



# HaKol

The voice of The Jewish Federation of Edmonton

VOLUME 4, #1

SEPTEMBER 2016

## UJA 2016 Edmonton Kickoff



The new campaign season was welcomed in at the Citadel on September 7th in a Gala event featuring clarinet virtuoso Avigail Malachi-Baev, and pianist Maya Rand.

The evening launched the 2016-2017 Edmonton UJA campaign, which this year will focus on the theme, "The Good We Do is Up To You." Campaign Co-Chairs Suzanne Davis and Lisa Redmond are dedicated, full of enthusiasm, and plan on reaching the goal of \$1.1 million.

As in the past, proceeds will go to fund local, as well as national and international beneficiaries and agencies such as local Jewish community programming, Hillel, JCORE,



Left to right: Debby Shocter, Suzanne Davis, Avigail Malachi-Baev, Maya Rand, Barry Pascal and Orna Richter welcome the new campaign season

BBYO, Camp BB, Talmud Torah, Jewish Family Services, Our Parents' Home, CIJA, JFC-UIA, JDC, JAFI, and our partner region of the Upper Galilee Panhandle in Northern Israel.

Canvassers now have their assignments and will be call-

ing the community over the next 100 days in order to solicit the donations we need to keep providing these much-needed funds for our programs and agencies.

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## Message from the President



The August long weekend has come and gone and Edmonton hosted another Heritage Festival, as it has for the past 41 years. I have always enjoyed the Heritage Festival. One of the things I enjoy about it is volunteering at the Israel Pavilion. I know there are many who share that sentiment. I see a lot of the same people either working at or volunteering at the pavilion each year.

Each year it is a challenge to find enough volunteers to fill slots in the volunteer schedule and with each passing year it seems to be more difficult. This year seemed particularly difficult and last minute appeals were sent out to rustle up volunteers. In the end there were nearly enough volunteers, although some shifts were a challenge.

Fielding a pavilion at the Heritage Days Festival is an absolute must. It is the most effective community outreach program that Federation undertakes during the year. Community outreach is tremendously important for our community. The most effective means to build bridges between communities and break down the barriers that separate them is through one-on-one human contact. This is particularly important for our community, to help counter-balance the natural anti-Semitic forces which are always present in our City. I am not suggesting, though, that Edmonton is so bad. That should be obvious just browsing through national or international news. But nowhere, even Edmonton, is free of anti-Semitism, racism or prejudice of one form or another. The Heritage Festival is a unique local opportunity to combat prejudice through positive and fun interaction. The Festival tries, and generally succeeds, in setting a tone of inclusiveness. It celebrates cultural and human diversity, a quality which Jews have advocated for years. A quality which we should wholeheartedly support, given the opportunity.

For our community it gives us a chance to be seen as part of the fabric of

the City. The Israel Pavilion, though, is unique at the Festival. It represents the state of Israel, educating visitors on facts about the country and its culture. It also acts as a de facto representative of the Jewish Community and is most likely the only pavilion which is run by an organization which is not predominately an organization of ex-patriots from the state represented.

You might question whether the Israel Pavilion is worth the cost and fuss. Federation does not make a profit operating the pavilion. Each year it operates at a "loss" when you strictly compare the amount of revenue generated as compared to the direct expenses (for food, participation license fees, etc.). The loss is not significant, but the point is that there is a cost to participating, in hard dollars and soft volunteer time. It is worthwhile asking this question, (though no one has actually raised this with me). It is important to ask ourselves from time to time why we do things, and not just do the same thing each year because that's what we've done in the past.

I am clearly in favour of it (if that was not obvious by now). I recognize the cost to Federation. We should endeavour to keep that cost to a minimum (and strive perhaps to turn a profit) but I don't think that is the primary consideration. The primary consideration is ensuring we are there, at the Festival, a full-fledged participant, year after year, to participate in and support our City's cultural diversity.

I say this and dedicate this article to the Heritage Festival because having participated in this Festival for many years, I wonder if we are beginning to take the Festival in general and the Israel Pavilion in particular for granted. I hope that is not true, but if it is, we cannot afford and should not take our position in Edmonton, in Alberta, in Canada, in any particular place in the world for granted.

I am not merely discussing anti-Semitism. That is certainly one reason, and

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## From the CEO's Desk



As the leaves start to turn and there begins to be a noticeable chill in the air that wasn't there a week ago, we know suddenly that summer is over and another busy Jewish year is beginning. The kids are home from Camp BB and off to Talmud Torah and Menorah, we are starting to write our New Year's cards and to get ready for High Holidays, making plans with friends and relatives, baking and cooking and buying new fall clothes. It is also the time of year when our thoughts turn to our fellow Jews both at home and around the world.

This is the time of year that we also set aside for the United Jewish Appeal Campaign, the one campaign that helps improve the lives of Jews here in Edmonton, across Canada, in Israel, and abroad. It is through UJA that we can ensure the quality and continuity of Jewish life at home and across the miles.

It is thanks to Edmonton UJA that more children are able to attend Camp BB, go to Talmud Torah and Menorah, belong to PJ Library, and participate in family holiday programming. It is thanks to Edmonton UJA that our teenagers are able to participate in BBYO, go on March of the Living and the Asper Trip. It is thanks to Edmonton UJA that our young adults are able to participate in JCORE and go on Birthright trips or to Young Leadership events. It is thanks to Edmonton UJA that our community is visited by interesting speakers, and is able to commemorate important occasions like Yom HaShoah, Kristallnacht, Remembrance Day, Yom Ha Zikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut in appropriate fashion. It is thanks to UJA that our community supports Seniors through the SMART and Holocaust Survivor programs of Jewish Family Services, through the Jewish Seniors' Drop-in Centre and Our Parents' Home. We have our own donors to thank for all of that.



# The good we do is up to you!

In addition, Edmonton UJA is part of the larger puzzle of the Canadian Jewish Community as a whole, which supports all of its component parts that make ours a vibrant, and vital piece of the Canadian Mosaic. Together as Jewish Federations of Canada-UJA Canada, we support the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, which is our national advocacy arm, always at the ready to combat anti-Semitism, BDS and to lobby governments at every level for our rights and interests. Together, we support smaller communities in need both here and abroad – we support our Partnership Together Region of the Northern Galilee in Israel, we support poor and elderly Jews in the Former Soviet Union through the Joint Distribution Committee, and we support other important programs in Israel through the Jewish Agency.

However, as our campaign slogan says this year, "The Good We Do is up to You." You, the Jews of Edmonton, are the key to this whole structure. It is because of your gifts to UJA, your generosity, that we can achieve all of this. Without you, we cannot do it. With you, we can do it all. By giving to UJA, you become part of

a local, national and international network of Jews who ensure that our people will continue to thrive and to grow, not just to exist. Through education, experiences and togetherness, we will succeed. Be part of that equation.

You will have received our campaign brochure in last month's EJN. Please read it and if you have any questions, please feel free to call me, or talk to your canvasser when they call. Especially take note that we are having an over-and-above campaign this year to support much-needed scholarships to Camp BB and Talmud Torah this year. We know the economy is suffering, but that is why these funds are needed now, more than ever. We have never had so many local families in need as we do now, so that is why it is even more important to give, and give generously, this year.

I wish you all a Happy and Sweet New Year, and I hope that this year, our Campaign bears the fruit we need to ensure a bright future for our children here in Edmonton, throughout Canada, Israel, and around the world.

L'Shanah Tova Tikateyvu,  
Debby Shoctor, CEO

# HERITAGE DAYS 2016 Still A Winner

BY CHRISTINA REBOH

The 2016 Edmonton Heritage Festival has concluded, with eighty countries represented through sixty-seven pavilions. Despite stormy and chilly weather, festival goers came out to enjoy the sights and tastes of the world. There were an estimated 300,000 visitors over the three day festival. Of course, the Israel Pavilion was a stop on many visitors' lists.

This year the Israel Pavilion was in a new location, between Italy and Korea, in the middle section of the main festival. The committee was extremely excited about this location as it gave more exposure and a greater opportunity to share the beauty of Israel with more festival goers.

Along with the new location came incentive to enhance the pavilion and make some exciting changes. Pavilion Chair Christina Tsipora Reboh and Culture Chair Amir Taller, along with their committee and volunteers, engaged festival goers with new information and experiences through food, history and culture, and dance.

This year's food featured the popular Falafel Plate complete with grilled egg-

plant, lemon cabbage salad, fresh hummus, and pita bread; Apple-Cinnamon Blintzes; Deep-Fried Pickles; Watermelon and Lemonana. As well, the Israel Pavilion introduced Edmonton to a new delicious treat: Sufganiyot!

The spirit of Israel was brought to life through the traditional and interpretive dance performances of the Aviv Israeli Dancers and Shiru Hashir Dance

group. Both groups featured an assortment of energetic and colorful dances, from traditional to modern.

To finish off the experience, festival goers visited the culture tent to engage with passionate and knowledgeable volunteers while touring through Israel. Beginning with Israeli history and basic facts, on to Jerusalem and the Mahane Yehuda market, a stop by the Dead Sea and Masada, and finishing off with modern technology, life, culture, and travel tips.

Guests especially enjoyed this year's interactive elements: a Masada model built by the Talmud Torah grade six students, "Your Name in Hebrew" bracelet station, and floating in the Dead Sea photo boards.

The 2016 Israel Pavilion was recognized for its continued

excellence in preserving and presenting culture with 2<sup>nd</sup> place for Arts and Crafts. That brings our award total to seven awards over the past five years.

Our continued success is a reflection of the Edmonton Jewish Community's ongoing support of the Israel Pavilion. From the 150-plus volunteers needed over two days; to the creativity, dedication, and passion of the committee; the hours of dance rehearsals; the Masada model student project; and the support of local businesses such as Poster Tech, where our new beautiful walls and Dead Sea photo boards were created. The Israel Pavilion truly represents the entire Edmonton, Jewish, and Israeli community-its passion, energy, and strength.

As we look towards the future, the committee is eager to get working on the 2017 Israel Pavilion. It will surely have more updates, fresh ideas, and display the heart of Israeli culture. If you have any ideas or want to get involved, please contact Pavilion Chair Christina Reboh at creboh@gmail.com.



Aviv Dancers at the 2016 Heritage Days festival



Shiru Hashir at the 2016 Heritage Days festival



The Heritage Days Israel pavilion

# B'nai Brith Youth Organization

BY DANI URETSKY



The B'nai Brith Youth Organization (BBYO) is quite unlike any other. It is a non-denominational Jewish youth-led organization with chapters and organizational regions in dozens of countries worldwide. Because it is youth-led, it inspires incredible ingenuity and leadership in the Jewish teens who join it. It has a tremendous impact on the friends, Jewish character, and overall lives of every member who passes through it. BBYO activities are mainly comprised of two things: programs and conventions. Locally, programs are held weekly and regional conventions are held every few months. Programs are only attended by local teens in Edmonton, whereas conventions are open to Jewish teens from all over Northwest Canada Region. Programs are extremely diverse and can involve anything from cooking (Iron Chef program) through Jewish content (Havdallah program) to sports such as hockey and basketball. Every program is planned by teen members and run by teen members with adult supervision. Programs are constantly changing and new programs happen every year. Seeing as we plan our own programs, we can truly do what we enjoy. Conventions are generally held in Edmonton or Calgary as well as one at Camp BB. Each one has a theme, for example, Leadership Training Institute.

BBYO chapters are run by a board of



Deb Lipton, our new BBYO Edmonton Supervisor

elected teens. Each board member has a specific role on the board, such as secretary, head of Judaism, and President. There are separate boards for the boys' chapters, known as AZA, and the girls' chapters, known as BBG. As well, there are identical boards for the Northwest Canada region. Elections take place annually. Involvement in BBYO can be at any level, from a member that attends programs and conventions to a highly engaged board member.

We would also like to welcome our new Edmonton city supervisor Deb Lipton. Deb is originally from Calgary and was heavily involved in BBYO when she was in high school. Deb brings with her a lot of BBYO experience and is excited to be working for your BBYO.

If you are a teen in grades 9–12 and would like to join BBYO please contact Edmonton city supervisor Deb Lipton at 403-651-0053 or [debraslipton@gmail.com](mailto:debraslipton@gmail.com).



The Jewish Free Loan Association of Edmonton (formerly known as the Edmonton Jewish Free Loan Society) is an accredited member agency of the worldwide International Association of

## Jewish Free Loans.

We offer interest-free loans to members of our Jewish Community who require assistance. Loan recipients maintain dignity and self-sufficiency as they repay their loans. For further information, please refer to Jewish Federation of Edmonton Federation Programs [www.jewishedmonton.org](http://www.jewishedmonton.org) or email [edmontonjfls@gmail.com](mailto:edmontonjfls@gmail.com)

## UJA Kickoff

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Avigail Baev with pianist Maya Rand perform in The Club at the Citadel

Pascal, Chair of CJA Montreal gave the campaign pitch. He spoke about his mother's experience as a Holocaust survivor immigrating to Montreal, and how, as a new immigrant, she was welcomed with open arms by the community there. He emphasized the importance that Federation-UJA plays in Jewish communities throughout Canada both in helping welcome newcomers and in providing quality of Jewish life for members of the community.

Avigail Baev shared her musical journey from Israel to New York City, treating the audience to anecdotes and illumination from the lives of various famous composers. The duo provided insightful context to the pieces they performed—from Schumann and Gershwin to Paul Ben-Haim's Sephardic Melody.

Ms. Malachi-Baev was born in Israel to a traditional Yemenite family and her passion for the clarinet started from a young age. She graduated with her Masters of Music in 2011 from the Mannes College of New York and made her Carnegie Debut shortly thereafter. Ms. Rand won the "Outstanding Musician Award" of the Israel Defense Force (IDF) in 2007. The prestigious award placed her among the leading pianists in Israel for her age.

The evening began with a kosher appetizer reception at The Club at the Citadel. About 130 people attended the event.

# Happenings at Our Parents' Home

It's hard to believe that just 12 months ago, Our Parents' Home (OPH) opened its doors. In the heart of Edmonton, OPH provides a home in which everyone can celebrate their faith and cultural heritage – a first for Jewish residents in Edmonton.

Residents at OPH have been very busy. A few special activities over the last couple of months include a fitness trainer who has been working with a dedicated group of residents wishing to improve their mobility and strength with some spectacular results. A regular walking club also began, taking advantage of the summer months to walk through many of our great parks.

On August 7th OPH held a "High Tea". Residents and friends arrived to the sounds of a string trio, setting a fes-

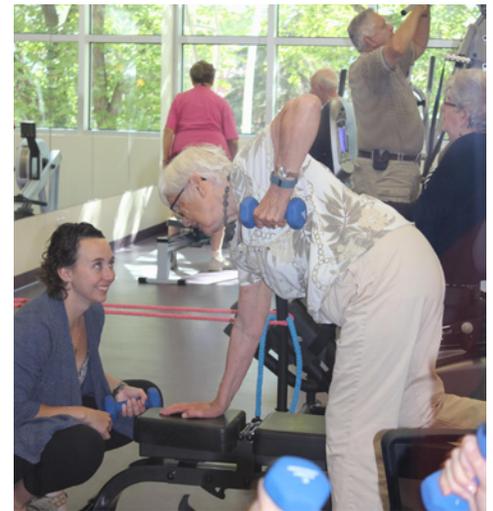


An afternoon enjoying High Tea

sive mood. An exquisite table of foods that included scones and cream, along with a wine and scotch table, made for a very special afternoon. Thanks to Leo Superstein donating his mother's china, tea was served in beautiful china cups. A very special afternoon for all.

Mark your calendars for our Open House on Sunday, November 6th from 1-3pm. We would be very pleased to show you around!

OPH wishes to acknowledge the Jewish Federation of Edmonton for their continued support.



Fitness room at Our Parents' Home

## The good we do is up to you!



For over a century, the Jewish Federation has ensured that Jews in our communities have been afforded the support they need when they need it. By making a collective gift to United Jewish Appeal, we build the strength and unity of our community and empower the Jewish people.

Giving through a community fund has embodied the values and traditions of the Jewish people for thousands of years. Guided by the values of Tikkun Olam

(repairing the world), Tzedakah (charity and social justice), and Torah (Jewish learning) we are driven to do good. It is through the power of giving that we secure a strong and vibrant Jewish community for the future.

We advocate on behalf of Canadian Jewish issues and ensure strong partisan support for Israel. There are many worthy causes to support, but there is only one organization that works to support and nurture our Jewish community here, in Israel and around the world. One gift that

has the power to impact so many Jewish lives.

As we launch our 2016 -2017 campaign, we encourage you to consider a tax-deductible gift to the United Jewish Appeal, helping us to care for our community today while building for an even better tomorrow.

Thank you for your generosity and support,

*Suzanne Davis & Lisa Redmond*  
2016-2017 Edmonton UJA Co-Chairs

# UJA Canvasser Training BBQ

United Jewish Appeal (UJA) volunteer canvassers kicked-off the new campaign season of 2016-2017 with an evening of great food and inspiration on Sunday, August 28th. Visiting keynote speaker and Chief Development Officer of CJA-Montreal, Yair Szlak, delivered a powerful address to the attentive audience. The evening began with a delicious kosher BBQ catered by Lauren Baram.

This year, UJA is fortunate to have 75 canvassers helping to canvass over 650 cards. It is truly a group effort designed to benefit our community here, nationally and around the world. Our canvassers now have the tools and inspiration necessary to make this year's campaign a success.

Mr. Szlak, a lawyer by training, shared his story of moving to Montreal to pursue a career in the Jewish community, a passion that was ignited after participating in the Birthright Israel trip that trans-



Suzanne Davis, Orna Richter, Yair Szlak and Lisa Redmond

formed his life. Szlak encouraged the group with mention of our Jewish tradition of “kol yisrael arevim ze l’ze” (being responsible for one another), and took them on a journey charting Jewish history through

The Jewish Federation system.

Besides communicating essential canvassing tips, Szlak strengthened the canvassers’ connection to the Campaign by emphasizing their indispensable role as leaders, ambassadors, and conduits to this important mitzvah of tzedakah.

With the New Year quickly approaching, please continue to support our community by picking up the phone when your canvasser calls and making a tax-deductible gift to the UJA. For more information about UJA or to discuss your donation, please contact Orna Richter, Director of Development and Programming at 780-487-0585 ext. 206 or ornar@edjfed.org



BY DANI URETSKY



**P**J Library in Edmonton launched in January of 2014. We cater to children aged six months to eight years.

Since the beginning, we have sent out 3,414 children’s books to Jewish children throughout the city. We currently have 160 subscribers. For our small community, these numbers are fantastic!

With the help of chair Ellie Lanciano Bennett, we look forward to a great new PJ year ahead. Our kick off program will be on Sunday, September 25th from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the Talmud Torah in the Multi-purpose room.

If you have a child between the ages of six months to eight years of age, then PJ Library is the program for you! Sign up your child for a FREE monthly, Jewish-themed book or CD. To sign up go to [www.pjlibrary.org](http://www.pjlibrary.org) or for more information contact Dani at 780-487-0585 ext. 205 or [daniu@edjfed.org](mailto:daniu@edjfed.org)

This is a valuable engagement program not to be missed out on!

## From the President

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a compelling one, not to take our position in our community for granted. A casual study of Jewish History should warn against complacency. However, I am advocating for something bigger than just that. We are citizens of a City, a Province, and a Country, but increasingly of a global village. We should demonstrate a concern not just for our own Jewish Community, its health and security, but also for the health and security of all communities in our City, Province, Country and globally. There are infinite ways to demonstrate this. Participation in the Heritage Festival is one. It communicates multiple messages to a Festival participant who takes a few moments to visit

the Pavilion, or sample authentic Israeli cuisine. The volunteers who participate are happy and friendly, inviting Festival attendees to come visit, ask questions, and sample the food. Those who experience a visit come away with a positive feeling. As the Visa ads say, “priceless”. Making people feel good is powerful. Decisions are made, opinions are formed, based on feelings. That should not be taken for granted.

I hope you agree. Please consider this next year when the August long weekend rolls around again. We need your help, it’s time well spent and it is probably the most fun I have doing volunteer work.

Special thanks to Christina Tsipora Reboh, co-chair of the Israel Pavilion Committee, who has chaired or co-

chaired this committee for years. She dedicates hard work, long hours, and positive energy to this job every year, and this year with her infant buckled in and along for the ride! For those who have not read her “10 Commandments of the Israel Pavilion Volunteer”, it’s a must-read. Thanks also to her Co-Chair Amir Taler and the other committee members, Judi Card and Shannon Sabbah. Thanks to all those who did volunteer this year and have in the past. Thanks to the Aviv and Shiru Hashir dancers, and to Catering by Ed. I would also like to thank the Federation staff, Debby, Orna, Tal, Elianna and Dani for their efforts in making the Pavilion run.

*Ellery Lew*  
President

# J.CORE

BY TAL TOUBIANA



**J**.CORE has been busy planning great programming for the year ahead. In August, we kicked things off with our first pub night. We will continue with our pub-night series into the fall and New Year. Come and join us! We meet every month at a different pub to mix and mingle. Like J.CORE on Facebook to find out more information.

Shabbadoo went ahead on September 23-24th, starting with home-hosted Shabbat dinners, and ending with a Havdallah party. Great times were had by all! Thanks again to all the incredibly generous hosts who gave their efforts to making this event a success and to all who participated for sharing their Shabbat with J.CORE.

This November, we are launching our new series called “Scotch & Speakeasy,” a home-hosted parlour discussion series on issues that matter. Scotch and other refreshments and snacks will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there!

In addition to our own programming, over the last few months J.CORE participants have been involved with the broader Jewish community and Jewish Federation events, such as the 2016-17 UJA campaign kickoff at the Citadel Theatre, and a lecture on BDS on Sept. 21 given by a professor from McGill University. On October 6th, the Jewish Federation will hold a cell-a-thon and would love help in canvassing our UJA donors. Our community depends on donor dollars to survive and thrive!

J.CORE is proud to have an enthusiastic group of volunteers working together so hard to achieve so much for our community. Thanks to everyone who helps us make this organization such a success.

For more information about J.CORE and its exciting programs, please contact Tal Toubiana at [talt@edjfed.org](mailto:talt@edjfed.org) or (780)487-0585 ext.204



J.CORE Health and Kvellness at the Laurier Heights Community League



J.CORE's pub night at Mercer Tavern



# JCC Maccabi 2016

## A great success!

BY ALEXA STEINER

This summer, the Alberta Delegation to the Maccabi Games was made up of 13 athletes and artists and three chaperones from Edmonton and Calgary. On Friday, August 5th the delegation hopped on the plane to Stamford, Connecticut, excited for the week-long adventure to start. The teens were billeted with incredible host families for the week from the Stamford Jewish community. The host families took them on tours of New York City the weekend before the events began and opened their homes so warmly and kindly to our Alberta teens.

The JCC Maccabi Games are an Olympic-style sporting competition held each summer in North America. Over 6000 teens, ranging from 13 to 16 years of age, participate in the JCC Maccabi Games each summer. JCC Maccabi ArtsFest is a weeklong summer arts experience for creative Jewish teens ages 13 to 17, featuring workshops in a variety of specialties with some of the leading artists in each field. The JCC Maccabi Games and ArtsFest are a rare opportunity for youth to participate in a week long adventure with thousands of other youth from Canada, the USA, Mexico, Great Britain, Poland and Israel.

Sunday evening August 7th was the opening ceremony, where each delegation marched in proudly, the Munich 11 were honoured, and national anthems were proudly sung. Just like that, our small, but mighty delegation of 16 joined the other 2000 visiting participants and coaches for a week that we will never forget.

Monday through Thursday, our athletes competed on their mixed sports teams: we had two female soccer players



Maccabi Alberta delegation 2016

representing Alberta who played on the Springfield, Massachusetts team. Four of our Alberta boys played basketball alongside six other boys from Austin, Texas. Our athletes showed incredible spirit and represented Alberta with pride!

Throughout the week, our artists, one dancer, one improvisation artist, a musical theatre specialist, three chefs, and one star reporter, met within their specialty groups and worked with well-known professionals from across the United States to perfect their various crafts. On Thursday afternoon, all of their hard work came together as they put on an amazing ArtsFest Final Showcase performance with over 800 people in the audience!

At the end of each day, all of the 1800 teens got together for awesome evening programs, like visits to amusement parks, trampoline parks, dances, go karts, arcade games and so much more. This is an incredible experience for these teens, one that they will remember for a lifetime.

Seventeen-year-old Karin Vaisbein has been to the Maccabi Games and ArtsFest as an ArtsFest dancer for the last three summers. "It has become my favourite part of the summer", says Karin. "Maccabi really is amazing. You

get to meet people from across the world and experience a special week together. This year was my last year and I'm really going to miss it."

JCC Maccabi 2016 was an amazing experience for all involved. We are lucky to continue to participate in this global Jewish experience. This program is extremely valuable for teens from small communities like ours in Alberta. The weeklong event provides an opportunity for our Alberta youth to get a glimpse into the larger Jewish world and feel a sense of belonging, fun, camaraderie and Jewish citizenship. JCC Maccabi is a unique and vital part of Jewish youth programming in Edmonton that will hopefully be a program offered in our community for many years to come.

Thanks for having us, Stamford! We are already looking forward to next summer in a new city with an equally warm and welcoming Jewish community!

Recruiting for JCC Maccabi summer 2017 has begun.

If your child (ages 13-17) is interested in being a part of the Alberta JCC Maccabi Delegation for summer 2017 or to find out more about JCC Maccabi, please contact Alexa Steiner: 587-224-2522 or alexa.steiner7@gmail.com

Or visit [www.jccmaccabigames.org](http://www.jccmaccabigames.org) or [www.jccmaccabiartsfest.org](http://www.jccmaccabiartsfest.org)

# Holocaust Education

BY DANI URETSKY



Our Holocaust Education Committee has been active in this community for over 25 years and hosts different events, throughout the year, from commemorations to educational experiences to trips.

The year begins with Kristallnacht on Wednesday, November 9th, 2016 at 7:30 pm at the Beth Shalom Synagogue. There will be a guest speaker that evening, which will be announced shortly. This year we hope to have a new memorial candelabrum to use at this event and at Yom Hashoah, designed by local craftsman Slavo Cech.

On Friday November 11th, 2016 we will be holding our annual Remembrance Day Service at the Edmonton Jewish Cemetery at 10:15 am. Please remember to order

your wreaths for placement on that day. Contact the Edmonton Poppy Fund at 780-423-3965 to order your wreath.

Last year we had record-breaking attendance at our annual Dr. Dianne and Irving Kipnes Holocaust Education Symposium for High School students, with approximately 2000 students in attendance. We are looking forward to hosting Dr. Eva Olsson in March once again to teach our students about the power of forgiveness. Last year at the Symposium we asked the participants to fill out a survey about their experiences, and the responses were overwhelmingly positive. The Symposium and Dr. Olsson in particular made a lasting impression on these young lives.

In the spring we are also looking forward to the Asper Foundation for Human Rights

and Holocaust Education Program, which takes us to Winnipeg and the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. If you go to Talmud Torah and are in Grade 8, or in public school in Grade 9, please contact Dani Uretsky at [daniu@edjfed.org](mailto:daniu@edjfed.org) or 780-487-0585 ext 205 if you are interested in attending this program. It is an amazing learning experience.

Don't forget that in May each year, we celebrate Yom Hashoah at our Holocaust Memorial on the grounds of the Alberta Legislature in a solemn ceremony attended by many dignitaries, including our own Edmonton holocaust survivors.

If you are interested in being a part of our Holocaust Education Committee please do not hesitate to contact Dani at the address mentioned previously.



Clara and Leon Kagan at Yom Hashoah 2016.



Drayton Rogerville on Remembrance Day, 2015

# Shalom from Hillel!

BY ELI SABBAAH



**M**y name is Eli Sabbah, and I am THRILLED to be the new Hillel Director for the Edmonton Community this year. Some quick facts about me: I still love video games, (who doesn't!!), socializing at any type of social event and meeting new people, barbecuing meat, (it is a very gratifying feeling), bowling, and doing my best to plan EXTRAORDINARY events that make YOU feel great about being who you are this year!!

Over the years, Hillel has emphasized establishing connections between Jewish Students in all corners of the world, bringing together universities striving for unity amongst the next Jewish leaders of tomorrow. Today, we focus within our community of Edmonton, and what the future holds for us. This year our endeavors will involve reaching out to all campuses across the city, and establishing a body of Hillel students from NAIT, Macewan University, and the University of Alberta. Our shindigs will be going through a transition, and monthly extracurricular events as well including LUNCH AND LEARN at least once a month will be held for all young adults currently and previously affiliated with universities of Edmonton. September will hold our end of the month BBQ, and



Paintball with Hillel!

there will be a slew of increased outings in the months to come. We are ecstatic to introduce a Shabbat dinner before the end of the year and a Scotch and Cigars Night as a part of our program, and we are pleased to inform the public that yearly traditions, such as Hookah in the Sukkah, Jew-do, and paintballing will remain. However, stay tuned for our upcoming events!

As for the community, there are plans on the horizon brewing for how we could reciprocate with all the wonderful families and individuals continuously standing by and supporting the Hillel program. We would like to thank Temple Beth Ora, Beth Israel, Chabad of Edmonton, and the Edmonton Kollel for permitting



Sam Stevens, Bari Lavy, Jennifer Zhang Chen and Sarah Lallouz

FREE admittance for students to daven during the High Holidays, and for their dedication to our Jewish future! Shana Tova to the entire community, and thank you again for your support.

## Upcoming Events:

Sept. 20, 7:00 pm: **Gil Troy** at Temple Beth Ora

Sept. 21, 12:00 noon: **Gil Troy** at U of A

Sept. 25: **PJ Library**, Talmud Torah School

Sept. 26: **Youth Program Night**, Talmud Torah School

Oct. 2: **Erev Rosh Hashanah**

Oct. 3-4: **Rosh Hashanah**

Oct. 5: **JFE Board Meeting with reps**

Oct. 6: **UJA Cell-a-thon**

Oct. 11: **Erev Yom Kippur**

Oct. 12: **Yom Kippur**

Oct. 14: **P2G Migdash Edmonton** begins

Oct. 16: **Erev Sukkoth**

Oct. 17-23: **Sukkoth**

Oct. 24: **Shemini Atzeret**

Oct. 25: **Simchat Torah**

Nov. 1, 5-7 pm: **Wine and Cheese with MLAs**, Matrix Hotel

Nov. 7: **JFE Board Meeting**

Nov. 9, 7:00 pm: **Kristallnacht**, Beth Shalom Synagogue

Nov. 11, 11:30 am: **Remembrance Day**, Edmonton Jewish Cemetery

Nov. 30: **Jewish Federation AGM**

Dec. 9: **UJA Campaign ends.**

# Partnership 2Gether

BY TAL TOUBIANA



**W**ow! How the time flies by! It is hard to believe that a year went by so fast. Our bi-annual mifgash (one in Israel and one in Canada) is scheduled to arrive on October 14th, and both the Israeli delegation and their Canadian hosts are very excited. Our dedicated P2G committee has worked tirelessly to prepare a visit that will showcase Canadian culture and share aspects of our multi-faceted Jewish life in Edmonton. This year our friends from Israel will have the opportunity to experience the holiday of Sukkot in many different ways as they are hosted by Temple Beth Ora, Beth Shalom and Beth Israel. Other activities will include visits to the Telus World of Science, Prairie Gardens and, of course, the WEM (sponsored by the generous Ghermezian family). The Israeli students will join the ninth grade students at Talmud Torah for several days and will have the opportunity to learn in a Jewish Canadian environment. This year we also have a very exciting new leadership program called "Power in Me" in which both the Israeli and Canadian students will get



Ivan Steiner in Emek Hahula with the Israeli students who have participated over the years.

to take part.

Our mission is to build and strengthen relationships between people and communities in Coast-to-Coast Canada and in Eitzbah Hagalil (Hebrew: אֶצְבַּע הַגָּלִיל, literally means "Finger of the Galilee") through programs that build Jewish identity and promote the welfare and wellbeing of all partners involved. P2G has become a model for successfully partnering global Jewish communities directly with Israeli communities—the majority of which are in national priority areas. Communities share ideas, strengths, challenges and models of success; and empower one

another to generate waves of change. The impact of these projects goes far beyond the community level, each and every one of us has the opportunity to become personally involved. In fact, later this year a delegation of Edmontonians will be visiting the north of Israel and get to see firsthand the positive impact these partnerships and programs have had (thanks to our generous donors and sponsors!).

For more information, please contact Tal Toubiana, Director of Community Relations, Communications and Young Leadership at [talt@edjfed.org](mailto:talt@edjfed.org) or (780)487-0585 ext.204

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