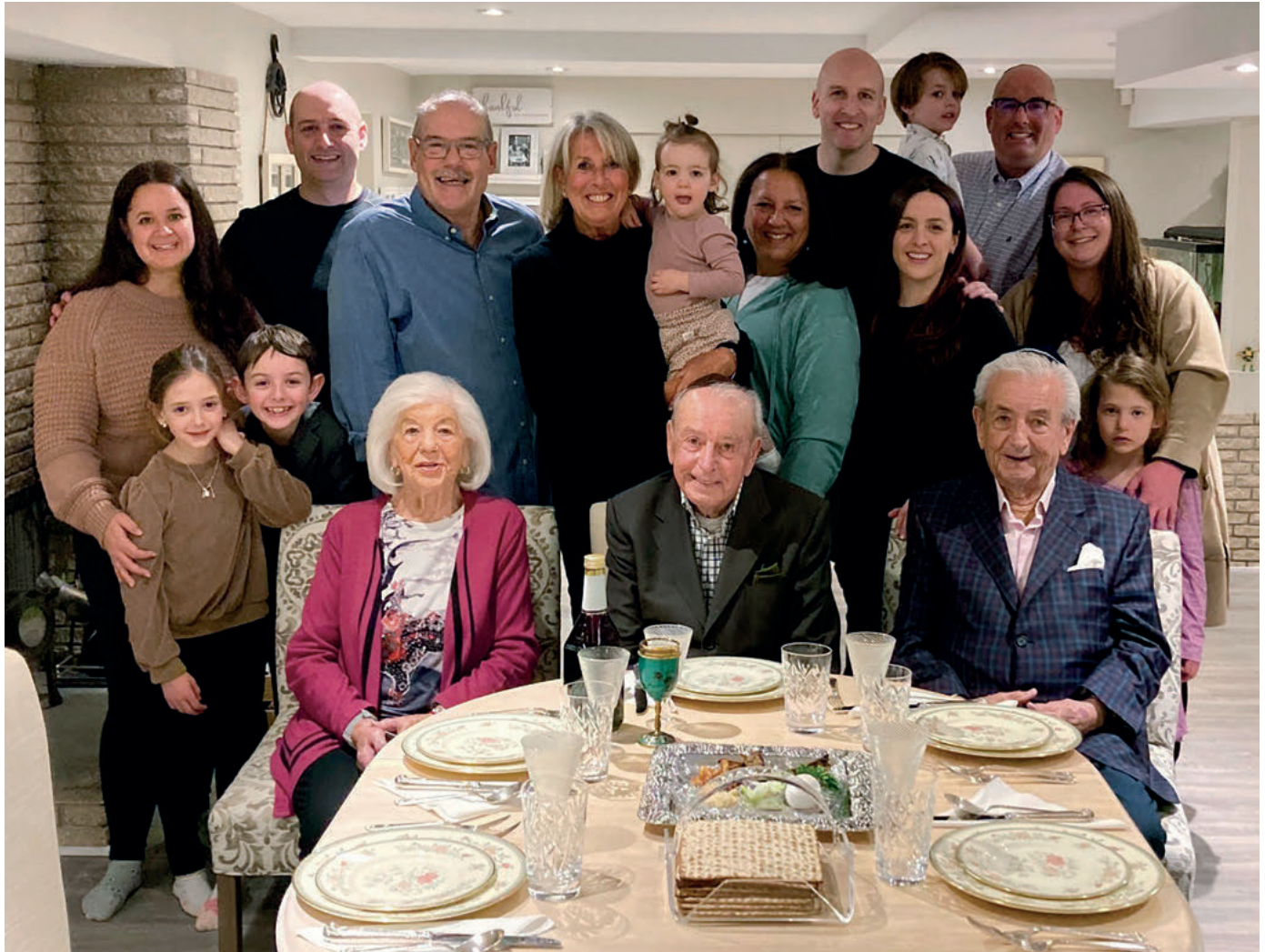


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APRIL 2024 PASSOVER



FOUR GENERATIONS OF THE DANKOFF FAMILY PREPARE TO CELEBRATE PASSOVER TOGETHER. DANNY DANKOFF, 99, TOLD THE JEWISH STANDARD THAT HE, SISTER TOBY, 100 (LEFT) AND BROTHER SAMMY (RIGHT) 97, ARE ONLY HERE TODAY THANKS TO THE ASSISTANCE THEIR FATHER GOT FROM THE HEBREW FREE LOAN ASSOCIATION (HFLA) IN MONTREAL BACK IN 1939. PLEASE SEE A VERY SPECIAL EYE IN MONTREAL COLUMN BY MIKE COHEN ON PAGE 6 TO LEARN ABOUT THIS FASCINATING STORY AND THE TREMENDOUS WORK HFLA DOES. SINCE ITS INCEPTION, THE ORGANIZATION HAS GRANTED OVER 100,000 LOANS TALLING MORE THAN \$140 MILLION, WITH 95 PERCENT OF APPLICATIONS APPROVED. AS THE LOANS ARE REPAYED, THE CAPITAL IS LENT OUT AGAIN AND AGAIN, HELPING MORE PEOPLE AND MULTIPLYING THE IMPACT OVER TIME.

Reflection on Passover In Troubled Times

Passover is, traditionally, a festival that appeals to the optimist in life. We are almost persuaded that this is, indeed, “the best of all possible worlds”

It takes only a moment, in the aftermath of October 7th, to disabuse us of our fancies. We are dismayed at the pain and suffering, the shattered lives, of our fallen fellow Jews and their bereaved families in Israel. We witness mobs of masked Palestinian protesters and their Israel bashing allies, carrying racist placards, chanting their support for Hamas, having no regard for our safety, breaking laws with impunity all while authorities sit idly by. Maybe the virulent antisemitism is merely the product of a small but loud mouthed minority. Maybe we have more support from our non-Jewish neighbours than we think. And if we are going to pack up and leave why are we building new synagogues, day schools and community centres? But when Free Palestine protesters target our schools and businesses, when university campuses and unions are rife with antisemitic venom, when spineless politicians cower in fear of angering a segment of the electorate, we are understandably uneasy. Too many living in this country see the slaughter of 1200 Jews on October 7th as a reason to celebrate.

We Jews, however, are a resilient People. And so as we read the Haggadah, we rejoice in our survival even as “Dayenu” and the Four Questions are given rethinks. We find infinite joy, despite the current veil of darkness, at the Pesach table surrounded by family and friends, sharing in common memories. We take comfort in the realization that while each of us is of a different background, in character and experience and that there is much that divides us, we do, in fact, share with each other a common destiny and that even in the face of hate we are proud to express our Jewishness.



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THE WORLD IN REVIEW

NEWS OF THE RECENT PAST IS REVIEWED

By NOAH FREEDMAN

Memo to Ban "The Kiss" Reversed

It is one of the most iconic photos ever taken. The V-J Day smooch in a Times Square celebration marking the end of World War II appeared on the cover of *Life* magazine with the caption "In New York's Times Square a white-clad girl clutches her purse and skirt as an uninhibited sailor plants his lips squarely on hers."

For years the identity of the sailor and the young lady went unknown. In the 1960s Greta Zimmer, now Greta Friedman, recognized herself and wrote to *Life*, providing more photos as proof that she was the woman in the famous photo.

Life, already inundated with letters from women claiming to be the famous "nurse", put Greta's information on the back burner.

But the photo came back into the spotlight as the 67th anniversary of V-J Day approached. *Life* editors confirmed her identity and invited her and the now identified sailor George Mendonsa to a "reunion".

Friedman, the daughter of Jewish parents from Austria who perished in the Holocaust, told the Library of Congress that "it wasn't my choice to be kissed. The guy just came over and kissed or grabbed....And the reason he grabbed someone dressed like a nurse was that he felt very grateful to nurses who took care of the wounded." Only thing is that Friedman was not a nurse. She was a dental assistant who happened to be wearing a white uniform.

Rita and George did not meet again until 2012. In fact, George claimed he didn't even know about the photo until 1980. But once they reunited they kept in touch and Greta and her

husband accompanied George and wife Rita to anniversary commemorations of V-J Day.

Now, however, "The Kiss" has become the target of the woke movement. A memo from the Department of Veterans Affairs maintains that the photo "depicts a non-consensual act and does not align with the department's sexual harassment policy."

Fortunately Secretary Denis McDonough reversed the department memo, making it clear that "this image is not banned from VA facilities-and we will keep it in VA facilities."

George Mendonsa died in 2019 at age 95 and Greta Friedman in 2016 at age 92.

Editor's Note: The original photo was taken by Alfred Eisenstadt and is protected by copyright. The photo appearing here is by Victor Jorgenson, a U.S. Navy photographer. This photo is in the public domain. Jorgenson titled his photo "Kissing the War Goodbye".

Lionel Messi Indirectly Saves One Israeli

It is doubtful that Argentinian soccer legend Lionel Messi has any idea of the role he played in likely saving the life of 90-year-old grandmother and Kibbutz Nir Oz resident Esther Cunio.

(Please turn to page 24)



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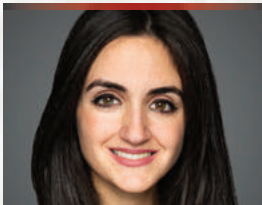
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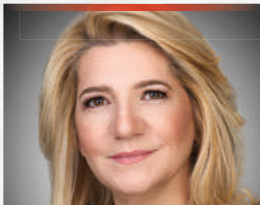
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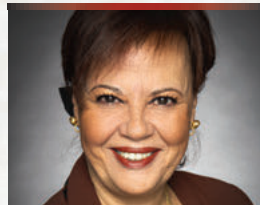
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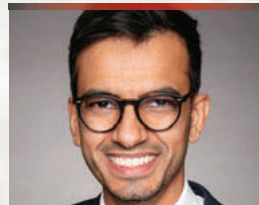
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CANADA SHOULD RECALL OWN HISTORY

AUTHOR SAYS WE HAVE NO RIGHT TO LECTURE ISRAEL ON DEATHS OF CIVILIANS

By RAFAEL MEDOFF

The prime minister of Canada recently blasted Israel for accidentally killing civilians in Gaza—even though the Canadians deliberately killed German civilians in World War II.

Hypocrisy? Cynical indifference to the historical record? Perhaps a little bit of both.

The Canadian Royal Air Force was a participant in the Allies' strategy of "area bombing" in World War II, the policy of attacking civilian areas in order to undermine the German public's morale. Canadian

(Dr. Medoff is founding director of The David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies and author of more than 20 books about Jewish history and the Holocaust. His latest is America and the Holocaust: A Documentary History, published by the Jewish Publication Society & University of Nebraska Press.)

bombers took part in some of the war's most famous strikes on civilian targets—including the bombing of Hamburg in July 1943, which left 40,000 dead, and the attack on Dresden in February 1945, which killed tens of thousands more.

The bombings were reported in the Canadian press at the time, and no-

body protested. The *Hamilton Spectator*, for example, reporting on July 30, 1943 about one of the attacks on Hamburg, noted: "A great many Canadian bombers participated in this attack as they have in every Hamburg raid since the round-the-clock bombings began last week-end."

And that's not all.

Canadian troops fought a storied urban battle in World War II that had more than a few similarities to the situation in Gaza today: enemy fighters holed up in underground tunnels, savage house to house fighting, booby-traps everywhere—and more than a few civilian casualties.

In late 1943, Canadian troops pushing through Italy took aim at German forces situated in the quiet seaside town of Ortona. Many of the town's 10,000 residents died after

(Please turn to page 10)

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EYE ON MONTREAL

\$300 LOAN HELPED DANKOFF FAMILY
BUILD A FUTURE

By MIKE COHEN

At 99 years young, Danny Dankoff still resides independently in a Côte Saint-Luc condo, maintains a regular golfing schedule, and boasts an extraordinary memory. I first encountered him a few years ago during his volunteer work at the Jewish General Hospital, and we have kept in touch ever since. Recently, he reached out to urge me to write a story about the Hebrew Free Loan Association (HFLA) of Montreal. "If it weren't for them, my family wouldn't be here today," he emphasized.

I've long been aware of the commendable efforts of the HFLA of Montreal. Established in 1911 by a local realtor named Zigmond Fineberg, the organi-

zation offers interest-free loans to community members facing genuine financial need. I had the opportunity to sit down with President Jack Dworkind and Executive Director Valerie Abitbol at their office on Decarie Blvd., an experience akin to walking through a living history book. For the past 113 years, this non-profit organization has provided important support in helping many individuals and families dealing with economic hardships.

Upon its inception, Fineberg rallied together 31 prominent members of the Jewish community who were inspired by his vision to establish a Hebrew Free Loan Association aimed at
(Please turn to page 14)

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ACCUSING JEWS OF PROVOKING THE HOLOCAUST

PALESTINIAN LEADERS KEEP REPEATING THE SAME NONSENSE

By RAFAEL MEDOFF

Palestinian Arab leaders can't seem to make up their minds about the Holocaust. Sometimes they say it never happened. Sometimes they say it did happen, but Israel's behavior is even worse. And sometimes—as was the case recently—they say the Jews themselves provoked the Holocaust.

Yasser Abu Sido, a senior official of the Palestinian Authority's ruling party, Fatah, said on an Egyptian television program that "Hitler had obvious reasons" for perpetrating the Holocaust.

The Jews' own provocative behavior was the reason, according to Abu Sido. "They planned to take control of Germany. They started to bring down Germany in terms of the economy and moral values." That was why "Hitler re-

The following article appeared in the Jewish Journal of Los Angeles. - The Editor

acted by making the Jews go on the streets and lick the sidewalks. They know this very well."

Abu Sido's blame-the-Jews approach to the Holocaust echoes words spoken repeatedly by PA chairman Mahmoud Abbas.

In an April 30, 2018 speech to the Palestinian National Council, Abbas explained the "reasons" why Jews were massacred throughout history, from the pogroms of the Middle Ages to the Holocaust. He began by dismissing the idea that antisemitism had anything to do with it. "Why did this happen? They say 'it is because we are Jews'," but that must be false, Abbas said, because "there were Jews in Arab countries. Why wasn't there ever one incident against Jews [there] because they're Jews? Not even once." (An obvious falsehood.)

The real reason for the Holocaust, Abbas said, was the Jews' own "social behavior, charging interest, and financial matters." Those Jewish actions are what provoked the Nazis, he claimed.

Just last year, the PA chairman repeated that perspective in a speech to Fatah's Revolutionary Council. "They say that Hitler killed the Jews because they were Jews and that Europe hated the Jews because they were Jews. Not true," Abbas asserted. "The

Nazis fought the Jews because of their social role, and not their religion....The Nazis fought against these people because of their role in society, which had to do with usury, money and so on and so forth."

Somehow, that train of thought coexists peacefully in Abbas's mind alongside the view he articulated in his infamous Ph.D dissertation-turned-book,

The Other Side: The Secret Relationship Between Nazism and Zionism, published in 1984. There he argued that fewer than one million Jews were killed by the Nazis, and they were the victims of a secret partnership between David Ben-Gurion and Adolf Hitler. Asked about the book by a Lebanese television interviewer in 2013, Abbas insisted that he stands by what he wrote, and even has written "seventy more" (Please turn to page 14)

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TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By **MIKE COHEN**

ALBANY, NEW YORK: The last time I was in the United States for a getaway was just a few months before the pandemic

shut down the world. We had gone for a change of scenery to the New York capital of Albany, where you can count on good shopping and fun restaurants.

KICKER STANDS WITH ISRAEL



Four years later, while I was on holiday from my day job for March Break, I figured that a few days in Albany (<https://www.albany.org/>) would be a good idea and I was right. Between the two large malls, meals at some of my favorite restaurants and a terrific hotel I did indeed come back feeling refreshed.

WHERE TO STAY: On my previous trip here I noticed that a dual-brand Homewood Suites & Tru by (Please turn to page 18)

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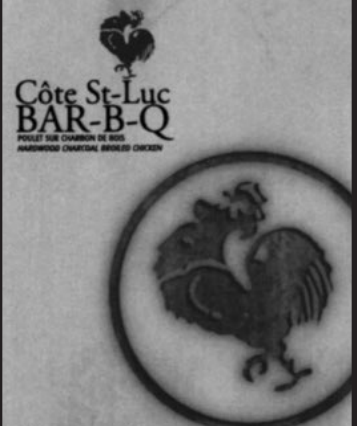
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SOUTH AFRICAN-BORN-Minnesota Viking kicker Greg Joseph is proud to be Jewish and says that Judaism has “absolutely” guided him during his life. He was also affected by the October 7th attack. He first responded by starting a “Kicks for Israel” Pledgeit campaign which raised \$10,000 for Leket Israel. Then he wore specially designed cleats for a game with the Stars of David and the phrases “I Stand with Israel” and “Am Yisrael Chai” in Hebrew and the English transliteration.

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CANADA SHOULD KNOW BETTER

(Continued from page 5)

the Germans took over, but some remained, as the Canadian military historian Mark Zuehlke made clear in his book, *Ortona: Canada's Epic World War II Battle*.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau recently demanded that Israel stop "this killing of women, of children, of babies" in Gaza, asserting that "the price of justice cannot be the continued suffering of all Palestinian civilians." Yet the suffering of innocent Italian civilians was regarded by Canada as a just price to pay for the wholesale destruction of Ortona in 1943.

Trudeau told Israel to "exercise maximum restraint," warning that "the world is watching." The world was watching in 1943, too. *The New York Times* provided a day-by-day, blow-by-blow description of the battle during the final week of 1943—yet nobody urged the Canadians to show restraint.

"Mines, demolitions and booby traps" planted by the Germans "are steadily taking [a] toll" on the Canadian troops, the *Times* reported. Holed up in "cellars and sewers," German snipers would pop up, shoot at the advancing Canadians, and then disappear underground again. "You can hardly stick your head around a corner without hearing a sniper's bullet zing by," one Canadian soldier remarked.

The Nazis "have defended the town street by street and almost house by house," the *Times* explained. Utilizing the city's underground railroad tunnels, the Nazis had turned Ortona into "a veritable underground fortress."

The Canadians responded with a new military tactic called "mouse-holing." To avoid venturing into the streets, they used

explosives to blast their way through the interior walls of adjoining houses, moving

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from house to house through the rubble.

The Canadian officer in charge of the massive bombing operation “never gave a thought to the destruction he was wreaking on Ortona with his explosives,” historian Mark Zuehlke recounted. “There was a job to do, so he did it.”

When the battle was over, “Hardly a building was left intact” in “the once pleasant coastal resort,” the *Times* noted. One thousand, three hundred and seventy-five Canadian soldiers were killed. So were more than 1,300 innocent Italian civilians.

Considering the similarities between what the Canadians faced in Ortona and what the Israelis are facing in Gaza, you would think Prime Minister Trudeau might show a little more understanding. And considering the huge number of German civilians whom Canadian pilots deliberately helped kill in World War II—by contrast with Israel’s careful and risky efforts to avoid killing civilians—the prime minister might be a little more restrained in his comments. Perhaps Canada’s leader needs to brush up on his own country’s history.



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PALESTINIANS REPEAT SAME NONSENSE

(Continued from page 7)

books that I still haven't published" on the topic.

It's bad enough that mainstream Palestinian Authority leaders such as Abbas and Abu Sido believe such crazy things. But what is at stake is more than just a grotesque distortion of history; their rhetoric can help set the stage for further atrocities—because the logic behind the Holocaust comments by Abbas and Abu Sido is remarkably similar to the position that they and their PA colleagues have taken regarding the October 7 pogrom and its aftermath.

Abbas and other PA leaders have characterized October 7 as a "response to the occupation." They have said the attack "did not happen in a vacuum." They have portrayed Gaza as a "prison" from which Hamas was trying to "break free." Every such justification is another way of saying that

Israel's own behavior was to blame for provoking the attack.

In a sense, Abbas is being consistent: The Jews provoked the pogroms of the Middle Ages. The Jews provoked the Holocaust. And the Jews provoked the murders, gang-rapes and beheadings of October 7. That's the common thread in all of his thinking on these subjects.

Blaming the Jews for their persecutors' actions is not just adding insult to the injuries that the pogromists inflicted. It incites further violence by justifying whatever Arab terrorists will do to Jews in the future. Such an extreme and irrational perspective—which is promulgated by PA leaders, disseminated by the PA-controlled media, and taught in the PA's schools—may be the single greatest threat to hopes for Arab-Israeli peace.

EYE ON MONTREAL

(Continued from page 6)

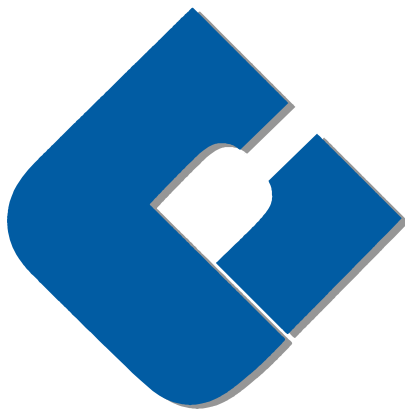
empowering individuals to help themselves. Today, the organization continues its mission of providing interest-free loans to those in immediate financial need or seeking to invest in their futures when lacking adequate financial resources. Maintaining the dignity of borrowers is paramount throughout the confidential loan process. Since its founding, HFLA has disbursed over 100,000 loans totaling more than \$140 million, with a remarkable 95 percent applicant approval rate. As loans are repaid, the capital is recycled back into the community, enabling the organization to assist more individuals and perpetuate its benevolent impact.

The ongoing dedicated support of a diverse array of donors ensures that HFLA can continue fulfilling its mission statement.

Danny Dankoff's family serves as a poignant example of the transformative impact a loan can have. In 1939, his father received a \$300 loan from HFLA, which he used to purchase difficult to obtain ship tickets to bring Danny's mother, brother, and sister to Canada. "It took us three years to repay the \$300 loan. Every week, I went to the Hebrew Free Loan office and paid back \$2, and we never missed a single payment. Without the HFLA, we would have all certainly perished in the Holocaust. Instead, I am here today gratefully as a father of a son and two daughters, a grandfather of eight, and a great-grandfather of 12."

Danny's brother Sam, aged 97, and sister Toby, aged 100, are living testaments to their family's resilience. Despite his ad-

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vanced age, Danny enjoyed a successful career as a furrier and was instrumental in founding the Pinegrove Golf Club. He continues to golf and drive his car.

The Hebrew Free Loan Association stands out for its unique benevolent approach, and Danny fervently encourages everyone to contribute their valued donations, enabling more families to forge a new life for themselves. For further details, please visit <https://hflamtl.org>.

MONTREAL NOTE-BOOK: Victor Soussana and George Ouaknine have started a mitzvah fund at their Inter Coupe coiffure on Decarie. Step up to their bar and order a soft drink. They will collect a dollar and donate all of the proceeds to the Banav Learning and Clinical Programs at Decarie Square...It is time to buy your Passover food. So allow me to recommend some local places with

the real goods: Diz's Bagels and Café on Côte St. Luc Road; Fressers on Decarie; Schnitzels on Queen Mary Road; Noshertz on Westminster and Mackle; Caldwell Provisions: IGA Lipari on

Côte St. Luc Road; and MAXI on Saint-Jacques, Ouest.

KALEMART24: Hampstead native Ryann Goldstein is the director of KaleMart24, the new natural

and healthy convenience store at the Berri UQAM metro station. Go to www.kalemart24.com

Have an item for Mike Cohen? E-mail info@mikecohen.ca.

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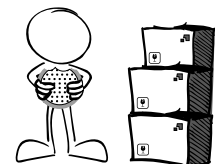
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Hilton had just opened. This 192 room extended stay facility features two separate areas designed for each brand, unique public spaces designed to promote social connectivity, a 24-hour fitness center, indoor pool, outdoor grills, sport courts and airport shuttle. The hotel offers a meeting room and a business centre. The different lobby and dining spaces are extremely large and offer all of the comforts of home and more. There is 24 hour complimentary coffee and tea in the Tru by Hilton lobby. Our room had a kitchen, stovetop, fridge, dishwasher, microwave, coffee maker and all of the necessary dishes and cutlery. There were two televisions, two queen sized beds in the master and a safe (always a must for us) and a pullout couch in the large living room area. For more information or to make a reservation, visit Homewood

TRAVEL TALES

(Continued from page 8)

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JEWISH COMMUNITY: There are an estimated 13,000 Jews in Albany. The hubs of Jewish life are the Sidney Albert Albany Jewish Community Center and the United Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York. Regionally there are five reform congregations, five Conservative and three Orthodox. There is a Hillel Foundation for Jewish life at the local university campus. Price Chopper supermarket offers a year-round well-stocked full-service kosher store at 1892 Central Avenue in Colonie. The University at

Albany (SUNY) operates a full-service Kosher Meal-Plan (Meat) in the Dutch Quad Cafeteria during the academic year, which is open to guests. The resettlement of 1,300 Jews from the former Soviet Union in the Capital District in 1988 represented the most significant Jewish immigration into the Albany area since the early 1920s.

GREAT SHOPPING: Crossgates (<https://www.shopcrossgates.com/>) is the largest shopping, dining and entertainment destination in New York's Capital Region. The center is anchored by Macy's, JCPenney, Dick's Sporting Goods, Primark and Best Buy, while offering more than 180 retail shops, including Apple. Crossgates offers 10 entertainment venues and over 20 on-site eateries, such as Dave & Buster's, Get Air, Billy Beez, Apex

Entertainment, The Standard Restaurant & Lounge, Maggie McFly's and Regal Cinemas with IMAX. You can also relax at their award-winning day spa, Spa Mirbeau. Dave & Buster's, with its fun food and endless array of games, is always a draw for people of all ages. Colonie Center (<https://shopatcoloniecentre.com/>), a 1.3 million square-foot enclosed two-level, regional shopping center with over 100 specialty stores, is at the heart of New York's Capital Region. The center is anchored by a three-level Macy's.

DINING OUT: As people who read my articles regularly are aware, I have been a big fan of the Red Lobster restaurant chain for many years. Unfortunately, it disappeared from the Quebec dining landscape in the late 1990s. There are two locations in Ottawa, but when we visited Albany, New York we made a bee-

Happy Passover!

Wishing you and your loved ones joy and many blessings this Passover and throughout the year!

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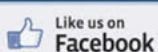
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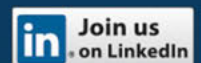
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line for the Red Lobster at 170 Wolf Road. Red Lobster is the world's largest and most-loved seafood restaurant company, focused on serving the highest quality, freshly prepared seafood that is traceable, sustainable, and responsibly sourced. This Red Lobster opens at 11 am each day. You can call 518-459-1040. To learn more about Red Lobster go to www.redlobster.com.

The Cheesecake Factory also ranks as one of my must stops in cities like Albany. Of course, Quebec does not have one of these franchises either. The Albany location opened on August 29, 2006 at the Colonie Centre. This 10,800 square foot locale seats 300 diners and you can always expect a lineup at the door. You will be handed a beeper

and an estimated wait time. The Cheesecake Factory (www.thecheesecakefactory.com) is known for its extensive menu, generous portions and legendary desserts. In fact, there are more than 250 menu selections and this includes more than 50 lower calorie "SkinnyLicious®" selections-all handmade in-house with fresh ingredients – and more than 50 signature cheesecakes and desserts. Favorite choices include appetizers, pizza, seafood, steaks, chicken, burgers, pasta, specialty items, salads, sandwiches, omelets and the desserts. You can call them directly at 518-453-2500.

Mike Cohen's e-mail address is info@mikecohen.ca. Readers are welcome to send their comments.



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Have you ever thought about engaging your family in your philanthropy? There is no better way to explore your shared values and develop your family's legacy. At a time of reflection, this Passover, it may be the opportune moment to consider your family values. Passover, a holiday rich in tradition and significance, offers an important reflection on the future you can imagine together.

As families gather around the Seder table to retell the story of liberation and redemption, they also embrace values of empathy, justice, and communal responsibility. This year, as you gather with your family to celebrate and reflect, consider how your family embodies its values through Tzedakah.

Reflecting on your philanthropic journey, it's interesting to consider what values first encouraged your giving. Perhaps it was an organization that impacted your family; a cause close to your heart; a sense of responsibility, or a chance to give back.

As you move through your philanthropic journey, you might find yourself reflecting on these values and considering the legacy you want to leave. Having discussions with your family around your Tzedakah is a wonderful way to share your story, and perpetuate family values from one generation to another.

At the Jewish Community Foundation (JCF), opening a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) makes it easy to accomplish this. You can nominate your children, or other close family members, to serve as part of your Advisory Committee, select a replacement Chair to make granting decisions or leave us detailed instructions on the gifts you want to perpetuate in your family's name.

By engaging your family in your philanthropy and selecting a loved one as your replacement chair, you can ensure continuity of values in the name of your fund. The organization(s) that first sparked your commitment to philanthropy, or the values that motivated you to give, can continue to feel the benefit of your legacy for generations to come.

It's never too late to consider involving your family in your philanthropy, whether your children are young or grown adults with their own families. For your younger loved ones, you can help them explore their own values through a Bnai Tzedek fund, specifically established to do good with their Bar or Bat Mitzvah gifts. JCF will match up to \$750 creating an endowment fund through which they can then distribute charity to annually.

For your older children, or a more considered approach to family philanthropy, JCF Philanthropic Advisors are trained experts in supporting families to explore their values and develop their unique Family philanthropic mission, which the whole family can feel proud of.

On behalf of the JCF team, we extend you warm wishes for a joyous Passover holiday! May this special time be filled with precious moments spent with loved ones who share and honor your cherished values.

To learn more about legacy giving and family philanthropy, contact a Philanthropic Advisor today at info@jcfmontreal.org or 514.345.6414.



Lizzie Cody,
Philanthropic Advisor



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Stéphane Boyer
Mayor of Laval

Chag Pesach kasher vesame'ach

On behalf of all the members of Laval City Council, and on my own behalf as well, I would like to wish the entire community a happy Passover. May this celebration be filled with joy and happiness with family and friends. And may you find comfort and serenity in these moments of sharing.

Happy Passover!



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WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 3)

On October 7th two Hamas terrorists invaded the kibbutz killing or kidnapping nearly one-quarter of the residents. When the masked terrorists approached Cunio it appeared as if she would suffer the same fate as her family and friends.

Cunio was questioned by the invaders on the whereabouts of her relatives but someone the alert senior changed the subject to soccer. She told her potential abductors that she was born in Rosario, Argentina the same place as Lionel Messi. Cunio was forced to take a photo with the Hamas butchers but was spared the same fate as most members of her kibbutz. She credits her “conversational skills” for saving her life.

grandchildren, are still being held captive at time of writing.

Cunio’s story, along with those of other Latino-Israeli survivors, will be told in a film currently in the production stage and being developed by Fuente Latina, a nonprofit organization for Spanish-speaking media covering Israel. “The film is critical”, says Leah Soibel, CEO and founder of Fuente Latina, “as it preserves these testimonies for future generations, ensuring the truth is not distorted or forgotten, as is the case with past events.”

**More Soccer News
Involving Argentina**

For the first time in almost 60 years, a Jewish soccer club competed in

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one of the country's national soccer tournament. Nautico Hacoaj used its win in the opening round to pay tribute to Israel. After the victory Hacoaj's players posed with a banner displaying Oct. 7th with the message "No olvidamos. Am Israel Jai". "We do not forget" read the poster in English. "The Jewish people live."

Nautico Hacoaj was the first Jewish club to compete in the 14-team Amateur Promotional Tournament since Organizacion Hebra Macabi from Buenos Aires went undefeated on its way to winning the championship in 1967. The professional tournament is part of the lowest level of the Argentinian national football association.

Ariel Brunfman, scored the team's crucial third goal in the 3 to 2 victory. "It was an important match for everyone — for the players, but also for the Jewish community," Brunfman said.

Unfortunately Hacoaj lost its second game at its home stadium, named for the late Israeli Prime Minister and President Shimon Peres. to Estrella de Berisso.

Resigning from B.C.'s NDP Caucus

MLA Selina Robinson resigned recently from

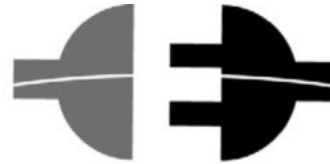
the caucus of the NDP government telling Premier David Eby that his "silence" in the face of antisemitism displayed by two colleagues "broke my heart".

The Jewish MLA, who was elected in Coquitlam-Maillardville in 2013, 2017 and 2020 had stirred up controversy when she told a B'nai B'rith online panel on January 30 that there is an "entire generation of young adults who do not know about the Holocaust or understand that the region on which the state of Israel was created decades ago was previously a crappy piece of land with nothing on it." There were several hundred thousand people," she continued, "but, other than that, it didn't produce an economy. It couldn't grow things. It didn't have anything on it,"

Robinson was heavily criticized for her "inaccurate" comments but despite apologizing for what she acknowledged were "flip-pant" remarks was forced to resign as Minister of Post-Secondary Education.

But Robinson maintains that it was not her choice to resign from caucus. "I told the premier" she wrote in a letter, "that if this is what he wanted and what caucus wanted I wouldn't fight what caucus wanted I wouldn't fight him on it - but let's be clear - others (Please turn to page 27)

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As Canada’s leading organizations empowering student leaders to advocate for Israel and galvanizing grassroots Canadians to fight media bias against Israel, HonestReporting Canada (HRC) and Allied Voices for Israel (AVI) joined forces again for the second year of our Canadian Campus Media Fellowship, empowering 27 student leaders at 14 campuses across Canada, to combat anti-Israel media bias on university campuses.

In the backdrop of the October 7th massacre by Hamas terrorists, which saw the slaughter of over 1,200 innocent people in southern Israel and Israel’s self-defence efforts in Gaza, anti-Israel detractors have usurped the platforms of Canadian campus media and news platforms to foment discord, inflame tensions, and protract the conflict, leading to antisemitism and anti-Zionist rhetoric on campus. Our aspiring student journalists are actively working for Israel and Canada’s Jewish community on campuses across the country.

No longer will Jewish and Zionist students and supporters be marginalized, discriminated against, and intimidated on Canadian campuses. We are proud to form a united front to counter these threats head-on.

WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 25)

asked for my resignation, so I gave it.”

Robinson further added that after October 7th “I had offered to the Premier that as a member of the Jewish community, I could speak at a vigil that was being planned...this was my community. I put out the call for you to join me...I sent out a group e-mail. Two maybe three responded - that’s it. How is it that with more than 35 lower mainland/valley MLAs only three or four would be on stage with me? I had no idea how many UCP would be there and a poor showing would not reflect well on us...My heart cracked...Your silence broke my heart that day.”

Meanwhile, in the aftermath of Robinson’s resignation the Jewish Federation of Vancouver has had a meeting with Eby. A statement released after the meeting the Federation read: We thank Premier David Eby for meeting with us today to hear our concerns about systemic antisemitism in his government and across our province, particularly in the public service and the province’s healthcare, education, and post-secondary institutions. Events to this point, especially in the way MLA Selina Robinson has been treated, have sent a chilling message that antisemitism is tolerated in B.C...This is

(Please turn to following page)

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WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from preceding page)

dangerous and contributes to the vulnerability already experienced by our community after the October 7 terrorist attacks committed by Hamas.

Our tradition teaches us that there are clear steps to take to repair relationships. The first is to understand the harm one has caused, both by action and by inaction.

We appreciate the first step taken by the Premier today. Now he must make amends for the harms he has caused and address the alarming increase in antisemitism in B.C. with con-

crete action.

Selina Robinson is not running for re-election in the fall vote.

Jewish Democratic Council Prepares for Battle

Jewish Democrats have a plan to help re-elect Joe Biden. Democrats defeated Jewish Republican Mazi Pilip in the New York race to replace the disgraced George Santos and Halie Soffer, JDCA CEO, believes the same strategy can be used to boost the President.

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WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 28)

Soffer knows the election will be close and that “Jewish voters are an essential part of a winning Democratic coalition given their historically high margin of support for Democrats”. Soffer believes her organization needs to focus on a growing group of younger independent Jewish voters who polls show are nearly 50% more likely to be unaffiliated than are older Jews. That is what JDCA did recently in New York. “We targeted every Jewish voter in the district, Democrat, Republican and independent”, she said. In key swing states such as Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Georgia getting out the Jewish vote will be critical.

But the JDCA does have its challenges. While they have increased their budget to \$4 million and increased staff to 15 the Republican Jewish Coalition spent more than \$6.6 million in 2022 and \$10 million

on the 2020 election. It has even more in the bank for this year’s election. Matt Brooks, RJC’s CEO, says his group will again focus on Jewish voters in swing states but will also gear ads towards the general community, emphasizing the fact that Donald Trump will be better for national security.

The JDCA will counter by highlighting domestic issues, since it does not believe that the Jewish vote will be determined by events in Israel. The key issue is reproductive rights. “We intentionally focused (in New York) on abortion because that is an issue on which there’s nearly a consensus in the Jewish community,” Soffer says. “It transcends partisan divide.” The group will also stress the need for preserving democracy focusing on Trump’s boast that he will be a “dictator” on the first day of his return to office.

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Senate races in Nevada, Arizona, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Ohio will also be part of that strategy. The District of Columbia, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts and Maryland are safely in the Biden camp.

Republicans point out that six of the 11 swing states had narrower margins in the last election than Michigan, and ALL of them have a larger Jewish population than Arab. Biden cannot afford to lose Jewish votes in Arizona and Georgia. The RJC argues that even if only a small percentage of Jews believe the president is catering to one bloc in Michigan the

impact will be more significant than the JDCA thinks.

So Much For This Relationship

The Conservative synagogue Hamakom in San Fernando Valley and the Islamic Society of West Valley have had a “connection” for many years.

The synagogue even invited the Islamic Society to use Hamakom for its overflow Ramadan crowds. But inviting an anti-Israel speaker to address the worshippers went too far and synagogue members threatened to resign en mass.

The rental agreement was terminated.

A MAYOR WITH A SPINE



VAUGHAN MAYOR STEVEN DEL DUCA HAS HAD the mobs protesting in front of schools, places of worship and hospitals. “The right to protest,” says Del Duca, “is a fundamental freedom afforded to all Canadians. However that right is not without limits.” “Everyone”, adds the frustrated mayor, “regardless of their faith has a right to feel safe, especially in vulnerable areas of our community where kids go to learn, where people go to access vital health care, where families go for childcare services and where residents to worship.” A proposed bylaw would ban “demonstrations of a nature that are intended to intimidate, incite hatred violence or discrimination within 100 metres of the boundary of a property where a religious institution, school, childcare centre or hospital is located.” Fines of up to \$100,000 could be levied. The UJA Federation and CIJA reacted positively to the proposed bylaw. But Palestinian groups gave us the usual claptrap. “People are protesting religious institutions that are being used as spaces to facilitate ethnic cleansing and genocide and that is something that I think people should protest,” said the Palestinian Youth Movement”.

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