Kislev / Tevet / Shevat / Idar 5786 Vol. 36, No. 2 Winter 2025/2026

THE BULLETIN

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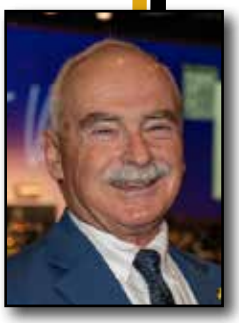
Rabbi: Claudio Jodorkovsky Co-Presidents: Robert Engelbert and Michael Scharfstein



B'NAI BRITH LODGE 739 SASKATOON, CANADA

71st B'nai Brith Silver Plate Dinner

by David Katzman, President

In 1955, approximately 150 men gathered in the basement of the Marigold Café (a Chinese restaurant on 3rd Avenue) for the first B'nai Brith Dinner. The inaugural event was created because B'nai Brith had committed to purchasing the land where CAI currently stands. The $25 ticket is the reason for the "Silver Plate" name (and $25 from 1955 would be worth $302.22 in 2025).

71 years later, we sold 1000 tickets and convened at Teachers' Credit Union Place for a brilliant meal and outstanding program, all orchestrated by the Dinner Chair, Michael Shaw. Ticket Sales were driven by the enthusiasm and talent of Matt Steen. We had 18 ticket sellers, led by Matthew Ditlove who sold 1/3 of the tickets himself. Next year, we would like 28 ticket sellers!

As our guests arrived, they were greeted by the fabulous Saskatoon Klezmer Band. Guests enjoyed an hour of "shmoozing", otherwise known as networking, before the program began. This included time to visit our iconic Scotch Bar - rumoured to be a tremendous asset to our Live and Silent Auctions. The evening was skilfully managed by Thomas Katzman who set a new bar for first time Master of Ceremonies. By popular demand, he will be back in the future. Premier Moe started the event by bringing greetings from the province. He recognized the tremendous contributions of the province's Jewish community and expressed his admiration for this being the 71st Dinner, and for the guests showing their support for the Jewish community in a time when antisemitism is so obvious. For the first time, we had a title sponsor! Cliff, Deb and Colton Wiegers from Wiegers Financial provided $25,000 to supercharge our Tzedakah.

The Super Silver Draw saw five lucky guests win $1000 each followed by Bob Cowan winning the Grand Prize of $15,000. The Care and Share 50/50 provided $5780, $2890, and $965 to three winners, leaving $9635 for the sponsor.

David Katzman, B'nai Brith President, described how funds raised had been used in the past, and specifically recognized the Optimist Hill Ski Park and the Vaccine and Infectious Diseases Organization. He listed a few of the recipients for this year but the full list would include the Saskatoon Community Foundation, Care and Share, YWCA, Buffalo Centre (for abused and neglected children). Camp Circle of Friends, Teddy Bears Anonymous, 30 Birds, Right to Skate and the Salvation Army. By far the biggest single recipient would continue to be Congregation Agudas Israel. Funds are also designated for B'nai Brith Canada, BBYO, Hillel,

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

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT BULLETIN IS FEBRUARY 15, 2026

Israeli Artist Feature: Sarah's Tent, Art Collective

Meir and Celia Knafo, immigrants to Israel from Montreal, opened Sarah's Tent Tzfat Art Gallery on Tzfat's Alkabetz Street several years ago, and it has slowly developed as one of Israel's most elegant and stylish art galleries.

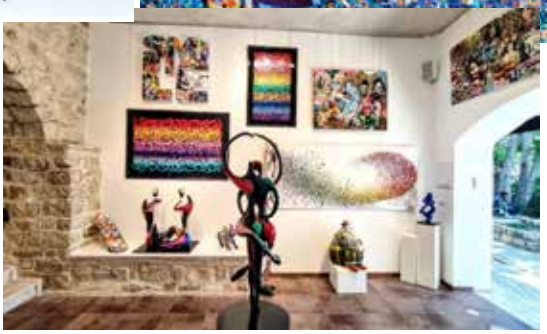
Sarah's Tent Israeli Art Gallery is located in the Old City Jewish Quarter of Tzfat, near the old synagogues, in an excavated building which dates back several hundred years. The original structure of the building was preserved during its renovation, and visitors find themselves browsing under the old stone domed ceilings and walls where Tzfat's Kabbalists of the Middle Ages once lived.

Sarah's Tent in Tzfat displays some of the finest artist in the modern Israeli art world: Joel Amit, Yaacov Agam, Adriana Naveh, David Gerstein, Gadi Fraiman, Avi Ben-Simhon and more.

Sarah's Tent Art Gallery Tzfat also represents some of Israel's most stylish Judaica. Our Judaica is colorful, graceful and creative – with vibrant colors and imaginative designs.

We are located in Safed's Artist Quarter close to the Tzfat Candle Factory, hotels and the old Synagogues.

To learn more about Sarah's Tent and to view the art visit: sarahstentart.com



Congregation Agudas Israel

Book Club

Since April 2021, the Congregation Agudas Israel Book Club has been meeting every two months to explore literature with Jewish themes or by Jewish authors. Over the years, we've read 26 books and welcomed more than 30 participants — both members and non-members — who have joined our thoughtful and lively discussions.

Everyone is welcome to participate, and you can join in for the books that interest you most. Registration is required.

Our next meeting will take place on

Tuesday, January 27th

at 7:00 p.m., when we will discuss The Muralist by B.A. Shapiro.

For more information or to register, please contact Rosy Kreindel at rosy@agudasisrael.org

34TH ANNUAL Silver Spoon Dinner

CHOIR! CHOIR! CHOIR!

Internationally Acclaimed - Beloved Sing-A-Long Phenomenon
A fully interactive, participatory show that turns audience into performer. Get ready to laugh, dance and SING! your hearts out with hundreds of other music-lovers at the Silver Spoon Dinner.

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Editorial

by Lisa Shiffman, Editor-in-Chief

The Silver Plate dinner was a huge success with sold out tickets and record breaking auction totals. So many members of our community contributed their time and efforts to make this event a success. Less than 6 months until the Silver Spoon dinner which I expect will also be an amazing success.

Thank you to Hanna Rose Jodrey who submitted her first article to The Bulletin! She interviewed Joey Weisenber, singer/songwriter. I've visited his website since receiving the article and Hanna is right – he is quite amazing.

My rabbi friend, Barbara Aiello has submitted a practical article on cleaning one's Chanukiah – just ahead of the holidays. She is based in Calabria, Italy, so the view of her Chanukah candles through the window would be very different than our view here. Maybe that's an article for next year.

I attended a 2-day series of meetings and lobbying in Ottawa in my role as CIJA board member for Saskatchewan. It was an experience I haven't had for a while – being in a room full of total strangers yet we all experienced the same struggles over the last two years which has ignited a fire in us to help our people. I hope my article helps people understand my CIJA role a little more clearly. If not – email me and we can do coffee!

I really had to dig for photos for the "Synagogue Sightings" this month. If you are ever at a community event and have a photo or two you would like to share for The Bulletin please send them my way.

If your family name has an interesting "history" behind it, please send me your story in a few sentences to a paragraph. I will be collecting the stories of family names and printing them out in a future issue of The Bulletin.

I want to mention a couple of upcoming events so you can mark them in your calendar: Chanukah Party on December 14th and Family Shabbat Dinner on January 16th. See you there!

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 Matthew and Victoria Taras who welcome the arrival of their second child, Ramona Wren Taras, born September 27, 2025.

Mazel Tov to the B'nai Brith on selling out all of their tickets for the Silver Plate Dinner 2025!

Mazel Tov to Millia Shiffman on receiving her Bachelor of Music degree with great distinction, and certificate in Music and Well Being.

Mazel Tov to Levi Gitlin who's bar mitzvah is in December.

Condolences to

Michael, JoAnn and their children on the passing of Michael's brother, Alfred Stieglitz Gertler. May his memory be a blessing.

The **family of Elaine Dewar** (daughter of Sam and Petty Landa) on her passing. May her memory be a blessing.

New members

The Dror family recently arrived in Saskatoon from Canada's east coast, where Dr. Amiel Dror completed a year of advanced training in Otology and Neurotology. Before that, Amiel worked as a surgeon in Israel, and the family lived in the western Galilee. He has been recruited by the Saskatchewan Health Authority as an otologist and neurotologist, specializing in surgical diseases of the ear and lateral skull base. Tal holds a PhD in agriculture and hopes to find work in the local crops and grains industry. The family has now settled in the Varsity View neighbourhood and is grateful to join the Agudas Israel community. Amiel and his wife Tal, together with their children Alma (14), and twin boys Uriel (10) and Neria (10), carry a family name that itself tells a story. Dror (רורד) means "freedom," the word used in the Jubilee year to describe release, renewal and a fresh beginning.

Amiel (לאימע) means "the people of God."

Tal (לט) means "dew."

Alma (אמלע) in Aramaic means "the world."

Uriel (לאירוא) means "God is my light."

Neria (הירנ) means "God's lamp," or "light of God."

The family is delighted to become part of the community and looks forward to taking part in Congregation Agudas Israel life.

"Who am I, at CAI?"

Synagogue and Ritual Committee :Our Synagogue and Ritual Committee is co-chaired by Simonne Horwitz and Gideon Weisman. Our current committee members are Bruce Cameron, Heather Englebert, Nicky Gitlin, Steven Goluboff, Seth Schachter, Elaine Sharfe, Kevin Sharfe, Harold Shiffman, and Shoshana Szlachter. The committee meets regularly, though not monthly, and plans holiday celebrations and details together with the Rabbi. We are also responsible for policy and practice relating to community ritual, worship experience, and standards for Shabbat, holiday, and kashrut observance within the Synagogue. If there are any community concerns in these areas, we discuss them within the committee and present concerns to the board. If you have any questions or requests within the committee's area of influence, please reach out to Gideon Weisman.

Daniel Katzman is **Chair of the House Committee**, having recently been acclaimed in October of 2025. Being new to the role, Daniel intends to assist in the maintenance and preservation of Congregation Agudas Israel. The Committee can always use more volunteers and members. Should you be interested in volunteering please contact Daniel, and he will certainly find a way to utilize your time, and skills.

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

Judaism begins with a journey. God asks Abraham to leave his home to go to the Promised Land: "Go forth from your land, from your birthplace, and from your father's house, to the land that I will show you." With this order, Jewish history begins with an invitation to action. Abraham is asked to go beyond what is familiar – his home and his culture – and embark on a journey towards an unknown future. It is the first act of commitment: Moving forward, even to an unknown destination.

Our Rabbis teach that the order to "Go forth" (*Lech Lecha*) can be understood in two ways. On one hand God is asking Abraham to "go forth", but in Hebrew it also means "go to yourself". While Abraham is being asked to move to an unknown future, he is also reminded to look into himself, to the meaning of his identity. In other words, God sends Abraham both to a new land to build a new people, and into his truest self,

The mission of going forward and inward also speaks about our mission as a Jewish institution. Like Abraham, congregations need to "go forth", keeping our eyes looking into the future, embracing uncertainty and being ready to face new challenges. Part of our role is to ensure that Judaism remains alive and relevant for the next generations. Jews have always responded with creativity in times of change, from the Rabbis who rebuilt Judaism after the destruction of the Temple, to our immigrants fathers and mothers who fled antisemitism in Europe and founded synagogues all across America. To "go forth" means having courage to adapt and know when is the right time to make healthy changes.

As Abraham responded to God's command to build a new nation, we are also called to build the synagogue we want to be in the next decades. This means developing new programs, engaging new members and making sure our building continues to be a home for all Jews. But that is just part of the calling, because Lech Lecha also means "go to yourself" and this second part is as necessary as the first one. While a Synagogue moves towards the future, we also need to be grounded in who we are, our beliefs and traditions, and the values that shaped our congregation. We walk forward while we look inward. We build the future supported by our roots.

Abraham left his father's home following God's command, but he began his journey along with his father Terach. He knew there is no future without tradition. He understood that continuity requires roots. We look to the future by following the steps of those who came before us, confronting the unknown not by rejecting the past but by going inward to rediscover who we are. When we think about CAI's future, we are mindful of the previous generations who built our congregation, their generosity and their commitment, because they gave us both a future and a heritage, vision and tradition.

Being a Jew means walking forward and

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The CAI 2025-2025 Board

CAI Board Meetings are held monthly. If you wish to have something addressed at the board level, please contact any board member with your request and specify how you would like it to be addressed.

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VACANT

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

It's happening again - The Silver Spoon Dinner - Saskatoon's favourite Ladies' Night Out.

by Linda Shaw and Robin Sasko

Our Silver Spoon Dinner committee, CAI community and friends have been putting on this event for 34 years now and it's always so popular. We have made our name by bringing celebrity guests in but this year we are changing it up a little - it won't be the celebrity guests who draw the crowd - it will be the show they bring. CHOIR! CHOIR! CHOIR! is a beloved, fully interactive, participatory show. So amazingly entertaining! Call us shallow but these days we really want to be entertained. With all the stress, uncertainties and challenges, what the world needs is harmony, happiness and peace. CHOIR! CHOIR! CHOIR! has become famous for bringing that to huge audiences - through SONG!

You say you've never heard of CHOIR! CHOIR! CHOIR! Check out some of their past performances on the web. They are taking live audiences and the internet by storm. Watch 1800 voices singing Hallelujah in Vancouver, or 2000 voices singing Neil Young in Toronto and then visualize 800 voices singing at Silver Spoon Dinner.

Still don't know them? CHOIR! CHOIR! CHOIR! is two very talented Jewish boys from Toronto - Nobu Adilman and Daveed Goldman - who just love to create beautiful music with beautiful crowds. In 2011 they started doing interactive performances for friends and then in bars in Toronto and their popularity has grown ever since. Now they do shows all over the world for ever-growing audiences at venues like Massey Hall, Carnegie Hall, Radio City Music Hall and Silver Spoon Dinner.

What do they do? Nobu directs and Daveed plays guitar and together they build an amazing sing-a–long experience. They do light comic "shtick" while creating harmony with the crowd. "They are great entertainers and damn fine singers, as well."

Our Silver Spoon Dinner guests will be invited to indulge their inner "Glee-like fantasy" as they become part of the show. We don't know yet which song they'll feature but you can be sure it'll be amazing.

Get ready to laugh, dance and SING! your hearts out with hundreds of music lovers just like you. No auditions or singing experience required - just a willingness to join your fellow Silver Spoon Dinner attendees in song to become the CHOIR! CHOIR! CHOIR! It's going to be so much fun and so joyful. As Nobu and Daveed say: "We Teach! You Sing! Everyone Wins!"

As always, our elegant gala will raise funds for Ronald McDonald House, Saskatoon Interval House and CAI. We are calling on all of you to be part of it this year as attendees, organizers, ticket sellers, prize and sponsor solicitors, donors and volunteers. Help spread the excitement. It's going to be great and we need your help. Our community depends on it.

THE BULLETIN

Editor-in-Chief .. Lisa Shiffman
Advertising Manager .. Ron Gitlin
Circulation Manager .. Myla Deptuch
Layout & Graphic Design. . Janet Eklund
Proof Reading .. Steven Goluboff
. . David Katzman
Cost of this issue with mailing.. . $1500
Advertisements . . 1/4 page $75/issue
. . 1/2 page $140/issue
. . full page $250/issue
Page Sponsorship .. $40/issue or $130/year
Issues Published.. 192
Issues/Year .. 4

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Every Breath a Song:
A Conversation with Joey Weisenberg

by Hanna Rose Jodrey

Joey Weisenberg, founder and director of Hadar's Rising Song Institute, is a Philadelphia-based musician, composer, teacher, and prayer leader whose work is reshaping the sound of Jewish communal life. He's dedicated to helping people discover the power of singing together and to nurturing the grassroots musical-spiritual creativity of Jewish communities around the world. His nine albums of original melodies and nigunim (most recently "Selah", released in 2025) and his award-winning book, The Torah of Music, have inspired a generation of Jewish singers, musicians, and prayer leaders. He also leads SongIsPrayer.com, an online learning community centred on deepening musical-spiritual practice through shared song.

I've studied with Joey for over four years, mostly through his online video library, live webinars, and more recently at in-person workshops in Minneapolis. This December, I'll join him and other Hadar faculty at the Rising Song Intensive in New York City, a four-day gathering that brings together musicians, prayer leaders, and laypeople to explore what it means to build and nurture singing communities. The conversation below, held over Zoom in late October, touches on his musical roots, his vision for communal song, and the enduring role of music in sustaining the Jewish spirit.

Hanna: Being from Milwaukee, kind of outside of the major Jewish cultural hubs of North America, how did your upbringing shape you and influence you musically, and shape your sense of what's possible in smaller or emerging Jewish communities?

Joey: A lot of the greatest Jewish innovations in the world have come from small towns and small communities! Jews have often lived in small places all over the world and made huge contributions. For example, the Baal Shem Tov was from Medzhybizh. Many of the great writers, dreamers, and sages lived in places with very small communities, so a lot can be accomplished in small towns with a small Jewish presence. Small-town Jewish life is amazing. Milwaukee is a medium-sized city, with a Jewish population of about 25,000 when I was growing up. I had a chance to learn from some amazing people. One of my first teachers was Ateret Cohn, one of the first women teaching Torah in that part of the world. I also had a great cantor at my synagogue who taught me a lot, and I had the chance to learn from the Twerski Hasidim in Milwaukee, where I learned many nigunim and a spiritual way of seeing the world that has been a huge part of my life. I also got to play a lot of blues in Milwaukee blues bars! This might not seem like a Jewish thing (and it isn't) but it had a huge impact on my music. Milwaukee is part of the Blues Trail that came up through the Mississippi to Chicago and up to Milwaukee, and then ended in Grafton, Wisconsin. There was a lot of blues happening in Milwaukee, and I loved that sound. It turns out that the worlds of blues and nigun are not that different: they're both music connected to the heart. One expresses very mundane things, and the other expresses sacred things, but both speak in a language of imperfection and beauty. There's not a formal connection between them, but they share a similar kind of moan.

Hanna: The phrase "singing community" is central to your work. How would you describe a group moving from simply singing together to truly becoming a singing community?

Joey: Any time you're singing with people, it essentially makes a community, even if short-lived, but the point of singing together is to share some life with another person. Through sharing the sound waves that go back and forth from one person to the next, we vibrate each other and create a joint resonance. In the Jewish tradition, it's said that we become the harp of David when we sing together. We might each vibrate separately, but we resonate together. Every time that happens, you find a bit of unity, which is what community means. What's nice is when

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Quarterly QUIZ!

by Kaiti Hannah

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The Talmud

1) What is the literal English meaning of the word 'Talmud'?
2) The Babylonian Talmud was written in what is now which country?
3) Where was the Jerusalem Talmud written?
4) When people refer to just 'the Talmud,' do they usually mean the Babylonian or the Jerusalem Talmud?
5) Which came earlier, the Babylonian Talmud or the Jerusalem Talmud?
6) The Talmud is primarily written in which language?
7) In which other language was a large portion of the Talmud written?
8) A standard edition Babylonian Talmud contains how many pages?
9) The Talmud is arranged into how many themes/orders?
10) Who wrote the most widely-read commentary on the Talmud?

We "Wax Eloquently" On Bringing Back The Shine

Article provided by Rabbi Barbara Aiello, first female rabbi in Italy

Although Chanukah is a minor Jewish holiday, it is "major" in the eyes of many Jewish families, especially where there are children who enjoy festivities that continue for eight nights. Chanukah itself derives from the Hebrew word, "dedication," and it is during this festival that Jews all over the world rededicate themselves to the ideals of religious freedom for all people.

Speaking of dedication, it takes a special sort of perseverance to return the Chanukah menorah to its original splendor, especially when it is encrusted in last year's wax. So, when it comes to **Cleaning Your Chanukah Menorah**, with Mrs. Maccabes as our role model for tackling difficult jobs (after the military victory legend has it that she was the organizer who cleaned the Temple), let's get down to the dirty work. When David Grossman of "Jewish Homes," asked for suggestions, he found out how our mothers and our bubbyes bring back the shine to the centerpiece of the Chanukah season.

The Freezer – place your metal menorah in the freezing compartment of your refrigerator. After just one half hour the wax should chip off easily. (not appropriate for ceramic chanukiyot)

Warm Water – Use a dishpan and fill it with warm to hot water. Dunk the menorah into water and allow the wax to float to the top. Use a sponge to wipe it clean. Note: the dishpan contains the wax pieces so that they are not washed down the drain, which can damage your kitchen plumbing!

Wax Removal Product – Craft stores carry this product, called "Un-Do." It is designed to remove candle wax and it works well on menorahs.

Warm Iron – Test this out on an old piece of silverware. Heat your iron to low. Cover your menorah with an old cloth towel or several layers of paper toweling. As you "iron" the menorah, the towel absorbs the melted wax.

Blow dryer – Your hair dryer works well, too. Use it to warm and loosen the wax. Wipe clean with a soft cloth

In the Oven – Yes, that's right. Your oven isn't just for kugel anymore. You can use it to remove years of hardened wax from your menorah. Line a cookie sheet with heavy-duty foil. Wrap the menorah in paper towels (to absorb the wax) and then wrap again, this time covering the menorah with foil. Place on the cookie sheet and heat the oven to a low temperature, about 200 F. SET A TIMER for one half hour. Use oven mitts to remove the menorah and wipe away the last of the melted wax.

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Camp B'nai Brith 2026

by David Katzman

We want to see more young people at Camp BB this summer than ever before!

Talk to any kid or adult, and it is very likely that it will be difficult to get them to quit talking about their camp experience. Academic research has repeatedly confirmed that summer camp is a significant source of both Jewish identity and future community leadership.

There are significant financial subsidies available because the camp experience is expensive.

Wonder Week	$1500 to $2000
2 Weeks	$2900
3 Weeks	$4200

Matthew Ditlove is working with the BB President, David Katzman, to develop new guidelines that we hope will lead to more children and young adults attending camp.

For more details:
David Katzman dl.katzman@sasktel.net
Camp Riback/BB: https://campbb.com/

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United Jewish Appeal of Canada/United Israel Appeal (UIA) and The Jerusalem Foundation Fundraising Campaigns

Agudas Israel is partnered with UIA and the Jerusalem Foundation to raise funds for Israel and Canadian Jews. The following appeal letters are provided for your convenience. Stephen Goluboff is the Saskatoon liaison for the UIA Campaign and Grant Scharfstein is the Saskatoon chair for the Jerusalem Foundation.

November 2025

Dear Friends,

I hope you are doing well. It's that time of year again—United Jewish Appeal of Canada (UJAC aka, United Israel Appeal-UIA)is launching our Annual Campaign to support and strengthen Jewish life in Canada, Israel and worldwide, ensuring our community remains proud, resilient, and united. People sometimes say, "I don't totally get what UJA does". Honestly, we get it. We are big, we work across so many areas it can get overwhelming.

UJAC is the central organizer, planner, funder and mobilizer of the Jewish community as a whole. If you care about the Jewish future you need more than passion, you need a plan. That's what UJA does, thoughtfully, responsibly and backed by real data. Right now, our communities are facing very difficult times. Antisemitism is rising, the cost of living is straining families, Jewish identity is being challenged daily and at the same time more people than ever are stepping up searching for connection, for pride and for meaning. That is why the UJA Campaign is so powerful. It is the one time the community comes together so we can respond to what matters most when it is needed most. UJA starts with ongoing analysis of data, comprehensive community wide data. We then bring together experts and leaders in every key area, Jewish education, poverty, mental health, Israel engagement and combatting antisemitism. Together we identify the most pressing challenges and the most effective ways to respond.

No other gift has the power to impact more Jewish lives than a gift to the United Jewish Appeal Canada. Your gift ensures that our community agencies, organizations and institutions are strong and impactful.

There is a lot of information in this letter regarding the UJA Canada Campaign. Please contact me at 647-891-5624 or promberg@jfcuia.org with any questions you might have.

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Please mail it to:
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Call me directly at 647-891-5624.
Thank you for your consideration & support.
Best Regards
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November 18, 2025

Dear Members and Friends:

Re: Jerusalem Foundation / Congregation Agudas Israel Fundraising Campaign

As you may recall, Congregation Agudas Israel ("**CAI**") is partnered with the Jerusalem Foundation to raise funds for Israel. Israel has been at war, a war whose end is hopefully in sight. We all hope and pray for hostilities to cease and for a roadmap to a peace that will last.

The Jerusalem Foundation has established programs for vulnerable populations of all ages, fighting poverty and loneliness among Holocaust survivors, mental health therapeutic programming for at-risk youth, children and families, art and cultural programs and building bridges, trust and communication between diverse population groups. A detailed listing of those Programs is attached for your information.

CAI is again partnering with the Jerusalem Foundation this year to raise funds to support these Programs. Funds raised will go to the Jerusalem Foundation for use in whichever Program they see the greatest need.

Your donation, unless otherwise specifically designated, will be provided to the Jerusalem Foundation for use to support the Community Project identified in the attached brochure. You can, however, specifically designate a program listed in the attached brochure for your donation to be directed to if you so wish.

All donations will be split equally, with 50% going to Israel and 50% staying in our community. Indeed, this is one of our community's most important fundraisers each year.

Israel's need is greater now than it has ever been since its creation in 1948. We require your help. Please donate to this program as soon as you can. Their need is great, and it is urgent.

Your donation is to be made to **Congregation Agudas Israel** and you must designate that it is for the Jerusalem Foundation. You can make your donation anytime by going to the CAI website and clicking on the Donate button. You can call the office and donate by VISA or Mastercard or you can send or drop off a cheque to CAI. We also take e-transfer to administrator@agudasisrael.org. Whether it is $10.00, $100.00, $1,000.00 or $10,000.00 your donation is urgently needed, and every dollar helps. I encourage you to make your donation before December 31, 2024, so as to entitle you to a charitable donation receipt for tax purposes for 2024.

Please pass this communication on to any of your friends. We know there is a lot of support for Israel outside of our Jewish Community.

Yours truly,
Grant Scharfstein,
Chair of Jerusalem Foundation /
Congregation Agudas Israel Campaign

CIJA Happenings

by Lisa Shiffman, Saskatchewan Representative to the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA)

In mid-October I attended a series of meeting in Ottawa, in my role as CIJA Board Member for Saskatchewan. In preparation for my event I bought new business-wear, and got the jitters about being a small fish in a big pond. I took it upon myself to read and re-read the information sent out in advance so I would go in with a strong knowledge on the topics of discussion. To my surprise, I was already well versed in the issues and politics involved in the trip as when things affect you directly you do tend to pay more attention. I generally grimace when politics are discussed, but the politics behind anti-semitism and terrorism have been interwoven into many of our lives these past two years. A week does not go by where I'm not receiving information on a hateful or uncomfortable situation on campus. I now have many children – the Hillel "kids" – who regularly come by the library to talk when things are not going well, or when they are. The responsibility I feel to the staff and Hillel students is what keeps me going with my advocacy, and expanding beyond the grass-roots work I've done, to lobbying the federal government seemed like a huge leap though I came to realize that both types of activism hold merit.

Lisa and Pierre Poilievre

Upon arriving in Ottawa I decided to attend a memorial for the eight Canadian hostages and victims who died on October 7th. They synagogue had high security so I had to arrive early for screening. This gave me an opportunity to look around and chat with a few people sitting by me. A number of CIJA/Jewish Federation delegated were in attendance.

The memorial itself was 2 hours long but felt like it ended right after it started. It was full of music, prayer and a very sad talk by Raquel Look, mother of Alexandre, who died at Nova while facetiming with his mother from the shelter. The final moments of the facetime call involved gunshots and a grenade, then it was over. My heart ached for what Raquel must have felt and what she still feels, when she has to retell her story. Her story reminded me of why I was there, doing what I was doing. I did not know her son, but I feel he is a part of the collective Jewish soul so we all carry the pain of what happened on that day and for the last two years.

Lisa in the middle beside Kevin Waugh with other CIJA and Jewish Federation delegates

The next day was full of board meetings involving things that would not interest the community, such as finances, general information and committee reports. The committee reports were pushed through very quickly (each committee was originally given 15 minutes but due to how long some of our morning meetings took they had to do their reports in 5 minutes). A couple of meetings that may be of interest were a couple of Q&A sessions we had with Minister of Identity and Culture, Steven Guilbeault, as well as other ministers. I mention Steven Guilbeaut by name as he took quite a beating from the CIJA and Jewish Federation members in the room regarding the CBC. It was an "interesting" conversation to say the least.

I should share a couple of stories that came up that day. When the Minister of Security met with us a few people told some anecdotes which silenced the room. Many of us had heard these stories before or had seen viral videos that came out due to them, but meeting the actual people that these things happened to was surreal. One man talked about two Jewish girls quietly holding Israeli flags at McGill University on October 7, that were told by police that their presence was causing problems and they needed to leave. The police were loud and roughly pushing them. The problem is that 200 pro-pali people were across the walkway from them - shooting off fireworks, throwing garbage around, vandalizing benches as a celebration of the events of Oct. 7th, yet the quiet Jewish girls were considered the problem. The father of the girl in the video told this story. The Minister of Safety said she was going to contact McGill governance and the Chief of Police in

continued on page 17

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Thank you to **Tom Mann**, who takes care
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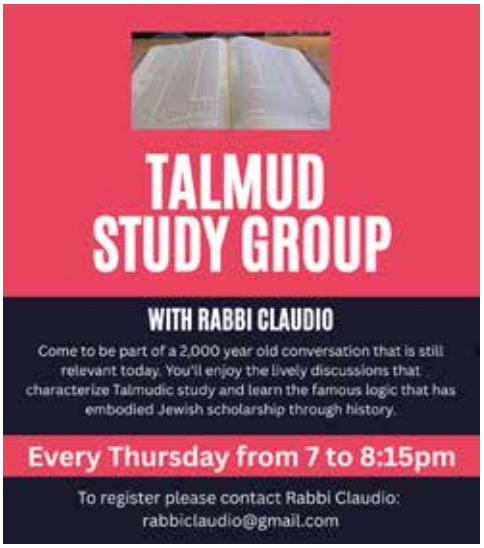

One Tiny Seed

Rachel Goldberg-Polin, the mother of one of the hostages murdered by Hamas, gave a stirring speech to the United Nations which included a poem she had written "for a woman in Gaza" who "knows who she is."

Goldberg-Polin's 23-year-old son, Hersh, was among scores of Israelis abducted Oct. 7 from the Nova music festival a few miles from Israel's border with Gaza. Rachel Goldberg-Polin emerged as the international face of the hostage families, speaking poignantly at the U.N. in New York and at the pro-Israel rally in Washington, meeting with the Pope and with President Joe Biden, and giving dozens of interviews to news outlets around the world.

There is a lullaby that says your mother will
cry a thousand tears before you grow to be a man.
I have cried a million tears in the last 67 days.
We all have.
And I know that way over there
there's another woman
who looks just like me
because we are all so very similar
and she has also been crying.
All those tears, a sea of tears
they all taste the same.
Can we take them
gather them up,
remove the salt
and pour them over our desert of despair
and plant one tiny seed.
A seed wrapped in fear,
trauma, pain,
war and hope
and see what grows?
Could it be
that this woman
so very like me
that she and I could be sitting together in 50 years
laughing without teeth
because we have drunk so much sweet tea together
and now we are so very old
and our faces are creased
like worn-out brown paper bags.
And our sons
have their own grandchildren
and our sons have long lives
One of them without an arm
But who needs two arms anyway?
Is it all a dream?
A fantasy? A prophecy?
One tiny seed.

Sisterhood Notes

by Zoe Litman

Once again the season is winding to an end and the last of the autumn leaves are waiting to be raked. Our thoughts turn to the holiday season and the approaching winter. Sisterhood winter activities will begin with a glass workshop lead by Becky Scharfstein-MacGettigen where we will create beautiful Channuka themed articles. We will cook latkes for the community Channuka party where families will enjoy a traditional favourite. The usual kitchen camaraderie will make this a fun task as well.

The Shabbat Family Dinner will take place January 16th. We celebrate the founding of Women's League in 1918 by Mathilda Schechter which has been a backbone of passing down our traditions and fostering Judaism in the home, synagogue and community. This has always been a personal favourite of mine where our community comes together to enjoy a delicious meal prepared by our Sisterhood members following a beautiful service lead by the Hebrew School children with Sisterhood members participating. We bask in the light of community friendship while the January winter rages outside. We look forward to a more relaxed atmosphere than past years where we focused on Israel's survival and the return of the hostages.

I hope for a good turnout and we can launch the secular year on a positive note for our Community. I hope to see you there in the New Year.

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What's in a Name?

What is the story of your family name?

Did your name change at some point in history? Does the name itself hold meaning such as linking your family to an occupation or location?

I'm looking for short stories of community member's names for an upcoming edition of the Bulletin. (Just family (last) names for now!) Please send your story to lisalinshiffman@gmail.com

Dedicate a

Yahrzeit (Memorial) Plaque

Thanks to the generous donation of the Shiffman family, our synagogue has a new Yahrzeit Board and we are accepting orders for new plaques.

Honour your loved ones by perpetuating their memory in our Sanctuary

A light will be lit next to their names in perpetutity, the Shabbat previous to their Yahrzeit and during Yizkor

Cost: $500

To order, please contact Rabbi Claudio:
rabbiclaudio@gmail.com

Interesting Upcoming Events and Websites

submitted by Dan Ronis

The Winnipeg Limmud is hosting its annual learning conference on March 15, 2026. For more information contact limmudwinnipeg.org. If you are interested in attending widh to car pooling, please contact Dan at dan.ronis55@live.com or 306-371-9285

The Seattle Limmud is having its annual in-person conference on April 26, 2026 and like last year, holding a zoom conference a week earlier on April 19 https://limmudseattle.org/ . I attended the zoom conference last year (nominal cost) and found the quality of presenters as good as the in-person presentations. Some of the zoom sessions are first thing in the morning to accommodate Israeli presenters with a ten hour time difference.

Meditation: Rabbi Olivier Benheim (Seattle) runs an online half hour meditation most days of the week. You can also download his meditation for personal use at any time.
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88040100481

Sharey Zedek (Winnipeg) has a very nice Shabbat service on zoom for those who can't attend local services. https://www.szwinnipeg.ca/live-stream

JWA: The Jewish Women's Archive is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to document Jewish women's stories, elevate their voices, and inspire them to be agents of change.". https://jwa.org/

Jewish Book Council: //www.jewishbookcouncil.org/

The Jewish Book Council doesn't specifically run their own book club, but instead each month picks both a fiction book and a non-fiction book which is essentially a suggestion for book clubs to use. The books are focused on Jewish-interest literature. These books are specifically curated for book clubs with a focus being on discussions. They used to do virtual meet ups for book club facilitators and participants to discuss various books as well.

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Biography of the Month: Milton Berle

by Stan Schroeder

Last month I wrote about Don Rickles. I have written about many comedians: Jack Benny, George Burns, Jackie Mason, Sid Caesar, Carl Reiner, several more. Why hadn't I written about Milton Berle, the Jewish comedian who captured me and millions more in the early days of television?

Today's comedy superstars, especially those whose careers are driven by television, may owe their success to pioneering Jewish entertainer Milton Berle.

Born Mendel Berlinger in a five-story walkup in the Harlem neighborhood of Manhattan July 12, 1908, Berle became America's first small-screen star. He chose Milton Berle as his professional name when he was 16. His father, Moses Berlinger was a paint and varnish salesman. His mother, Sarah (Sadie) Glantz Berlinger changed her name to Sandra Berle when Milton became famous.

Nicknamed "Mr. Television," he influenced and helped promote the work of hundreds of younger comics.

"Milton Berle was deceptively successful and very Jewish," said Lawrence Epstein, author of "The Haunted Smile: The Story of Jewish Comedians in America," published in 2002, the year Berle died. "His success came about because early television sets were mostly sold in wealthier urban areas, with Jews and gentile urbanites accustomed to and appreciative of Jewish humor. So Berle's quick talking, his high-speed jokes, his dressing in outlandish costumes, and his sprinkling of Yiddishisms all played well. Ironically, it was Berle's success with those urban audiences that propelled the sales of televisions around the nation.

Epstein said that once televisions reached the rural areas of America, viewers "took a look at [Berle] and said he spoke so fast they couldn't understand him, and that he wasn't funny, and [they asked], 'What was that foreign language?'

Berle's close friend Lou Zigman, a Los Angeles-based labor lawyer and Brooklyn native, said that Berle kept performing, assisting other comics, giving to charities, and spreading Jewish culture until his death, and he was even performing card tricks as a hospital patient at age 90, according to Zigman.

"I asked Milton how come all the gentiles knew Yiddish humor," Zigman said. "He answered that the great majority of comedians and writers in those early years were Jewish. That's why it spread, and our culture spread, all over the country."

Berle won an amateur talent contest when he was 4, and he appeared as a child actor in silent films. He became a vaudevillian at 12 in a revival of the musical comedy "Florodora" in Atlantic City, and was hired by producer Jack White in 1933 to star in "Poppin' the Cork," a musical comedy. From 1934 to '36, Berle was heard frequently on the radio on "The Rudy Vallee Hour" and attracted publicity as a regular on "The Gillette Original Community Sing," a Sunday night comedy-variety radio program broadcast on CBS. Then came the "Milton Berle Show," a variety format he would revive for his television debut. That debut was "Texaco Star Theatre," which began in September 1948 on ABC and continued until June 1949. The show became the first-ever "appointment television" -a program prompting viewers to adjust their schedules to watch it at a specific time. Berle's autobiography notes that in Detroit, "an investigation took place when the water levels took a drastic drop in the reservoirs on Tuesday nights between 9 and 9:05. It turned out that everyone waited until the end of the 'Texaco Star Theatre' before going to the bathroom."

According to Artie Butler, Berle's friend and a well-known composer/arranger, Berle had a Jewish sense of comedic wit. When Butler was 16, he met Berle while filling in for his piano player at the Town and Country Club in Brooklyn.

"Milton was a mensch, a lovely man, a giving man," Butler said. "He had a New York, garment district, Stage Deli, vaudeville-based Jewish sensibility, the theatrical yiddishkeit, but not in Yiddish. I asked him where he got his first laugh. He told me he was a chorus boy in one of Ziegfeld's musicals, a hoofer. Every night his mother was there in the audience. He was purposefully out of step with the other dancers and Florenz Ziegfeld himself told him after the show to keep doing that, that it got a lot of laughs."

Berle assisted popular upcoming comics. Butler says young comedians sought Berle's advice because he was a pioneer. "Every comic including David Brenner and Rodney Dangerfield wanted to hear the stories about how Milton worked in the Catskills at Grossinger's and the Concord, and how he worked the Jewish audiences," Butler said. "Milton told them they were rough audiences and he had to learn how to finesse them."

In 1947, Berle, Jimmy Durante, George Jessel, Robert Taylor, and Bing Crosby founded the Friars Club of Beverly Hills. The private show-business club is famous for its celebrity roasts, in which club members are mocked by their friends in good fun.

But occasionally Berle's life took on a more serious note. He risked his newfound TV stardom at its zenith to challenge "Texaco Star Theatre" when its corporate sponsor, Texaco, tried to prevent black performers from appearing on the show.

"I remember clashing with the advertising agency and the sponsor over my signing The Four Step Brothers" – a black dance group – "for an appearance on the show," Berle wrote in his autobiography. "The only thing I could figure out was that there was an objection to black performers on the show, but I couldn't even find out who was objecting. 'We just don't like them,' I was told, but who the hell was 'we'? Because I was riding high in 1950, I sent out the word: 'If they don't go on, I don't go on.' At ten minutes of eight – ten minutes before showtime – I got permission for the Step Brothers to appear. If I broke the color-line policy or not, I don't know, but later on I had no trouble booking Bill Robinson or Lena Horne."

Berle "deserves credit" for taking a stand on integration in the context of The Texaco Star Theatre, Epstein said. "His whole television career depended on that show. This was six years before Brown v. Board of Education ended segregation. Berle invited the black singer Pearl Bailey. He also invited Senor Wences, a Sephardic Jewish ventriloquist who spoke with a thick accent. "I'm not sure too many people of the era, given the stakes, would have had as guests a black singer and a Sephardic Jew who used his hand as a puppet."

Berle never forgot his Jewish upbringing. He hosted the first charity telethon, for the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation, in 1949. A permanent fixture at charity benefits in the Hollywood area, he was instrumental in raising millions for charitable causes and made it into the Guinness Book of World Records for making the greatest number of charity performances

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

Len Landa BBYO Report

by Charlie Rapko

The past few months have been busy and successful for the Saskatoon Len Landa BBYO chapter, with well-run programs, new member involvement, and strong teamwork helping the chapter move forward with confidence.

Members and chapter leaders say that the programs held this season went smoothly and were well-received. Each event showed clear planning and effort, and attendance stayed strong throughout. The chapter's leadership credits this to good communication, steady preparation, and the enthusiasm of members who continue to show up and participate.

A highlight of the past months was welcoming new people into the chapter. These new members have brought fresh energy, and leaders have worked to make sure they feel welcomed and included. Their involvement has helped strengthen the group's sense of community and has added excitement to recent programs.

Another major accomplishment was the chapter's convention, which ran successfully from start to finish. Members described it as fun, organized, and meaningful, with a mix of activities that kept everyone engaged. The positive feedback from the convention has motivated the chapter to continue building on what worked well.

Behind the scenes, the chapter also put effort into creating quality materials to support their events. Posters were carefully designed to look appealing and clearly share information, while new calendars helped members stay on track with upcoming activities. These small but important details helped the chapter stay organized and present itself professionally.

The chapter's board meetings have also been going well. Members of the board report that meetings have been productive and respectful, with everyone doing their part and staying committed to their roles. This strong teamwork has kept the chapter running smoothly and has helped ensure that programs and events come together effectively.

Overall, Len Landa's leadership and members say the past few months have shown what can happen when everyone works hard and supports each other. With good programs, new faces, strong communication, and a dedicated board, the chapter is heading into the next season with momentum and pride.

Milton Burle... *continued from page 12*

by a show-business professional. According to Zigman, he was a member of the Creative Arts Temple in Beverly Hills, and spoke at the synagogue's charitable events.

"Milton was a product of New York Jewish culture," Zigman said. "We take pride in ourselves as being multiracial and multiethnic, having a respect for other people."

Berle made a guest appearance on The Muppets show November 11, 1977. In it he sang the classic Scott Joplin's ragtime The Entertainer, accompanied by the Muppets. His version was a slow, wistful look back at vaudeville. He talk-sings the song, which gives it the feel of a staged monologue. He's just looking back over his career, and it's a very sweet moment. Muppet Rowlf says "Boy, you were really the Entertainer, huh?" Berle nods and responds "One of 'em." He's a stand-in for all of vaudeville here. Similarly, The "Entertainer" is standing in for the entire 20th century. The song was written in 1902, but it was newly popular in the mid-70s due to its use in The Sting, a film set in the 1930s.

Hollywood said farewell to comedian Milton Berle on April 1, 2002 in a zany funeral service that mixed solemn eulogies with the kind of one-liners and borrowed jokes he was famous for in a 60-year career that went from vaudeville to the living room TV set.

It was his last "roast" as old friends stood in front of his coffin, draped in his trademark trench coat and hat, and cracked jokes about a man they loved.

Among the 300 attendees at the private service for Berle at Hillside Memorial Park and Mortuary in the Los Angeles suburb of Culver City were stars from television's golden age, including Red Buttons, Sid Caesar, Don Rickles, and Jayne Meadows.

Berle's coffin was surrounded by flowers and photographs of the comedian in his heyday as "Uncle Miltie" and "Mr Television." It was draped in a trench coat and a hat because Berle hated drafts and always feared he would catch a cold and never went anywhere without the hat and coat, even the sun-drenched, desert city of Las Vegas.

Rickles set the tone for the eulogies, declaring to Berle's grieving fourth wife, Lorna Adams, "I would like to be paid for this." Red Buttons followed, describing Rickles as "the greatest argument against human cloning."

Comedy writer Larry Gelbart apologized to Berle because the man who ushered in the golden age of television died in the same week as two other Hollywood luminaries, actor Dudley Moore and filmmaker Billy Wilder. "I hear you Milton, sorry," Gelbart said. "I know you work alone."

My own last words to end this article: In 1949-50 I would drive my mother and two sisters to my Uncle Simon's house (we didn't have a TV) on Tuesday nights in my 1930 Model A Ford with a rumble seat to watch Uncle Miltie. To borrow from another favorite, Bob Hope, "Thanks for the memory."

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B'nai Brith... *continued from cover*

and Leket (Israeli Food Bank).

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the We Are Proud of You Award. As much as this honour acknowledges decades of selfless service, it encourages younger guests to follow the example of the recipient. Randy Katzman introduced the award and beautifully described the significant influence of the fathers of the award winner, Lorne Wright, and the nominators, Doug Hodson and Grant Kook (both former Proud of You winners). Lorne has been remarkably generous with both his time and his resources for many, many years.

The Silent Auction is arguably Saskatoon's finest. The quantity and quality of items reflect the desire of so many to support our Jewish community. The Live Auction was equally impressive. A great deal of the success, now and in the past, is due to the respect that donors have for Ron Gitlin, who has devoted countless hours to this endeavour and is now mentoring the new chairperson, Harold Shiffman. The auction had a record setting year. The support of Sherwood Chevrolet and Centennial Plumbing were critical to the success of the auction.

The money raised from this event is significant for our Jewish community but what is even more important is that the Silver Plate Dinner and Silver Spoon Dinner maintain and enhance our relationships with the larger community. The time to build bridges is before you need them.

Potato Galette

A twist on the traditional latke. Sure to be a family favourite.

Ingredients:

2 lb. russet potatoes
1/4 onion, diced
2 tsp. chopped thyme
2 tsp. salt
3/4 tsp. pepper
7 Tbsp. canola oil, divided
Optional - sea salt and thyme, for garnish

Directions:

1. Peel the potatoes and shred on the large holes of a grater. Place the shredded potatoes in a colander and rinse under cold water, stirring often, until the water runs clear, about 1 minute. Drain well. Wrap the potatoes in a clean dish towel and squeeze firmly to wring out as much moisture as possible. A salad spinner can also help to remove excess water.
2. Toss together the potatoes, red onion, thyme, salt, and pepper in a large bowl.
3. Heat 5 tablespoons of oil in a 10-inch nonstick skillet over medium. Add potato mixture to the skillet and spread into an even layer. Using the back of a spatula, firmly press to compact the potatoes. Cook until the bottom and sides are golden brown, about 15 minutes.
4. Carefully slide the galette, browned side down, onto a baking sheet. Invert the skillet on top of the galette and flip the sheet so that the galette is now browned side up in the skillet.
5. Drizzle the remaining 2 tablespoons of the oil around the edges of the skillet. Cook until golden brown on the bottom, 8 to 10 minutes. Transfer galette to a cutting board. Cut into wedges. Garnish with flaky sea salt and thyme.

The Saskatoon Jewish Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

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Steven Goluboff	In honour of all the work you have done to keep the community alive and well.	Myrna Silverberg
Patty Landa Puterman	In memory of your dear cousin and friend, Elaine Dewar.	Myrna Silverberg
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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.

Strategic Planning Committee

by Reuben Kellen

On behalf of the Strategic Planning Committee, I am pleased to share this update with the community on our recent progress. On November 9 and November 16 we held a total of three Community Conversations, each lasting at least 90 minutes and in some cases up to two hours, which brought a total of eleven community members together to share their views on what in the congregation has been working, as well as what could be worked on. These Community Conversations aimed to provide members of the community who responded to the committee's Spring 2025 survey with an opportunity to share their perspectives on various issues that are important to the long-term viability of our vibrant community, and in particular communication, succession planning, financial sustainability, shared vision, and expectations and accountability.

The Community Conversations to date have provided the committee with a wealth of data that we will use to develop recommendations to the synagogue's Board. At the same time, the committee recognizes that relying only on the views shared up to this point has limitations, and we will make plans to organize some further Community Conversations. The committee is aware that some in the community would appreciate a chance to share their views and were simply not able to attend any of the first set of Community Conversations. We are also aware that there may be some members of the community who did not respond to the survey circulated in Spring 2025 and nevertheless may wish to be a part of the next round of Community Conversations. Over the next few weeks, the committee will reach out to those who have not had a chance to share their views and extend invitations to be a part of future Community Conversations. Anyone in the community who wants to participate should please reach out to me with your availability at reuben.kellen@gmail.com. Members of the community who would prefer to share their views privately and individually can also contact me at the same email address. All information provided to the committee as part of this process will be collected, analyzed and disseminated on an anonymous basis.

After the Community Conversations are concluded, and after some targeted consultation with other synagogue committees, the Strategic Planning Committee will move into the next phase of our work and begin preparing a report and recommendations for the Board. The value of this work and the resulting recommendations will rest on the quality of community feedback that we can work with. On behalf of the committee, let me please ask you all to share your thoughts on how to keep Congregation Agudas Israel and the Saskatoon Jewish community a vibrant part of the wider mosaic of communities that we are a part of.

Joey Weisenberg... *continued from page 6*

people who live near each other can find ways to replicate that, week to week or every few days, so there's always an opportunity to sing a song or a nigun together and experience that transforming power of the spirit.

Hanna: You've released nine albums already, most recently Selah earlier this year. You also teach online, in person, to people all over the world. How does it feel to hear your music transformed by communities you've never met?

Joey: Oh, it's beautiful! That's what it's for. For better or worse, I don't feel much ownership over the music I make. Really, I'm channeling melodies. They come to me as gifts, and my job is to hear that gift and pass it forward to people around the world who sing those melodies, sometimes more than I do. Sometimes I've written melodies, sent them to people, then forgotten about them; then ten years later I find out that a whole tradition had started around that melody somewhere far away! Sometimes communities change the melodies from how I first heard them, and I see that as a sign of life. If something is able to change, then it's culturally alive, and that's exciting to me. As an artist, the more I'm able to pass the gifts through and keep the channels open, the more songs keep coming. There's a flow that happens out into the world. That's the way I want it to be.

Hanna: The past two years have been difficult for Jewish communities worldwide, a time of heaviness and grief. What role do you see song playing in this moment, for comfort and resilience, especially after October 7?

Joey: Comfort and resilience. Throughout time, there's been a constant cycle in the Jewish world of upheaval, of trauma. For millennia, Jews have not had the easiest time. That's not to take on a victim mentality, but just to say that we weren't ever the paragon of stability in any given location in the world. The Jewish people have always been Ivrim (Hebrews), people who pass from place to place, and in each of those places, we've picked up things that were hard.Our ancient teachers, like in Kohelet (Ecclesiastes), said there's a time for death and a time for healing, a time for loving and a time for hating, a time for war and a time for peace, and that these things go in cycles and there's really nothing new under the sun. Music's job, no matter which cycle we're in, is to remind us of our spirit and our aliveness. That goes for us individually and as a community, that when times get tough, music comes along and reminds us of the depth of being alive. And it moves us a little bit, and reawakens our sense of the beauty and miracle of even getting to take a breath, because every breath that we take is a breath that could come out with song and praise, "kol ha-neshamah tehalel Yah." So the music helps remind us, that even in the hardest times, that at least some of us are still breathing and there are miracles, and there is good. We can connect around that and build beautiful things for the future, even if we're standing in the rubble right now.

Hanna: You've talked about how different nusach (musical modes) carry their own emotional and spiritual colour and anchor us in specific moments in time, like a time of the week, time of year or holiday or season, as well as about the "nusach of silence." Can you talk about that and how these modes shape the flow of a service?

Joey: The nusach reminds us where we are in the cycles of time, and the silence allows us to hear what's coming out of that moment. Rather than making noise ad nauseum, we can sometimes take a moment and just listen, both to others and to our own hearts, or to the whispers that may be coming from the world around us. That's the kol d'mamah dakah, the "still small voice" in the Unetaneh Tokef: "The great shofar is sounded... and the still small voice is heard." We make noise with our shofars and communal singing, then we have a cadential rest, which allows us to listen to the echoes and to the unknown. That quietness sometimes contains more truth or wisdom than we realize. So in prayer, I like to have moments of quiet: it's not fixed nusach, but including silence in all of this hubbub of prayer. You know, in some ways, the real prayer comes when we stop the scripted prayer, which is the real feelings of our guts that need to be expressed.

Hanna: You have various roles: musician, educator, prayer leader. How do you navigate those different modes, especially the tension between technical preparation and spiritual presence?

Joey: There are many modalities of being in the world as a musical person. In the early stages of any of those pursuits, it takes enormous attention to detail just to get the basics in place, like language, pronunciation, melodies, harmonies, rhythm. In Hebrew, that's the p'shat, the simple level: the notes, harmony, rhythm. The next level, remez ("hint"), is when you try that with people, where you get a whole new level of complexity from being in a room with others. It's like you get a hint of the Divine. Then comes the level of the composition, drash (from midrash), when you begin to create something new, to fill a gap that needs to be filled in the world. That means learning the skills of creation, which often means getting out of the way altogether so things can come through you. The highest level, although all levels are equally good, is sod, the secret, which is basically connecting all these efforts to the spiritual realm, transcending the physical and spiritual divide so humans can take their place between heaven and earth. You can never really articulate those secrets, though we've tried to sometimes. Everyone has different strengths: some people can't sing a note but understand the secret level intuitively; others may not know much about the basics of Jewish prayer but can compose a new melody instantly. Some are great at singing with others but don't know how to write their own music. But when you put the four levels together—p'shat, remez, drash, and sod—you get pardes, paradise. That said, it takes a lot of experience and time for those things to really start to work together. It's taken me over 30 years of working on music to get to the limited level I'm at.

Hanna: Not only are you a multi-instrumentalist, award-winning author and recording artist, but you're also the founder of Hadar's Rising Song Institute. What inspired your vision to create such an institute, and how do you see it evolving?

Joey: I founded the Rising Song Institute, and more recently started the SongIsPrayer.com online community, because I have a dream that people can sing together, that there can be beauty in the world, that people can be spiritually moved, learn to listen better, and build communities through singing that can heal, that we can continue to learn and develop our ancient traditions, and that we can realize the beauty of being alive... you know, small goals! Those are things I feel we really do need, and song is such a powerful ally in discovering things. Luckily there are lots of artists and singing traditions in the world, and a lot of wonderful Jewish music that's emerged in recent generations, and the Rising Song Institute and SongIsPrayer.com are there to help people access those traditions and figure out how to contribute to them as well.

Visit SongIsPrayer.com to learn more about Joey and hear his music.

Hanna Rose Jodrey is Jewish lay leader and community activist in Saskatoon.

Quarterly Quiz!

Answers

1) Study, learn
2) Iraq
3) Tiberias
4) The Babylonian Talmud
5) The Jerusalem Talmud
6) Aramaic
7) Hebrew. (Specifically, the Mishnah was mostly written in Hebrew).
8) 2,711 double-sided pages.
9) Six: agriculture, holidays, family law, damages, sacrifices, and purity.
10) Rashi

CIJA ... *continued from page 9*

Montreal to discuss the matter.

A few others mentioned situations in which they were trapped in their synagogues and Jewish day schools. Some had to climb out back windows to leave, while others escaped through back doors. One person recalled leaving through the back then coming around the front to find himself behind the police line. Him and the people with him asked the police why these protestors were allowed on their properly. Why were the police allowing this? Why did "they" have to sneak out of their own building when they were not doing anything wrong? The police responded by saying "You guys are the reasonable ones". Well, reasonable did not get them far, so this is why organizations such as CIJA are important for making change.

Day two was just as intense as day one but was not the same by any means. We had an early breakfast with around 20 Conservatives and our breakfast speaker was Pierre Poilievre. He talked about the time he spent back packing around Israel, and spending shabbat with an Orthodox family with at least 8 kids. It was during this time that I realized for once, that I was in a room full of like-minded people. We were all there on the sole mission to take antisemitism by the horns and try to make positive change in our respective communities. I felt a feeling of warmth which I had also felt two days earlier at the memorial I had attended. Even in my own community I need to be cognizant that not everyone has experienced antisemitism in the same way so does not feel the same drive or passion to fight back. All of us in that room had stories to tell and the stories brought me close to these people. Their business suits did not hide their pain. They felt safe enough to tell their stories openly and I'm so glad they did. Despite being from different walks of life, we all share a Jewish soul. We are all bonded through our suffering, and our accomplishments.

At lunch we dined with around 12 Liberals and Evan Solomon spoke to us (Minister of AI, yes, it's a real position). I think he was sent because he was Jewish, but personally I did not get a lot out of his talk. The US Ambassador to Canada spoke after him. Wow, he should have come in wearing a MAGA hat. It was interesting to hear someone so "loud and proud" American among us, but a bit draining for my introvert-soul. After the talks ended we had around 20 minutes to socialize. I spoke with an Israeli-French-Canadian who, as it turns out, wrote the itinerary for the FIRST years of the Birthright Israel Experience trips. This was amazing, as I was on the trip the first year! He left for Tel Aviv two days later on Federation business. I'm sure we will have lots to talk about next time I see him.

On day two we were put into small lobbying groups. My first meeting was with Kevin Waugh. The man did his research as he knew who I was when I walked through the door. He shook my hand and said "Lisa Shiffman, Welcome to Ottawa". He also knew a lot of unusual details of my life, but I just rolled with it. The purpose of our lobbying was to fine tune bill C-9, which is an act to amend the Criminal Code (hate propaganda, hate crime and access to religious or cultural places). The bill is very short, can be accessed online and is actually very easy to read. We had a number of "asks" such as a full ban on terrorist symbols, simplify requirements under the hate propaganda offence, create a standalone "promotion of terrorism" offence, protect access to public spaces, allowing the attorney general of each province to not be required to sign off on policing agencies who press hate crime charges (attorney general would still sign off on person to person accusations). We pushed for Canada could rebuild its ties with Israel as there has been a lot of damage to that relationship recently with the symbolic recognition of a Palestinian state. We also asked that more money be put into the community securities funds as Jewish communities across Canada spent more than 41 million dollars in security last year and this does not include complete statistics as many who have applied for funding are still waiting.

That was another exhausting day but I felt I had contributed something important to our cause. I was not a small fish in a big pond. I was the same sized fish with the same issues as all the other fish, and we all smiled at each other with the same exhausted-but-not-defeated eyes. I took the train back to the airport for one last look at the beauty of Ottawa (by the way, the University of Saskatchewan is much prettier than Carleton). At the airport I changed out of my power suit and into a bunny hug, fuzzy socks, and jeans for the flight home.

Feel free to pass your concerns to me regarding antisemitism and I'll make sure you are heard by the right people. It is my pleasure and honor to represent Saskatchewan, and I thank you for putting your faith in me.

Rabbi ... *continued from page 4*

inward at the same time. Forward to imagine new strategies, create new programs, welcome new members and find new ways to support our Jewish brothers and sisters. And inward to learn more about Judaism, to incorporate more traditions in our homes, to provide our kids a strong Jewish identity, to strengthen our relationship with Israel, and to do more acts of Tzedakah and Gemilut Chasadim – loving-kindness. When we think about our future, we can't forget that working on budgets, raising funds and keeping a congregation running means continuing Abraham's journey, forward and inward, building what comes next while staying faithful to who we are.

May God bless us so we always find the courage to go forth and the wisdom to go inward, strengthening the love for our beautiful traditions and our fellow Jews. And may we, like Abraham, walk together with faith toward a future filled with blessing and authenticity, toward the deepest truth of our own Jewish selves.

L'shalom,
Rabbi Claudio

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Yahrzeits

December 5/6
Morris Lubin — Sat 12-06 Kislev 16
Anna T. Blank — Sun 12-07 Kislev 17
Yehudith Broudy
Rabbi Nomi Oren Ehren-Lis
Rebecca Green
Jacob Neumann
Mary Bender — Mon 12-08 Kislev 18
Samuel Lifshen
Alexander Blum — Tues 12-09 Kislev 19
Fannie Kahan — Thurs12-11 Kislev 21
Chaim Kolominsky
Stephen Mossny — Fri 12-12 Kislev 22
Podhorcer

December 12/13
Joseph Brant — Sun 12-14 Kislev 24
Pauline Laimon
Eva Miller
Reisie Korber — Tues 12-16 Kislev 26
Raya Gersher — Wed 12-17 Kislev 27
Anita Marcus
Gertrude Goffman — Fri 12-19 Kislev 29
Sara Y. Korzen
Isaac Lubin
David MacKay
Yosef Pollak

December 19/20
Freda Aaron — Sat 12-20 Kislev 30
Michael Goorovitch
Marjorie Cohen — Sun 12-21 Tevet 1
Alex Gimpel
Hena Feiga (Rena) Levitsky
Marvin Aarons — Mon 12-22 Tevet 2
Edith Caplan
Hyman Arlinsky — Tues 12-23 Tevet 3
Martha Blum
Susanna Hillman
Tom Kovish
Nathan Kornfeld — Wed 12-24 Tevet 4
Charles Vickar
Helen Levson — Thurs 12-25 Tevet 5
Doris Mazer
Leopold Edison — Fri 12-26 Tevet 6
Israel M. Katzman
Labe Katzman

December 26/27
Velle Bernstein — Sat 12-27 Tevet 7
Joseph Ditlove
Joseph Donen
Lil Gitlin — Sun 12-28 Tevet 8
Annie Handelman
Ida Gamm — Mon 12-29 Tevet 9
Arthur Singer
Julie Singer
Moses Filer — Tues 12-30 Tevet 10
Mary Davidner — Thurs 01-01 Tevet 12
Michael Davidner
Syd Gelmon
Felix Mondrus
Brilliant Rahamimova
Elizabeth Brewster — Fri 01-02 Tevet 13
Arnold Golumbia
Baby Trager
Jacob Trager

January 2/3
Morris Ames — Sat 01-03 Tevet 14
Joseph Caplan
Estelle Gladstone
Leon Dragushan — Sun 01-04 Tevet 15
Anne Goldstein
Sadie O'Fallon
Anne Shore
Jerry Brown — Mon 01-05 Tevet 16
Fanny Miller
Tammy Purkin
Joe Schachter
Gertrude Bricker — Tues 01-06 Tevet 17
Harry Spector
Minnie Cramer — Wed 01-07 Tevet 18
Tsilav Gutner
S.B. Levin
Essie Flikshteyn — Thurs 01-08Tevet 19
Belema Sokariboa
Harry Buckwold — Fri 01-09 Tevet 20
Sarah Epstein
Sarah Goldenberg
Irvin Nisenholt

January 9/10
Mordechai Avivi — Sat 01-10 Tevet 21
Margret Cohen
Samuel G. Meyers
Gary Sands
Samuel Wiss
Jacob Laimon — Sun 01-11 Tevet 22
Fanny Landa
Solomon Shaw
Esther Pentol — Mon 01-12 Tevet 23
Morris Claman — Tues 01-13 Tevet 24
Clara Milavsky
Rev. David Avol — Wed 01-14 Tevet 25
Faige Bernbaum
Chaje Taube Goldenberg
Abraham Abelevsky — Thurs 01-15 Tevet 26
Burna Purkin
Neil Bernbaum — Fri 01-16 Tevet 27
George Meyer
Irving Schulman

January 16/17
Shirley East — Sat 01-17 Tevet 28
Charlotte Fine
Gerald Greenblat
Solomon Katzman
Bessie Trager
Bert Scharfstein — Sun 01-18Tevet 29
Rhoda Abbey — Mon 01-19 Shevat 1
Isador Singer
Joseph Sugarman
Marion Hanna — Tues 01-20 Shevat 2
Michael Sklar
Edward David Burns — Wed 01-21 Shevat 3
Chaim Reznick
William Shear
Min Fayerman — Thurs 01-22 Shevat 4
Reuben Gitlin
Mizal Isaakov
Shimon Tzalkovich
Chaye Goluboff — Fri 01-23 Shevat 5
David Rahanim

January 23/24
Doris Crone — Sat 01-24 Shevat 6
Sonny Ludwig
Walter Zion — Sun 01-25 Shevat 7
Jeffrey Gertler — Mon 01-26 Shevat 8
Max Hesselson
Rebecca Shore
Benjamin Tadman
Sadie Brand — Wed 01-28 Shevat 10
Girl Neumann
Rabbi Sammy Pereira
Ethel Scharfstein
Joseph Switzer
Charles Feinstein — Thurs 01-29 Shevat 11
Chaim Friedman
Larry Geller
Sondra Resnick
Jacob Waldman

January 30/31
Clara Adilman — Fri 01-30 Shevat 12
Joseph M. Bender
Annie Golumbia
Rose Gonick
Lillian Friedman — Sat 01-31 Shevat 13
Pearl Gurstein
Saralee Plachte
Louis Shore
Louis Spector
Chan Katzman — Sun 02-01 Shevat 14
Yosef (Abe) Avivi — Mon 02-02 Shevat 15
Seco Resnick
David Claman — Tues 02-03 Shevat 16
Nathan Goluboff
Harris Holzberg
Sam Raisen
Susan Cherry — Wed 02-04 Shevat 17
Harry Bondar — Thurs 02-05 Shevat 18
Sam Hearn
Lida Isaakov
Gregory Trush
Albert Viner
Gitta Gootnik — Fri 02-06 Shevat 19

February 6/7
Shirley Barenbaum — Sat 02-07 Shevat 20
Isidor Korber
Nathan Siskin
Albert Solsberg
William Adilman — Sun 02-08 Shevat 21
Rhoda Broudy
H. Glick
Hyman Tabachnicoff1
Morris Burtnick — Mon 02-09 Shevat 22
Meyer Gurstein
Ethel Katzman
Harry Thomas Aaron — Wed 02-11 Shevat 24
Joseph S. Dunn
Joseph Gonick
Abraham Guttmann
Sarah Laimon
Baruch Levington
Freda Katz — Thurs 02-12 Shevat 25
Jack Miller
Vera Rabinovitch
Male Tzalkovich
Esther Freidin — Fri 02-13 Shevat 26
Sol Freidin
Jessie Kay
Bertha Kuenstler
Libby Lee
Percy Shore
Len Wolf

February 13/14
Perl Kleyman — Sat 02-14 Shevat 27
Sam Rabinovitch
Abraham Trager
Fanny Sugarman — Sun 02-15 Shevat 28
Matthew Gonick — Mon 02-16 Shevat 29
Jack Schwartz
Morris Danenhirsch — Tues 02-17 Shevat 30
Benjamin Faibish
Harriett Kaplan
Herman Mahlerman
Fanny Nisenholt
Sarah Altman — Wed 02-18 Adar 1
Eileen Cookman
Dawn Horwitz
Bill Katz
John Albert Cameron — Thurs 02-19 Adar 2
Gertie Chochinov
Elaine Friedman
Ruth Horlick
Lily Salz
Millie Diamond — Fri 02-20 Adar 3
Ronald Trute

February 20/21
Esther Berenbaum
Hazel Buckwold
Gitman Chertkow
Marcia Sarlin
Rose Selchen
Boy Bressler — Mon 02-23 Adar 6
Charna Gersher
Wolf Meth
Naomi Rose
Shirley Scitz
Ester Weisman
Frances Melamede — Tues 02-24 Adar 7
Raisa Mondrus
Rose Wolfe
Annie Altschul — Wed 02-25 Adar 8
Albert Krolik
Fira Rotenberg
Dana Unknown
Sadie Chertkow — Thurs 02-26 Adar 9
William East
Itta Golumbia — Fri 02-27 Adar 10
Motas Kleyman
Fred Shnay
Gussie Sklar

February 27/28
Moses Burt — Sat 02-28 Adar 11
Maurice Mitchell
Sydney Abbey — Sun 03-01 Adar 12
Ann Raisen
Clara Gertler — Tues 03-03 Adar 14
Harry Helfgott
Samuel Kaplan
Leah Meth
Harry Sarlin
Jacob Golumbia — Wed 03-04 Adar 15
Anne Gitlin — Thurs 03-05 Adar 16
Yetty Goodman
A.J. Weiner

March 6/7
Jean Davidner — Sat 03-07 Adar 18
Lillian Levitt
Lorraine Sklar
Keren-Or Wilczek
John B. Goodman — Sun 03-08 Adar 19
William Guttmann
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

Synagogue Sightings

Tefillin Club

First HeBrews Coffee Club Meet up.

Indigo Buy-cott.

High Holidays

Usask Oct 7th Vigil

Usask Oct 7th Vigil

December 2025 / 5786 — January 2026 / 5786 — February 2026 / 5786

sun	mon	tues	wed	thurs	friday	saturday
	Dec 1 Kislev 11	**2** Kislev 12	**3** Kislev 13	**4** Kislev 14 Talmud Study Group 7:00 pm	**5** Kislev 15	**6** Kislev 16 Vayishlach * Michael Scharfstein
7 Kislev 17 Tefillin Club 10:00 am He-Brews Coffee Club 10:30 am	**8** Kislev 18	**9** Kislev 19	**10** Kislev 20	**11** Kislev 21 Talmud Study Group 7:00 pm	**12** Kislev 22	**13** Kislev 23 Vayeshev *Robert Engelbert *
14 Kislev 24 Hanukkah Community Celebration 2:00 pm	**15** Kislev 25	**16** Kislev 26	**17** Kislev 27	**18** Kislev 28 Talmud Study Group 7:00 pm	**19** Kislev 29	**20** Kislev 30 Miketz ROSH HODESH HANUKKAH * Kevin Sharfe
21 Tevet 1 Rosh Chodesh Hanukkah	**22** Tevet 2 Hanukkah	**23** Tevet 3	**24** Tevet 4	**25** Tevet 5 OFFICE CLOSED	**26** Tevet 6 OFFICE CLOSED	**27** Tevet 7 Vayigash *Marsha Scharfstein
28 Tevet 8	**29** Tevet 9	**30** Tevet 10	**31** Tevet 11	**Jan1** Tevet 12 OFFICE CLOSED	**2** Tevet 13	**3** Tevet 14 Vayechi *Harold Shiffman
4 Tevet 15	**5** Tevet 16	**6** Tevet 17	**7** Tevet 18	**8** Tevet 19	**9** Tevet 20	**10** Tevet 21 Shemot * Simonne Horwitz
11 Tevet 22	**12** Tevet 23	**13** Tevet 24	**14** Tevet 25	**15** Tevet 26 Talmud Study Group 7:00 pm	**16** Tevet 27 Sisterhood Shabbat Family Dinner & Hebrew School Service	**17** Tevet 28 Vaera *Daniel Katzman
18 Tevet 29	**19** Shevat 1	**20** Shevat 2	**21** Shevat 3	**22** Shevat 4 Talmud Study Group 7:00 pm	**23** Shevat 5	**24** Shevat 6 Bo *Dani Blakely
25 Shevat 7	**26** Shevat 8	**27** Shevat 9 Book Club 7:00 pm	**28** Shevat 10	**29** Shevat 11 Talmud Study Group 7:00 pm	**30** Shevat 12	**31** Shevat 13 Beshalach SHABBAT SHIRA *Shaina Goluboff
Feb 1 Shevat 14	**2** Shevat15	**3** Shevat 16	**4** Shevat 17	**5** Shevat 18 Talmud Study Group 7:00 pm	**6** Shevat 19	**7** Shevat 20 Vitro *Jan Gitlin
8 Shevat 21	**9** Shevat 22	**10** Shevat 23	**11** Shevat 24	**12** Shevat 25 Talmud Study Group 7:00 pm	**13** Shevat 26	**14** Shevat 27 Mishpatim SHABBAT SHEKALIM *Lisa Shiffman
15 Shevat 28 B'nai Brith Meeting 7:00 pm	**16** Shevat 29 OFFICE CLOSED	**17** Shevat 30	**18** Adar 1	**19** Adar 2	**20** Adar 3	**21** Adar 4 Terumah * Gideon Weisman
22 Adar 5	**23** Adar 6	**24** Adar 7 Cooking Club 6:00 pm	**25** Adar 8	**26** Adar 9 Talmud Study Group 7:00 pm	**27** Adar 10	**28** Adar 11 Tetzaveh SHABBAT ZACHOR * Zoe Litman
Mar 1 Adar 12	**2** Adar 13	**3** Adar 14	**4** Adar 15	**5** Adar 16	**6** Adar 17	**7** Adar18

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