

KOL ECHAD

Kol Echad is the official publication of Forest-dale Heights Lodge. It is published 10 times a year.

We welcome all articles and letters from members of the Lodge. 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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COVER ART

Kol Echad invites members to submit photographs, which will be considered for the cover of Kol Echad. Digital photos should be e-mailed to jelijo@sympatico.ca. This month's cover photo depicts the Canadian Tulip Festival, held annually in May in Ottawa. The festival claims to be the world's largest tulip festival, displaying over one million tulips, with attendance of over 500,000 visitors annually.

KOSHER FOOD BANK

Forestdale Heights is a supporter of the Pride of Israel Kosher Food Bank. Members are requested to bring an item of non-perishable kosher food to each Lodge meeting. The food items should bear a kosher certification. Donations of sealed toiletry items are also welcome. Donations collected at each meeting will be delivered the following day.

AT A GLANCE

May 5 Lodge Installation
June 3 Dinner Meeting

June 9 Social Outing at Woodbine

Dinner at 6:30; Meeting at 7:15 Dinner Charge: \$10 members/non-members If you plan to attend, please RSVP Albert Ohana at salonpiaff@rogers.com or call (905) 597-1999

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PRESIDENT'S PEN



How time flies. I became president of Forestdale Heights Lodge three years ago, and don't know where the time has gone. I now hand the gavel over to Harvey Silver, our next president, who I

know will do a fabulous job.

I have been a member of the Lodge since I was 25 years old – just a kid. My first interest in the Lodge was playing baseball for the B'nai Brith league. It was a lot of fun, playing as well as pretending we were pros. My wife and kids came out to watch and cheer me on. I had two separate surgeries due to those baseball games – but it was worth it! (At 70, I don't slide to home base anymore.)

However, soon I became interested in the CVS aspect of the Lodge. I truly value that part of Forestdale Heights – People Helping People – and hope that we continue to reach out and help those in need. I know CVS is important to our members.

Many people have touched my heart along the way, and have given me inspiration and ideas since I became president of the Lodge. Some are no longer here, but remain in thoughts. Bonnie Kates, z"l, was a tremendous help - I could always count on her for her unique view and I called on her many times for her positive suggestions. Also, Irv Pupko, z"l, helped me with practical ideas and encouragement that I'll never forget. Thanks to my wife Rosalie for her support and ideas (and for ghost writing many of my articles!) My entire executive and other team members such as Jeff Rosen, Michael Kates, Albert Ohana, Nate Salter, Carl Zeliger and Evie Isenberg - to name a few, served to make our Lodge even better and I thank all of you for your guidance and assistance.

I am encouraged by the growth of our Lodge with the new and enthusiastic members who bring fresh, innovative ideas. I encourage our members to be open to new directions.

I feel my position as president the past three years has helped me grow personally – I thank you all for the opportunity. I will continue to work for the Lodge and wish the new executive much success!

Goodbye,

Ray Moscoe

If anyone would like to purchase Lodge Donation cards, they are three cards for \$10

Contact Michael Kates at (905) 669-2408

EDITOR'S DESK



For as long as I can remember, the concept of time travel has fascinated me. Imagine being able to walk through a portal to how see our ancestors lived and what they were like as individuals. His-

tory often paints a one-dimensional portrait of these people and the times

they lived in. Yes, they did not have television, phones (never mind iPhones) or other electronic devices we take for granted, but that does not necessarily mean that we have a better quality of life. Of course, those

of came before us did not have the luxury of our modern medical "miracles," so maybe we do have a few advantages they lacked.

I realize any such voyage into the past would have to be done as a silent observer. Anyone who knows anything about time travel knows that one cannot go back and change the past without affecting the future and possibly his or her life.

In a way though, I have found a way to peer back through the ages and look in on the lives of my ancestors. No, I do not have an actual time machine and probably never will (unless my future self knows something I do not know).

For years now, I have been compiling my family's history. However, when it comes to mining information from Europe and Russia, I usually hit a brick wall. In other cases, I get no further than a date of death or the names of a sibling or parent.

I decided to go one-step further last month and subscribed to a Canadian website, Ancestry.ca. Suddenly, doors

> opened and the past started to come alive. While European records remained almost possible to locate, I was fortunate in that mv paternal grandmother's family from came England.

This allowed me to uncover records relating to birth and death, elections and censuses, going back to 1836. In many cases, professions were included in these documents.

The exercise was also a great lesson in history, as I discovered one of my great-great grandfathers was born in both Belgium and The Netherlands. Only by exploring the history of the region further, did I find that around the time he was born, Belgium became an independent country.

Continued on next page

My greatest find (so far) is a census conducted in London, England in 1911. It includes my grandmother, who was 14 at the time and already working as a seamstress. Why was she working at such a young age? Unfortunately, some things are lost to the passages of time.

It's funny though because only after examining the document a few times did I notice one other important piece of information. After conducting the census of my great-grandfather's home, the census taker had required someone in the household to verify the document.

For reasons now unknown, that task was left to my grandmother. So, 102 years later and 46 years after her passing, her signature remains a living piece of the past.

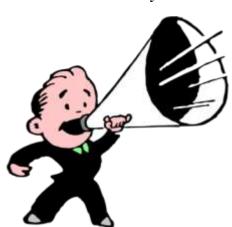
I will undoubtedly never have the opportunity to travel into the past, but my explorations into my family's history are helping to bring them to the present.

Shalom,

Geff Rosen

ATTENTION MEMBERS!

We may be missing you! If you are not receiving regular e-mail updates or never see a birthday or anniversary listed in Good & Welfare, it means we do not



have your correct e-mail address and/or significant dates in your life. Be sure to send all information to **jelijo@sympatico.ca**.

While you're at it, if there is something you would like to see added, or something you dislike, please let us know. All suggestions will be seriously considered.

Also, if you wish to discontinue receiving the bulletin by mail, please send an e-mail to Harvey Silver at **debbisilver@rogers.com**. You will then be notified of all Lodge programmes and events through our regular e-mail updates and our website.

The Editor

Rosalie Moscoe



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47TH ANNUAL INSTALLATION

Sunday, May 5, 2013

Watch our website, **kolechad.ca** and our e-mail updates for more details. Due to our May installation, the monthly meeting will be cancelled.

For more information, contact Albert Ohana at salonpiaff@rogers.com

BINGO

Bingo – Tuesday, May 14 4300 Bathurst Street. Please arrive by 7:15 p.m. For more information, contact Richard Kotzen, (416) 783-2737 or <u>richkotzen@rogers.com</u> Future Bingo Date: June 11





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WOODBINE 2013

SUNDAY, JUNE 9

Cost \$40/person, which includes buffet lunch, programme and reserved seating. Payment should be made to George Garten at the May installation.

Doors open at 11:00 a.m.

Don't miss one of FHL's premiere social outings. Bring your friends and relatives and enjoy a great day at the track.

Please RSVP to George Garten **candggarten@hotmail.com** or (416) 221-2407

APRIL MEETING



For as long as I can remember, there has always been humour at our monthly meetings. However, our April 8 meeting was definitely something to laugh about as guest speaker Alf Kwinter spoke about the history of Jewish humour, sprinkling his informal talk with plenty of Jewish chuckles.

Kwinter came to Canada in the 1940s and began telling jokes on the boat from Europe to help pay for his family's passage. He continues to do so today, appearing in synagogues throughout Canada.

At the Lodge meeting, Kwinter (seen above with Harvey Silver and Ray Moscoe) told the 20 people in attendance that in 1979, a poll by Time magazine found that while Jews made up only three percent of the population, they accounted for 80 percent of comedians.

He said that Jewish humour has come out of the oppression and anti-Semitism Jews faced over the ages.

He said no topic is taboo for Jewish humour, including making fun of our religious institutions and ourselves.

- Two Jews are talking about their rabbis. The first says, "My rabbi can talk for a half an hour about anything." The second says, "My rabbi can talk for an hour about nothing."
- > The president of the shul goes to visit the rabbi in the hospital. He says, "The board wishes you a speedy recovery, by a vote of 24-18."
- > Two men are comparing their Reform synagogues. The first says, "My Temple is so Reform they have a snack bar open on Yom Kippur." The second says, "That's nothing, my shul is so Reform they close on the High Holidays."

Kwinter talked about Yiddish humour as well, sprinkling Yiddish jokes into his presentation for those who understood the language.

He explained that vaudeville, which started around the late 1880s, was a major forum for Jewish comics. However, in the end, those comics who stayed away from using only Jewish humour had longer careers.

Eventually, vaudeville gave way to radio and Jewish comics were forced to change. Where before they could repeat their act as they travelled from town to town, radio forced them to come up with new jokes and new routines. This gave birth to the need for comedy writers.

Jewish comedy continued to evolve with the arrival of the Catskills and the Borscht Belt. It has continued to change over the years, he said, but not always for the better. He said many comics today feel they have to resort to vulgarity to get a chuckle. Despite the number of Jewish comics this country has produced, he said his all-time favourites remain Wayne and Shuster.

Jeff Rosen







More photos can be found at kolechad.ca



FORESTDALE FUNNIES



A man questions if having sex on the Sabbath is a sin because he is not sure if sex is work or play. He goes to a priest for his opinion on this question. The priest says after consulting the Bible, "My son, after an exhaustive search I am positive sex is work and is not permitted the Sabbath."

The man thinks, "What does a priest know about sex?"

He goes to a minister... a married man, experienced... for the answer. He queries the minister and receives the same reply. Sex is work and not for the Sabbath! Not pleased with the reply, he seeks out the ultimate authority -- a man of

thousands of year's tradition and knowledge: a rabbi.

The rabbi ponders the question and states, "My son, sex is definitely play."

The man replies, "Rabbi, how can you be so sure when so many others tell me sex is work?"

The rabbi softly speaks, "If sex were work...my wife would have the maid do it."

* * *

Sadie and Benny were both 65 years old and were celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary. When all the family and guests had left their house, a fairy appeared from nowhere and said to them, "Congratulations, you two. I'm here to grant you both one wish each."

Sadie said, "I want to travel around the world."

The fairy waved her magic wand and POW – Sadie had tickets in her hand for a round the world cruise on a Cunard liner.

Then the fairy asked Benny what he wanted.

Benny replied. "I wish I had a wife 30 years younger than me."

So the fairy picked up her wand and POW – Benny was 95 years old.

* * *

Maurice and his wife Sadie were asleep one night when suddenly, at 2 a.m. in the morning, the phone rang. Sadie picked it up.

She listened to the caller then said, "How the hell should I know. It's 95 miles away." She then hung up.

Maurice asked, "Who was that?"

Sadie replied. "Some mad woman wanting to know if the coast was clear."

SANDY'S SCRIPT



Well. we are approaching the end of another executive term of Forestdale Heights Lodge. Many of the members recount years gone by and the people who filled the positions

in the past.

I have not been a member that long, but I also remember fondly the friendships made since joining the Lodge.

Ours is a lodge of people helping people and it's not only in our community, but within the confines of our Lodge as well. We have been through a great deal the last number of years, we have been sad together and happy as well. The short and long of it is, we are a family! We love and care for our immediate families, but caring goes beyond that. To have the capacity to reach out for no other reason, but to give a helping hand is a gift that does not ever need to be rewarded.

We tend to lose sight of what is important in our lives a lot of the time. By thinking and helping others less fortunate, we have the opportunity to open a whole new door to giving to others and at the same time learning more about ourselves in the process.

We should all be happy and healthy and keep on doing the good work we do as members of Forestdale Heights Lodge, B'nai Brith Canada.

Wishing everyone a Happy Shavuot and a great summer!

Until the next time,

Sandy Gordon



NOTES FROM NATE

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GOODLIFE TORONTO MARATHON



Sunday, May 5

Forestdale Heights Lodge has participated in the Toronto Marathon for over seven years. Our Lodge is responsible for the first water station at Mel Lastman Square.

Arrival time at the water station is 6 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 e-mail at **debbisilver@rogers.com**.

GOOD & WELFARE

Birthday

Barry Gordon

May 15



FHL welcomed prospective member Morris Stein to the Lodge at our April meeting and hope he will make our Lodge meetings part of his monthly routine.

If you have any special moments in your life that you wish to share with the Lodge, please send announcements to **jelijo@sympatico.ca**.

HEALTH IN HARMONY

Welcome to

THE SUNSHINE STATE



Ray and I had a great winter – mostly. It was the first time we vacationed when Ray was officially retired. We met with other retired couples for various activities in Florida

and enjoyed their sense of fun always looking to do something

interesting. We movies went to and lecture a series at Florida **Atlantic University** on eight subjects of American Foreign Policy. We learned a lot about countries many such as Indonesia, which we had known little about.

I'm afraid to say that much of the world is in a big mess! I was thankful for our little oasis, Canada – not so little.

I took yoga classes and Ray and I walked daily on the "Golden Mile" pathway, which was right beside our rental condo. We tried to eat healthy at home and at nearby, fabulous restaurants — at great prices. We even cruised down the Inter Coastal waterway on a friend's boat and saw

fabulous homes that looked like hotels. What can be bad?

A wrench was thrown into the mix as Ray started coughing, feeling sick about a month into the trip. Diagnosed with flu and being prescribed a Tamiflu medication, he got worse. Back to another doctor and we learned he had walking pneumonia. It took a while for him to feel like himself, but well enough to celebrate his 70th birthday in Florida

when I threw him a party to celebrate this milestone event.

Our daughter Rhonda, husband and granddaughter decided to come for some fun the last week we were in Florida. The week before they came,

our daughter was also diagnosed with flu, once and then again by another doctor when she was not getting better. She arrived by plane in Ft. Lauderdale pretty sick and we whisked her to the nearest hospital. She was there for six days, diagnosed with double pneumonia. Medical errors had abounded.

Continued on next page

One thing I must say about the U.S. – their hospitals are squeaky clean; there's valet parking at no charge and nurses asked us if we wanted tea or coffee! Upon admission, each person receives a package with a pair of sock slippers, a comb, toothbrush, toothpaste and a box of tissues.

Within minutes, intravenous was administered to our daughter, and within a few hours many tests were performed and X-ray and a CAT scans were given. It was AMAZING. (Thank goodness for insurance!)

The story ends happily with Ray and my daughter Rhonda both in good health and we all arrived home safely. I pray the next holiday is less eventful.

Rosalie Moscoe

CVS

The "Gift of Life" Foundation is looking for volunteers do set-up awareness booths at malls or community centers to raise awareness for the cause and to promote donor registration.

Please e-mail Stewart Indig at <u>indigs@rogers.com</u>. If you would like to donate some of your time to tend to these booths, it would truly be a mitzvah to help them out. G-d willing hopefully none of you will ever be in need of their services.

FHL ALLOCATIONS

If you are interested in the Lodge allocating funds for a particular charity, please draft a proposal, including the charity's name and the amount requested, and forward it to:

Carl Zeliger, (905) 669-2732 or e-mail **czeliger@wza.ca**. All proposals will be voted on at our June meeting.

As I See IT



Israel is now a senior citizen at the ripe old age of 65. Many people thought that her existence would be short lived and only a footnote in the history books. Here is a modern country with thousands of

years of history and numerous accomplishments that far outweigh

her relative size to the rest of the world.

As Jews living in the Diaspora, we often struggle to define our relationship with

the Jewish state. That relationship is fluid. Is the modern State of Israel at the core of my identity as a Jew? What are my loyalties to Canada? What would my feelings be towards Israel if I grew up before its independence in 1948? How am I affected by policies and actions of Israeli governments?

The best phrase I've heard, and one that I've used in my classroom, is "hugging and wrestling with Israel." I am very proud of Israel's accomplishments and the flourishing of a democratic and advanced society with a social conscience. I am fortunate to have travelled to Israel

numerous times, and on each trip, I discover and learn something new. Israel is ever-changing an environment. However, there are a number of things about Israel that drive me completely meshiga. Jew against Jew, and the fact that everything in Israel is political only hinders progress. Many Israelis believe that they don't need to be Jewish simply because they live in Israel. Some Jews who were born in Israel and who carry Israeli passports

> don't believe that the State of Israel should exist, but are more than happy to receive an allowance from their non-recognized government.

Israelis refer to themselves as sabra fruits: prickly on the outside but sweet on the inside. Yes, that description is true, but does the thorny outside have to be so sharp? Hopefully, now that Israel is a senior citizen, she will somewhat mellow. I'm not suggesting that Israel lose its feistiness, but reaching 65 years brings with it a sense of maturity and stability.

So, yom huledet sameach Israel. May you continue to grow, develop and thrive. Mazel tov on reaching this important milestone.

Mare Kates



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