

Forestdale Heights Lodge, B'nai Brith Canada

# KOL ECHAD

January 2019

Shevat/Adar I 5779

*Happy New Year!*

**2019**

Volume 17, No 5

# COVER ART

Tree limbs may be frozen over, but Monday, January 21 is Tu B'Shvat. It is also called "Rosh Hashanah La'ilanot" literally "New Year of the Trees." In Israel, the day is celebrated as an ecological awareness day and trees are planted in celebration.

# TRIVIA

January is the first month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars. It is, on average, the coldest month of the year within most of the Northern Hemisphere and the warmest month of the year within most of the Southern Hemisphere.

January's birthstone is the garnet, which represents constancy. Its birth flower is the cottage pink. January is Alzheimer's Awareness Month in Canada.

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# PRESIDENT'S PEN

Stewart Indig



It is hard to believe that 2018 is over, done, and in the books. What will 2019 bring us? I would love to say things like peace on earth, a cure for cancer and diabetes and many other horrible diseases. We can only hope and pray. What I can say for certain is that it will bring us another year of Kol Echad and Forestdale Heights Lodge. We are like Thomas the train, the little engine that could. We will continue moving forward and keep doing all the CVS and mitzvahs that we have in the past. We have that positive

attitude. We have what it takes. Rather than saying, "We wish we could," we say, "We know we can."

I believe that this is the fourth year that I have been president (I have lost track) and I can honestly say that I have witnessed this great attitude from many of the current members. Truth be told, we are all long time members, very loyal and dedicated to the Lodge. This attitude is what makes being your president so easy. The hardest part is seeing a decrease in our membership numbers for various reasons without finding a way to reverse the trend.

As members of Forestdale Heights, why do we not make it our New Year's resolution to attract just one new member each? I think we should continue offering new members their first year of membership at no charge. Certainly, there can be no harm in doing so. Let's make 2019 the year that Forestdale Heights Lodge grows by leaps and bounds. Do not say I wish I could, but rather that I know I could, I know I could. If you perceive it, you will achieve it.

May 2019 be a happy, healthy and fruitful new year to all of you and your families.



# 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.

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# AT A GLANCE

January	No Meeting
February 11	Nominations & Dinner Meeting
March 11	Elections & Dinner Meeting
March 20	Purim Programme
April 8	Dinner Meeting
May 5	Toronto Goodlife Marathon
May 13	Dinner Meeting
June	52 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Installation

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With last year's postal disruption now over, we are now resuming our regular mailing to all members of Forestdale Heights Lodge, as well as to Kol Echad advertisers. As usual, a pdf copy of the bulletin will also be posted on our website at [www.kolechad.ca](http://www.kolechad.ca) for those who have chosen not to receive the print edition.

Back issues of Kol Echad going back to September 2010 can be found online at [kolechad.ca/backissues.htm](http://kolechad.ca/backissues.htm).

# EDITOR'S DESK

Jeff Rosen



**H**ave you ever wondered...ever been tempted to peek behind the curtain, to explore what makes a system operate? I find it fascinating to understand the nuts and bolts behind a well-oiled machine. I guess that's why I became a journalist, to be able to explore and learn about what I did not understand.

I started to think about this while updating the Lodge's website. In the process, I discovered numerous files stored away on our host's server. Though there are no active links to these historical files, being webmaster allows me to "click" and open them.

It's fascinating to see what we did and what our website looked like years ago. There are reports on past BBQs, meetings, programmes, installations, and Chanukah parties, as well as commendations to and final words of wisdom from departed members.

Reading tributes about members who are no longer with us – for whatever reason – brings home another reality. We are a very different lodge in 2019 than that what existed eight, six or even five years ago. Our numbers have diminished, everyone is a bit older, and our energy levels are not what they were.

That is not to say that there is no "fight" left in Forestdale Heights Lodge. We just held another successful Chanukah party at the home of Mark and Marla Spergel; we continue to operate a number of successful CVS programmes and, in May, will once again be on the front lines at the Goodlife Toronto Marathon. All we need for another successful programme in May is Harvey's coffee and Ray's boosterism to get us going.

Still, if we are to have a productive 2019, we need a bit extra. Stewart has done an amazing job keeping this Lodge operating on an even keel since 2015. That means he has served longer than any other president. It's time for someone else to step up to the plate, to bring new ideas and a fresh perspective to lead us into the next decade.

**Continued on next page**





Having witnessed how this Lodge functions on both sides of the curtain – inside and outside the executive – I think that it's time for new leadership. Plenty of members have watched from the sidelines for too long, while some past leaders feel that they have “done their time.” However, given our numbers, that type of thinking will not keep the Lodge moving forward.

Concluding two one-year terms as chair of Pride of Israel Synagogue, Carl Zeliger, a past president of FHL, wrote in his synagogue newsletter, “Assisting your synagogue is not the completion of a jail sentence, but the opportunity to do good in this little piece of the world. For most of us, that should be, in some capacity, a continuing obligation.”

Great words to live by...perhaps something we should all think about in 2019.  
Be well.

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## SLATE COMMITTEE

In keeping with Lodge tradition, FHL's slate committee will meet in January to choose a slate for the Lodge's 2019-2020 executive. The slate committee will meet on Wednesday, January 16, 7 p.m. at 11 Townsgate #315. The committee is chaired by Harvey Silver, chair of the Lodge's Board of Governors.

Please RSVP to [debbisilver@rogers.com](mailto:debbisilver@rogers.com) if you will be attending.



Sunday, May 5, 2019

## TORONTO MARATHON

Forestdale Heights Lodge has participated in the Goodlife Toronto Marathon for many years. 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.

Be sure to mark the date in your calendar for this popular CVS project.

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November 30, 2018

Forestdael Heights Lodge BBC  
c/o Mr. Stewart Indig

Dear Mr. Indig,

Thank you for your donation to Canadian Friends of Boys Town Jerusalem - Dormitory Renovation Project in honour of the 75<sup>th</sup> birthday of Jules Kronis and the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Boys Town.

Each year, over 960 students attend Boys Town. Since it was founded in 1948, the school has graduated more than 7,000 young men who now serve in the IDF, industry, politics, hospitals, schools and religious institutions. At BTJ the students, who come from very difficult home life situations, are provided with the knowledge, skills, values, nourishment and emotional support that give them the confidence to flourish and to succeed.

As Jules' daughter Tamara said in her speech at the birthday brunch, "Education has always been something that Jules has valued. This is because for him, education was the key that unlocked his own future. He was a boy with a limited background who – because of education – became a young man with unlimited opportunities. This is why Boys Town is so important to him and why he dedicates his time and effort to raising money to make it possible for other young men from limited backgrounds to get the kind of education that will give them unlimited opportunities. BTJ makes the path a little smoother for the boys it serves."

We are so pleased that you, too, value the need to educate the next generation of leaders of the State of Israel and that you recognize the important role that Boys Town Jerusalem plays in this effort. Your support is greatly appreciated and will make such a difference in the lives of the boys.

The students, teachers and staff in Israel join Canadian Friends of Boys Town Jerusalem in wishing you and your family a very healthy, happy, peaceful and prosperous Chanukah. **חַנּוּכָּה שְׂמֵחָה**

Sharon E. Anisman, MBA  
Executive Director



# Happy Chanukah FHL

It was the perfect festival of lights as Forestdale Heights Lodge held its annual Chanukah party on Monday, December 10, the eighth day of Chanukah. What brightened this year's festivities was the addition of all the Chanukiahs members brought with them. Once our 13 party guests were assembled at the home of Mark and Marla Spergel, the candles were lit and the festivities officially commenced.

Before that first match was lit though, everyone relaxed around the fireplace enjoying noshes, discussing life and greeting fellow Lodge members as they arrived.

Like the past two parties at the Spergels' home, everyone sat around the dining room table – with our president Stewart Indig at the head – chatting and enjoying BBQ trout, salad, and veggies and, of course, latkes complete with a choice of applesauce and sour cream. After a brief interlude, it was dessert time, which included chocolate cake and cookies. Musical entertainment was provided this year by Ray Moscoe, who connected his cell phone to a miniature speaker, which belted out mostly Chanukah tunes. Those that were slightly off the Jewish theme were quickly modified. Of course, our amateur team of Lodge singers tried their best to sing in perfect harmony.

Special thanks to the Spergels for hosting this social gathering for the third year in a row. We would also like to extend a special thanks to Stewart Indig for helping to plan and organize the fantastic evening. Also in attendance were Debbi & Harvey Silver, Rosalie & Ray Moscoe, Marilyn & Eddie Arkin, Ruth Pupko, Elizabeth Bloom, Lisa Rosen and me. While Cathy Indig was unable to join the group for dinner, she did join us later in the evening.

While this year's Chanukah Party attracted close to 61% of the Lodge membership, we felt the absence of those who were unable to join the party. I hope that the numbers at our Chanukah Party will swell in the coming years.

With the final Lodge event for 2018 now over, Forestdale Heights will now be taking a short mid-winter break. Our next meeting will take place on Monday, February 11, 2019, at 15 Hove Street. As this will be our Nominations Meeting, we look forward to seeing everyone there.

We look forward to great things in 2019 and next year's party.

**Jeff Rosen**



# Happy Chanukah FHL



More photos at  
[kolechad.ca/chanukah18.htm](http://kolechad.ca/chanukah18.htm)



# Happy Chanukah FHL



Photos by Jeff Rosen







# HARMONY

Rosalie Moscoe

**M**aking plans and setting goals are important. If you set your compass in the direction that you wish to go, you have a better chance of arriving there. Will your plans take flight, or like so many get tossed into the garbage heap?

Perhaps you're setting your goals too high. Can you think of one goal for the New Year? If nothing comes up – you may be in the pre-contemplation stage – just think about it. Perhaps you're happy as is – you may have had a difficult year and need to take a break. That's a choice in itself! (I can relate!) Fields lie fallow and so can you. Still, you can create an interesting life! Otherwise, your days can become monotonous.

**Continued on next page**



**Ray, & Rosalie Moscoe, with their children, Darren and Rhonda celebrate New Year's Eve, 1989.**

Each of us is learning and growing throughout life. Maybe you have something that you're burning to do like joining a choir or a fitness club. There are so many things to choose from – Do more community service, learn or re-learn Hebrew, take a course at a nearby community college or university, visit a new place in the world, take dancing, art classes or cooking classes, eat more vegetables, or attend more cultural events. Of course, you can simply choose to turn off the computer or take a nap in the afternoon – you'll be good to go for the evening!

I have long believed that life is all about *The Journey, not The Destination*.

I plan to enjoy *The Journey*, to live more in the moment, enjoy nature – take in the beauty around me; make conversations more in depth. I plan to make the most of each day. I also want to “tie up ends” – things that need finishing – like cleaning out my office and getting pictures in order. I also plan to fill a box for B'nai B'rith with clothes I don't want or that don't fit, or with dishes and glasses that don't match! That way, I'll be doing community service. I'm getting excited just thinking about the fun of replenishing (and the after holiday sales!)


Here's to an energized life for the coming year. It's time to take the plunge and set your goals – make them lofty, but not too high that you can't keep the promise to yourself. Most importantly, know that any change takes time.

Happy New Year and good luck with your resolutions. You can do it. Think positive!

## GOOD & WELFARE

**FHL expresses condolences to Arna Gorender on the passing of her husband, David Gorender, a longtime member Forestdale Heights Lodge. May his memory be a blessing forever. The Lodge also expresses condolences to his children and grandchildren.**

*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](mailto:jelijo@sympatico.ca).*





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# Purim 5779

On Wednesday, March 20, Forestdale Heights will be hosting its annual Megillah reading at 4300 Bathurst Street. If you are coming, please RSVP to Carl Zeliger at (905) 669-2732 or e-mail [czeliger@wza.ca](mailto:czeliger@wza.ca)



## PESACH GREETINGS



### *To all members of Forestdale Heights Lodge:*

This year we will be running Pesach Greetings in the April issue of Kol Echad. Greetings will be \$5 each (just one size). Deadline to put a greeting in is March 11. Please send wording for your greeting to [jelijo@sympatico.ca](mailto:jelijo@sympatico.ca).

Cheques (made out to Forestdale Heights Lodge) or cash can be handed in at the March meeting or mailed to Jeff Rosen, 150 Harris Way, Thornhill, Ont. L3T 5A8.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, talk to Jeff and we will arrange direct deposit.

## TALKING POINTS

Debbi Silver

Will return next month.

# AS I SEE IT

Marc Kates



The year 2018 is now over and a new one is just clearing the horizon. What a year it has been! Life is always in flux, and it's time to update the readers of Kol Echad on what's been going on in my life.

Ever since I resigned my teaching position, I felt trepidation, if not dread, of what lay ahead. I was entering a new phase in my life unsure of the future.

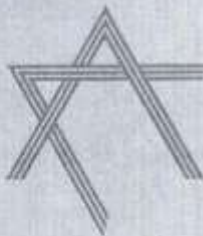
Since my last update, life has pleasantly unfolded. I often find myself supply teaching within the Durham District School Board, specifically at this one school. From being the new “kid” at the school, I was warmly embraced by the staff and most importantly, the students. I have proven my worth, and my years of experience are valued and appreciated. I have also



been placed on the Toronto District School Board supply list, and my information session is next week. With two boards vying for my services, it's nice to be in demand.

As for the home renovation, the house is coming along. The roof is almost on, and the new addition is framed and sealed. The renovation has not been without problems. The one room that we wanted to be perfectly preserved was almost destroyed, and most recently, the windows that were to be saved and not touched, were trashed. *Oy.* With most of the walls up, I am now starting to get more of a picture of what the house will look like when it's completed. I still have to use my imagination, but it's getting easier and easier with each passing day. Perhaps the renovation is but a metaphor for everything else going on in my life — the bones are there, it's how it's all going to look filled in.

All I know is that with both the house and employment, the future looks good. At times, it's overwhelming but in the long run, the house and I will be reborn. Stay tuned for future updates.



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# FORESTDALE FUNNIES

My New Year's resolution is to stop hanging out with people who ask me about my New Year's resolutions.

Dear Luck, can we be friends in 2019 please?

I raised my left leg before the ball dropped so I could start the New Year off on the right foot.

Dear God, my prayer for 2019 is a FAT bank account and a THIN body. Please don't mix it up like you did this year.



I want to get so drunk that if vampires bit my neck they'd get a Bloody Mary.

Remember you can reset your resolutions on January 14th (Orthodox New Year) and February 16th (Chinese New Year). After that, even I can't help you.

Many things can be preserved in alcohol this New Year's Eve. DIGNITY is not one of them.

Every year I make a resolution to change myself... this year I am making a resolution to be myself!

Just heard that in 2019 there will be a new device that can turn thoughts into speech. I have had that for years, it's called alcohol.

I heard Donald Trump wants to Make New Year's Eve Great Again.

There have been many times in 2018, when I have annoyed you, disturbed you, irritated you, and bugged the hell out of you...today I just wanna tell you I plan to continue in 2019!



# WORDS OF WISDOM

## *SOAR*



Kites rise highest against  
the wind – not with it.

*Winston Churchill*



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# FUNDRAISING



Forestdale Heights Lodge is once again selling the popular Entertainment books. This year though, all sales are being done on-line. Lodge members should log on to the Entertainment website and make purchases in Canadian funds. The site also allows for the purchase Entertainment books for other cities.

They make a great Chanukah present for family and friends or even for you.

Go to <https://fundraising.entertainment.com/> to log in and make a purchase. Every online purchase benefits Forestdale Heights Lodge.

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