



Adath Shalom Congregation
31 Nadolny Sachs Drive Private, Ottawa, ON, K2A 1R9
www.adath-shalom.ca

Bulletin

March 1 to May 31 2024
21Adar1 to 23 Iyar 5784

PUBLIC EDITION OF ADATH SHALOM BULLETIN

What you are about to read now is a redacted version of the full Adath Shalom Bulletin that has been distributed to the Adath Shalom Congregation membership. For privacy reasons, all email addresses and phone numbers have been removed.

Also some other material identifying shul members has been removed.

If you are a member of Adath Shalom looking for a replacement copy of the Bulletin, please contact me, Peter Wolfe, the Bulletin Editor (at bulletin@adath-shalom.ca) and I will email you the full version.

If you are interested in learning more about Adath Shalom, feel free to browse the shul website. Specific information about the shul is found at <http://www.adath-shalom.ca/brochure.htm>

Thanks,

Peter Wolfe

Adath Shalom Bulletin Editor



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring has sprung! Oh wait, actually it hasn't but we've had such beautiful weather lately that it's not hard to see how I could be mistaken. I don't think I've worn boots for more than 10 days so far this season! Of course, none of this is good news for Rideau Canal skating or Winterlude. But, I think, a lot of people are happy with the warmer weather, especially when it's sunny. It does seem to raise one's spirits!

As usual, there is lots to keep me busy. Not just with Adath Shalom business but also with helping to plan an event to raise money for the Ottawa Kosher Food Bank. It's actually two events – an online auction and an in-person event on Saturday evening, April 6, which will include Havdalah, desserts and a liquor tasting element (kosher, organic vodka, gin, Kosher for Passover rum and much more). Be sure to read the article about both events in this edition of our Bulletin. (see page 6)

I'm also still on a high from the birth of our second granddaughter in less than a year! It never rains but it pours! Now both our daughters have daughters. All you grandparents out there know what I'm talking about!

UPCOMING EVENTS

*Most events will occur on the Zoom platform.
Zoom link will be sent a few days before each event.
If not on Zoom, the event location will be specified*

- March 3:** *Adath Shalom Poetry Group*
7:00pm *Abraham Sutzkever* <see page 6 for details>
- March 17:** *Rabbi Deborah Zuker:*
11:00am *Preparing for Purim* <see page 4 for details>
- March 24:** *Purim 5784*
In the Ottawa Jewish School Chapel
9:30am *Shacharit then the Megillah Reading* <see page 5 for details>
- April 7:** *Adath Shalom Poetry Group*
7:00pm *Denise Levertov* <see page 6 for details>
- April 18:** *Michael Kent*
Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street
1:00pm to 2:30pm: *A Guided Tour of the Lowy Collection* <see page 4 for details>
- May 12:** *Adath Shalom Poetry Group*
7:00pm *TBD.*
- May 18:** *Rabbi Deborah Zuker*
In the Ottawa Jewish School Chapel
Following Kiddush Lunch: *The Omer*
<see page 4 for details>

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

<VIRTUAL>

March 3
(10:00am to 12:00pm)

We have a new committee at Adath Shalom – also reason to celebrate. It's called our Special Events Committee and, at the moment, has a few members working on Shavuot. They have hit the ground running! Contact Deborah Leader and Ayala Sher if you would like to help.

Susan Kriger

BOARD NEWS MARCH 2024

The Board continues to work on finding the right venue at the right price for our High Holy Day services in 2024. You will recall that in 2023 a surprise hit us when we received the invoice from Federation for rental of the Social Hall at the SJCC. There is no question the cost has skyrocketed. In 2019, the year before COVID, the cost for the five-day rental, which included the use of the teen lounge, was \$2250. In 2023 it jumped to \$3,000 with another \$750 for use of the teen lounge. Add security and the bill in 2023 was \$4,500 which included HST. In 2024 we are looking at the minimum of \$5,500 with the HST not included.

Danielle Dugas and the High Holy Day committee members have considered other locations and, while nothing is impossible, remaining within the Jewish Community campus is hard to beat. For now, the search goes on with the possibility of the gym in the Jewish Community school as an option as well. While there has not been a final decision made to pass on the social hall clearly there would be obvious financial implications to contend with should we do so. If you are wondering why Federation has so dramatically raised the rent the answer is, as Federation sees it, going forward we would be paying a more realistic amount. We continue to work on trying to negotiate further with the Federation and we will inform members of any new developments.

Our Kiddish expenses are also higher than usual, which is not a surprise, but it does mean we really have to watch our budget for special Kiddushim. If members want to sponsor a special kiddish and want a tax-deductible receipt, they can submit the kiddush expenses to our Treasurer for payment, then donate the invoice amount themselves to Adath Shalom. Only in this way could one receive a charitable donation receipt.

With regards to services and ritual developments, a member of Adath Shalom noted with interest that many egalitarian Conservative congregations no longer reserve the first and second aliyot for a Kohan and a Levi. We have started to do likewise during Shabbat services and, while we are not yet locked in, it appears to be quietly working through the system with, to date, only one complaint over the change.

We have revived a Special Events committee with Dan and Ayala Sher as well as Deborah Leader and thanks to them we will have a Shavuot celebration this year. Paul Adler continues his frequent online adult education

program with one important change. Online participation for each session will be counted on with an eye to inviting back speakers who generate the most interest.

All the streaming technology we bought to stream our services during COVID is no longer required. In a relatively short period of time much of it is obsolete and what isn't obsolete will be sold. Harvey Goldberg is looking after that and there is no better time to thank Harvey once again for his huge role in keeping us together during the pandemic.

Jason Moscovitz

SHABBAT SPEAKERS

The Board has decided to periodically invite community leaders and professionals to speak to the congregation in place of a Shabbat dvar.



Richard Marceau, Vice President, External Affairs and General Counsel, Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) will talk on March 9. Richard is a former Member of Parliament, a lawyer, a published author, a human rights activist, and a person passionate about the Jewish story. He will be talking to us about how CIJA helps the community combat antisemitism, especially since October 7.



On April 20, **Andrea Gardner**, Associate Executive Director of Jewish Family Services will talk to us about how JFS is working to assist people in need in the Jewish and general community of Ottawa. Andrea is a social worker. She started at JFS as an intern and more than 25 years later she is still there. She is a passionate and articulate advocate for JFS's clients.

The Board sees this initiative as a way to learn more about what is happening in the community, and for community leaders to get to know more about Adath Shalom

Harvey Goldberg

ADATH SHALOM ADULT ED PROGRAMS

Only the first program will be on the Zoom platform

March 17 – 11:00am Rabbi Deborah Zuker: Preparing for Purim

Preparation for Purim: Before we get to all the fun and festivity of Purim, we'll study the Megillah with a critical eye. The Book of Esther has long been understood as a comedy, a farce, or a Jewish revenge fantasy. Some of the plot points, even in their own context, are morally troubling and raise important questions. We will read the Megillah with modern eyes, reviewing key passages and themes of the book and reflecting on their meaning in a post- Oct. 7th world.

This chart will be of interest for history buffs:

[Esther & Chronology – Crossroads Bible Church](#)

April 18 – 1:00pm -2:30pm Michael Kent A Guided Tour of the Lowy Collection

Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street

Jacob M. Lowy Collection: This collection is Canada's national treasure of old and rare Hebraica and Judaica.

About the collection

Jacob Max Lowy was born in Bardejov, Austro-Hungary Empire (present day Slovakia) in 1908. He left continental Europe for England in 1938 with his wife and children. He moved to Montreal in 1951 where he flourished as an industrialist, real estate developer and community leader.

The Jacob M. Lowy collection contains approximately 3000 volumes printed between the 15th and 20th centuries and spans religious, scientific, historical, and philosophical thought. It includes printing in Hebrew, Yiddish, Judeo-Arabic, Judeo-Spanish, Latin, Greek and numerous European vernacular languages.

Highlights of the collection include 34 Hebrew, Latin, and Italian books from the early days of printing in the 15th century (called incunables). It also contains the first and early editions of Talmud, codes of law, responsa, legal and biblical commentaries and mystical texts.

May 18 – Shabbat (following Kiddush/lunch) -- Rabbi Deborah Zuker: Counting The Omer

An opaque tradition with many meanings, both ancient and modern, we will consider its many meanings: What are we counting? Why are we counting? We will study the ritual of Counting the Omer and delve into its various interpretations. We will consider how Counting the Omer can become a vehicle for expressing our values, our faith, and our commitment to self-improvement. We will share how personal experiences with this mitzvah have enhanced our spiritual lives.

Take the Lag B'Omer quiz and see if you get all the answers correct the first time:

[Lag B'Omer Quiz | My Jewish Learning](#)



Paul Adler

PURIM: SUNDAY MARCH 24TH



Please join us for services and Megillah reading in the Chapel.

Time: 9:30 am for those wishing to put on Tefillin.

Shacharit will precede the Megillah reading.

Come in disguise!

Bring your groggers or noisemakers of any kind to drown out the name of the wicked Haman.

Please bring one or two gifts of Mishloach Manot. It is our custom to distribute these to other Shul members. The basket or box should contain at least 2 items that can be eaten. Other ideas for sharing might include fruit and beverages, preferably with an MK or Kosher symbol on the package. Small boxes can be found at the Dollar Store.

It is also a custom to donate money to the Ottawa Kosher Food Bank. There will be a box on a table outside the Chapel for this purpose. Cheques should be made out to OKFB, KBI. Cash is also welcome.

Refreshments will follow the service. Liquor and any type of alcohol are not permitted in the building.

Mishenichnas Adar Marbim B'simchah. When Adar arrives, we multiply our joy.

This year we have two months of Adar!

Sylvia Greenspoon

SUPPORT THE KOSHER FOOD BANK

You can help support the Ottawa Kosher Food Bank via 2 separate but parallel events in support of the Ottawa Kosher Food Bank; “*Auction for Action*” and “*Rum and Yum*”.

Auction for Action is an online only auction to raise much needed money in support of the OKFB’s 150 plus clients. The website will be open for the entire month of March – details to follow. At this point there are approximately 100 items to bid on (and many more are expected) including; Ottawa Senators hockey tickets, Yuk Yuks Comedy Club tickets, golf packages from Rideau View and eQuinelle Golf Clubs, several gift baskets, rental of a Children’s bouncy castle, art work from various artists including our very own Sylvia Klein and Katerina Mertikas, a glass Menorah from Marie Levine, a wood/resin serving board from Howard Levine, a Corporate Comedy Games event, tickets to the National Art Gallery and various museums, and gift cards to Nicastro’s, Canadian Tire, Shoppers Drug Mart and Walmart to name but a few.

“*Rum and Yum*” will be a fun evening to raise awareness of the Ottawa Kosher Foodbank, including its mandate to support the most vulnerable in our community. The evening will take place on Saturday April 6th at Kehillat Beth Israel Synagogue and will include; a family Havdalah service starting 30 minutes after Shabbat (approximately 8 pm) allowing sufficient time for all members of the Jewish and Ottawa community to participate, a Kosher sweet table with the new caterer from KBI (Cater 4 U) and introducing the only local Kosher and Organic Distillery – King’s Lock Craft Distillery (certified by the OVH), who will be providing a presentation and liquor tasting including their Kosher for Passover Rum, which is the only one produced in Canada. All their alcoholic products will be available to taste and all products will be available for purchase. A few door prizes will be awarded to provide additional excitement. Adult supervised childcare services will be provided through the KBI youth program and will be offered at \$5 per child. Several tickets will be made available to those who cannot afford to pay. People who have successfully purchased items from the Auction for Action will be able to pick them up and pay for them in the evening. You can just pick up your item(s) or you can join in the activities by purchasing a ticket for the night’s events. Tickets are \$18 plus an item for the food bank.

For more information on these events please contact:
Susan Kriger (co-chair)

Anita Rosenfeld (co-chair)

Linda Prizant (manager, OKFB)

SOCIAL ACTION - WE REQUEST YOUR INPUT

Every year the Social Action Committee recommends to the Board of Adath Shalom at our Annual General Meeting that two charitable organizations be the recipients of our Social Action Funds. One charitable organization receives donations to the Social Action Fund. The other organization receives 2% of the membership dues received.

We are asking for your recommendations for worthy recipients of the Social Action Funds for 2024-2025. In the past, at least one of the recipients has usually been a Jewish organization.

Please send your suggestions including the name of the organization and the rationale for your nomination to Paul Adler and me by April 15, 2024.

Thank you,

Toby Yan (and Paul Adler)

ONGOING ACTIVITY OF THE ADATH SHALOM ZOOM POETRY GROUP

Our poetry reading group continues to have an average of 12 people attending our monthly Sunday evening poetry reading sessions on Zoom. In the last few months, we read and learned about the work of American poet Delmore Schwartz, and two young Israeli poets, Yonaton Berg and Hagit Grossman.

On Sunday evening, March 3rd, we will be reading together the poetry, in translation, of **Abraham Sutzkever**, Yiddish poet, member of the avant-garde Yiddish artists’ group in the 1930’s, Yung Vilne, partisan, and a major figure in Yiddish letters. Steve Acker will open by telling us something about Sutzkever.

On Sunday evening, April 7th, we will read from the work of the prolific British American poet, activist, and humanist **Denise Levertov**. Ernie Brodo will speak about her before we read some of her poems.

We will continue our monthly gatherings on Sunday evening, May 12th reading a yet-to-be-determined poet, who will be the 39th poet that we will have read together.

Internet links to poems by the poet that we will be reading are sent out in advance of each gathering, to assist everyone in choosing a poem or two that they would like to read to the group.

All are invited to join us, to read aloud, or just to listen. If you are interested in attending and have not yet done so, let me know and I will add you to the email list to whom I send these links several weeks before each reading.

Ellen Caplan

