

HAKOL

THE VOICE OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF EDMONTON

JUNE 2020

In This Issue

VIRTUAL FILM FESTIVAL

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE P.2

FROM THE CEO'S DESK P.3

UJA CAMPAIGN REPORT P.4

YOM HSHOAH P.4

YOM HAZIKARON
& YOM HA'ATZMAUT P.5

EJCCF REPORT P.7

HILLEL UPDATE P.8

SECURITY MESSAGE P.9

UPCOMING EVENTS P.11

THE VIRTUAL EDMONTON JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

By Susan Schiffman



Opening Night: Golda's Balcony - The Movie

The Virtual Edmonton Jewish Film Festival, which started out as a COVID-19 driven adventure that no one had wished for, ended up as a runaway success! With record attendance and terrific audience feedback, it has given Edmonton a whole new take on film festival going. Because of its success, by popular demand, our future film festivals may well include a virtual component.

The Virtual Festival was held from May 3rd to May 7th, with five great Jewish-themed films, four shorts and three special guest speakers. Thanks to the generosity of sponsors and supporters, it was offered free of charge, in order to reach as many people as possible during this very difficult time.

With free admission and the ease of being able to watch films from home on a flexible schedule, registration soared. Word spread to out-of-towners, too, and pretty soon we had registrants from all over Canada, the US and beyond.

Over 1000 people registered for our "little" Festival, born and bred in Edmonton! Opening night was a highlight of the Festival with the fabulous movie Golda's Balcony, The Film, a film of the hit one-woman Broadway play. The audience laughed, cried and trembled with fear as actress Tova Feldshuh brilliantly depicted 100 years of Israeli history, recreating Golda Meir, as well as 44 other characters in a riveting performance. It is a good thing that virtual viewers don't need cinema seats, because we would have filled the Landmark Theatre three times over: 650 people logged in to watch the opening film. In the days that followed came four Jewish-themed films, each one and different each with a meaningful story of Jewish life and experience. All four of the films were also all extremely well-attended and highly appreciated. Emails with compliments streamed into the Federation offices, many from first-time attendees delighted to discover our Festival.

Three Zoom talks complemented the films, offering a chance for some of the social and intellectual interaction we cherish at a live festival. On Opening Night, producer David Fishelson provided an insider's view of the history, cast, and characters of Golda's Balcony, live from New York.

cont'd p.6

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Steve Shafir



I write this article at a critical juncture for our community. As Debby elaborates in her article, much has changed in the couple of months since we issued the last HaKol. We are in the midst of a global pandemic not seen since the days of the Spanish Influenza. I am the great grandson of Vina Silverman, who died in Saskatoon in November, 1918 from the Spanish 'flu weeks after giving birth to my grandfather, and of Dr. Abraham Silverman, who treated the residents in the nearby Montefiore Colony at that time. Never did I think that we'd be in a position similar to them.

We are living in a time of uncertainty. We have done what we need to do at the Jewish Federation of Edmonton to position ourselves for the current environment. From cutting many expenses, to moving many of our programs to an online delivery model, we have worked extremely hard over the past two months to try to continue to maintain a presence in your life and to bring Jewish life and Jewish experiences to our community.

I want to assure you that our leadership has taken measures that have not been easy but are needed in these trying times. They will help position the Jewish Federation of Edmonton to be stronger coming out of the Pandemic given the difficulties we believe we may all face once life returns to "normal".

While we did cut some spending to our upcoming budget, as well as expenses in the current year, one of the critical decisions we made was to not further cut allocations to our beneficiary organizations in the current fiscal year. Talmud Torah, Camp BB-Riback, the Jewish Senior's Drop-In

Centre and Jewish Family Services will receive all money that was allocated to them. Each of these organizations provide a service to our community. We understand the precarious situation that each organization may be in, and know that they rely on the funds we provide to them. While they may be closed and may not be providing programming and/or services for a period of time, their survival is vital to our community. We need to support each other, in good times and bad. Federation was steadfast in its decision to assist.

Keeping the above in mind, we know that this year's UJA campaign will be extremely difficult for everyone. We have, however, agreed to an over-and-above campaign to assist the Chevra Kadisha with the requirement of a new cemetery. The Chevra Kadisha is the community's cemetery, and Federation understands the importance of the organization, and is more than happy to support them in this endeavour. By giving to the 2020 UJA campaign, you will be supporting Jewish life in Edmonton, including numerous organizations throughout the community. We need your support more than ever!

On a Board level, because of the current situation and the unknown, I have, for the first time, used some of the appointments I am entitled to as President to bring additional voices to our table. I am pleased to announce that I have appointed former Federation Presidents Clyde Hurtig and Gillian Horwitz to the Board of Directors. Their knowledge, experience and passion for Jewish life in Edmonton will help guide us through these trying times. Another former President, Stephanie Hendin, has agreed to sit on a committee to look at sustainability and viability of our

community.

I have just concluded appointing members of a search committee for a new Chief Executive Officer. Debby will be retiring at the end of December. I intend to dedicate my next article to the many amazing things Debby has done during her tenure as our CEO. Debby will be hard to replace and there will be lots of work ahead. My brevity in this paragraph is not because there is nothing to say about the magnitude of the impact she has had on the Jewish Federation of Edmonton and the Jewish community, but because there is so much to say that I want to dedicate an entire article to it. A line in this article expressing my appreciation, our appreciation as a community, is not enough. But in the interest of transparency, I want to advise the community of Debby's decision to retire and that we are embarking on a search. The search committee will start its work this month, and we hope to have interviews in the fall. I would like to thank David Eisenstat, Lisa Miller, Shea Pertman and Ram Romanovsky for agreeing to sit with me on this very important committee.

In order to continue to guide us through this crisis, I have agreed to stay on as President for a fourth year (of my three-year term). While we need some experience in these uncertain times, we continue to look for additional, new volunteers to join our board and the executive.

I want to thank the numerous people who have reached out to me and other members of our Board, as well as the professional staff over the last couple of months to express their concern and their willingness to assist. I hope that any of you who are interested in making your mark with the Jewish community reach out. I'm always willing to hear from you. Please e-mail me at steves@edjfed.org.

FROM THE CEO'S DESK

By Debby Shocter



Who would have thought a year ago, or even in January, that the world would have changed so much as of today? But it has, and we will have to roll with the punches. This is something that our grandparents knew only too well, and yet they somehow survived and thrived. To quote one of my favourite songs, "Nothing lasts forever but the earth and sky." My grandfather was born in 1898, and lived through the First World War, the Spanish Flu, the Depression, the Second World War, the Holocaust, the Israeli War for Independence, the Korean War, the Cuban Missile Crisis, Bay of Pigs, Kennedy assassination, Vietnam War, to mention only a few world-shattering events. During his lifetime, anti-biotics were invented, anti-virals, insulin, and vaccines for smallpox, polio and many childhood diseases. We may think this current situation is the end of the world, but people are resilient and they will persevere.

However, with these types of major changes come adaptation, and this community will have to adapt. People do not like change, but it is inevitable, and unavoidable.

Here in Canada, and in Alberta, we have done fairly well with Covid-19, with a low infection, transmission and mortality rate, but we are not unscathed. The economy is definitely not unscathed, and the climate for oil, and business, as well as for charitable and non-profits, has chilled. Being one of the world's most remote and northern capitals has its advantages, and its disadvantages.

Because of the current crisis, we have already had to change the way in which we are doing things, in how we are delivering our programs and services, and in how we are fundraising. Since mid-March, we have had to move to virtual delivery of some of our core programs such as Yom Hashoah, Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut.

This has been, difficult, but we managed it. We had to change our Edmonton Jewish Film Festival to a Virtual Festival. But surprisingly, it was even more successful than before, with over 1000 subscribers, and enough revenue to support our ongoing P2G program.

Unfortunately some of our key programs had to be cancelled outright because they were cancelled by our partner organizations, like March of the Living, Birthright, Camp BB and Maccabi. This is unfortunate for our young people, but we hope that these will be back up and running next year. Heritage Days is another program that was cancelled, our biggest outreach program of the year, but it will continue in a virtual, on-line form. Hopefully next year, we will be back down in the park.

Our staff has been working from home, but will be gradually returning to the office over the summer. They are still available online and via phone, check our website for details. Tal has created a Covid-19 hub on our website with lots of important information for the community related to the latest news about the pandemic. He continues to monitor the security situation, and is in constant touch with CIJA, the Secure Community Network, and our local law enforcement.

Watch for updates to our programs and all community activities in the JFED over the summer, and on our Facebook page. We hope to be offering more virtual opportunities for education and connection. Things like PJ library will continue through book subscriptions, and online programs, but not in-person programming.

Unfortunately, we have had to make some cuts to staff and budget, whose effects will be seen as time goes on. We hope to be able to cover all existing programs in some way, but some things will be change as we plan for a reduced budget and staff complement in the Fall. This summer, we will be saying goodbye to Sapir Fellus, our Hillel Director, who

is leaving us to go to medical school in Ottawa – Mazel Tov, Sapir.

However, we are already working on our UJA virtual launch and canvasser training for the Fall, and hope to be able to offer continuing support to our beneficiary agencies through allocations and granting as we have always done. Some of these agencies have had to cut back on what they are doing as well, like Camp BB, whose season had to be cancelled, but we are still supporting them to get through these tough times as well.

Fortunately, your leadership planned in advance for these adverse circumstances, creating a Campaign Contingency Fund, sticking to a zero-balanced budget with surpluses for the past several years since the sale of the JCC, and investing the sale proceeds in 100% insured GICs. Our endowment funds at the EJCCF and ECF are giving us interest to maintain our programs, and the various government subsidy programs are helping.

There is no doubt that our post-pandemic Jewish world will be a different one, on all levels. Both Israel and our international and national partners are going through planning and restructuring of their own. It is a domino effect, which is impacting all of us. But we need to believe that through hard work and perseverance, just like our grandparents, that we will triumph in the end. The landscape may look different at this time next year, but I sincerely do believe that there will still be a Jewish Edmonton to call our own.



June is Pride Month

THE 2020/21 EDMONTON UJA CAMPAIGN

By Susan Schiffman



Thank you Jewish Edmonton for another year of great support for UJA. Your generosity made the 2019/20 Campaign a success. We prepare for the launch of the 2020/21 UJA Campaign in a time of unprecedented uncertainty and challenge yet we are confident in the strength of our Campaign leadership and in the deep generosity of our community.

We are fortunate that that the Campaign is in the very capable hands of returning Co-Chair Howie Sniderman, who will once again bring the vision, enthusiasm and commitment that are key ingredients of Campaign success. Howie is working with the Federation Board to identify a Co-Chair to lead the Campaign with him. We expect to announce the new Co-Chair in the coming weeks. Past Co-Chair Ron Sorokin, who has been such a great asset to the team, will continue to support us, this time in the role of Major Donor Steward.

Though the COVID-19 pandemic will prevent us from bringing you live Campaign events, the UJA team is committed to delivering compelling virtual events throughout the Campaign season. Daniel Larson, former Jewish Federation Director of Development, who now serves as Assistant Director of Alumni Relations at Brandeis University, will lead an informative and motivating canvasser training session, via Zoom on August 31st. In times of COVID-19, we cannot have a BBQ and serve the usual yummy food, but we do hope to incorporate other elements of socializing and fun into the training.



In September, we are planning a launch event with an exciting keynote speaker, in partnership with other Canadian Federations. That will also be virtual. Stay tuned for the date and the details. And for those who want to stay current on Israel affairs, we will bring back last year's very popular speaker, Yonah Bob, who is the Intelligence, Terrorism and Legal Analyst for the Jerusalem Post. Yonah will deliver a lecture, via Zoom, on October 18th. We look forward to seeing many of your faces on screen at these, and other upcoming online Jewish Federation events. Now, more than ever, we thank you for your profound commitment to UJA! Your deep generosity will ensure that our Edmonton Jewish Community will remain resilient, vibrant and connected to one another, and to the rest of the Jewish world, during this extraordinarily difficult time.

YOM HASHOAH 2020

By Dani Uretsky



Well let us just say that Yom Hashoah 2020 looked very different this year. We were all ready to go back to the Legislature and then COVID-19 hit our city and we had to take precautionary measures and take Yom Hashoah in a whole different direction. Our community still came together, but in a very different way.

We followed suit with other Canadian communities and put together a short commemoration video. The Holocaust Education Committee jumped into action to help compile the video, thank you to Faren Hochman for putting it out there in the community and gathering people's video's on what Yom Hashoah means to them. Thank you to all of those who submitted, it was very much appreciated. Thank you to Rabbis Schwarzman, Caine, and Claman for their help as well. I would also like to send a big thank you to members of the March of the Living past and present for the candle light reading this year.

While we could not physically be together, I know that we did come together as a community to commemorate this important event in our history. Thank you to everyone who participated in our virtual Yom Hashoah ceremony.



Virtual community Yom Hashoah Ceremony 2020. [CLICK HERE](#) to watch

YOM HAZIKARON & YOM HA'ATZMAUT

By Tal Toubiana



Yom Hazikaron, Israel's Memorial Day for the Fallen Soldiers of Israel and Victims of Terrorism, is immediately followed by Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day. Within 24 hours the nation goes from a state of mourning to one of celebration, in acknowledgement of the fact that the Jewish people owe the independence of Israel to the almost 24,000 soldiers who sacrificed their lives for it.

Every year, in communities across the globe, millions of Jews gather to honour those lost in defense of Israel and to celebrate the thriving Jewish homeland. This year, sadly, these events were not possible as we practice social distancing. But we have learned in the past few weeks that social distancing cannot keep our community apart! We came together on Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut and we will come together in the future should need be! Thousands of viewers from around the globe paid tribute to Israel's fallen, observing a moment of silence as a piercing siren wailed in homes around the world.

As the flag was lowered and the last post sounded, Jews were united from afar and joined collectively in their grief in spite of being confined to their homes. The ceremony included the lighting of a memorial candle, laying memorial wreaths, and musical performances. The Israeli government, diaspora communities, and the Jewish Agency for Israel shared recorded messages. Israeli President Reuven Rivlin explained that in Israel, joy is often tinged with sadness. "Laughter and tears go hand in hand," he said. "We celebrated the founding of the Jewish state while grieving for our sons who lost their lives in battle. "Today, 72 years later, we still bear pain alongside the joy, memory beside hope. We become excited at the sight of the blue and white flag while at the same time, we remember the dear ones who gave their lives for us. The possibility of living here in peace and



Virtual Yom Hazikaron ceremony from Latrun, Israel. [CLICK HERE](#) to watch

security is only thanks to them, and for that they are imprinted on our hearts forever.

With a sharp transition from grief and sadness to festivities and joy, communities around the world joined in celebrating Israel's 72nd, on Wednesday, April 29th. The rolling event started with Matisyahu who sang a medley of "One Day" with voices from The Jewish Agency for Israel's Partnership2Gether communities and Jewish leaders from more than 30 countries, sharing a message of hope and celebration. Next, American film star Joshua Malina shared how Israeli doctors and scientists are on the front lines of the battle against COVID-19. Then came The Brothers Platt, Ben, Henry and Jonah. Up next was a serious debate whether falafel is the quintessential Israeli food, and Adeena Sussman, author of the bestselling cookbook *sababa*, taught us how to make it. chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Isaac Herzog, son of former Israeli President Chaim Herzog, z"l, told a story about Israel's War of Independence. For the finale we all sang Israel's national anthem, "Hatikva," led by Rita from Israel and Caissie Levy from Canada and a group of Israeli and Diaspora Jewish musicians. Jewish organizations around the world (JFNA, MASA and, JAFI) have made sure that we can all take part in Yom Hazikaron ceremonies and Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations from the comfort of our home.

PJ LIBRARY

By Dani Uretsky



Our last program was for Purim, held at the Telus World of Science. PJ Library partnered with Temple Beth Ora to do a "Purim Under the Stars". People enjoyed crafts, games, and activities put on by the Federation and TBO. After those activities concluded, you could go and enjoy a Star Show, and all the amenities Telus World of Science has to offer. Thank you to Yaara Shabtai and Jenn Magalnick for their collaboration in this event. A good time was had by all.

We would like to welcome our newest subscribers to PJ Library. We are sitting at 500 individual children. Keep those numbers coming! This is a great service to the community that we hope to keep building. Should you wish to subscribe to our Edmonton community PJ Lib-

rary program, and your child is between the ages of 6 months to 8 years old please go to: <https://pjlibrary.org/enroll-in-a-community?id=209201> to subscribe. Even though the books are free to the children and their families, there actually is a cost to subscriptions. Currently they are covered by Edmonton UJA and the Grinspoon Foundation, but we would be happy for individual local sponsorship if you are interested. Please contact me if you are interested in making this program a reality for everyone who wants it!

If you are one of the PJ Partners, and would like to plan a holiday-themed program, please do not hesitate to contact me. We love having programs with partner organizations, and bringing the community together. Sign up your child for a FREE monthly, Jewish-themed book or CD, delivered straight to them. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us at the office.

BBYO UPDATE

By Dani Uretsky

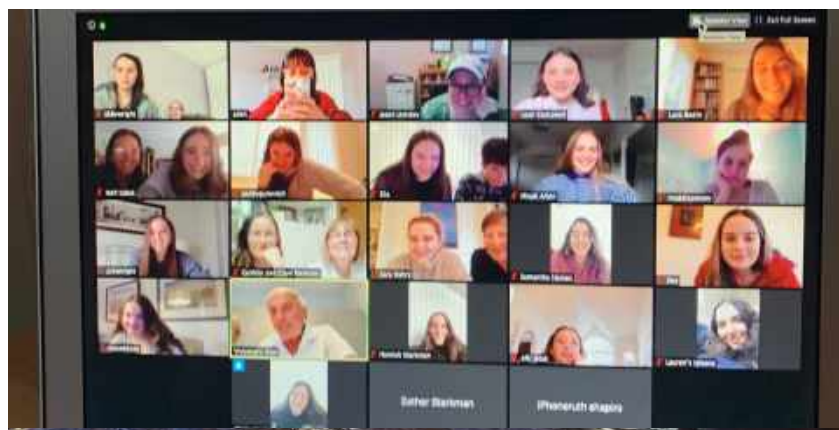


BBYO has taken on a very different persona. We have not been cancelled! We have gone virtual! At the beginning of April, Northwest Canada (NWC) BBYO went online. The teens have been taking their conventions and programming and adapting it to online. BBYO International also went virtual, just like Netflix, it is called *BBYO on Demand*. The teens upload their programs for their international peers to pick and chose which ones they want to attend. It is amazing how the teens have adapted to this change.

NWC has held several programs such as Jewish Jeopardy, a movie/discussion evening, a chocolate mock seder, virtual scavenger hunt, twisted yoga, a guest speaker from Stand With Us, and an all-Canadian Maccabi games with Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg, and Vancouver. We had over 140 teens online that day. It was incredible to see that we could still come together as an organization without physically being together.

We are wrapping up our year with rush month pro-

gramming introduce them to BBYO. We also held our Regional Election via Zoom. I would like to thank all of our teens for making the best of a weird situation and running with it. You guys have been amazing and exceeded my expectations.



Staying connected thanks to Zoom

VIRTUAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL CONT.

By Susan Schiffman

The next night, Professor Andy Derocher, Polar Bear specialist from The U of A, entertained us with gorgeous photos, fun facts and tall tales about Polar Bears, to accompany the film, *Picture of His Life*. To close, journalist David Herman Zoomed in from London, England to give a lively and insightful talk about the British wartime story, *The Keeper*. He touched on everything from the changing ways war is depicted in film, to the recent rise of anti-Semitism in Britain. All three speakers were excellent and very well received.

Though there was no opportunity for a live presentation this year, The Edmonton Jewish Film Festival awarded the Earl Parker Prize for Jewish Film to Malka Martz - Oberlander for her film project, *David Michael Frankel Feinstein-Goldberg and the Unbarmitzvah*. Congratulations Malka!

We extend our deepest appreciation to the sponsors, advertisers, donors and audiences, who put their trust in us to deliver our first Virtual Edmonton Jewish Film Festival. Special thanks to major Festival sponsors: The Downtown Business Association, The Edmonton Community Foundation, Quikard, and The Jewish Federation of Edmonton/UJA.

The dollars we raise not only fund Festival operations, and free Festival admission, but will also provide the primary funding source for the P2G program, our educational exchange program between Jewish students in Edmonton and their peers in the Galilee Panhandle in northern Israel.

We extend our warmest thanks, also, to the EJFF Committee, whose members devote immeasurable hours to choosing films and planning the Festival. Our very special gratitude to Committee Chair, Sam Koplowicz, for putting his heart, soul, and great film expertise into our Festival. This year, we especially thank Sam and the Committee for their help in the rapid re-design to deliver The Virtual EJFF.

Thank you for watching. We look forward to seeing you at the Landmark, in cyber space or in both places, next year.



EDMONTON JEWISH COMMUNITY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

By Stephanie Hendin



The Edmonton Jewish Community Charitable Foundation (EJCCF) helps people support Jewish causes that are important to them. The Foundation provides resources to make the community's vision a reality, working in partnership with donors and striving to ensure the long-term financial security of the Jewish Community. In the near future, the EJCCF will be reviewing 2020 Grant funding applications with the goal to provide needed support to many of our community beneficiaries. Last year, the EJCCF committee was pleased to distribute funds to Talmud Torah, Jewish Family Services, Jewish Senior Citizen's Centre, JAHSENA, BBYO, Camp BB – Riback, Temple Beth Ora, Our Parents' Home, Beth Israel Synagogue and National Council of Jewish Women. A grant was also provided to the Jewish Federation of Edmonton to help support mounting the Israel Pavilion at Heritage Days. Contributions to the EJCCF continue to be received from family and friends to the various funds and new family funds have also been established. All enhance the EJCCF's ability to grow and therefore distribute grants in our community today and in the future. New and continued support for the EJCCF can make a difference today and help to shape the future. *Your gift can be made with:*

- An outright gift of cash or appreciated assets like stocks, bonds or life insurance policies.
- A bequest in your will - the easiest way to make a gift. You simply state in your will a dollar amount or a percentage of your estate to be used for an endowment.
- A gift of a new or existing life insurance policy. By naming the Foundation owner and beneficiary, you may be able to deduct the premiums from your taxes.
- Pension Plans are subject to significant tax liability,

making them ideal instruments to use, in whole or in part, to create a fund naming the Foundation as the beneficiary. For the plan best suited to your personal situation and charitable objectives we recommend that you consult with your legal and financial counsel and with the Edmonton Jewish Community Charitable Foundation. For further information, email: Stephanie.Hendin@gmail.com to discuss.

A planned gift to the Jewish community ensures the perpetuation of your family name - no matter where or when in the future, you can be there to help.

As it says in the Talmud, *"As my father planted before I was born, so do I plant for those who will come after me"*.



BIRTHRIGHT UPDATE

By Tal Toubiana



Since the early days of the Coronavirus crisis, Birthright Israel has taken proactive steps to ensure the safety and security of participants and to continue to engage those already signed up for future trips. With strict travel restrictions on visitors to Israel still in place. I know many of you have questions about plans for the rest of the year. Birthright Israel and Canada Israel Experience have been closely monitoring the situation both in Israel and worldwide and Birthright Israel is in daily contact with Israel's Ministry of Health that has implemented entry restrictions for all travelers.

In accordance with the highest level of precaution, Birth-

right Israel has postponed all trips. If you confirmed and paid for an extension on your trip, you will be refunded via Gil Travel. There is no need to contact Gil Travel directly, they have already begun processing refunds. Should you wish to postpone your Birthright Israel trip to September (if possible) or to next Winter or Summer 2021, please visit Israel For Free. Your deposit will be available for you to carry over to another trip or will be refunded. Stay healthy, and we look forward to seeing you in Israel soon!



HILLEL UPDATE

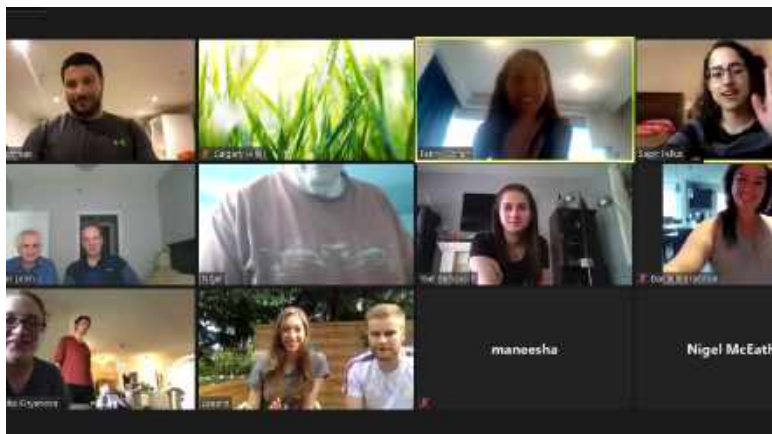
By Sapir Fellus



There is a famous Talmudic story about Hillel the Sage. It was Friday evening, hours before shabbat, and Hillel was getting ready. All of a sudden he hears someone calling his name outside his door. He quickly goes to greet him. The man outside tells Hillel that he has a question to ask.

Now, you would think that only hours before shabbat, this would be an urgent, important, and practical question that simply couldn't wait. Instead, the gentleman asks "Why are the heads of the Babylonians oval?" Indeed a pertinent question. The stranger expected Hillel to get upset for asking such an irrelevant and pointless question at such a critical time. Instead, Hillel says, "Ah! You ask an excellent question," and goes on to provide him the answer. An hour later, the stranger comes knocking again, with yet another question: "Why are the eyes of the residents of Tadmor bleary?" and again, Hillel keeps his cool and takes the time to answer the nudnik's question.

This repeats several times. Finally, the man says: "I have so many questions to ask you!" Hillel welcomes the stranger, and invites the stranger to sit down leisurely with him, so that he could ask all his questions. But the man gets angry. It turns out that his buddies bet him



Hillel Edmonton & Calgary in a joined *Krav Maga* class via Zoom

400 zuzim that he can't make Hillel the Sage angry. By patiently and calmly answering his questions, Hillel just made him lose the challenge and all that prize money!

Hillel the Sage's core characteristics are that of patience and loyalty. He was always willing to be there to provide for his fellow, to patiently answer questions, and to give undivided attention and care. From this Talmudic story, we can see that Hillel, far from getting angry or impatient at the stranger's inane questions, invited him to sit down, looked at him with focus, and was prepared to delve into all his questions. It didn't even matter that Hillel was in the midst of getting ready for shabbat, and did not have much free time. Can you think back to a time when someone talked to you with complete focus,



Tu B'Shevat terrarium event

with phones and beepers turned off, with no distractions? How did you feel when that someone took the time to listen to you wholeheartedly, without giving you the impression that they were in a rush?

Hillel Edmonton, along with all other Hillels in the world, was created on the foundations of Hillel the Sage's teachings and character. Every Jewish person, and especially Jewish students, can connect to their Judaism, if only they were given the time, space, and attention to do so. In the past three years, my goal as Hillel Director was to cultivate personal relationships with students and to provide them that space to connect. Through shabbat dinners, Israel-themed parties, Hannukah cook-offs, Shakshoukas in the Sukkahs, Jews and Brews, coffee dates, and many more other events, Hillel students came together and we were able to provide a few hours of connection to each other and to Judaism.

In these times of Covid-19, Hillel Edmonton has continued to support students through online programming, such as Virtual Krav Maga in partnership with Hillel Calgary, and our upcoming talk with Kasim Hafeez, a guest speaker who will talk about how he changed his views on Israel. Although I am sad to leave Hillel Edmonton, I am very grateful for the Hillel moments I have had over the years, and the incredible students that taught me so much about leadership, commitment, and patience. We all have a lot going on in our lives. Just like Hillel was undoubtedly very busy getting ready for shabbat, we are all busy with work, school, family affairs, and personal projects.

Like Hillel the Sage, Hillel Edmonton is putting students first. The Fall semester will be online, but through the leadership of the new incoming executive student board, Hillel Edmonton will continue to be a meaningful and positive energy on campus. I am wishing everyone a safe and happy summer, and may we have family and friends that are as patient and as loyal as Hillel the Sage!

SECURITY UPDATE

By Tal Toubiana



Whether the threat is physical violence, or preventing the spread of a terrible disease, the Jewish Federation of Edmonton works tirelessly to ensure the safety of our community. It is why planning and preparedness is at the core of our mission. As a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Jewish Federation of Edmonton has been working both internally and externally to reduce the impact this virus will have on our community. Since February, and well before the impact of COVID-19 was identified, we began closely monitoring the virus and its spread. We saw what was happening worldwide and it alarmed us.

Times of crisis provide criminal elements with an opportunity to exploit abandoned homes and businesses and make use of empty streets. Unfortunately, COVID-19 provided some fertile grounds and the criminal elements did not disappoint as police services across Canada are reporting increases in commercial break and enters as well as vehicle thefts (approx. 40 percent increase in the country).

Over the past few months we have shared vital safety and planning considerations for Jewish organizations, provided resources on cyber safety and security as organizations moved online, Issued guidance on how to prevent disruptions to online meetings (namely “zoombombing”), kept informed via the national community security program on regular calls and coordinated with law enforcement, staff and other partners on threats against the community. The number of cyberattacks against organizations and individuals is significant and is expected to increase. Criminals have used the COVID-19 crisis to carry out social engineering attacks themed around the pandemic to distribute various malware packages. According to the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security there has been an increase in reports of



malicious actors using the terms “Coronavirus” and “COVID-19” in phishing campaigns and malware scams. These actors are using phishing attempts in referencing the virus through mass emails that appear to originate from a legitimate source but containing malicious attachments or links.

There are cases where “phishing has been used in an attempt to impersonate various health agencies.” These mass emails are sent with the aim to get receivers to open attachments or click on links in order to open a gateway for threat actors to obtain personal information and gain unauthorized access to computers.

Cyber-criminals are also likely to seek to exploit an increasing number of attack vectors as a greater number of employers institute telework and allow connections to their organizations’ systems. This could be a potential issue for Jewish organizations as most of their employees are working remotely. Although I am not a cyber-security expert, I would recommend that organizations in our community look at enterprise content firewalls. These protect sensitive communications over email, file sharing, mobile, and others – consolidated into one encrypted pipe that provides total visibility, governance and security for complete compliance and control.



The Jewish Federation
OF EDMONTON

THE ISRAEL PAVILION AT THE EDMONTON HERITAGE FESTIVAL

The Government of Alberta clarified that mass gathering restrictions apply to all summer festival events in Alberta for the “foreseeable future”. As a result, the Edmonton Heritage Festival will not be celebrated this year, and is instead being reformatted from an on-site event into a virtual festival.

New opportunities to share cultural content and entertainment are being planned in a virtual version. Which means we can still come together and celebrate our beloved Israel!

HOW CAN I HELP ?

1. Share some Israeli cuisine recipes
2. Photos or videos of the Israel pavilion
3. Donate Judaica items to be sold online

MORE DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE COMING WEEKS



The Jewish Federation
OF EDMONTON

For more information or if you'd like to share any of the items mentioned above, please contact Tal Toubiana at talt@edjfed.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 5th - Jewish Community Liaison Committee Meeting

June 8th - Integrated Bursary Program Meeting

June 10th - JFED Executive and Board Meetings

June 15th - Film Festival Wrap-Up meeting

June 16th - Hillel Virtual program with Kaseem Hafiz

June 25th - Virtual Lecture by Prof. Peter Sabo, "The Second Temple Period: Empires, Sects, Scrolls, and Much More"

July 8th -- JFED Executive Meeting

TBA - Dedication of Anne Frank Statue in Light Horse Park

August Long Weekend - Virtual Heritage Days

August 5th- JFED Board Meeting

August 31st - Canvasser Training

September - UJA Campaign Launch

September 8th - JFED Board Meeting

September 19-20 - Rosh Hashanah

September 28-29 Yom Kippur

HaKol Volume 7, #3

HAKOL is a free publication of The Jewish Federation of Edmonton, published three times per year and emailed to community households.

Address corrections requested.

Paper copy available on request.

MAILING ADDRESS

**#100, 10220-156 Street,
Edmonton, AB
T5P-2R1**

WEBSITE

www.jewishedmonton.org

EMAIL CONTACT

info@edjfed.org

EXECUTIVE PUBLISHER

Steven Shafir

PUBLISHER

Debby Shoctor

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Tal Toubiana

EDITOR

Elianna Lisan

LAYOUT AND DESIGN

The Jewish Federation of Edmonton

FEDERATION BOARD MEMBERS:

**Steven Shafir, Ellery Lew, Shane Asbell,
Dr. David Eisenstat, Clive Oshry,
Lisa Miller, Dr. Cheryl Goldstein,
Lisa Redmond, Rachel Miller,
Dr. Ivan Steiner, Faren Hochman,
Dr. Sarah Troster, Karen Oshry, Doug Wolch,
Ron Sorokin, Dr. Erin Wright.
Dr. Colin Muscat, Irit Shaposhnikov**

We have attempted to be as correct and current as possible in our content, however please excuse any errors or unintended omissions.

No information contained herein may be copied or re-distributed, in whole or in part, without the prior written approval of the Publisher.

© Copyright Edmonton, AB, 2020