

Tevet/Shevat/Adar 5783

January/February 2023

KOL ECHAD

Forestdale Heights Lodge
B'nai Brith Canada

Happy New Year!

Volume 21, No 3

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KOL ECHAD

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

It is published five 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

FHL will hold Zoom meetings on the second Tuesday of each month in 2023.

Start time: 7:00 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings: February 13, March 14, April 11, May 8
The slate committee will meet on January 10.

All dates are subject to change

COVER ART



The days are shorter, and there is a chill in the air as the city goes through another winter. However, in less than two months, spring will be here. In the meantime, we should try to enjoy this cold season. Despite the chill, there still is beauty to be found outdoors.

Kol Echad schedule for the 2022-23 season

March / April – Purim/Pesach Issue

Deadline: February 10

May / June – Spring Issue

Deadline: April 10

July / August – Summer Issue

Deadline: June 10



MILESTONES

FHL wishes a Happy Birthday to:

Ruth Pupko

February 14

* * *



CONDOLENCES

FHL extends condolences to the family of Irving Knopman, who passed away on November 11. Irv served with distinction as Lodge president during the 1973-74 season.

FHL extends condolences to Sherice and Arthur Eisenbaum and Shelly and Felice Luftspring on the loss of their mother, Sylvia Shear, who passed away on October 27 at the age of 102. Both Arthur and Shelly are past presidents of Forestdale Heights Lodge.

* * *



CONGRATULATIONS

FHL treasurer Debbi Silver celebrated her birthday on November 17 at bingo in her building surrounded by family and friends, including her husband Harvey, a past president, and their granddaughter, Jaime. Lodge president, Ruth Pupko, was also in attendance.

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





PRESIDENT'S PEN

Ruth Pupko

Scrolling through my new phone, I came across this beautiful picture of Harvey and myself volunteering at the Yellow Brick House in 2018. Forestdale Heights Lodge is well known around the community for stepping up and working really hard to make a difference, just as we have for the last 50 years. Thank you to all

the members who participated in the EMS Chanukah/Christmas project

I really enjoyed stuffing the envelopes, but best of all, sitting down with Debbi and Harvey, enjoying a good cup of coffee and eating the house specialty – Dad's cookies.

Yes, a picture says 1,000 words, and we will capture the same feeling in the near future.

By the time you get this bulletin, Chanukah will be finished. We were planning to discuss plans and projects for 2023 at our last meeting of 2022.

Until next time, take care and enjoy each day.



TALKING POINTS

Debbi Silver

Dear Forestdale Heights Members,

Just a quick update on my surgery. I am doing well and back to normal.

Thank you to the members for the lovely get-well card.
See you at the next meeting.





EDITOR'S DESK

Jeff Rosen

Wasn't that a party? Actually, it was a bat mitzvah, to be exact. Last October, we were honoured to attend a family simcha in Washington, D.C.

Of course, there was no way we would say no, given our close relationship with this one cousin – the mother of the bat mitzvah girl – who long ago stood as one of Lisa's bridesmaids.

The critical question we discussed since we got the "save the date" memo a year ago was our method of transport. Our initial plans saw me driving down with Lisa and Jordana. I even sought advice from a few Lodge members about the best place to stop overnight. Those plans were eventually scuttled due to several factors, including the rise in gas prices.

That left us with Pearson International and Air Canada. I don't have to go into the numerous problems both have faced over the past year, and I certainly did not intend to become just another disgruntled passenger. So, after much research, it was decided: we were flying to Washington, D.C., from Buffalo Niagara International Airport in Cheektowaga, New York.

In hindsight, it was the best of all possible choices. Crossing the Canada-U.S. border, both ways, was a breeze. On our way into the U.S., it took us about four minutes without questions about our vaccination status. Coming back to Canada, the customs official actually made a funny; he couldn't believe I went to D.C. with two women, and they didn't do any shopping (honestly, they didn't!). The 20 minutes we waited in line to re-enter our country was better than the lengthy routine found at Pearson. Another bonus was catching up with a dear cousin on my side of the family. Overall, I would have to say it's better to fly from Buffalo than to leave from Pearson.

The trip itself was great, almost a complete success. (I'll explain why it wasn't later.) We avoided renting a car, relying entirely on Uber and Lyft drivers who knew their city. The bat mitzvah was beautiful. This Conservative synagogue was different from those I have visited in Toronto. This one was led by a female cantor and rabbi. They were accompanied by a man on the keyboards. You could tell people were actually enjoying the service. I found the prayers and the various messages from the pulpit inspiring and uplifting. If I lived there, I would definitely be motivated to attend shul regularly.

Continued on next page



The service was followed by a kiddish and buffet dinner later that evening. The next day we enjoyed spending time with the family at the bat mitzvah girl's house. We were genuinely touched to see a framed photo of my late mother-in-law on the mantle. I guess some backstory is needed here. A few weeks before our trip, the bat mitzvah girl named, in part, after Lisa's mom, had sent me an e-mail asking for any photos I had. Of course, I had many and sent them along. The idea, I guess, was to honour this special person, as the brunch was being held on what would have been her 93rd birthday. I thought it was a very classy move.

The Washington trip was not all family time, though. We did tour the district's National Mall and Smithsonian Castle and visited the Smithsonian National Zoological Park or National Zoo. The place is impressive, with a wide variety of animals. Best of all, there was no charge for admission, as it is part of the Smithsonian Institution.



Now, I said I would return to the misstep that put a dent in our almost perfect getaway. I guess many people have their own misfortunes when travelling abroad. Well, mine was a true misstep. Unlike Toronto's concrete sidewalks, those in D.C. are laid with tiles. Sometimes though, they forget to replace one of those tiles. Now imagine if someone, say a retired journalist on vacation with his family, is looking around, admiring the sites and fails to notice the hole in the pavement. The result was that my foot remained stationary while the rest of my body continued moving – right down to the pavement. Fortunately, my arms broke my fall. Unfortunately, the end result was more than a strained muscle.

Hopefully, by the time you read this message, all will be well, and I'll soon be planning my next getaway. However, as I write this, the entire thing is a royal pain (no surprise since the final diagnosis was a fractured clavicle).

Overall, though, it was great to get out of Toronto. The flights to Buffalo and Washington left on time, each taking less than an hour, and we were out of each airport with no fuss or muss.

The entire experience felt so...normal.

Be well.

(As we went to press, the injury was 90% healed, and I was starting to resume normal activities.)



NOVEMBER MEETING

Forestdale Heights Lodge's second meeting of the 2022-23 season may have been an online Zoom get-together, but the level of debate and participation was reminiscent of our in-person, pre-pandemic meetings.

As well as Lodge President Ruth Pupko, those in attendance included Zoom moderator Stewart Indig, Harvey & Debbi Silver, Eddie & Marilyn Arkin, Albert Ohana, Carl Zeliger, and Jeff & Lisa Rosen.

Ruth opened the meeting on Monday, November 8, by acknowledging Holocaust Education Week, which started on November 2.

Turning to fundraising, the president discussed the status of our fundraising initiatives during these times. Unfortunately, there were no new ideas. The current pushka can program is on its last legs. Harvey said the last pushka cans are being left in place until the end of December. After that, the program will end.

Harvey and I gave updates on Kol Echad. Currently, two advertising invoices remain unpaid, and they will be followed up.

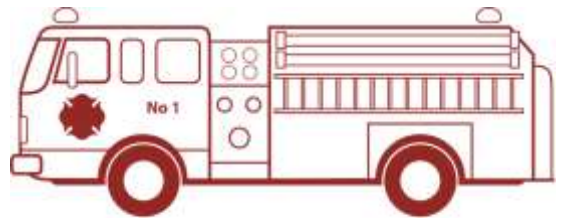
Turning to CVS, Ruth said she would like the Lodge to do a project – even a small one – to donate items such as socks, hats and gloves to the homeless, as we have done in the past.

She said the EMS Christmas project remains on track, with Stewart and Harvey helming it this year.

A special committee dealing with how Forestdale Heights allocates money was scheduled to give a report but still needed to meet. The matter was put off until they have a chance to do so.

We did approve sending funds to B'nai Brith Canada, for their Chanukah parcels for the needy. Carl asked whether it is feasible for the Lodge to restart its annual Purim program in 2023. It was decided to let members think about it and discuss it at the December meeting.

Continued on next page



Albert raised the idea of getting together for dinner at a restaurant to celebrate the Lodge around Chanukah. After much discussion, the Lodge settled on [Ba-Li Laffa](#). The Lodge will subsidize the program, and members will pay \$25/per person. While the date was initially set for December 12, it was decided to move it to January 16, to accommodate most of the active members.



Carl then took the “floor” to discuss proposed changes to the voting quorum. He brought the motion forward and read it to all in attendance. He explained the next step was to publish the motion for all members to read. It appears elsewhere in this issue of Kol Echad.

In new business, Ruth asked members to submit allocation requests to her by the end of the year.

The next meeting was set for December 13.

Jeff Rosen

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DECEMBER MEETING

Forestdale Heights Lodge concluded 2022 with an abbreviated meeting on December 13 due to a lack of quorum. However, even though we technically could not call for a vote on Lodge matters, there was plenty of helpful debate.

As well as Lodge President Ruth Pupko, those in attendance included Zoom moderator Stewart Indig, Harvey & Debbi Silver, Albert Ohana, Carl Zeliger, and Jeff & Lisa Rosen. While Ray and Rosalie Moscoe could not attend the meeting, Rosalie logged in as the meeting was closing.

Harvey and Debbi discussed the pushka program, which was scheduled to end on December 31. However, it was decided to extend the program, focusing only on three locations.

Discussing Kol Echad, I reported on the Pesach Greetings issue – March/April 2023 – informing members that the deadline for greetings will be February 1, while the deadline for all other material will be February 10. A report on the revised quarter-page colour ads was also explained.

The matter of our annual Purim Megillah program was brought up, and everyone agreed that it should be held next year if possible. Carl said he would contact B'nai Brith Canada, to see what COVID protocols exist surrounding programs at 4300 Bathurst Street and if a room for the program is available. If we proceed, it was agreed that those serving food should wear masks and gloves.

Ruth again brought up the idea of running a winter project to provide those in need with hats, gloves and small food items. Members liked the idea, and she said she would jump right into the project.

Although a special committee was supposed to meet to discuss large-scale allocations, Albert said they could not meet. He suggested, and members agreed, that in place of this committee, all such matters would be decided on by the entire Lodge.

Albert's idea of holding a social get-together for dinner at a restaurant appears on track for January 16 at [Ba-Li Laffa](#). The Lodge will subsidize the program, and members will pay \$25/per person.

Before concluding, Stewart asked whether a slate committee meeting would be held in January. It agreed that Harvey Silver, chair of the board of governors, will convene a virtual meeting of past presidents on Tuesday, January 10, at 7:00 p.m.

There will be no Lodge meeting in January. The next meeting was set for February 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Jeff Rosen



CONSTITUTION

FORESTDALE HEIGHTS LODGE NOTICE OF MOTION

Notice of Motion to Amend Paragraph 8.4.1. of the Constitution of Forestdale Heights Lodge, B'nai Brith Canada

WHEREAS, Rosalie Moscoe, delivered to the Chairperson of the Lodge, Ruth Pupko, a Motion in writing, dated June 13, 2022, seconded by Ray Moscoe and Ruth Pupko, to amend the Lodge Constitution to reduce the number of members required for a Quorum at Lodge Meetings from 12 to 9:

AND WHEREAS, the Motion was read out at a Meeting of the Lodge on November 8, 2022;

AND WHEREAS, the Constitution Committee has considered the ramifications of the Motion and, in light of Lodge membership, the number of members attending Lodge Meetings, and the desire to transact the business of the Lodge in an efficient and timely manner, recommends acceptance of this Motion:

AND WHEREAS, the Executive Council of the Lodge has accepted the Motion;

AND WHEREAS, Notice of this Motion is hereby being mailed out to all members of the Lodge to be voted on at the General Meeting of the Lodge on Tuesday, February 14, 2023;

BY THIS MOTION, IT IS HEREBY REQUESTED that the existing paragraph 8.4.1 of our Lodge Constitution be changed by replacing "Twelve (12)" to read "Nine (9)" such that paragraph 8.4.1 is amended to read that:

'Nine (9) members in good standing at any general or special meeting of the Lodge shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.'



COMMUNITY

Dear Members of Forestdale Heights Lodge,

I recommend that you all watch this short video on YouTube sent by B'nai Brith Canada. It reinforces our CVS motto of People Helping People.

Ruth



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wt2kHth6uLM>

We've all dealt with this, an e-mail, letter or phone call requesting private information or money. Most of these contacts can be identified for what they are...frauds. However, some are far cleverer, which could be considered a "long con," where the person perpetrating the fraud takes their time to gain your confidence.

It's essential to understand what is taking place. On November 4, a podcast by Howard Solomon, contributing reporter on cybersecurity for ITWorldCanada.com, dealt with this issue. It is something everyone should be aware of.

To listen to the podcast, go to <https://bit.ly/3fEq1Wt>



PERSPECTIVES



Tu B'Shevat is a Jewish holiday occurring on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shevat.

In 2023, Tu B'Shvat begins at sunset on Sunday, February 5 and ends the following evening. It is also called Rosh Hashanah La'Ilanot, literally "New Year of the Trees."

In the Middle Ages, Tu B'Shevat was celebrated with a feast of fruits, keeping with the Mishnaic description of the holiday as a "New Year." In the 16th century, the kabbalist Rabbi Yitzchak Luria of Safed and his disciples instituted a Tu B'Shevat seder in which the fruits and trees of the Land of Israel were given symbolic meaning. The main idea was that eating ten specific fruits and drinking four cups of wine in a particular order while reciting the appropriate blessings would bring humans and the world closer to spiritual perfection. Eating Israeli fruits, such as figs, dates, and carobs, is traditional. It's also customary to eat fruits you haven't tasted before and to say the Shehecheyanu.

Tu B'Shevat is the Israeli Arbor Day, and ecological organizations in Israel and the diaspora have adopted the holiday to further environmental-awareness programs. On Israeli kibbutzim, Tu B'Shevat is celebrated as an agricultural holiday.

On Tu B'Shevat 1890, Rabbi Ze'ev Yavetz, one of the founders of the Mizrahi movement, took his students to plant trees in the agricultural colony of Zichron Yaakov. This custom was adopted in 1908 by the Jewish Teachers Union and later by the Jewish National Fund, established in 1901 to oversee land reclamation and afforestation of the Land of Israel. In the early 20th century, the Jewish National Fund devoted the day to planting eucalyptus trees to stop the plague of malaria in the Hula Valley; today, the Fund schedules major tree-planting events in extensive forests every Tu B'Shevat.

In keeping with the idea of Tu B'Shevat marking the revival of nature, many of Israel's major institutions have chosen this day for their inauguration. The cornerstone laying of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem took place on Tu B'Shevat 1918; the Technion in Haifa on Tu B'Shevat 1925; and the Knesset on Tu B'Shevat 1949.

Wikipedia



PASSOVER GREETINGS



To all members of Forestdale Heights Lodge:

This year we will be running Pesach Greetings in the March/April issue of Kol Echad. As the Lodge is operating in virtual mode (Zoom meetings), there will be **NO CHARGE** for this service. If you wish to put in a larger ad, send ad information and payment to Jeff. Payment can be sent by Canada Post or e-transfer. Larger ads are \$20 for a quarter page, \$40 for a half-page or \$100 for a full page.

The deadline to put a greeting in is February 1.

Please send wording and electronic payments for your greeting to jelijo@sympatico.ca.



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Keeping with Lodge tradition, FHL members delivered gift parcels to the brave men and women who dedicate their lives to keep our streets safe. These people include police, firefighters and paramedics. Those taking part were Carl Zeliger, Carole Pacter, Harvey & Debbi Silver, Mark Spergel, Ray Moscoe and Stewart Indig. Here, a paramedic at the Bathurst/Finch station, which houses a fire station and EMS station, is seen with a gift delivered by Mark Spergel.

[Mark Spergel photo]

Rosalie Moscoe is seen here with a police officer after delivering chocolates at the Allen Road-Eglinton Avenue station.



CVS @ CHANUKAH

Report on Chocolate Deliveries

On behalf of Stewart and myself, I would like to thank each and every one of the volunteers who helped to make this project possible.

This project is in its 15th year, minus the pandemic, and we hope to be able to do it again next year.

Hope everyone had a very happy holiday.



Harvey Silver

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BLOG_FHL


Blog_FHL is Kol Echad's new communications column. We are asking members to submit information on their favourite places and things in life. You can answer as many or few questions as you like. Responses will be published in the following issue. Please feel free to add your own favourites!

To start:

- What's your favourite ice cream shop?
- What's your favourite spot for breakfast?
- What's your favourite park?
- Book recommendations?
- What's your favourite movie or theatrical production?
- What's your favourite decadent treat? Where do you get it?



Please send responses to jelijo@sympatico.ca.

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Rethinking your New Year's resolutions

With the new year upon us, we're bombarded with the expectation to evolve into a shinier version of ourselves. It can often feel like everyone around us is starting a new diet, a new workout routine, or beginning a new life plan that's going to slingshot them into their dream lives.

As soon as we break open that fresh new calendar, we are told that happiness is just around the corner – as long as we make the right changes. With ads on every corner selling us products to help lose weight, become more organized, or live life to the fullest, it's easy to start believing we aren't good enough the way we are.

Improving and challenging ourselves can absolutely be healthy, but it's important to remember that we all deserve love and happiness.

Continued on next page



Here's a wild thought: you don't need to set a resolution.

You are enough just as you are.

You don't need to change the way you look, live, eat, or work to be valid. Try reflecting on self-love and appreciate your wonderful self.

If the start of a new year has you feeling motivated, though, here are some tips to guide you in setting your resolution:

Reflect on your New Year's resolution: What's at the root of your desire to change? It's important to distinguish whether it's based on self-love or shame. If it's the latter, there might be more to uncover.

Set realistic goals: Try to keep your goals S.M.A.R.T. (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time bound). If, for instance, you want to become more physically active in 2023, start by taking small steps in that direction. Though everyone is different, it's more realistic to set a goal of going for a walk every day, than reinventing yourself as a gym rat.

Celebrate small victories: Each small milestone is one step closer to your goal. If you're planning on reading more in 2023, give yourself a pat on the back each time you finish a chapter. Acknowledging steps in the right direction can be very motivating!

Be kind to yourself: It's easy to feel discouraged when you hit bumps in the road, but don't be too hard on yourself. If you slip on your resolution, it doesn't mean you've failed or have to give up. Remember to be kind to yourself and start up again if you can.

Check in on yourself often: What you feel is best for you now, might not be what is best for you as you get further into 2023. If your priorities change, it's OK. It's important to listen to your gut and adapt to life as it comes.

Remember, being able to follow through – or not — on a New Year's resolution doesn't determine your worth. It's 2023. Be good to yourself.

Material supplied by Canadian Mental Health Association.



FOOD SENSATIONS

BEEF STEW

Ingredients

- 2 pounds cubed beef stew meat
- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 4 cubes beef bouillon, crumbled
- 4 cups water
- 1 teaspoon dried rosemary
- 1 teaspoon dried parsley
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 3 large potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 4 carrots, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 4 stalks celery, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 teaspoons cornstarch
- 2 teaspoons cold water

Directions

1. In a large pot or dutch oven, cook beef in oil over medium heat until brown. Dissolve bouillon in water and pour into pot. Stir in rosemary, parsley and pepper. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat, cover and simmer 1 hour.



2. Stir potatoes, carrots, celery, and onion into the pot. Dissolve cornstarch in 2 teaspoons cold water and stir into stew. Cover and simmer 1 hour more.



FOOD SENSATIONS

EASY BEEF BRISKET

Ingredients

1 (3-pound) beef brisket, trimmed of fat
1 medium onion, thinly sliced
Salt and pepper to taste
1 (12 fluid ounce) can of beer
1 (12-ounce) bottle of tomato-based chili sauce
3/4 cup packed brown sugar

Directions

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F
(165 degrees C).

Season the brisket on all sides with salt and pepper, and place in a glass baking dish. Cover with a layer of sliced onions. In a medium bowl, mix the beer, chili sauce, and brown sugar. Pour over the roast. Cover the dish tightly with aluminum foil.

Bake for 3 hours in the preheated oven. Remove the aluminum foil, and bake for an additional 30 minutes. Let the brisket rest and cool slightly before slicing and returning to the dish.

Reheat in the oven with the sauce spooned over the sliced meat.



FORESTDALE FUNNIES

My sister thinks she is so smart; she said onions are the only food that makes you cry...So I threw a coconut at her!

If vegetables are so good, why are vegans always trying to get them to taste like meat? Take your time. I'll wait.

One day you're 21, staying up until 3 a.m., eating pizza, and dancing as if no one is watching. Then suddenly, you're 65, eating kale, going to bed at 8 p.m., and you can't dance because you pulled a muscle putting on your socks.

Today I bought a packet of salted nuts. On the pack, it said, "Warning, may contain nuts." Well, I would be pretty disappointed if I opened it up and a sock fell out.

It's perfectly OK to talk to yourself, and it's perfectly OK to answer yourself. However, it's totally sad that you have to repeat what you said because you weren't listening.

My wife asked if she could have a little peace and quiet while she cooked dinner. So I took the battery out of the smoke alarm.

Joe takes his friend Steve hunting for the first time and reminds him to be still and keep quiet. An hour into the woods, Joe hears Steve screaming behind him. "I thought I told you to be quiet," says Joe.

"Hey, I kept quiet when the snake bit me," says Steve, "and I was quiet when the fox attacked me, but when the two chipmunks crawled up my pant leg just now, I heard one ask the other, "Should we eat them now or take them with us?"

Male bees die after mating. That's basically their life. Honey, Nut, Cherio!

THINGS TO PONDER 🤔

By I Might Be Funny

1. If the No. 2 pencil is the most popular, why is it still No. 2?
2. Why do we press harder on the remote control when we know the batteries are getting weak?
3. Why are you "in" a movie, but "on" TV?
4. What was the best thing BEFORE sliced bread?
5. Why do we drive on parkways & park on driveways?
6. Why do "fat chance" & "slim chance" mean the same thing?
7. Why do British people never sound British when they sing?
8. At a movie theater, which arm rest is yours?
9. Why are there no "B" batteries?
10. Why do people say "heads up" when you should duck?

CORRESPONDENCE



Forestdale Heights Lodge

September 29, 2022

Dear Forestdale Heights Lodge,

On behalf of Ve'ahavta, I wish to express our sincere thanks for the gift donation. We truly appreciate your interest in helping our organization thrive and supporting individuals dealing with profound barriers, like limited access to food or warm places to sleep. The funds that will be raised will be used to provide immediate and essential support to individuals in Toronto experiencing homelessness.

Ve'ahavta's work can't be done without the support of a community. Your partnership is an excellent example of the power people have to make a difference – even in our most challenging times.

Thank you for fulfilling a mitzvah and may we always be on the giving side, leading for a better tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Brandon Lablong,
Director of Development



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HARMONY

Rosalie Moscoe

Another New Year! We hope for a better economy, cheaper gas, less expensive groceries, and a healthier Canadian dollar. We also hope for good health, well-being, and, importantly, getting along with relatives. Ray and I recall some far-gone New Year's celebrations. Things have changed since then. Remember midnight movies? Yes, we were young. One such New Year's Eve, we saw a film that neither of us can remember.

However, we recall going home to change our clothes after the movie and tobogganing with friends in Earl Bales Park! We got home at 3:30 a.m., and of course, we slept for two full days after that. (It must have been before having our kids!)

Another memorable evening was our dinner at the glamorous Prince Hotel (now rebranded as The Westin Prince Toronto). It was a fortune to attend – \$100 a couple. We thought we'd splurge, and we dressed to the nines. However, we recall that the dinner was a rubber chicken. However, we danced to a live band; I felt like a princess, and we thought we were in wonderland.

Years clipped by, and who remembers Y2K? We had a big celebration at our house with lots of friends. We played music, danced to all our golden oldies, and ordered Chinese food. We stocked up on toilet paper, water, and canned food and feared the power would turn off. Leading up to 2000, there seemed to be a panic that computers wouldn't be in sync or go dead! We sat crowded around the TV. We counted down 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1! The ball dropped on Times Square, and we ran to flush the toilets to make sure they worked! They did. So did the power, and so did our computers. What would we do with all the water we bought, extra toilet paper, and six months' worth of canned food? Frankly, it was a bit of a letdown!



Nowadays, things aren't as exciting or glamorous. If we manage to get a house party going, by 10:30 p.m., people start yawning. No one wants to dance, preferring to sit around and watch TV. After a few nibbles, then, it's time to go home. Ho hum! We try to stay up to watch the ball drop, but we rarely make it! What was your New Year's Eve like? Did you have some fun, go for a big dinner, go dancing? Well, there's always next year!

Continued on next page





And resolutions – did you make any? The following are a few common resolutions:

1. I'm going to lose 10 pounds.
2. I'm going to join a gym and go three times a week.
3. I'm going to cut down on chocolate.
4. I'm going to go to shul every Saturday.
5. I'm going to keep in touch with all my relatives.
6. I'm going to clean out my basement or apartment.
7. I'm going to clear out my closets (so I can buy new clothes.)
8. I'm going to go for a walk at least three times a week.
9. I'm going to open at least one of my dozens of cookbooks and make something new.
10. I'm going to turn off the computer every night at 10 p.m.



Let me know if you made any of those resolutions and if you followed suit! I'd love to hear about it. Happy New Year to all. Let's hope for a happy, healthy, war free, peaceful, and, if we're lucky, prosperous New Year!



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AS I SEE IT

Marc Kates

One of our fundamental rights as Canadian workers is the right to be treated fairly in the workplace. Unfortunately, this has not been the case with the provincial government's relationship with CUPE as the school support workers, under Bill 124, were going to be legislated back to work and a wage increase imposed. The Premier even invoked the constitution's Notwithstanding Clause, which has long been seen as a last resort "nuclear option." These strong-armed tactics of the Ford government ultimately were withdrawn, but not before there was a public outcry in support of the workers who were bargaining in good faith for a reasonable wage increase.

I see it firsthand on a daily basis – those hard-working employees, such as the office and caretaking staff in my school, who are essentially the ones to keep the school operational. I have often said that principals and teachers do not make the schools function – the caretakers and office staff do.

The support staff are the ones who clean up the vomit, mop the floor, make sure that children arrive safely to school, and who manage the daily operations of the facilities. They clean the washrooms, shovel the snow, and salt the exits. The office staff are the ones who deal directly with parents, students, and community members. They are even called upon to supervise children, address any medical issues, and often serve in the role of a caring adult in a student's life. Why, then, are these essential employees treated so poorly? These employees are the lowest paid workers. They serve an important role, but do not receive the necessary compensation. Like the rest of us, we are all struggling with inflation and the high cost of living. A 1% forced wage increase is a slap in the face when the inflation rate alone is nearly 7%!

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We witnessed the evening bagging on pots and pans during the pandemic. We praised the doctors and nurses who plodded the course through wave after wave of COVID-19. They are now the ones dealing with staff shortages, overwhelming hospital admissions, and exhaustion. I hear stories of how surgeries are being cancelled and postponed.



With threats of more illnesses on the horizon, the immediate future does not look good, especially for pediatric hospitals. How will the provincial government react when the youngest members of society become the most vulnerable? Hopefully, better than its reaction to our senior population in long-term care facilities!

Nursing vacancies are high, and I regularly hear of personnel shortages. It's a very sad state of affairs when you know that loved ones are not getting the care they need. Next up are the teachers who begin their negotiations with the province. With the pivoting to online school, the daily grind, and the increased responsibilities, they, too, have what to be compensated for. The provincial government needs to allow the negotiations to unfold, without dangling the Notwithstanding Clause over the negotiations that should take place in good faith. So as we head into 2023, let's give these essential workers what they truly deserve, over and above the banging of pots and pans.


*Image by Gerd Altmann from Pixabay,
<https://bit.ly/3BtqzWV>*

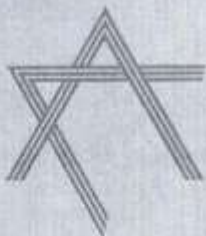
*Nurse image by Chrystal Elizabeth from Pixabay
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LOOKING BACK



(Old) City Hall and Terauley Street (now Bay Street), 1900s



**Westbound streetcar 4226,
Dundas and Bathurst Streets**

Photographer: Eric Trussler

1961

City of Toronto Archives



LOOKING BACK



**Yonge Street looking north from south of Cumer Avenue, 1954
Baldwin Collection of Canadiana**



**Yonge Street,
looking south at
Cumer Avenue,
showing road
construction,
1922**

**Baldwin
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