

COVER ART

It's that time of the year again, Pesach or Passover, which begins on Friday, March 30 with the first Seder, and concludes on Saturday, April 7. *Chag Sameach*!

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PRESIDENT'S PEN

Stewart Indig



How quickly another year has gone by. It's true: time flies when you are having fun. By the time you get the April issue of the Kol

Echad it will be Passover. What is Passover and what is it that we celebrate? There is nothing to celebrate about eating matzah for eight days. We celebrate the

liberation by God from slavery in ancient Egypt. Why is this night different from all other nights? If you read the Passover story, does it really answer the question? I do not think so.

On a personal note, Cathy and I are celebrating the addition of Jenna, our eight-month-old granddaughter to our Passover Seder. As I write this, I am positive that Cathy has already planned a child-friendly Seder. In our case, the children are three and under. In fact, to give credit when and where it is due, last year Cathy devised her own "Indig Family Haggadah" and has given copies to a few families that have used it. The "kids" enjoyed it! It is more about singing kiddie tunes than mumbling words that nobody understands. The truth is she does cover the story of Passover. Just in case you wondered, no, she does not serve dinosaur

The Indig
Passover
Haggadah
Far our grandchildren

shaped gefilte fish, or chicken. Actually, it's not a bad idea; maybe I am on to something this year.

So, as I usually try to do, how do I tie this into the Lodge? I can't, except to say that I am having fun being President, and you are all like family. Cathy and I want to wish each and every one of you a healthy and Happy Passover.

KOL ECHAD

Kol Echad is the official publication of Forestdale Heights Lodge, B'nai Brith Canada.

It is published 10 times a year.

We welcome all articles and letters from members of the Lodge and their spouses.

All material submitted is subject to editing.

The editor may consult with members of the bulletin committee regarding suitability and editorial decisions.

All opinions expressed in Kol Echad are those of the individual writers and do not reflect the views of either Forestdale Heights Lodge or B'nai Brith Canada.

Editor Jeff Rosen

Advertising Harvey Silver

Editing Staff Marc Kates Lisa Rosen Debbi Silver

Printing/Mailing Aaron Pacter Michael Pacter

AT A GLANCE

| April 9 | Meeting - CANCELLED |
|---------|----------------------------|
| May 6 | Toronto Goodlife Marathon |
| May 14 | Dinner Meeting |
| June 11 | Dinner Meeting |
| July 8 | Installation/Summer BBQ |

Dinner at 6:30; Meeting at 7:15 Dinner Charge: \$10 members

If you plan to attend, you must RSVP Albert Ohana at salonpiaff@rogers.com or call (905) 597-1999

Installation/BBQ

Combining the best of our Lodge's two major social programmes.

FORESTDALE HEIGHTS LODGE'S 51ST ANNIVERSARY INSTALLATION

The installation will be held on Sunday, July 8 at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Stewart and Cathy Indig, 43 Bryant Street, in conjunction with our popular annual BBQ.

Cost is \$20/person.

Please RSVP to Albert Ohana at salonpiaff@rogers.com.

EDITOR'S DESK

Jeff Rosen



We're loved in Canada, adored in the United States and known to others in Israel, the Philippines, London, Germany and Spain.

I'm talking about our website, <u>www.kolechad.ca</u>. A few months back, our president Stewart Indig was inquiring about how many people were viewing our site, one of the few remaining in B'nai Brith Canada. Unfortunately, I could not give him any data. However, our chat led to data counters being installed on the

numerous pages that populate the site.

The results, which are tabulated each week, have been very interesting. Before continuing, I should explain that as a private site, we do have limited viewship. However, I was pleasantly surprised at the result.

What the statistics reveal is that we are primarily viewed in Canada. That is no major revelation, since we originate in this country. However, it was interesting to see people exploring our site in Brampton, Mississauga, Whitby, Red Deer, Vancouver and even at McMaster University in Hamilton. Casting our net further, we have people tuning in from across the U.S., including from Boca Raton, Houston, Virginia and Charlotte, N.C. We're not just a North American wonder though as people are stumbling onto **kolechad.ca** in Barcelona, Beijing, London, England, India, the Philippines, and even in the Russian Federation. We even got one hit from Bangladesh.

You may wonder what people are looking at, given the number of reports and columns found online. While our columnists are read (and probably enjoyed), one of the most popular pages (after the main page) is our look back on 50 years of history, FHL@50, and Food Sensations. Our various activities are also examined by outsiders, but our most popular columnist remains, As I See It.

Lodge members should be proud that our Lodge is being followed around the world. At the same time, advertisers should realize that news of their products is reaching an even larger audience. All being well, we will continue to be the most active and popular website within B'nai Brith Canada for years to come.

On behalf of my wife Lisa, and daughter, Jordana, residing in Oakville, I would like to wish everyone a *Chag Pesach Sameach*.



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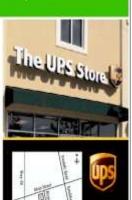
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FHL@50

FHL@50 explores what has been going on in the world since the Lodge was born in 1967. We conclude this series with a look back on 2017.

To view the entire series, from 1967-2017, go to kolechad.ca/fhl50.htm.

2017

FHL President Stewart Indig Prime Minister Justin Trudeau / Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne

January 20 – Donald Trump is sworn in as the 45th President of the United States. Trump, a Republican New York City businessman, becomes the first non–political office holder to be elected President of the United States.

January 21 – Millions of people worldwide join the Women's March in response to the inauguration of Donald Trump as President of the United States.

January 29 – A Quebec City mosque was the subject of a mass shooting. There were six deaths and numerous others injured.

June 1 – Amidst widespread criticism, the U.S. announces its decision to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement in due time.

July 1 – Canada celebrates the sesquicentennial anniversary of Canadian Confederation.

August 25–30 – Hurricane Harvey strikes the United States as a Category 4 hurricane, causing catastrophic damage. At least 90 deaths are recorded, and total damage reaches \$198.6 billion, making Harvey the costliest natural disaster in U.S. history. September 6–10 – The Caribbean and United States are struck by Hurricane Irma, a Category 5 hurricane that is the strongest hurricane ever recorded in the Atlantic basin outside the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico. The storm causes at least 134 deaths and at least \$63 billion in damage.

September 19 – Eleven days after another powerful earthquake, and on the 32nd anniversary of the deadly 1985 Mexico City earthquake, a Mw 7.1 earthquake strikes central Mexico, killing more than 350, leaving up to 6,000 injured and thousands more homeless.

Passover Greetings

A happy and healthy Passover to all Cathy & Stewart Indig & Family

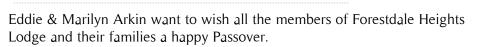
We would like to wish all members of FHL a very happy Pesach Jeff, Lisa and Jordana Rosen

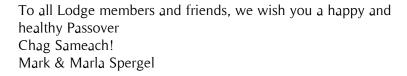
Dear Forestdale Heights Lodge sisters and brothers,

We wish all of you a happy, healthy Passover. May you enjoy the essence of the holiday as well as your time with your family and other loved ones.

Ray & Rosalie Moscoe and family

Wishing everyone peace, good health and happiness Chag Sameach The Silver Family Debbi, Harvey, Lisa, Mark, Shawna, Zoe, Jaime and Ezra





Happy Passover The Ohana family



Wishing all members and their families a happy, healthy and meaningful Passover holiday Carl, Debby, Rachel and Doron, Rebecca and Daniel & Josh Zeliger

Wishing all members and their famlies a healthy and happy Passover Ruth and Aaron Pupko

PASSOVER GREETINGS

We wish everyone a Happy, Healthy Pesach Ivan & Elizabeth Bloom

Terry Goldfarb & Stan Horowitz would like to wish their Forestdale Heights family a joyous Passover



The Kates Family extends to its FHL family its best wishes for a חג פסח כשר ושמח Marc, Rachel, Seth, Eve and Joelle

To all Lodge members and friends, we wish you a happy and healthy Passover Chag Sameach! Sandy & Barry Gordon

Passover Greetings is a fundraising programme for Forestdale Heights Lodge

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PURIM 5778



Sometimes a small change can make a huge difference in an established programme. Such was the case at this year's Purim Megillah reading, as seven members of Forestdale Heights Lodge returned to the B'nai Brith Seniors' Residence on Wednesday, February 28.

Most years the room at 4300 Bathurst Street is set up with Rabbi Jay Kelman and

his sons reading the Megillah at one end of the room, while residents sit farther away and back from the proceedings. This year, two of the many tables were set up on either side of the rabbi and his sons.

As a result, those who got front row seats seemed to be more engaged than usual as they listened and took part in a programme the Lodge has been operating for about three decades. The enthusiasm was not just confined to those sitting around the rabbi though, as the approximately 35 people in attendance appeared to enjoy the entire evening.

As per tradition, residents and guests were treated to a number of delicious treats following the Megillah reading, including hamentashen, clementines, chips and drinks

On hand to help serve up delicacies were Carl Zeliger, as well as Albert Ohana, Ruth Pupko, Harvey and Debbi Silver, Lisa Rosen and me.

Special thanks for this annual programme go to Carl Zeliger who co-ordinates the evening and makes it a success every year and to Rabbi Jay Kelman and his family for supporting our endeavour.



More photos can be found next page and on our website at kolechad.ca/purim18.htm. left Rosen

PURIM 5778





A message to Forestdale Heights Lodge Members

Wishing you and your family
joy and happiness
throughout the year
and as you celebrate Passover





Happy Passover Chag Pesach Sameach! תל פסת שמח



Michael Levitt MP for York Centre 416.638.3700 Marco Mendicino MP for Eglinton-Lawrence 416.781.5583

michael.levitt@parl.gc.ca marco.mendicino@parl.gc.ca

Toronto City Councillor James Pasternak

Wishes everyone in the community a Happy Pesach!

חג כשר ושמח



You are invited!



Yom Ha'atzmaut Israel Flag Raising

Thursday, April 19th at 9:00am Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W.

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FORESTDALE FUNNIES

Four high school boys afflicted with spring fever skipped morning classes. After lunch they reported to the teacher that they had a flat tire. Much to their relief she smiled and said, "Well, you missed a test today so take seats apart from one another and take out a piece of paper." Still smiling, she waited for them to sit down. Then she said: "First Question:

Which tire was flat?"



While on a road trip, an elderly couple stopped at a roadside restaurant for lunch. After finishing their meal, they left the restaurant, and resumed their trip.

When leaving, the elderly woman unknowingly left her glasses on the table, and she didn't miss them until they had been driving for about 40 minutes.

By then, to add to the aggravation, they had to travel quite a distance before they could find a place to turnaround, in order to return to the restaurant to retrieve her glasses.

All the way back, the elderly husband became the classic grumpy old man. He fussed and complained, and scolded his wife relentlessly during the entire return drive. The more he chided her, the more agitated he became.

He just wouldn't let up for a single minute.

To her relief, they finally arrived at the restaurant.

As the woman got out of the car, and hurried inside to retrieve her glasses, the old geezer yelled to her,

While you're in there, you might as well get my hat and the credit card.



HARMONY

Rosalie Moscoe

I've had the pleasure of taking workshops with a vibrant counsellor in Boca Raton at the Adoph and Rose Levis JCC - a fabulous complex in Boca Raton, Florida. It includes a JCC, an arts and cultural centre, housing for seniors, an Alzheimer's centre, a yeshiva and a primary Jewish day school. At the workshop I

attended, about 30 - 35 women over 55 showed up every week. At each meeting, a new topic is brought forward by the leader and everyone has a chance to speak if they wish.

It's been a very enlightening experience; we talk about our feelings, better ways to relate to our family members and friends and learn ways to be more in the moment. We're also investigating how to be more congruent with our feelings and to communicate in less defensive ways. I feel each week is a personal growth experience an



defensive ways. I feel each week is a personal growth experience and I'm so thankful for the opportunity.

One of the hot topics discussed was the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland – just 20 minutes away from where I stay in Deerfield Beach. Most of the members of our group were shocked and stunned when 17 people (including five Jewish souls) were killed in cold blood. Flags hung at half-mast throughout Florida and community festivals were cancelled here. (However, the gun show in Miami continued as usual.) Some of our members had grandchildren at the school; one 16-year-old granddaughter had hidden in a cupboard during the shooting. The grandmother expressed her fears and read a letter from her granddaughter; it was very poignant. We all expressed our pride in the students and their actions in working to change the gun laws. We learned we could direct our anger in better ways and instead turn it into community action. Many of these grandmothers have since gotten involved and vow to do something to change the gun laws, which to me seemed insane.

As a Canadian, I expressed my horror at the plethora of American school shootings and let the group know that we do not have gun shops in Canada, nor sell any firearms at Wal-Mart. As well, we generally are not allowed to carry guns, except with special licences. Many sat with their mouths gaping at hearing my words.

Continued on next page

I let them know that yes, we've had our gun tragedies in Canada, but that Canada and other Western countries with better gun laws have much less tragedies compared to what's happening in their country. I expressed how I felt for them and what they're facing.

Prayer, hope, and faith are part of the experience of our group and we are all becoming empowered to realize that no matter what our age, we all can learn, act, and grow. I hope you all enjoy a Happy Passover. Perhaps this holy time is the moment to mark it as a time for self-growth, learning, and community action and, in doing so, we can leave the world a better place.

GOOD & WELFARE

Birthday

Elizabeth Bloom

April 4



If you have any special moments in your life (or the lives of your children and grandchildren) that you wish to share with the Lodge, please send announcements to **jelijo@sympatico.ca**.

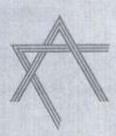


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With the good weather returning to our city, we will soon be heading north to deliver another shipment to Blue Door Shelters. This important programme helps those in need. Please collect toiletries if you find yourself in a hotel and bring them to Jeff at our monthly meetings.

The Lodge and Blue Door Shelters thanks you!



CVS/Toronto Marathon

Sunday, May 6

Forestdale Heights Lodge has participated in the Goodlife Toronto Marathon for close to a decade. Our Lodge is responsible for the first water station behind Mel Lastman

Square.

Arrival time at the water station is 6:00 a.m. and we are usually done by 9:00 a.m. The fun continues afterwards when we often go out for breakfast.

If you can volunteer your time for this great CVS project, please call Harvey Silver at (416) 223-0780 or email at **debbisilver@rogers.com**.



As I SEE IT

Marc Kates



Even though it's completely made up, the hashtag #MeNow could easily be the most trending recent hashtag. It has nothing to do with social responsibility or eliciting social change, but a complete absorption and interest in oneself, regardless of the consequences. I don't know what the source of this is. Is it just a sign of the times, the characteristics of

"Generation Z" or something in the

water? People feel that they are simply entitled to say and do what they want, whenever they want to do or say it. One is not allowed to call them on it for fear that it may trigger some symptom with some diagnosis, all stemming from anxiety. An entire world of beings who are only interested in themselves could be classified as a public health issue. (I hope that Health Canada and the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta are working on finding a cure.)

I am fully aware of the hypocrisy of me sharing my thoughts with and about the world within the pages of Kol Echad. The difference is that these are **my** views, and the reader has the choice to flip the page or ignore the column completely. It's hard, however, to flip or ignore the person in front of me, and I quickly calculate the risk of how I should respond to them. Often times, I take the "sha shtil" attitude and just keep quiet with a smile and pursed lips. This isn't always the best choice, but it avoids confrontation and even worse consequences. It can become very frustrating at times.

Pesach provides us with the antidote to this health crisis. It's thinking about others and less about selfies, hashtags, and personal postings that will truly bring about social change. On the very first Seder night as the Jews were about to leave Egypt, families had to come together to share the Pesach offering. Even in the Haggadah today we recite the "Ha Lachma," an invitation to all those in need to partake in the Passover Seder. The world needs less *media* and more *social*. The question is, what will the new hashtag be?



TALKING POINTS

Debbi Silver

The days have become longer and the snow is disappearing....

Spring is definitely just about here.

Harvey and I recently returned from a week on the Norwegian Getaway for a seven-day cruise. We had a wonderful time with the other 4,000 cruisers. I was in awe as the bus pulled into the port in Miami. This ship was huge compared to the other ones we

had taken on previous voyages. Registration was a breeze, and then it was on to see our room. We were lucky enough to have a balcony. It is great to sit out and watch the world go by.

Our first stop was Costa Maya, a beautiful island, which was built by Norwegian Lines. Of course, you have all the souvenir/jewelry/food shops. It was lovely. We also watched people swimming with the dolphins.

Our next stop was Roatan in Honduras. We decided to take a tour by taxi and we were a bit disappointed. This island is beautiful with lush gardens, trees, etc., but it is also very poor. Many houses didn't have electricity, and, unfortunately, were very run down. However, the people were so friendly.

We stopped in Belize where we walked around a small area of a souvenir town.

Our final port was Cozumel, where we had previously visited. We decided to take a tour by taxi and were happy we did. We saw a sign, which read "To Synagogue." We asked the driver to find out where this was. He took us to Chabad Cozumel. It was Erev Shabbat so the congregants were busy getting ready. There is a kosher restaurant attached to the synagogue. They have about 100 members. There were also other tourists visiting. Cozumel was the busiest of the islands we visited. Our driver also took us through an area where the all-inclusive resorts are located.

The ship was beautiful. So many amazing activities, restaurants, games rooms, etc. We participated in a Shabbat service where a gentleman from Cincinnati came equipped to run the service. The ship provided wine and challah. It was so nice to spend Shabbat with about 30 other members of our tribe.

Continued on next page

The staff in our restaurant heard through the grapevine that it had been our 50th anniversary, so we were surprised that chocolate covered strawberries were delivered to our room almost every night. We were also shocked to receive a lovely anniversary cake. Our waiter and maître d' were wonderful.

We met some nice people, which made the trip interesting. All in all, the week went by quickly and we are looking forward to our next adventure.



Harvey and I wish everyone a very happy and healthy Passover..... Chag Sameach.



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From our Family to Yours, Happy Passover Chag Sameach



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