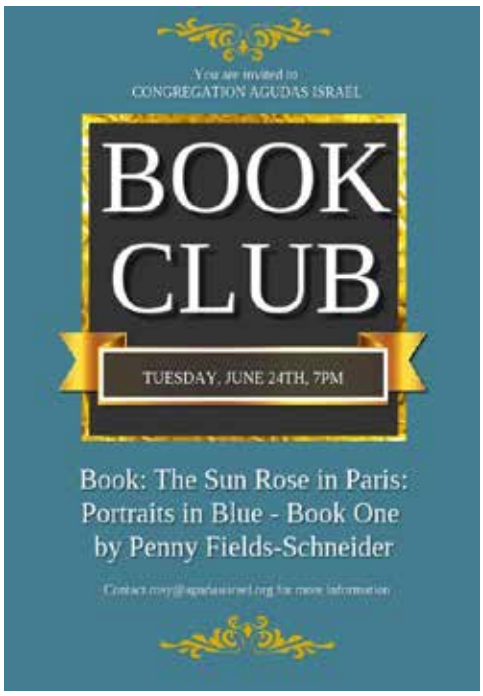
Co-president Michael Scharfstein then introduced his father, Grant, whose presentation was truly stellar and deeply appreciated by all in attendance.

We were especially honoured to have two Holocaust survivors join us in person for the candlelighting ceremony. They were escorted by children from our Hebrew School, symbolizing the powerful transmission of memory from one generation to the next.

Rabbi Claudio recited a memorial prayer, followed by the recitation of the Kaddish—adapted for Yom HaShoah—in Hebrew by Gideon Weisman and in English by Harold Shiffman. The ceremony concluded with Hatikvah and the sounding of the shofar.

We were grateful and heartened to see over 250 attendees, including many of our own congregants, come together in remembrance and solidarity.

As part of our continued commitment to Holocaust education, 95-year-old Holocaust survivor Sol Nayman will spoke virtually on May 15 to students from the Public, Catholic, and homeschool networks. His presentation will further our community's understanding of the Holocaust and its lessons are never forgotten.



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DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT BULLETIN IS AUGUST 15, 2025

BBYO at the Remai

BBYO at B'nai Brith Breakfast

Editorial

by Lisa Shiffman, Editor-in-Chief

In this edition of the Bulletin you will note that we are not a community that sits still. Over the past few months we have had many activities – some of which are a part of our yearly routine while others are new.

The Silver Spoon Dinner was a triumph, as always. Thank you to the endless list of volunteers.

I want to thank Grant Scharfstein for his amazing presentation at the Holocaust memorial this year. I appreciated his openness, honesty and willingness to share the story of his family. The impact of his story will resonate with me indefinitely.

Thank you to Michelle Ausfresser who worked with Claudio to host an evening for a frank discussion on mental health and domestic violence.

I contacted an artist named "Jeff Mitchum" who is a world renown photographic landscape artist in the field of photography. I had the pleasure of viewing his work in person in Las Vegas at the Bellagio Hotel many years ago. To my surprise, the show was titled "Light of Israel" and how he showcased Ha'Aretz was absolutely breathtaking. I do hope you enjoy the article and some day have a chance to see his works in person. They are very large in size, vibrant, and you will feel your soul tingle when you take his works in.

Another artist I profiled in this article is Mr. Yaron Bob. He takes rockets that were fired from Gaza (Kassam rockets) and the Iron Dome defense system and turns these symbols of death into something beautiful. I recently ordered an Iron Dome pendant and my husband has a Star of David and well as a land of Israel pendant made from Kassam rockets. The story behind his work is intriguing though made me feel a little sad when I was learning about them.

Please continue to send in your articles, pictures and anything else you think The Bulletin could use! Have a wonderful summer.

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 to:

Cohen Goluboff-Munro whose Saskatoon Bandits team won the North Division U15AA Saskatchewan AA Hockey League. Pictured with parents Sarah and Donnie and sister Goldie.

Rachel Silverberg on graduating with a M.D. Rachel will be doing her residency in family medicine in Kamloops, B.C. The entire family is proud of her beyond measure. Way to go Dr. R. Silverberg!!

Elle Delaney on her acceptance into the University of Alberta Faculty of Arts, and on winning the University of Alberta Entrance Leadership Scholarship. Elle's scholarship application was based heavily on her involvement in BBYO from 2021-25, and her involvement in Stand With Us in 2023/24. Elle will be pursuing a major in psychology and a minor in history, with longer-term plans to pursue a career in law.

Tara Kahan who has been nominated for a Woman of Distinction Award for her contributions in the fields of STEM.

Adam Simpson who was accepted to Western University, College of Kinesiology.

Bailey Holderness on her bat mitzah.

Declan Blakely on his bar mitzvah.

Thomas Siquera on his bar mitzvah.

Arden Sasko on representing Team Sask with Can-Am Gymnastics Club in Victoria, B.C.

Good Luck to:
Gavin Sasko and Team Canada (baseball) who are competing in the Maccabiah Games in Israel in July.

Welcome New Member

Barbara Kahan has spent most of her life in Regina, with stints in Toronto, Montreal, and London (England), and three years ago moved to Saskatoon with her partner Evan. Barbara and Evan have two children and three grandchildren. Her eclectic work history ranges from working at a youth centre and co-managing a community bookstore to researching health and social issues. Her writing - poetry, fiction, and non-fiction - has been shared in journals and books, on the radio, and on stage. Her debut novel, Elemental Eve (a story of women from the beginning of time!) was published in 2023. She is delighted to be a member of Congregation Agudas Israel!

Challah - made by hand, by Leona Wasserman's grandchildren, ages 12 and 10 at their synagogue in Calgary.

Divrei Harav – Rabbi Claudio's Message

Judaism and Mental Health

by Rabbi Claudio Jodorkovsky

A story talks about a man who goes to see his physician: "Doctor, I am suffering from a dark and unshakable depression. Nothing I do gives me any relief. I am overwhelmed with pain, and most days I can't even make it out of bed. What should I do?" The doctor thought for a moment and answered: "Go to the theatre where the great Carlini is performing tonight. He is the funniest man in the world, and everybody who sees him finds him hysterical. He is guaranteed to make you laugh and drive away your depression". Upon hearing these words, the man burst into tears and sobbed uncontrollably: "But doctor," he said, "I am Carlini."

Although fictional, this is a story about us. It speaks about the many people who struggle with living a functional life while dealing with a mental health condition, subject to the many demands and expectations of their daily lives and having to hide behind a mask that protects them from shame and discrimination. As a rabbi I have heard with my own ears many stories like this one. I know how much devastation and isolation can accompany those who live within the darkness of mental illness. There are many families whose lives have been forever impacted by depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, anxiety, PTSD, OCD, Borderline Personality Disorder and others. I know many families for whom addiction, which often comes with mental health challenges, consumes their lives, and people with experience of domestic abuse. And yet, despite that their situation is not unique, they often feel alone and bear their struggles as a burden to be carried in isolation.

We struggle to talk about mental illness, addiction and wellness. We all know they are out there, and we hear professionals speak in the media about the mental health crisis and addiction epidemic, but still these conversations are hidden in the loneliness of those who experience them. We have built communities in which there is one set of rules for those who are suffering from illnesses situated in the heart or lungs, and a different set of rules for how we treat people whose illnesses are in their brains. Despite many years of attempts to reduce the stigma, many still blame the sick for their sickness, attributing their condition to laziness, overprotection, bad role models or lack of willpower. Although nobody will deny that the brain is an organ too, when someone's brain malfunctions, we can become very cruel.

As Jews we are not exempt. Interestingly,

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Silver Spoon Dinner 2025

by Linda Shaw

Every year I write an article about how amazing that year's Silver Spoon Dinner was. This year really was amazing! The feedback has been wonderful so, for a change, instead of telling you my opinions, I think I'll share some comments, emails and posts from people outside of our organization.

Shauna Foster – "What a night! Such a treat spending the evening with Lisa Loeb at the Silver Spoon Dinner. She is funny, kind, so talented! The 90s throwbacks were popping."

Chantel Saunders – Another incredible night at the Silver Spoon Dinner. So honoured to meet and introduce Lisa Loeb and be among some amazing ladies in Saskatoon."

RMH – Namarta Kochar – An incredible night of glamour and a whole lot of heart at the 33rd Annual Silver Spoon Gala at TCU Place, featuring Grammy Award-winning singer/songwriter Lisa Loeb. A great night of luxury and laughs as the community came together to raise funds for Saskatoon Interval House and Ronald McDonald House Charities Saskatchewan!

Sincerest congratulations to the inspiring 2025 Sterling Award Winner (Sheila Gagne) for their outstanding volunteer service and a heartfelt thank you to the Silver Spoon Gala committee for a truly memorable night!

Kim Weimer – "So much fun!"

TCU Place – Lisa Loeb, laughs and love for our community. The Silver Spoon Dinner is always such a fun night – and more importantly, it has raised over $350,000 for Saskatoon Interval House and Ronald McDonald House of SK.

Congratulations to co-chairs Linda Shaw & Robin Sasko and thank you to everyone who attended.

Maygen/ Sneaks YXE City Guide - "Hearing her sing "Stay" was surreal."

Karen Toews – CIBC Wood Gundy "Linda, the evening was soooo lovely last night! Congratulations to you, Robin, Rebecca, Jan and the entire organizing committee. It's such a great way to kick off spring and summer with your girlfriends. I hope to continue attending for many years into the future."

See? It's not just me who thinks it was great.

Just in case you want more information about just how special the evening was, here are some of the highlights:

We changed up the entertainment format slightly: Instead of making a speech, Lisa Loeb played some of her songs, then sat and casually chatted about her life, family and creativity with Shauna Foster ask-

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

Speech for the Hostages

(Read on March 5th, 2025 at the CAI Hostage Vigil)

submitted anonymously

It was important for me to have a vigil for the hostages tonight and bring our people together, along with our amazing non-Jewish allies as one and to have a place where we could share our feelings, could heal, mourn, and be there for each other.

I am a proud Jewish woman, a proud mother of amazing children, and I am proud to be here tonight as part of this local Jewish community which is made-up of so many amazing people. As a Jewish mother, it has been important for me to advocate for our people and show my children first hand what it means to be proud of who you are and what it means to be Jewish. Besides our history, enriching customs, traditions, it's not all matzah ball soup and 8 days of Chanukah. Being Jewish also means that we must stand up for ourselves when things get hard. We must stop relying on others if we fail to rely on ourselves. We cannot expect the world to respect us as a people if we don't respect ourselves and each other. I hope this tragedy is a turning point where we stop inflicting self-deprecating jokes on ourselves to the outside world to better fit the world's antisemitic narrative and when asked if you're Jewish, stop replying with "yes, but I'm not religious". You should not apologize or feel ashamed of your very being. Instead, be proud of who you are, your people and your gift to the world. The days of apologizing for our existence are over. Let's rejoice and celebrate our unity, strength and our tribe that leaves no member behind.

Tonight is special because we're bringing all parts of the Saskatoon community together, regardless of religious affiliation, membership or community involvement. You might wonder what we are all doing here tonight? Well, as you know, the past year and a half has been just so difficult for our Jewish community members and our allies. Many of us have lost several friends since October 7th who we thought would always be there for us Many of us have lost entire communities that we fought for, marched for and put our necks out on the line for. We always thought they would have our backs. We were sadly mistaken. Never in my lifetime did I have to think which non-Jewish friend I would ask, "Would you hide me and my family?"

It has been extremely isolating for over the past year and a half as a Jewish person. If you're like me you might have felt that you have been living in the twilight zone where wrong is right, bad is good and lies are truth. I have gained strength through my Jewish community members this past year. I have felt less alone having them by my side. I hope tonight we'll show everyone that you're not alone. We have each other's backs and when one falls, we pull each other up and we keep going and never stop. "Never again" only happens if we don't let it happen again. We need to fight, we need to advocate for ourselves and we need to make sure good triumphs over evil as we continue to be a light upon the nations.

October 7th, 2023 changed the lives of Jews around the world not just in Israel but

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THE BULLETIN

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E-Mail Address: lisalinshiffman@gmail.com,
jewishcommunity@sasktel.net,
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Thank you to **Tom Mann**, who takes care of our Kosher needs.

2024-25 Jerusalem Foundation Campaign

Thank you to all who donated to the 2024 Jerusalem Foundation Campaign to help Jews in need in Jerusalem and to support programming in our community.

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15th Annual Limmud Winnipeg

Sunday, March 23, 2025

by Anna Gersher

When eight hundred kilometers feels like eight hundred meters, what does it say about the people in the car? I guess, you can say that they had something to talk about?! This is how the Limmud weekend of March 21-23 started for Dan and me.

Dan Ronis was giving two presentations at Limmud Winnipeg and was invited as a guest speaker at Congregation Shaarey Zadek. He was busy working, and I was busy trying to attend as many activities as possible.

On Sunday morning one hundred and fifty participants including the two of us were spiritually challenged while inspired and enlightened by the speakers. We also had our stomachs as well as our souls nourished while treated to great food.

The five sessions I attended were "The Jewish History Your Mother Didn't Teach You" by Daniel Kroft, 'Jewish and Resilient in Stressful Times" by Al Benarroch and Denise Rubin, "Educational Trip to Israel after October 7th" by Naama Samphir, "Catholic-Jewish Relations and the Second Vatican Council" by Mark Flips, and our own Dan Ronis "No Forbidden Fruit-No Angry God."

Other topics presented were about prayer and religion, environment and advocacy, Israel and the hostages, Messiah and the Holocaust, poetry, Chevra Kadisha, and Jewish life.

The sessions I've attended were engaging, thought provoking, personable and some even offered a new "twist" on the old themes.

One of those sessions was by Dan Ronis, and the other one by Daniel Kroft. Both presenters shared their findings linked to the ancient times, well known historical and biblical figures and historical events. Dan has written two channeled books "Women of the Hebrew Bible: Their Stories" and "No Forbidden Fruit – No Angry God." Daniel produces a Jewish history podcast titled "The Jewish Story by Daniel Kroft." Check them both out!

My exciting weekend also included a beautiful Shabbat morning service at the newly renovated Shaarey Zedek synagogue, several delicious suppers at a variety of local eateries, a lovely short visit with mishpucha, and an outstanding performance by Anat Cohen and her Quartetinho sponsored by the Asper Foundation. Anat is an Israeli born Grammy nominated clarinetist and saxophonist. What a dynamic performance that was!

Our weekend concluded with joining more than a hundred people in a heartwarming weekly Rally for Israeli Hostages organized by Jewish Federation of Winnipeg.

I encourage you to check out what Limmud is about https://limmudna.org/ or https://limmud.org/ and perhaps next time we will have more people from Saskatoon attending Limmud.

As for achieving my goal of taking in as much as I could, one can say that I succeeded! And the drive home was no less invigorating because the two of us still had a lot to talk about.

Presidents' Message

by Robert Engelbert, Co-President, CAI

This issue's message on behalf of the Presidents may be somewhat shorter than previous entries, but I cannot think of a more important message to send out to our membership. I believe strongly in transparency and accountability, and this update on strategic planning is meant to keep us all informed and on the same page.

As a small Jewish congregation, it is crucial for us to periodically take stock and prepare for the future. Perhaps two of the most important questions that any community can ask itself are "Who are we?" and "Where are we going?" This past year the Board of the Congregation Agudas Israel struck a Strategic Planning Committee to address these questions, conduct research, and prepare a report.

There are two main pillars to this process. First, the Strategic Planning Committee held meetings and conducted research regarding what we do as a congregation and where we need to improve. We presented a preliminary report at the congregation's annual general meeting last fall, which outlined areas to focus on, such as communication and transparency. **But there is a second and equally important aspect to Synagogue renewal – congregant input and participation**.

In March we presented you, our members, with a survey, as the first part of our outreach to the community. **I am very pleased to report that we had 57 individual responses, which represents approximately 30% of our member households.** To put our response rate in perspective, these types of surveys for synagogue renewal typically receive 10-20% response rates. A 30% response rate is practically unheard of for these types of surveys, but it is hardly surprising in this case. We have a strong and active minyan, not to mention well-attended classes and events throughout the year. We have a lot to be proud of at Congregation Agudas Israel, and our response rate for the survey is indicative of an engaged Jewish community. We can't thank you enough for taking the time to be part of the process.

Over the next month or so the Strategic Planning Committee will be reviewing and analyzing the results of the survey and making the data available to our members. Confidentiality will be respected, of course, and only aggregate statistical information will be released. The Strategic Planning Committee will use the data to help guide its next steps – focus group discussions and interviews. This is a vital part of the process because members will have direct input through discussions on different topics and brainstorming ideas.

I am also delighted to let you all know that Reuben Kellen will be taking over as chair of the Strategic Planning Committee. When I originally agreed to chair the committee, I was not co-president of Congregation Agudas Israel. I am proud of getting the committee off the ground and helping with setting the direction for its members to move things forward. However, as co-president, I feel it is time for me to step back, though I will continue to help the committee in whatever way I can. Reuben has been a member of the Strategic Planning Committee and was instrumental in helping to organize the recent survey. He is a regular member of our weekly minyan and has been involved in numerous events in our community. Reuben has a law degree and works for the Faculty Association at the University of Saskatchewan. He volunteered to take a more active role, and we are thrilled to welcome him as the committee chair.

The Strategic Planning Committee will continue to keep our members apprised of what is happening with the renewal process and to encourage your participation as we move forward.

The Jewish Community: Advocating for Those in Need

Written on February 17, Jewish Disability Awareness Day

submitted anonymously

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 for the 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.

CAI Art Committee

by Carol Shiffman

A new CIA Art Committee has had its first meeting. The purpose of this committee is to initiate, advise and support arts programming at the synagogue, with and for the community. Programs might include art exhibitions, talks, workshops, presentations, performances, and more. In addition to committee plans, suggestions from the community for arts events they would like to see are welcome. We hope to mount, as one of our first exhibitions in 2026, a showing of art and craft work by community members, in celebration of community creativity. If you have a creative practice and you would like to participate in this exhibition, OR if you have a suggestion for the art committee, please contact Carol Wylie at **carolshiffman@hotmail.com**

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Biography of the Month: Howard Cosell

by Stan Schroeder

In the over five years I have been writing these monthly biographies, I've chosen a wide variety of professions and endeavors. I've done scientists, comedians, statesmen, authors, rabbis, and athletes, among others. But I've never done a sportscaster - a profession I consider ideal, in that he/she gets paid to see and talk about athletic events that I would love to attend.

Maybe the best known, perhaps the most hated or loved sportscaster of our time, was Howard Cosell. He was born Howard William Cohen on March 25, 1918, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. His grandfather emigrated from Poland with the name Kosell, but couldn't make his name clear to a harried immigration inspector. The official simply compromised on Cohen and waved him through.

His father Isidore, an accountant for a clothing company, moved his family to Brooklyn shortly before Howard turned three. He aspired to a middle-class existence, but, like millions of others, struggled - often unsuccessfully - to provide for his family when the Depression hit and jobs dried up. An excellent student at Brooklyn public schools, his parents wanted Howard to be a lawyer. Following his BA in English, he attended NYU Law School and passed the bar exam. When war was declared Cosell enlisted in the Army and rose to the rank of major. After the war he tried to avoid going into a law practice by auditioning to become a radio announcer. However, the station flatly rejected him, saying his nasal Brooklyn-inflected voice made him completely unsuitable for radio.

So in 1946 Cosell opened a law office in Manhattan. His practice included many sports and entertainment figures, among them Willie Mays, and it came about that he was asked to oversee the incorporation of Little League Baseball in New York. This brought Cosell to the attention of ABC Radio, which asked him to host a fifteen-minute Saturday-morning show in which Little Leaguers interviewed sports pros.

ABC then signed Cosell to do ten five-minute weekend sports broadcasts, paying him the below-scale sum of $250 a week for the privilege. He wanted to bring an in-depth dimension to the sports broadcasting field, and he quit his $30,000-a-year law practice. In 1961 Cosell began his daily Speaking of Sports broadcasts for ABC News, a radio staple that ran until 1992. Each show began with Cosell's familiar staccato delivery. His opening was "Hello again, everybody, this is Howard Cosell speaking of sports." Jim Murray, the celebrated sportswriter, said "Cosell has the vocabulary of an Oxford don and the delivery of a Dead End kid." Cosell always closed with another of his famous tag lines: "This is Howard Cosell telling it like it is."

In 1962 Cosell met the great boxer Muhammad Ali, then known as Cassius Clay, and began to cover Ali's fights. Thus began a series of interviews and dialogs that brought both fighter and sportscaster into the national limelight for the first time. It was "a marriage surely made in athletic heaven."

Their relationship was firmly cemented when Cosell openly supported Ali's name change and entry into the Nation of Islam. He was the first person to publicly use the champion's Black Muslim name, and in1967 he vigorously defended Muhammad Ali against charges of draft evasion.

In the emotion-charged era of the Vietnam War and civil rights agitation, Cosell's actions evoked a storm of protest and expressions of anti-Semitism. Many demanded he be fired but he was not.

In 1970 he became the star of the reporting team of "Monday Night Football." The great success of the weekday telecast of the National Football League game was attributed to Cosell. Exciting game or not, people stayed tuned just to hear what Cosell had to say about the contest, the players, the coaches, the host city, and just about anything else. He provided a brazen contrast to ex-NFL stars Frank Gifford and Don Meredith.

Cosell worked the 1972 Summer Olympics for ABC. He played a key role on ABC's coverage of the Palestinian terror group Black September's mass murder of Israeli athletes in Munich; reporting directly from the Olympic Village. He never had a bar mitzvah and had never involved himself in the life of the Jewish community. However, the experience made him feel "intensely Jewish," and he joined the American Friends of the Hebrew University, which built the Howard Cosell Center for Physical Education in Jerusalem.

Howard Cosell died in 1995, five years after the death of his wife of 46 years, Mary Edith (Emmy) [Abrams].

Editors note: Stan is editor of Congregation Shir Amil's "Shir Note" in Los Angeles and has been a friend of Congregation Agudas Israel for many years.

Scharfstein LLP
Barristers & Solicitors

Grant J. Scharfstein, Q.C.
P 306-653-2838 F 306-652-4747
E gscharfstein@scharfsteinlaw.com

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Artist Profile: Rockets Into Roses

by Lisa Shiffman

Yaron Bob is an art teacher and blacksmith who lives in Moshav Yated, Israel, a small Israeli community near the Gaza border. He makes metal roses and jewelry out of Kassam rockets fired out of Gaza and remnants of Iron Dome missiles. Mr Bob had two very close calls with rockets and knew he needed to respond to the terror that he and his community were facing.

Yaron wanted to create something that speaks of growth and prosperity and to make something out of the destruction and of the ruin of the Kassam.

He did not want to handle the rockets since they were an instrument of death however his frustration was intensifying with so many missiles falling on Israel and so many alarms. The situation was very stressful on him and his family. "It finally struck me that I need to make a rose from the Kassam", Yaron says. Now. Bob collects the spent rockets, most given to him by the police, after they have been checked by the bomb squad.

Each rose takes about three to four hours of turning and twisting the steel. Then, hand sculpting intricate petals and leaves on the rose. The sculpture's base is a map of Israel with the rose growing out of the border with Gaza.

Although the rose, stem and base are made of Kassam remains, there is no sign the flower comes from rocket metal.

"I take the Kassam, the instrument of death and I change it, I transfer it into something of beauty."

Bob is not a pacifist, but he would like Hamas to know talking is better than firing rockets and starting a war. His goal is to let the world know that people in Israel are not hungry for war and what they really want is a bright and beautiful future.

To view more of Yaron's pieces, visit: https://theisraelboutique.com/category/rocket-art/rockets-into-roses-collection-rocket-art/

Jewish Nobel Prize Winners

by Millia Shiffman

One of the greatest honours a scholar can receive in their lifetime is the well known Nobel Prize. With awards in chemistry, economics, literature, peace, physics, and physiology/medicine there are award opportunities for scholars of all interests and specialties. Since 1901 when the first Nobel Prize was awarded, there has been 992 laureates from a diverse swath of cultures and backgrounds as of 2024. There is one notable group of Nobel Prize laureates who make up less than 0.2% of the world's population yet represent 22% of all Nobel Prize recipients. This group happens to be Jewish Nobel laureates.

Familiar names such as Albert Einstein, Niels Bohr, and Gustav Hertz may come to mind when one thinks of Jewish Nobel Prize winners, but what is it about Jewish culture that leads to so many Jewish individuals being awarded this honour? Education and the continuation of such through an individual's lifetime is a strong value in Jewish culture worldwide. Jewish people are encouraged to ask questions and look critically at the world and are always pushed to continue to learn more and work hard to do so. An important mitzvah (good deed) in Jewish culture is helping others who are in need such as the sick, elderly, impoverished, and others. These two Jewish values may be part of the equation that adds up to this overtly disproportionate representation of Jewish winners of the Nobel Prize.

Astonishingly, many Jewish winners survived genocide and persecution within Nazi extermination camps, yet still persevered and became laureates of this amazing award. One example of this miracle is Romanian-American writer Eliezer (Elie) Wiesel who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986 for speaking out against violence, repression, and racism. A few years prior in 1944 Weisel was deported to Auschwitz concentration camp where 90% of people were murdered on arrival. This terrible fate befell Wiesel's mother and younger sister, yet Wiesel and his father were selected to perform labor until they were not well enough to do so. Weisel survived in Auschwitz until liberation by the U.S. Third Army in 1945 with Weisel's only motivation for survival being the hope that his father was still alive. Wiesel's is an inspiring story of hope and perseverance in a time where all the odds are against you, showing how anything is possible when you put your mind to it.

Another historical Jewish laureate who experienced a different kind of persecution from his own government is Boris Pasternak. Born in Moscow, USSR in 1890, Pasternack was a passionate poet and author who wrote the notable, yet controversial book Doctor Zhivago. Rumors of Pasternak being nominated for the prize began after the conclusion of World War II and in 1958 Pasternak was finally awarded the Nobel Prize for literature due to his "achievement in both contemporary poetry and the field of the great Russian narrative tradition". Pasternak accepted the prize at first though due to the subject matter of writings like Doctor

continued on page 16

This page is sponsored by Jeffrey and Sherril Stein.

B'nai Brith Update

by David Katzman, President – Saskatoon B'nai Brith Lodge 739
dl.katzman@sasktel.net

The next meeting for our Lodge will be Sunday, Sept. 7 at 7 p.m. to launch the 71st B'nai Brith Silver Plate Dinner, Monday, Nov. 4. Funds from last year's Gala allowed us to provide more than $150,000.00 to Jewish interests, the largest recipient being Congregation Agudas Israel. Please know that you will be enthusiastically welcomed when you contact the Dinner Chair, Michael Shaw, to offer you help. You are also warmly invited to attend this meeting that is open to Jewish adults and their spouses (Jewish or not).

Research has clearly shown how important summer camps have been in creating Jewish identity, commitment and leadership. Our Lodge has provided financial support (half of the registration fees; details below) for many years.

B'nai Brith Support for Jewish Summer Camp

Our Lodge enthusiastically supports Jewish children attending Camp Riback/B'nai Brith and will provide up to half the registration costs for a three-week experience at Camp Riback.

This support is available to all Jewish children in Saskatoon and support for children outside of our city is potentially available by contacting the president (dl.katzman@sasktel.net). Additional support in any one year is possible by contacting the president. It is hoped that each recipient will submit an age-appropriate note for the CAI Bulletin (ex. favourite thing(s) at camp, impact of camp on their Jewish identity)

Process;

Pay the first half of your registration fee and ask the Camp to bill Saskatoon B'nai Brith for the other half.

KOSHER PICKLES

(for when you get that bumper crop of cukes this summer!)

INGREDIENTS

- PICKLING LIQUID
- 1 ½ cups water, boiled and cooled
- 1cup white vinegar, 5% acidity

FOR EACH QUART JAR ADD

- 1 tbsp kosher salt
- 2 tbsps dill seeds
- ¼ tsp celery seed
- 1 tsp mustard seeds
- 1 tsp red pepper flakes
- 1 bay leaf
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 3-6 cucumbers (depending on size)

DIRECTIONS

1. Add salt and spices to each jar. Add cucumbers sliced, whole (ends trimmed) or spears, packing them in tightly. Fill jar to within 1/2 inch of the top.
2. Add pickling liquid to cover the cucumbers. Put a lid and ring on the jar and shake for a few seconds to distribute the salt and spices evenly.
3. Refrigerate for 7 days, shaking the jar for a few seconds every day. These will last approximately 6 months in the refrigerator.

Jewish Foods

I	H	S	A	A	R	U	G	E	L	A	C	H	N
T	U	C	H	I	C	K	E	N	S	O	U	P	U
O	M	A	P	O	M	E	G	R	A	N	A	T	E
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G	H	I	M	K	U	G	L	E	A	T	L	A	G
F	E	E	I	A	T	O	Z	T	A	M	E	K	P
U	D	K	N	L	E	C	H	A	L	L	A	H	L
S	E	T	U	B	O	T	A	H	I	N	I	E	A
B	A	G	E	L	P	X	E	T	R	O	G	E	N
N	L	A	T	K	E	S	G	I	T	O	K	D	T
L	D	A	L	A	S	I	L	E	A	R	S	I	U

LOX
ETROG
SUFGANIYOT
CHOLENT
GEFILTE FISH
KASHA
EGGPLANT
KREPLACH
KUGLE
ISRAELI SALAD
MATZO
RUGELACH
POMEGRANATE
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LATKES
FALAFEL
TAHINI
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A Sar El Volunteer from Saskatchewan

by Richard Longpre

How did a gentile from Saskatoon become a Sar El volunteer? It started in the fall of 2024 when I read an article about Sar El published in Apple news. I had already been thinking it was time for some volunteer grunt work. As with most decisions it was a combination of reasons. I believed in the State of Israel and I thought anti-Semitism in Canada had become worse in current times. Any democracy is worthwhile defending.

I contacted a friend who was active in B'nai Brith. He knew of Sar El but had never gone himself. His sister, however, had volunteered on two occasions, or so he thought. As it turned out, I learned she had gone four times and she told me she would do so again. After talking with both brother and sister I felt confident enough to contact Sar El Canada. This started the application process, interviews and donations. After receiving approval from Sar El Canada I was passed on to Sar El Israel, vetted and accepted.

At some point in the process, in conversation with my far better half, she commented that this was coming out of the blue, and so it had. If she had reservations she kept them to herself. And, as she has always done, she supported me 100%. I picked a date to start my two weeks of service, being March 2, 2025. Flights and hotel rooms were booked and I was all set.

I could give many examples of events that stood out in my memory during every single day I spent in Israel, but let's only look at a few.

On Saturday, March 1, I was fresh off the plane at 7 a.m. and in the Maxim Hotel in Tel Aviv by 8 a.m. I went down for breakfast and within minutes of sitting down conversations started. These kept going with various people for the next two hours. Naturally, the subject of Sar El came up immediately. At some point, people learned that I was gentile. To my surprise, I received gracious thanks and appreciation and the compliments really flowed. It was then that I realized what I was about to experience was bigger and more meaningful than I had anticipated. The Maxim set out soup and wine every night at 6 p.m. for the many Sar El volunteers, but also for volunteers going to other programs.

On Sunday, March 2, all groups met at the airport for 8 a.m. You have no idea where you are going or what job you will have. It could be assembling medical kits or food kits or cutting vegetables. Our group's job was assembling soldiers' kits, packaging uniforms, sleeping bags, helmets, magazine clips, canteens and camel backs, all sorted according to uniform size.

There were 15 volunteers in our group, supervised by two Madrichot, female IDF soldiers who would be our bosses for the next 5 days. We left for the 4-hour drive south to Camp Shizafor, a training base for the Armoured Corps.

Our activity on Tuesday night involved meeting a commander in the Erez, an elite program in the IDF that trains and develops commanders for combat units. They are destined to become leaders and in their training they are concurrently doing a university degree. We learned all about different units and the challenging experience of going through officer school. The young man who spoke to us was a truly outstanding individual who was pursuing a degree in political science. The opportunities he had sacrificed to return to Israel from the U.S. and enter the program, well, it astounded me. I don't feel I can share all his story because it is his story to tell. We were not allowed to take photos.

At this time, I would like to note that our work on base was physical, dirty and exhausting. Meals and barracks were much as I had expected on an army base. In other words, not a 5-star resort. We were told, "Be prepared to work and most likely you will have hot water in your shower!"

On Saturday, March 8, I did some sightseeing with a fellow volunteer from Sarnia, Ontario. We visited the Tel Aviv Museum of Art and spent a few hours enjoying the wonderful collections although we wished we could have stayed longer. A bonus was that Sar El volunteers had free entry.

Outside the museum was the Hostage Plaza, one of many. Every Saturday night, these plazas are filled with people asking for the return of all hostages. We attended that night and it was a very emotional experience. Although we couldn't understand the speeches, the anguish in their voices was abundantly clear. It was hard to estimate crowd sizes as there were a number of different plazas participating at the same time.

Sunday, March 9, we went back to the airport for our new group and new destination: Camp 559. The Camp was 2 hours south, on the edge of the Negev desert and it functioned as a transportation base. We were very limited in terms of walking around the base, so buses took us everywhere.

Purim was fast approaching. On the Tuesday, the base commander was taking some of his troops to a paediatric ward in a nearby city hospital. We were thrilled to be invited along. Many of the volunteers had been on multiple tours before and said we were the first Sar El volunteers they knew of to receive the privilege of going in uniform.

It was heartbreaking but warming to go through the wards handing out Purim gift bags . Seeing the Jews, Arab-Israelis and Christians all together, both as patients and as hospital workers, would be an eye-opener to many and would certainly break down misconceptions and stereotypes regarding what Israel represents.

The next day was the Purim celebration on base: food, games and laughter enjoyed by all.

On Thursday we returned to Tel Aviv, but my Sar El experience has not yet ended. Communication from my fellow volunteers continues to this day. Memories of a lifetime. I would not hesitate to go again.

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Michael R. Scharfstein, B.Comm., J.D.
P 306-653-2838 F 306-652-4747
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Light of Israel – Jeff Mitchum

by Lisa Shiffman

"I love how you can take the light and the image and capture its beauty in a two to three minute sweep of a moment. There is an amazing lightshow that God has created in the natural world where it can become spiritual if you approach it with the right mind."

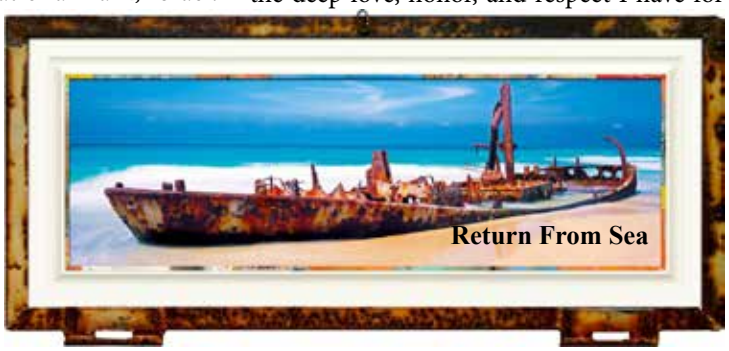
~ Jeff Mitchum

Jeff Mitchum is one of the great American and international landscape photographers with more than three decades of experience. His love of photography was sparked in early childhood during a hunting trip with his father; when Mitchum realized he had no desire to shoot animals with a gun, his dad handed him a camera and said, "Here, shoot them with this." As a teenager, Mitchum spent his summers working in Yosemite Valley during the renaissance of landscape photography and had the immense honor of meeting Ansel Adams and enjoying a personal relationship. As a professional photographer, Jeff's work has been sought by National Geographic and installed on the walls of several fine art museums including the Smithsonian Institute, Getty Museum and Museum of Natural History San Diego as well as the famous Frank Gehry designed Lou Ruvo Center in Las Vegas. His critically acclaimed Israel Collection has been inducted into the Masada Museum in Masada National Park, Israel. Additionally, he has received innumerable awards including the Point Loma University Distinguished Alumni Award, a star on the Las Vegas Walk of Stars and top honors in numerous professional contests. Most recently, he was recognized in the prestigious 2013 Memorial Maria Luisa International Mountain and Nature Photo Contest winning the nature category with his masterwork "Third Day" and receiving a high honor for "Three Brothers."

In 2014, he sold the collector's edition of "Third Day" for $1.8 million, making it one of the most expensive photographs ever sold. Completely self-taught, Mitchum is known for his love of film in a digital world, which has evolved into an innate understanding over the years and become second nature. The vast majority of his work is created completely "in camera" which is a by-product of his early F64 influences. He has been called the "Ansel Adams of color" because of his early mentorship and resulting classic Ansel style, keen attention to detail and unique creativity that expands beyond these early years. His compelling images today are a remarkable combination of arrangement, natural light and depth of subject matter with a pure objective – to capture the emotionally stunning voice and space of nature and bring it to people's everyday lives. Mitchum's philosophy on life and photography in his own words, "The visual journey means nothing if we do not create an emotional connection to the space before our peers' eyes. This is how we preserve both nature and fine art photography."

Lisa: What initially drew you to photograph the landscapes of Israel?

Jeff: One of my favorite starting points is the deep love, honor, and respect I have for the Jewish people and for Israel. And I say that as a bit of a mongrel gentile! My grandfather was a WWII hero who helped liberate Dachau, and my mother carried the torch by raising funds for Israel. From a young age, I had a seed planted that these people had given the world profound gifts.



Then, at age 17, I found myself standing in Yosemite Valley with my mentor, the legendary Ansel Adams. We were watching a line of photographers trying to replicate "Moon Over Half Dome," and I asked Ansel if it ever bothered him that people were constantly copying his work. He smiled and said, *"Jeff, it's been done. What's the big deal? Find your Yosemite Valley. Let people see your gifts come alive. Let the world know there's hidden beauty."*

In 1983, when I was invited to film in Israel, I discovered my Yosemite Valley. The landscapes, the people, the diversity, and the story—all waiting to be unveiled. That was the start of my romance with Israel.

Lisa: Can you share a memorable experience you had while photographing in Israel?

Jeff: Today, I have carte blanche across Israel. But early on, it took time for the IDF to get used to my wandering ways. I've always said: it's better to beg forgiveness than ask permission. That word "no" doesn't work well for what I need to do.

Years later, Hall of Fame quarterback Drew Brees and his wife Brittany asked me to create a private collection for them. We were in the Golan Heights, and down below I spotted a tank battalion. I turned to Drew and said, "Wanna do something unique? I know the tank commander."

We hopped in the Land Rover and drove down. Out comes Gil—he shakes his head, smiling, and we hug. Two of his guys are tossing a football. I tell him who's in the car. Moments later, Drew Brees is throwing touchdown passes to IDF soldiers in the Golan. Just one of those surreal, beautiful moments.

Lisa: How do you approach capturing

the essence of a place in your photographs?

Jeff: Very carefully—through study and visualization. I ask myself: *What is the soul of this image? Could another season bring out more? Has this been done before, or is this original?*

Lisa: What challenges have you faced while photographing in Israel, and how did you overcome them?

Jeff: Light is everything. It transforms the ordinary into the extraordinary. But beyond that, patience is key. Navigating minefields, working respectfully with the IDF, and photographing UNESCO sites all require care.

I've worked close to polar bears and tigers—but people remain the greatest challenge. Stay aware. Stay respectful. And wait for the right moment.

Lisa: Have you collaborated with any local artists or photographers in Israel?

Jeff: I've had the honor of influencing quite a few Israeli artists through my work. But for me to do what I do, I lean toward solitude. To capture the soul of an image, I need quiet and focus. That's where the magic lives.

Lisa: Are there specific locations in Israel you find especially inspiring or photogenic?

Jeff: Israel is a micro-California. As a native Californian, I see the same diversity in landscapes—from the Mediterranean to the desert, the mountains to the sea.

But how do you create something exclusive? That's where gift meets vision. I've been blessed with the ability to see something before it exists—and then create it.

Lisa: What role do you believe photography plays in bridging cultural and religious divides?

One of my goals with this work has been to reveal the natural beauty of Israel and the warmth of her people. Nature is a universal language—it builds bridges and sparks conversation through shared wonder.

There's a story I love: I was once at the Wall of Solomon when a Rabbi approached me and asked, "Are you Jewish?" I paused and said, "Well… sort of." He asked for my last name—"Mitchum"—then raised an eyebrow. I told him I believe I'm Jewish in the same way Abraham was—through faith. He smiled. Before I knew it, I was reciting the *Shema Yisrael*. Nature doing her thing.

Lisa: Can you discuss any techniques or styles you use to highlight the unique features of Israel's landscapes?

Jeff: Long exposures with film let me "paint with light," much like the great acrylic masters. I often say that if Rembrandt had a camera, he'd use my technique. I've spent years studying classical painters—learning how they used light, shadow, and form. Now I apply that through the lens.

Lisa: How has your perspective on Israel changed through your photography over the years?

Jeff: At first, I was drawn to the obvious—places like Masada, with its powerful "Never again" message. But over time I realized something deeper: the entire country is a World Heritage Site. Everywhere you turn, there's history, spirit, and story layered into the land.

Lisa: What advice would you give to aspiring photographers who want to capture the spirit of a place?

Jeff: Patience. Be picky. Know what great light and sky can do for your subject. Find its soul. You want your work to make someone *feel*—to make them fall in love with that land and her people. If you can do that, you've created a successful image.

To see the images in this article in color (I highly recommend this) visit the online version of The Bulletin. Jeff's art can also be viewed at: https://jeffmitchumgallery.com/

Divrei Harav.. continued from page 4

Jews have been instrumental in establishing the field of psychology, but we are still not totally comfortable in openly talking about mental illness. There is still stigma, especially in small Jewish communities, even though there are so many examples of individuals with mental illnesses in our biblical and rabbinical texts. The Torah, the Tanach and the Rabbinical literature are filled with examples of psychological struggle: Jacob wrestles with an angel when he is dealing with deep emotional pain and fear. Elijah the prophet, Jonah, Job and even Moses, all asked God to take their lives rather than live with the emotional pain they were experiencing. King Saul was terrified by an evil spirit he thought to be from God. King David is thought to have suffered from depression. Centuries later Rabbi Nachman of Breslav, one of the most brilliant and joyful Hasidic Masters, wrote about feeling depression, so intense that "one cannot find the strength to move".

These are conversations we cannot afford to avoid. Our tradition mandates to care for each other, and to create a Jewish community in which sharing the deep struggles of our lives is met with love, acceptance and non-judgment. It is a Mitzvah for us to build congregations where we can all feel safe, regardless of what we are going through, in a way that we can feel seen and supported, without the need to fake normality. God and our tradition expect from us to open ourselves to those next to us who are struggling, so we can be present, see them and care for them. That is as "Jewish" as coming to services, volunteering in your synagogue, putting on Tefillin or giving Tzedakah.

Our Congregation has begun a new project to bring mental health and wellness into the centre of our Jewish community life. We began with a wonderful workshop about domestic abuse, and we plan to continue bringing local experts who can help us to reduce the stigma around mental health in our congregation and teach us how to become active supporters. I hope you will stay tuned for the coming events and join us to make our Jewish community into a better, safer and more supportive space.

B'bracha.

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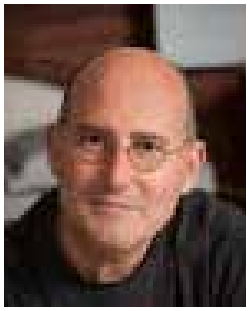


Israel Matters!

On Viewing The Movie *October 8th*…

by Edward Kaplan

The 2025 documentary *October 8*, directed by Wendy Sachs and executive produced by Debra Messing, takes a deep and unsettling look into the surge of antisemitism that followed the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7, 2023. The film seeks to examine how the aftermath of the attack led to a rise in hostility toward Jewish communities, especially in the United States, where tensions on college campuses and public discourse escalated rapidly. Through a mix of firsthand testimonies, expert analysis, and real-world footage, the documentary serves as both a historical record and a wake-up call to a growing issue. Many *Israel Matters* readers experienced this antisemitic onslaught directly on February 20, 2024 at Hamden Town Hall when a so-called "ceasefire resolution" was entertained by the Hamden Town Council. For many of us, this was the most direct antisemitic experience of our lives, where protestors dressed up in keffiyehs resembling Hamas fighters celebrated October 7 as the date the "Hamas Resistance Army" (to quote one protestor's exact words) began to liberate Gaza from its "Israeli settler-colonialist oppressors." As awful as that evening was for us, it was of a

Anti-Israel Protest at Yale

piece with the much more extreme protests and vitriol that took place on the campuses of Columbia, Harvard, Cornell, UCLA, UC Santa Barbara, Yale, and many other colleges. October 8 thoroughly documents these events including shocking footage (and "soundage") that makes the viewer feel like you were there when it happened. It is impossible not to feel your blood pressure rise when viewing such events.

The film documents the horrific antisemitic protests and vandalism on university campuses after October -- the tearing down of posters depicting Israel's hostages taken by Hamas, or breaking into and occupying of university buildings. *October 8* also exposes something of which most Americans are unaware. The protest movement was completely pre-planned and orchestrated by the National Students for Justice in Palestine in concert with known terrorist groups even before the world could comprehend what happened on October 7.

On October 8, National Students for Justice in Palestine sent an e-mail to all of their student chapters at universities across the United States. Attached was a document titled "Day of Resistance Toolkit." This document included the following text: "On the 50th anniversary of the 1973 war, the resistance in Gaza launched a surprise operation against the Zionist enemy which disrupted the very foundation of Zionist settler society. On the morning of October 8th, the Palestinian resistance stormed the illegitimate border fence, gaining control of the Gaza checkpoint at Erez, and reentering 1948 Palestine. Referred to as Operation *Towfan Al-Aqsa* (Al-Aqsa Flood), the resistance has taken occupation soldiers hostage, fired thousands of rockets, taken over Israeli military vehicles, and gained control over illegal Israeli settlements."

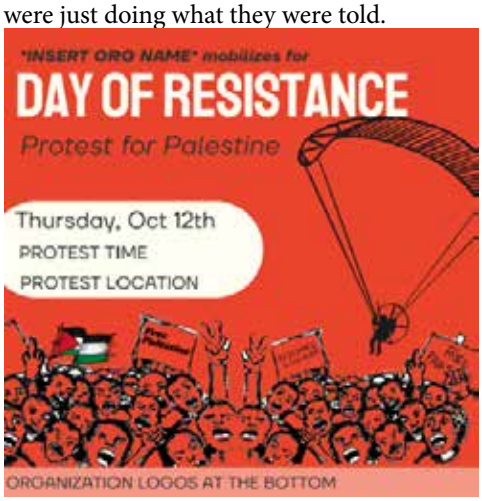
Remember – this was sent to <u>American university students on October 8</u>.

The document continued: "Today, we witness a historic win for the Palestinian resistance: across land, air, and sea, our people have broken down the artificial barriers of the Zionist entity, taking with it the façade of an impenetrable settler colony and reminding each of us that total return and liberation to Palestine is near. As the Palestinian student movement, we have an unshakable responsibility to join the call for mass mobilization."

As if there could be any remaining doubt, these words show that National Students for Justice in Palestine was not simply protesting against Israel; they were actively participating in the war by providing material support to Hamas.

This national toolkit did not stop with simple rhetoric. This "how to" manual told students what to do, what to say, and even what placards to display, including a template of a Hamas terrorist on a paraglider with "insert

org name" and "organization logos at the bottom" helpfully situated on the graphic. This direction from above is why all the student tactics – chanting, hunger strikes, calls for divestment, tent encampments – have looked the same; the Hamas kids were just doing what they were told.



Poster Distributed Nationally With "Day of Resistance Toolkit"

Back to the film -- featuring interviews with Jewish students, university administrators, and activists, the movie *October 8* explores how institutions struggled to address rising hate speech, protests, and confrontations between student groups. The documentary sheds light on how social media played a role in amplifying misinformation and fueling hostility, making it difficult for individuals to distinguish between political criticism and deep-seated prejudice against Jews.

The documentary also highlights the role of public figures and policymakers in addressing—or failing to address—the rise in antisemitism. Interviews with high-profile figures such as Sheryl Sandberg, U.S. Representative Ritchie Torres, and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand provide insight into the broader societal implications of these events. Their perspectives help frame the issue as not just a concern for the Jewish community but as part of a larger struggle against hate speech, extremism, and misinformation in modern society.

Beyond the political and social implications,

continued on page 16

The Saskatoon Jewish Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

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Jan Gitlin	Mazel Tov on being awarded The King Charles III Coronation Medal	Steven & Leila Goluboff
Lauren Scharfstein	Mazel Tov on being awarded The King Charles III Coronation Medal	Steven & Leila Goluboff
Pam Bielak	Mazel Tov on being awarded The King Charles III Coronation Medal	Steven & Leila Goluboff
Grant Scharfstein	Mazel Tov & Yasher Koach on your wonderful keynote address for the 2025 Yom Hashoah service	The Goluboff Family
Jan & Ron Gitlin	Mazel Tov & Yasher Koach on being honoured as the recipients of the Miklos Kanitz Holocaust and Human Rights Education Award	The Goluboff Family
Reuben Kellen	Mazel Tov on your40th birthday	The Goluboff Family
Dr. Sam Haddad OC	Mazel Tov on receiving the Saskatchewan Order of Merit	Steven & Leila Goluboff
Robert Stromberg KC	Mazel Tov on receiving the Saskatchewan Order of Merit	Steven & Leila Goluboff
Dr. Tara Kahan	Mazel Tov on being nominated for a Woman of Distinction Award - Stem Award recognizing women who have excelled in the pursuit of science/technology engineering, and/or math through groundbreaking original research	Steven & Leila Goluboff
	CAI	
	• Rick Barsky • Marsha & Grant Scharfstein • Janet Erikson • Harold & Lisa Shiffman • Kathleen Wylie • Carol Wylie • Howard Shiffman • Steven & Leila Goluboff • Todd Knaapen	
Reuben Kellen	In celebration of your 40th birthday	Lesley-Ann Crone & Alan Rosenberg
	MIKLOS KANITZ HOLOCAUST EDUCATION FUND	
Ron & Jan Gitlin	Congratulations on receiving the Miklos Kanitz Holocaust and Human Rights Education Award	Lesley-Ann Crone & Alan Rosenberg
	LIGHT UP THE NIGHT FUNDRAISER	
Rabbi Claudio Jodorkovsky & Andrea Silverstone	To a bright future together. L'chaim.	Malvina, Kelly, Charlie & Lyla Rapko
	ELAINE & SHERWOOD SHARFE CANTORIAL FUND	
Rabbi Claudio Jodorkovsky & Andrea Silverstone	Congratulations on your wedding	Elaine & Sherry Sharfe
Simonne Horwitz	In memory of your mother	Elaine & Sherry Sharfe
	RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND	
Rabbi Claudio Jodorkovsky & Andrea Silverstone	Mazel Tov & best wishes on your wedding	Linda & Arnie Shaw

Your contribution, sent to: **Saskatoon Jewish Foundation** Congregation Agudas Israel, 715 McKinnon Avenue, Saskatoon S7H 2G2 will be gratefully received and faithfully applied.

We are grateful for all donations received. Cards will be sent out for donations over $36.00 per card. Thank you for your continued support.

Nobel Prize... continued from page 9

Zhivago being somewhat anti-socialist, Soviet authorities threatened deportation of Pasternak if he traveled to Stockholm to collect his prize. This led Pasternak to end up declining this award, yet despite this Pasternak was still exiled to the West by Soviet authorities. Unfortunately, due to Pasternak's controversy he was unable to claim his deserved Nobel Prize, yet he remains a symbol of courage and standing up for what you believe in regardless of what those around you are saying.

Another Jewish Nobel Prize laureate who faced different odds is Gerty Cori. Cori is the third woman to have won a Nobel Prize in science and was the first woman to be awarded the Nobel Prize in physiology/medicine. Cori was born in Prague during a time where women were marginalized, and education was hard to come by for females. Due to the deteriorating conditions of Europe at the time, Cori and her husband emigrated to the United States. During her time in the States Cori studied how glucose is metabolized in the human body. Cori was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1947 "for her discovery of the course of the catalytic conversion of glycogen". Cori is a great inspiration as a scientist and as a woman. With all odds against her, Cori persevered and kept trying despite criticisms due to her gender. Cori's hard work finally paid off with the recognition of her scientific advancements and her Nobel Prize win.

Though there are at least 216 Jewish Nobel Prize Laureates, I will mention just one more. A very notable Jewish-Israeli Nobel Peace Prize winner is Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Rabin was born in Jerusalem and worked hard in school, focusing much of his studies in the field of agriculture. In 1992 Rabin was elected as prime minister due to his great efforts of fostering the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. Rabin was a beacon of hope during a terrifying time for Israelis and Palestinians alike. Rabin began fostering communication, humanization, and deradicalization on both sides of the issue creating the Oslo Accord agreement alongside Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Due to these efforts of Rabin, peace was no longer a distant dream for Israelis and Palestinians and a view of a brighter future was not far off in the minds of civilians. This led to Rabin winning the Nobel Peace Prize with Shimon Peres as well as Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. In 1994 Rabin signed a peace treaty with Jordan, creating an even more optimistic dream for the future of Israel. Yet, this dream came to an end in 1995 when Rabin was assassinated by a Jewish religious extremist who opposed the Oslo Accords. Along with the death of Rabin, there was also a halt in most of the peace efforts between Israelis and Palestinians alike. Though the message of peace, humanity, and hope is not gone, the life and death of Rabin will remain forever alongside the dream of peace for generations to follow.

Israel Matters... continued from page 14

the film takes a personal approach, telling the stories of Jewish individuals who faced harassment, threats, or even violence in the wake of October 7. These personal narratives add an emotional depth to the documentary, illustrating the real-world consequences of antisemitic rhetoric. By giving voice to these experiences, the film *October 8* ensures that the discussion goes beyond statistics and policies, instead grounding the issue in human experiences.

As the documentary unfolds, it presents a broader discussion on free speech, censorship, and the responsibilities of institutions in addressing hate. It asks difficult but necessary questions: Where is the line between political activism and hate speech? How should universities and public platforms respond to rising antisemitism while preserving freedom of expression? What is the difference between free speech and hate speech? The film does not claim to have all the answers but aims to spark critical dialogue on these urgent issues.

Ultimately, *October 8* is a compelling and thought-provoking documentary that challenges viewers to confront uncomfortable truths about modern antisemitism. It serves as both a historical document and a call to action, urging audiences to recognize and address the dangers of rising hate in their communities. By blending investigative journalism with deeply personal stories, the film seeks to educate, inform, and inspire meaningful change in the fight against antisemitism.

The movie *October 8* is playing currently at theatres nationwide and is also available via Amazon Prime.

Editors note: Congregation Agudas Israel and B'nai Brith are bringing this film to Saskatoon in the near future. Ed Kaplan grew up in Saskatoon and is presently a professor at Yale University.

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Speech for Hostages.. continued from page 6

throughout the diaspora. It was a huge eye opener for me and it brought back memories of tales I would hear from my grandparents that sounded neurotic and a bit ridiculous at the time. It was so long ago so things like the Holocaust would never happen again. People aren't like that anymore, I would think, and people wouldn't fall for that kind of hate again. I was sadly wrong.

As I mentioned, we lost friends and we lost communities since October 7th but I failed to mention what we've gained since October 7th. Through this crisis, Jewish people have come together from all over the world and though we've united through a collective pain, we have also united through a collective hope and faith in goodness.

Tonight we gather as a community along with our allies and honour the memories of the hostages that were brutally murdered in tunnels and in civilians homes in Gaza. We are here tonight to also remember the hostages that are still alive, waiting and hoping to be freed and to return safely to their loved ones. As a community our hearts were ripped out from learning about the fate of the Bibas family. I was recently asked why we all are focused and hurt so much when we learned about the brutal murders of the two Bibas baby boys and their mother especially since numerous children and babies were sadly murdered on October 7th. I reflected for a moment about that and thought it's because those beautiful redhead babies gave us hope. They were a sign of hope that things would be OK once they were back home with their parents. They became the face of the hostages around the world, the youngest hostages ever! Their beautiful mother, Shiri, represented every Jewish mother. When Gazan civilians live-streamed the kidnapping of Shiri and her babies, Ariel and Kfir, showing her clinging on to her precious little boys with such a terrified look in her face, any mother, parent, or human with a heart could see the fear in her eyes, the fear we know as parents but we especially know as Jews, The fear that G-d forbid, one day comes when we hold on to our children and pray somebody with decency and humanity will come and help us, pray that we can protect our children if we just hold on tight enough. We saw Shiri's message, we heard her cries, we felt her fear in our souls yet we couldn't save her, so we prayed and prayed that she would return with her beautiful baby boys, alive, over 500 days later. Sadly, that wasn't the case and cries and tears from all around the world came for the Bibas family. We've cried for all the hostages. It's a pain that none of us ever want to know and even though most of us have never met any of the hostages in Israel, it's like we've known them our entire lives. These people are not strangers, they are our cousins.

In Judaism we believe that whoever saves one life saves the world and we never leave a fellow brother or sister behind. So tonight we honor the hostages that were brutally taken from us. We also pray for the hostages who are still being tortured in captivity and waiting to be saved, we ask G-d to bring them to safety as soon as possible.

One way we can do that as a community is by staying unified. If we have learned anything from our Jewish history and trust me, I am not a Jewish scholar, but I do know that in tragedy when the Jewish people have come together as one and let go of their differences, miracles have happened. We see that from the story of Purim, we see that from the story of Pesach and numerous other accounts. G-d helps us, once we help ourselves.

This tragedy has taught us that it doesn't matter what kind of Jewish person you are, It doesn't matter if you're religious or not, It doesn't matter if you were born Jewish or if you converted to Judaism. It doesn't matter what country you're from or if you're a Sephardic Jew or Ashkanazi Jew, it doesn't matter what color you or what language you speak. It only matters that we are one tribe made of many diverse Jewish people and we believe in G-d and we believe that only light can drive out darkness.

On October 7th, something in our Neshama's, our Jewish souls, switched on and we remembered when our grandparents and great-grandparents said, "Never again", and we are living in "Never again". This has been our call to action and not to sit on bended knees but to stand up, be loud and proud of who you are. Don't accept Jew hatred as your new normal. Don't accept the lies and propaganda but be an outspoken advocate for your community and for yourself. Don't live in fear but be a proud Jewish person and stand up for what you know is right. Keep fighting for peace but know that we only get there if we are united as one family, one tribe. Don't let this historical tragedy of our lifetime happen in vain. Let's take this time to reflect, mourn but then rise and build ourselves as a nation and as a unified community and fight for our values, children and our future as a Jewish people.

Silver Spoon.. continued from page 4

ing leading questions. She ended with more songs (including a sing-along about a pancake.) Shauna's bubbly personality and natural professionalism set the tone for a delightful interaction and presentation by Lisa.

Although our ticket sales were slightly down, our sponsorships, prizes and great vibes were up. The Silent Auction (Rebecca Simpson's "baby") was fantastic - lots of bidding and a record-setting total.

There were several very happy winners too. Krista Sego won the Air Canada Trip for Two, anywhere in North America, including Mexico, Caribbean and Hawaii. Leona Wasserman won the 50/50 draw. (Who says lightning doesn't strike twice?) and Heather Heapy won the $2500 Traxx Footwear raffle. Congratulations, ladies.

Sheila Gagne was awarded the Sterling Award for volunteerism – a very well-deserved honour.

We were able to play a new video showcasing the work of Ronald McDonald House and Saskatoon Interval House, thanks to the generosity and creativity of Rachael Kenny.

Dinner was delicious. Drinks and Mocktails were abundant and laughter abounded.,

A huge thank you to Shauna Foster who was outstanding as our MC (as usual) and also as our Lisa Loeb Interview Moderator. We are deeply grateful to Rawlco Radio for "lending" her to us as our host and for all that C95, CKOM, CTV and Global Saskatoon do to help us promote Silver Spoon. Also, thanks to Handy Special Events, Blossoms Florists, and TCU Place for making the room look fabulous. Our sponsors, supporters and prize donors are many and they are awesome!!! A giant shout of thanks to all of them. I'll list them all on the website later so you can take a look and be very impressed by their generosity.

And finally, thank you to our little committee for making this so much fun and such a successful year (Robin & me, Rebecca, Jan, Eleni, Rosy, Arnie, Jordana, Dianne, Leona, Breanne & Mia (from Handy) and a gigantic thank you to the community members & their friends who helped as volunteers at the Dinner and with the set-up and take-down this year. It is so very much appreciated.

Bottom line: Silver Spoon 2025 was a super success!!!!

See you next year.

Linda Shaw & Robin Sasko, Co-chairs

Yahrzeits

June 7 **Sivan 11**
Ida Domey
Samuel Golumbia Jun 8 (12)
Florence Russell
Sophie Cornfield Jun 9 (13)
Abraham Prober
Clare Richman
Bessie Golumbia Jun 10 (14)
Rose Levinton
Nettie Steiger
Harry Hillman Jun 11(15)
Samuel Schacter
Seda Margolis Jun 12 (16)
Bathsheba Baron Jun 13 (17)
Marlene Ditlove
Jack Mallin
Amelia Sandbrand

June 14 **Sivan 18**
Zoltan Fenyes
Selma Green
David Trachtenberg
Clarice Buckwold Jun 15 (19)
Sonia Churchill
Sam Landa
Lottie Levitt
Bertha Adler Jun 16 (20)
Bessie Gladstone
Bessie Ames Jun 17 (21)
Frances Bernbaum
Anna Lehrer
Sophie Drabinsky Jun 18 (22)
Sheila Krolik
Myron Melamede
Bert Gladstone Jun 19 (23)
Clarice Schwartz
Jacob Claman Jun 20 (24)
Welver Beryl Flikshteyn
Grace Goluboff
Susanne Kaplan

June 21 **Sivan 25**
Ruth Bondar
Herman Levine
Sam Zaitlen
Vera Barsky Jun 22 (26)
Benjamin Rachamim
Israel Ragoff
Kathryn Cooper Jun 23 (27)
Robert Floom
Solomon Cramer Jun 25 (29)
Leo Lipkovic
Bernie Reznick
Anna Braun Jun 26 (30)
Sara Charach
Nathan Gropper
Max Hock
Rosa Jerman
Max Gropper Jun 27 (Tammuz 1)
Bert Dr. Schwartz
Sidney Wolfe Shacter
Ben Shiffman

June 28 **Tammuz 2**
Stella Hearn
Irma Altschul Jun 29 (3)
David Baltzan
Nathan Richman
Samuel Forgan July 1 (5)
Zakhar Isaakov
Rabbi Louis Jacobs
Bessie Switzer
Chaim Tzalkovich
Sidney Buckwold Jul 2 (6)
Patricia Holtslander
Evelyn Ross
Pearl Trute
Beatrice Adilman Jul 4 (8)
Mary Lifshen

July 5 **Tammuz 9**
Etta Tadman
Toba Waldman
Anna Dragushan Jul 6 (10)
Irving Jacobson
Nathan Adilman Jul 8 (12)
Sarra Furman
Walter Merchant Jul 9 (13)
Ralph Sugarman
Louis Epstein Jul 10 (14)
Minnie Filer
Reva Mathews
Efrat Mishiev

July 12 **Tammuz 16**
Ann Diamant
Dorothy Livergant
Maria Kolominsky Jul 13 ((17)
Faigel Lyons
Blair Nusgart
Schulem Singer
Harold Waldman
John Adelman Jul 14 (18)
Jack Teskey
Jack M. Sklar Jul 15 (19)
Jean Scharfstein Jul 16 (20
Etta Gross Jul 17 (21)
Louis Pollock

July 19 **Tammuz 23**
Sarah Schacter
Sam Shafer
Valerie Geeregat Jul 20 (24)
Abraham Kassen
Abraham Katz
Gerald. Gitlin Jul 21 (25)
Ciprian Prevost
Joseph L. Brans Jul 22 (26)
Sarah Goodman
Joseph Purkin
Daniel Weitzman
Lena Kassen Jul 24 (28)
Nekhama Stone
Ruth Buckwold Stoffman Jul 25 (29)
Frances Ruth Dashefsky
Nina Fogel
Farhad Hebron
Helen Teskey
Ettie Wiss

July 26 **Av 1**
Vera Helfgott
Lloyd Landa
Dolphy Neuman
Frances Paul
Margret Poplack
Lucille Katzman Jul 27 (Av 2)
Wilma Katzman
Joseph Volansky
Barney Kutz Jul 28 (3)
Ruby (Ruth) Rosenberg Jul 30 (5)
Etta Sonnenschein Jul 31 (6)
Ian Buckwold Aug 1 (7)
Clara Epstein

August 2 **Av 8**
Ben Ackerman
Hy Buller
Edward Caplan
Leah Chertkow
Jacob Dragushan
Gussie Sass
Sura Kolominsky Aug 3 (9)
Helen Resnick Aug 4 (10)
Betty Sklar
Jacob Charach Aug 5 (11)
S. "Peter" Schachter
Samuel Kassen Aug 6 (12)
Albert Kay
David Sheckter
MaxWormann
Ezra R. Avol Aug 7 (13)
Claire Mendel
Lillian Claman Aug 8 (14)

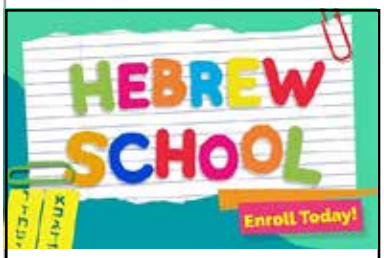
August 9 **Av 15**
Rita Collins
Estella Ginsburg
William Landa
Nettie Rabinovitch
Anthony Lehrer Aug 10 (16)
David Sonnenschein
Moses P. Berekson Aug 11 (17)
Edward Churchill
Anna Rabkin
Louis Gelmon Aug 13 (19)
Sidney Israel Chapman Aug 14 (20)
Louis Goluboff
Jack Sklar
Rose Baltzan Aug 15 (21)
Fay Ditlove

August 16 **Av 22**
Saul Scharfstein
Aron Foulkes Aug 17 (23)
Pearl P. Adilman Aug 18 (24)
Simon Minovitch
Solomon Livergant Aug 19 (25)
Chaim Wolfe
Freda Claire Blank Purkin Aug 20 (26)
Jack Sandbrand Aug 21 (27)
Mikhail Gersher Aug 22 (28)
Miriam Lily Green
Mollie Shafer
Harry Sklar

August 23 **Av 29**
Samuel Shore
Lori-Lynn Abbey-Laliberte Aug 24 (30)
Fannie Gropper
M. Trugman
Abram Katz Aug 25 (Elul 1)
Harry Landa
Leonard Landa
Alexandru Raducanu
Rae Richman
Gertrude Weiner
Alvin Buckwold Aug 26 (2)
David Diament
Neil Livergant
Fanny Feigenbaum Aug 28 (4)
Victor Cookman Aug 29 (5)
Anna Feldman
Sydney Fogel
Rena Shatzer
Masha Zaitlen

August 30 **Elul 6**
Joseph Sandbrand
Max Berenbom Aug 31 (7)
Betty Aarons Sept 1 (8)
Pauline Macarthy
Mary Pollock
Eva Teplinsky
Rabbi Saul Diament Sept 2 (9)
Josef Goldstein
Philip Raichman
Sarah Richman
Rebecca Tabachnicoff
Anne Shechtman Sept 3 (10)
Herschel Diamond Sept 4 (11)
Simon D. Korber
Rae Aarons Sept 5 (12)
Edith Blumes
Greena Gelman
Baby Gonick
Gertrude Helfgott

September 6 **Elul 13**
Charles Kaplan
Yocheved Abelevsky Sept 7 (14)
Donna Englebert
Rose Gellman
Mel Bloom Sept 8 (15)
Benjamin Cohen
Lily Ludwig
Louis Schulman
Yosil Tzalkovich
Minnie Fogel Sept 9 (16)
Celia Ida Greenblat
Eastwood Landa
Briar Holderness Sept 10 (17)
Rebecca Claman Sept 11 (18)
Anne Pavey
Katherine Cantin Sept 12 (19)
Clara Friedman
Irene Ruttle



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June 2025 / Sivan / Tamuz 5785

July / Tamuz / Av

August / Av / Elul

sun	mon	tues	wed	thurs	friday	saturday
June 1 Sivan 5 **Erev Shavuot** Erev Shavuot = Candle lighting 9:00 pm	**2** Sivan 6 **Service 10:00 am** **OFFICE CLOSED** Shavuot I - Candle lighting 10:33	**3** Sivan 7 **OFFICE CLOSED** Shavuot II- Havdalah 10:35	**4** Sivan 8	**5** Sivan 9	**6** Sivan 10 (Candle lighting 9:05	**7** Sivan 11 **Nasso** Nasso - Havdalah 10:40 * Marsha Scharfstein
8 Sivan 12	**9** Sivan 13	**10** Sivan 14	**11** Sivan 15	**12** Sivan 16	**13** Sivan 17 Candle lighting - 9:10	**14** Sivan 18 **Beha'alotecha** Beha'alotcha - Havdalah 10:46 * Matt Steen
15 Sivan 19	**16** Sivan 20	**17** Sivan 21 **Board Meeting, 7pm**	**18** Sivan 22	**19** Sivan 23	**20** Sivan 24 Candle lighting 9:13	**21** Sivan 25 **Sh'lach** Sh'lach - Havdalah - 10:49 *Michael Scharfstein
22 Sivan 26	**23** Sivan 27	**24** Sivan 28 **Book Club 7 pm**	**25** Sivan 29	**26** Sivan 30	**27** Tamuz 1 Candle lighting 9:13	**28** Tamuz 2 **Korach** Korach - Havdalah 10:48 * Grant Scharfstein
29 Tamuz 3	**30** Tamuz 4	**July 1** Tamuz 5 **OFFICE CLOSED**	**2** Tamuz 6	**3** Tamuz 7	**4** Tamuz 8 Candle lighting 9:11	**5** Tamuz 9 **Chukat** Chukat - Havdalah 10:43 * Nicky Gitlin
6 Tamuz 10	**7** Tamuz 11	**8** Tamuz 12	**9** Tamuz 13	**10** Tamuz 14	**11** Tamuz 15 Candle lighting 9:06	**12** Tamuz 16 **Balak** Balak - Havdalah 10:35 * Kevin Sharfe
13 Tamuz 17	**14** Tamuz 18	**15** Tamuz 19	**16** Tamuz 20	**17** Tamuz 21	**18** Tamuz 22 Candle lighting 8:58	**19** Tamuz 23 **Pinchas** Pinchas - Havdalah 10:24 * Harold Shiffman
20 Tamuz 24	**21** Tamuz 25	**22** Tamuz 26	**23** Tamuz 27	**24** Tamuz 28	**25** Tamuz 29 Candle lighting 8:49	**26** Av 1 **Matot-Mesei** **ROSH CHODESH** Matot-Masei - Havdalah 10:11 * Steven Simpson
27 Av 2	**28** Av 3	**29** Av 4 **Cooking Club** 6:00 pm	**30** Av 5	**31** Av 6	**August 1** Av 7 Candle lighting 8:38	**2** Av 8 **Devarim** **SHABBAT CHAZON** **EREV TISHA B'AV** Devarim - Havdalah 9:57 *Dan Ronis
3 Av 9	**4** Av 10 **OFFICE CLOSED**	**5** Av 11	**6** Av 12	**7** Av 13	**8** Av 14 Candle lighting 8:25	**9** Av 15 **Ve'etchanan** **TU B'AV** **SHABBAT NACHAMU** Vaetchanan - Havdalah 9:41 * Shaina Goluboff
10 Av 16	**11** Av 17	**12** Av 18	**13** Av 19	**14** Av 20	**15** Av 21 Candle lighting 8:11	**16** Av 22 **Eikev** Eikev- Havdalah 9:25 * Lisa Shiffman
17 Av 23	**18** Av 24	**19** Av 25	**20** Av 26	**21** Av 27	**22** Av 28 Candle lighting 7:57	**23** Av 29 **Re'eh** Re'eh = Havdalah 9:08 * Jan Gitlin
24 Av 30	**25** Elul 1	**26** Elul 2 **Book Club 7 pm**	**27** Elul 3	**28** Elul 4	**29** Elul 5 Candle lighting 7:41	**30** Elul 6 **Shoftim** Candle lighting 7:41 * Robert Engelbert
31 Elul 7	**Sept 1** Elul 8	**2** Elul 9	**3** Elul 10	**4** Elul 11	**5** Elul 12	**6** Elul 13 •Kevin Sharfe

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