

KOL ECHAD

September 2019 Elul 5779/Tishrei 5780

Volume 18, No 1



Shanah Tovah!

COVER ART

It's almost time to usher in a new Jewish year. The year 5780 starts the evening of Sunday, September 29 and concludes on October 1. Kol Nidre falls on Tuesday, October 9.

GOOD & WELFARE

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**.

Anniversary

Jeff & Lisa Rosen

September 21



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PRESIDENT'S PEN

Stewart Indig



Welcome back to another year of Forestdale Heights Lodge. I would like to say it is going to be a jam-packed year, but who knows what the future holds. I could give you a whole column of my predictions, but I will save that for another time.

I would like to tell you about the summer we just had. It really just went from a long cold winter into a beautiful hot and sunny two months. July and August have been stellar. We

kind of skipped spring altogether. The summer started off with a fantastic Lodge BBQ in our backyard. Thanks to Albert, we had a great dinner that was grilled to perfection! Cathy's secret ingredient punch made all the food taste great. It was a perfect pairing. All in all, I would say that it was another perfect Lodge gettogether. Everyone had a great time and went home full. Towards the end of July, Cathy and I rented a cottage in Georgina through Airbnb. The kids and grandchildren came up as well. It was a great cottage with its own pool. We loved having the pool and deck. The pool was not heated but once you got in, it was very refreshing. There were a couple of issues there that we were made unaware of but the host obviously knew about. I am not going to get into those, as they are not what I want to point out. What I want to point out is that had we rented from a private individual, we would have been out of luck. Renting through Airbnb, we had them in our corner and they actually gave us a partial refund. Kudos to Airbnb. They gave us a leg to stand on. Yes, we may have paid a little more, but we paid for that backing. It was well worth it. It is almost like taking out travel insurance.

August has been just as lovely as July. We have been busy every weekend. September is back to school and back to the Lodge. As you plan the upcoming year for yourselves, I want you to protect yourself and not have to go into battle if something goes wrong. If you plan on going away, give Airbnb a try or at least check it out. You will be pleasantly surprised.

Cathy and I want to wish you all a Happy New Year. May you all be inscribed into the Book of Life.

Shanah Tovah

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 The UPS Store, Stouffville, Ont.

AT A GLANCE

September 9 Opening Dinner Meeting

October 6 Breakfast Meeting
November 11 Dinner Meeting

December 15 Chanukah Party & Meeting January 13 Nominations & Dinner Meeting

February No Meeting

March 9 Purim Programme

March 16 Elections & Dinner Meeting

April 20 Dinner Meeting

May 3 Toronto Goodlife Marathon

May 11 Dinner Meeting

June 8 53rd Annual Installation

All Dates Subject to Change

Dinner at 6:30; Meeting at 7:15
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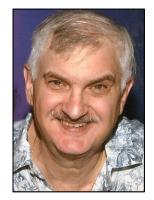


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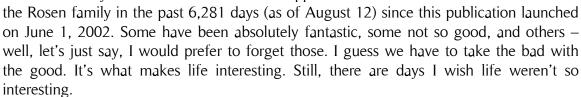
EDITOR'S DESK

Jeff Rosen

I here's no way I could have made this up. The lights were off in our computer room and the house quiet as I sat down to start my first column of the 2019-20 season. Suddenly, a large flying "bug" of unknown species slammed into my computer screen and fell to the desk. Now I do understand wanting to get a sneak peek at unpublished original material, but it could have at least

waited until the first few paragraphs were complete.

Greetings and welcome back to Kol Echad, Volume 18. As much as I love creating this publication, it's always great having the summer break. It allows me to relax, recharge my batteries and travel. However, all good things must come to an end, so it's time to start the 18th edition of the largest print publication in B'nai Brith Canada. It really amazes me. So much has happened in the lives of



The same can be said of Forestdale Heights and this publication. For years, we were sustained by annual allocations from the Lodge. Eventually, we reached a point where we became self-sustaining thanks to our great advertisers. I urge members to check them out and utilize their services. They sustain Kol Echad and thereby strengthen the Lodge.

While Kol Echad has become stronger since 2002, I'm not so sure that the same can be said for Forestdale Heights. While I continue to support our organization's many endeavours, I believe we are slipping. Membership has declined, beloved programmes have fallen by the wayside and attendance at some meetings has fallen to levels where we are unable to sustain a quorum. The result is that our remaining members are shouldering more than their share of the load. They don't complain about picking up the slack, but that's not the point.

On the other hand, all is not gloom and doom. We may not do everything we used to do in years gone by, but we excel in those programmes we continue to operate and often lead other lodges on a per capita basis. Our annual Purim programmes remain just as popular now as they were years ago. We have become a strong, respected participant at the annual Toronto Marathon. Our Chanukah party and summer BBQ may not draw the same numbers as those held in the past, but those that take part always seem to enjoy themselves. We may not fundraise the way we used to, but our pushka cans continue to be a success and we use the money wisely to help organizations such as Blue Door Shelters, Yellow Brick House and the Pride of Israel Kosher Food Bank.

Maybe the best days of the Lodge are behind us. Who am I to say? No one knows what the future of the Lodge will hold. I guess we just have to keep pushing ahead. I know that as long as I can, I will be there, camera in hand, notebook at the ready, making sure that Kol Echad captures every moment in this Lodge as it happens.

As for the bug, it has gone on to a hopefully better place.

May we all have a healthy and happy Rosh Hashanah.

Shanah Tovah



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FUNDRAISING



PUSHKA CANS

The year was 2012. One day Michael Kates z'l and I were sitting around and discussing how we could raise money for the Lodge. Michael came up with a great idea - why not give out pushka cans to all our members so they could put their loose change into it? We were able to get these cans donated to us and we had stickers printed up to put around the cans.

Some Lodge members took them home, but we had extra so we decided to put them in locations that most members

frequent. We've had great success and have raised approximately over \$2,000 since the programme started. I go to the locations at least every three months to pick up the cans and leave a new one at the premises. Upon returning home, I open the cans, count each participant's amount and then give a cheque to the lodge.

If you go to any of the following locations, please look for our Lodge logo and deposit your loose change. Here is a list of the stores:

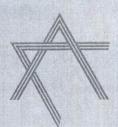
3M Drugs (Bathurst/Townsgate)
Bagel Plus (Bathurst/Sheppard)
Disera Drugs (Centre/Disera)
Centre St. Deli (Centre St. Thornhill)
Kiva's 2 cans (Bathurst/Steeles)
Peter's Barber Shop
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Bagel World (Disera/Centre)
What A Bagel (Townsgate/Bathurst)
What A Bagel (New
Westminster/Bathurst)
VIP Cleaners (Bathurst/Steeles)
Sunset Grill (Major Mac/Dufferin)

As you can see from above, I have made an effort to put these cans in where most of us shop or eat. If you would like to put a can in your home, please give me a call at (289) 597-5780.

Thank you in advance.

Harvey Silver



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SUMMER BBQ/52ND INSTALLATION



The legendary baseball great Yogi Berra obviously never was a member or attended any of our Lodge's famous summer BBQs. However, if he had been in attendance the past few years, he definitely would have said, that this year's gathering on Sunday, July 7 felt like "déjà vu all over again."

Not only was the location for this year's ever-popular summer BBQ the same as the past two years – at the home of returning president

Stewart Indig and his wife Cathy – but the menu was similar, as was most of the group in attendance. This year we greeted Morrie and Janice Goldsmith – friends of the Ohanas and Silvers – with open arms. Unfortunately, we missed Lodge member Lisa Rosen, who was forced to bow out at the last minute. We did, however, welcome a few of our feathered friends, who were perched high above the action.

I guess the reason for the successful three-peat BBQ was that everyone really had a great time.

While this year's party was again tied in with the annual Lodge installation, this part of the programme was seriously downplayed, as the outgoing and incoming administrations were practically identical.

As guests started to arrive at the party, they were warmly greeted by Stewart and Cathy who were more than proud to display their new gazebo. Before you can say, "let's get this party started," the hors d'oeuvres were out, and the Indigs' famous vodka-infused punch was flowing. This year, as well as veggies and dips, everyone got an opportunity to enjoy BBQ chicken salami and sausages. Meanwhile, as we sat around the backyard, schmoozing and catching up on each other's lives, our chef for the evening, Albert Ohana, was hard at work preparing the food.

Finally, the call came, that dinner was almost ready. Now it's one thing to prepare a steak to a certain degree of doneness. It's another to BBQ for a group who wants their steaks finished at different temperatures. Credit to Chef Albert for ensuring that everyone



got the steak he or she wanted. At the same time, he expertly managed the chicken and salmon on the BBQ. Despite the variety, everything came out perfectly. Kudos also goes to Harvey Silver who provided the steak sauce.

Like the past few years, the weather was also perfect – not too hot or cold.

After the delicious dinner, it was on to the desserts, which included fresh fruit and a chocolate log cake.



A few thought that the evening would never end. However, shortly after 8:30 p.m. one person rose, saying they had to leave. Like most functions, once one person goes, it starts an orderly wind-down process. Everyone started to say their goodbyes, thanking the Indigs for again hosting a fantastic summer social function.

The 2019 BBQ was over, and like others in the past, a true success. As for the 52nd annual installation, it was definitely low key, but given the fact that our president was being installed

for his fourth term, it was the best way to handle the function.

Thanks to all those who helped plan the evening and make it so great.

Jeff Rosen

More photos can be found at kolechad.ca/bbq19.thm





James Pasternak

Toronto City Councillor, Ward 6 York Centre

Looking back at a year of success:

- Worked to create a legal framework to stop hate rallies
- Worked to expand the city's nutrition program to include more religious schools
- Helped dozens of members of the community with affordable housing options
- Worked with Mayor Tory to Condemn Quebec's secularization law that prohibits wearing religious symbols

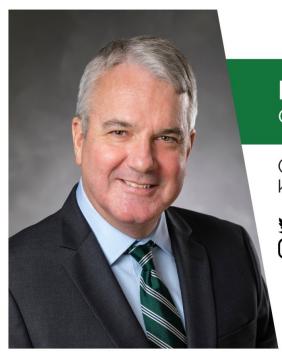
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Visit us at www.jamespasternak.ca

A message to Forestdale Heights Lodge Members

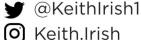
Wishing you a New Year blessed with happiness, health and peace for you and yours.

Happy Rosh Hashanah!



Keith IrishCouncillor, Ward 1 Thornhill

(905) 948-5101 kirish@markham.ca







TALKING POINTS

Debbi Silver

September 2019, wow, where did the year go?

I'm sitting here thinking of something to write about.

Way back in May, Ruth Pupko and I attended a day in Midland with 300 other people. This event was sponsored by B'nai Brith Canada and an Ontario Government Grant. When we arrived at 15 Hove Street, we were certainly surprised to see three highway coaches. We enjoyed our ride up to Midland. We toured the town

and then were treated to a delicious lunch catered by one of the Kosher Food Trucks.

We then went into the Huronia Museum and looked at the displays from the early history of the Indigenous people. We then were escorted into a room where we were entertained by a Klezmer band (they were fantastic). We also heard from Michael Mostyn, CEO of BBC. Michael spoke about his early years living in Midland. His dad also spoke about Midland and the industries during his early-married life in Minden. All in all, it was a great day and, by the way, snacks were given out on the bus.

Our three grandchildren were at Camp Walden this summer, the girls for the entire seven weeks and our grandson for one month. As I write this, the girls are still away and we miss them so much.



The tour guide lives in Midland and is an actor from Murdoch Mysteries.

We also did a day trip with Ruth to Niagara Falls, NY. We ate lunch, of course at the Olive Garden...yummy! We did some shopping, then Harvey then took us the scenic route back through Niagara-on-the-Lake, Virgil, and then, of course, we stopped at Picard Nuts. Harvey got his treats and he was very happy.

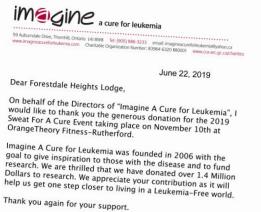
So now, it's back to reality. Our first Lodge meeting is around the corner. We all have to get our heads back into the Lodge mode and try to figure out ways to get new members, programmes, and fundraising. It's not an easy job when younger people are so busy with young families, their activities, etc. So let's try to make this the BIG YEAR for Forestdale Heights Lodge.

Harvey and I wish all of you a healthy and happy New Year!



CORRESPONDENCE





Danielle Reich

שנה טובה ומתוקה!



Shanah Tovah to all our Family & Friends

Eddie & Marilyn Arkin





Shanah Tovah

Wishing everyone a healthy and happy New Year filled with love and joy.

The Indig and Levy families



Wishing you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year Honey & Albert Ohana & Family



Ray, Rosalie and family wish our dear sisters and brothers Shanah Toyah!



Best wishes for a year of health and happiness to everyone in Forestdale Heights Lodge

Jeff, Lisa & Jordana Rosen

Ruth & Aaron Pupko



Wishing all our family and friends a Happy, Healthy New Year Wishing the FHL family a happy, healthy, and sweet new year

שנה טובה



Marc Kates, Rachel Spitzer, Seth, Eve, and Joelle

Best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year

Terry Goldfarb & Stan Horowitz



Shanah Tovah



The Silver family wishes everyone a very Healthy and Happy New Year

Harvey, Debbi, Lisa Mark, Shawna, Zoe, Jaime & Ezra



We wish everyone at Forestdale Heights Lodge a very Happy, Healthy New Year.

Ivan & Elizabeth Bloom

The Executive of Forestdale Heights Lodge would like to wish all Members and their Families a Healthy and Happy New Year

May 5780 finally bring peace to Israel and all Mankind



Shanah Tovah

Best wishes for a Happy & Healthy New Year

Carl & Debby Zeliger Rach, Doron & Erez Becca and Daniel & Josh



As I See IT

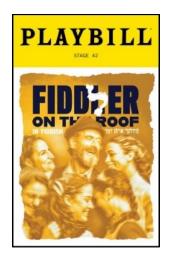
Marc Kates

Over the summer, my wife and I escaped to New York for the long August weekend to see friends, explore the city, and to just hang out. We weren't specifically looking to go see a Broadway performance, but we were interested in seeing the off-Broadway play Fiddler on the Roof performed entirely in Yiddish. I had heard that the play is not

something to be missed, and the critics were correct.

In a word, it was superb. With a very simple set, and although some of the Yiddish dialogue seemed forced and not natural, the actors who portrayed Tevye and Yentl the Matchmaker, held the entire production together. Sholom Aleichem, the author of the Tevye stories, would have been proud as the actor convincingly portrayed "dos pintele yid" the individual/simple Jew as he had intended.

During and after the play, rhetorical questions came to mind. I was particularly bothered by the expulsion of the Jews from Anatevka following a pogrom, a common occurrence in Jewish history, yet Tevye and Golde have hope of a fresh new life waiting for them in America. I wonder what would happen to



Tevye, Golde and their remaining young children arriving today into the United States – penniless with only a few measly possessions. Would they too be placed in a detention centre and have their children forcibly removed from their custody?

Earlier in the day, we had walked over the Brooklyn Bridge and saw Lady Liberty in the distance holding her torch up high. Would the words, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!" no longer apply to them?

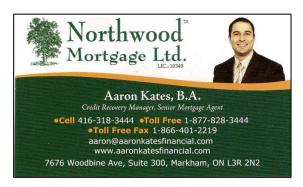
Other questions continued to formulate in my mind. What would happen to Tevye and Golde in America? Would their daughters continue to hold fast to their traditions, or would they acculturate?

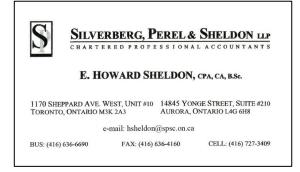
Tevye's world was shaken upside down, but I don't know if it is any better now. Xenophobia and white supremacy is now omnipresent in America, and we in Canada should not be so smug, especially since toting our religious symbols is against the law in Quebec. "Going back to where we come from," is not an option and progress must always be made looking forward, and not in a rear-view mirror.

As the Jewish New Year is almost upon us, we need to somehow rekindle Tevye and Golde's hope. We need to build bridges and not walls, and try to emulate the phrase my late mother always said to me when I left the house, "be a mentsch."

From my family to yours, a healthy, happy, and "menstchlekh" New Year.

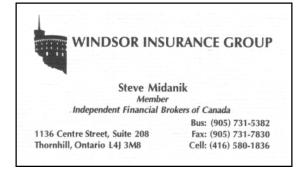














HARMONY

Rosalie Moscoe

It's summertime and Ray and I are periodically "on duty" for our granddaughter Aliyah while her mother is at work. We transport Aliyah to stores and other places – to pick up books for upcoming grade 7, to buy new jeans for camp, and to other more fun events. Ray took Aliyah to a Blue Jays' game and even though the Jays

lost, she still said it was the best day of her life!

On a hot day in August, it was my turn to accompany Aliyah and we were whisked downtown by an Uber car to The Funhouse, a huge building on Lisgar Ave. at Dovercourt and Queen Streets. Their website states: "The Funhouse is an immersive experience brought to life by visuals artist from across Toronto, with featured environments inspired by local musical artists. The adventure begins in a 1940s interdimensional hotel. As you descend down a rabbit hole, discover an alternative universe of art, interactive tech and music." (Although, the place isn't quite how they showed it on their site – no acrobatics!)

Each room was different from the next, a small room filled with colourful glasses filled with liquids, placed on glass shelves, with random items in each — string, seaweed, little balls, and other unusual items.

We were amazed at pictures on the walls that came alive! We clicked on a drawing of an eye beside the pictures and the pictures became all moving parts, with animals running and people rowing boats. The place was filled with gorgeous art pieces; – large (6 ft. tall) faces, horses and a life-sized white elephant that was made of large white strips of material. There was a crooked room with a chair coming out of the ceiling; streamers of silver as we walked in a red room and reminiscent of old telephones. Various clocks on a wall were ticking and hallways were decorated with paper mache clothing. There were underwater scenes you could walk through – true eye candy!

However, the art installation that Aliyah swooned over the most was a full-sized (Superman type) red telephone booth, just outside the Funhouse. She dialled and someone answered! She kept calling back and finally, the person (inside The Funhouse) said, "I'm running out of impersonations!" I trudged upstairs, downstairs, and was little pooped by the end of the tour! But Bubie and granddaughter both were enthralled. We topped off the day with a smoothie and banana cake in a little Italian café. School starts in 26 days!



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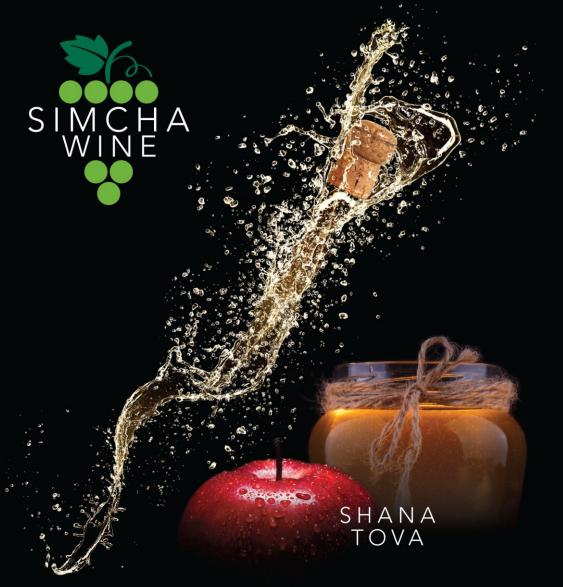


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