

OJCC E-NEWS

A quarterly newsletter brought to you by the Okanagan Jewish Community Association

VOL. 5780, ISSUE 2

JANUARY 2020—TEVET 5780

WHAT'S UP IN OUR COMMUNITY...

TOP STORIES



- New Rabbinical Candidate
- Okanagan Jewish Community is growing!
- Lets have the Best Year Ever in 5780!

COMMUNITY NEWS



- LAST QUARTER:
- Central Okanagan Food Bank Delivery Drivers for Holiday Boxes—December 19th, 2019.
- Remembrance Day November 11th

- ONGOING:

- Erev Shabbat Kosher Stand @ Chabad on Richter & Wardlaw, Fridays 10-12
- JLI (Jewish Learning Institute) Workshops—Sunday mornings 10:30-12:30 @ Chabad. For online courses, visit myjli.com for more information. Experience Jewish Learning like never before. JLI makes Jewish learning accessible & personally meaningful to every Jew, regardless of background or affiliation.

- UPCOMING:

- Taste of Home Kelowna: Feb 1st, 5:30—8:30 pm @ New Life Centre on Harvey
- Coldest Night of the Year Annual Walk for Charity: Feb 22nd—watch your email for further info. OJCC may have a team participating this year!
- Limmud Vancouver: Feb 29th—Mar 1st Registration is open for a fabulous weekend of learning and community!

UPCOMING OJCA EVENTS



- Coffee, Cake & Cultural Anthropology! An exciting informative series on cultural anthropology featuring a different topic and speaker at each presentation.
- Monthly Social Breakfast for nosh'n & schmooze'n. First Monday of every month @ 10 am. Watch your emails for location.
- Monthly Ladies Luncheon - Watch your email for date, time & location.
- Israeli Dancing—Thursdays—New Beginner's Class at 6:00 pm at the OJCC
- Passover Seder will be held April 8th at the Harvest Country Golf Club at 6:00 pm.
- Please watch your email and our newly designed website for event details. If you do not have email, a newsletter can be mailed to you. Please contact the office for further information.

Okanagan Jewish Community Association
admin@ojcc.ca
102 Snowsell Ct, Kelowna, BC CAN
1 (250) 862-2305

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Next edition: April 2020—Nisan 5780

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TOP STORIES

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- **NEW RABBINICAL CANDIDATE** On Nov 22nd & 23rd, Rabbi Schachar Orenstein joined us from Montreal for a rabbinical candidate review. He led Friday night and Shabbat morning services, as well as private sessions on Sunday. He received great reviews, unfortunately, for personal reasons, he did not accept our offer. The search continues!
- Todah Rabbah to all for attending services and who participated in our survey!

The Okanagan Jewish Community is growing!

- This year we have over a dozen new member families so far, with other community members joining us for events.
- As well, we have a plethora of OJC sponsored events coming up this year! Watch your emails and check our website for more information. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate.

COMMUNITY EVENTS—ONGOING



- **Israeli Dancing Thursdays @ OJCC—6:00–7:00 pm.** New Beginners Class starts @ 6:00–7:00 pm! Everyone is welcome, come join the fun! Contact Miracle of Peace @ (250) 547-8829 or Israeli.Dancing@outlook.com.



- There are kosher items available at the **"Erev Shabbat" Kosher Stand**. Fridays from 10am-12pm. #Be A Part Of It!! Cash, Cheque or Credit accepted. Visit Chabad Okanagan on the corner of Richter & Wardlaw, or contact jewishokanagan.com or (250) 575-5384 for more information.
- **Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) Workshops**—Sunday mornings 10:30-12:30 @ Chabad. Contact jewishokanagan.com or (250) 575-5384 for more information. For online courses, visit myjli.com for course information. Experience Jewish Learning like never before. JLI makes Jewish learning accessible & personally meaningful to every Jew, regardless of background or affiliation.

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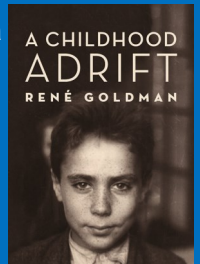
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COMMUNITY EVENTS—LAST QUARTER



• Nov 11th: Remembrance Day

- **Nov 17th: Rene Goldman—Stories of a Child Survivor @ the OJCC.** Our long-time member, Rene Goldman, spoke about his experiences as a Childhood Survivor of the Shoah in France to approximately 50 people. Rene has spoken extensively in Canada with his presentations to high school and university students. Recently, he completed a 3 day tour in Yellowknife speaking to students and at the end of October participated in a reunion of Childhood Survivors in Vancouver. Rene is sponsored by the Azrieli foundation of Montreal, whose mission is to ensure that the memory of the Holocaust is taught to younger generations. It is only fitting that Rene speak to his own Congregation about his experiences, detailing his movements throughout Europe during his early childhood.



Central Okanagan Food Bank

- **Dec 19th:** OJCA's 2nd Annual participation in the Central Okanagan Food Bank's "Drive a Client home with their holiday hampers" on December 19th.
- "RE: COFB Assistance
- Thank you everyone, you're all

amazing individuals. We are incredibly grateful for your support, and couldn't have been happier to have you part of our holiday hamper distribution and deliveries. Happy holidays and we look forward working with you all again.

- Tammie, Interim Executive Director, Central Okanagan Food Bank"
- *And another thank you letter:*
- "Good day,
- Just a quick note to say thank you to the OJCC and the Kelowna Islamic Centre for all of your assistance last week. What a beautiful message you sent to our community. That all faiths can come together to understand each other better, be friends and help solve issues that are close to our collective hearts.
- Wishing God's blessings on everyone. May peace and joy be yours in abundance.
- Paul Wagner, Board Member, COFB"
- *And another thank you letter:*
- "Thanks everybody. It was a wonderful experience working with all of you. Happy New Year! Rehan (Kelowna Islamic Centre)"



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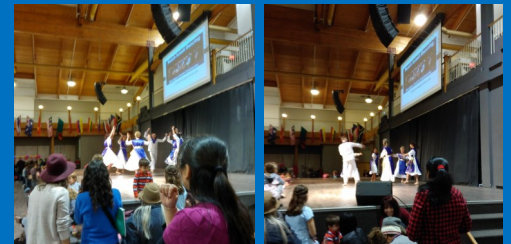
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COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **February 1, 2020—** The OJCC will once again be participating in the “Taste of Home” annual event, which is sponsored by Kelowna Community Resources. We will have our Israeli Dancers on stage again, as well as serving up a bumper crop of knishes this year! It will be held once again in the auditorium of the New Life Centre at 2041 Harvey Ave., from 5:30–8:30 pm. We need volunteers, please contact Barb Finkleman at whatscooking@babaskitchen.ca to sign up.



The Coldest Night of the Year is a family-friendly walk that raises money for charities serving hungry, homeless, and hurting people in our community. Walk with us on **February 22, 2020!** Watch your emails for OJCC participation.

- **FEBRUARY 29—March 1st, 2020** - Registration is now open to attend Limmud Vancouver, “where learning, community, and surprise awaits you!”
- Visit limmudvancouver.ca for more information and to register.



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OJCC EVENTS

- Jan 12th: OJCC hosted our first Shakshuka Israeli Breakfast sponsored by Ofrie and Maureen Mansoor.
- What a delightful way to spend a Sunday morning on a snowy day in the middle of January. About 30 members and friends gathered at OJC on Sunday morning, for a Shakshuka Israeli Breakfast. The food and company was great. Besides the Shakshuka, there was fresh French bread, Hummus, Baba Ghanouj, Israeli salad, olive tray, desserts and lots of coffee! Special thanks to Ofri and Maureen Mansoor for organizing the event.



- **Tu B'Sh'vat** begins Sunday eve, February 9th through Monday evening, Feb 10th. There will be Seder Sunday evening. We'll discuss the importance of trees to the preservation of life. We'll eat specific fruits representing those grown in Israel, drink wine/grape juice, recite prayers, tell stories and sing. *Details forthcoming... watch your emails or check our newly designed website at ojcc.ca for further details.*



- Purim begins March 9th through 10th. *watch your emails or check our website at ojcc.ca for further details.*



- **Monthly Monday Social** at 10 am continues! We've had great reception for this event last year, so we will continue on. Please RSVP to Barb Finkleman at whatscooking@babaskitchen.ca, so that the appropriate number of tables can be reserved. We will meet the first Monday of every month. *Please watch your emails or check our website at ojcc.ca for further details.*

- **Monthly Ladies Luncheon** - *watch your emails or check our website at ojcc.ca for further details.*

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BULLETIN BOARD

- Advertisements
- Announcements
- Businesses to Support
- Jewish Humour / Wisdom
- Jewish Recipes—Nosh'n Schmooze
- Mazel Tov's
- Obituaries
- OJCC Gift Corner & Library
- **President's Message**
- Special Notices
- Upcoming Birthdays, Anniversaries and **Yahrzeits**



- OJC wishes to announce its Annual Bursary for students who are graduating from High School this year and intend on pursuing further post-secondary education. The applicant can be a child or grandchild of a duly registered paid-up OJC member, and has to be graduating from an Okanagan High School. \$500 of bursary money is made available for the successful applicant. The deadline for submission is April 30th. Interested students are asked to submit a letter of application detailing their plans for their post-secondary education.



- The Okanagan Jewish Community has joined the “One More Candle” project which helps to memorialize the name of a childhood victim of the Holocaust. We have taken on the memory of Annette GLEISER who perished in Auschwitz at 9 years of age. On her date of death (or during the month of August), OJC members will say the Mourner's Kaddish in memory of Annette, as there is likely no one else available to do so in her memory.

- OJCC's Annual Chanukkah party on Dec. 15th was filled with fun and games for the kids, dancing, oodles of Hamentashen, Chanukkah crafts for kids and more. Thank you to those who helped set up and tear down and organize this event!



- Dec 22nd at 5pm: The 9th Annual Chanukkah 1st night candle lighting in downtown Stuart Park was again sponsored by Rabbi & Rebbetzin Hecht. The local Fire Department dropped payloads of gelt to the excited kids waiting below. There were many new Jews to the community, tourists, locals and curious passerby's. There were lotsa latkes, sufganiyot, coffee & water served to Chanuka tunes!

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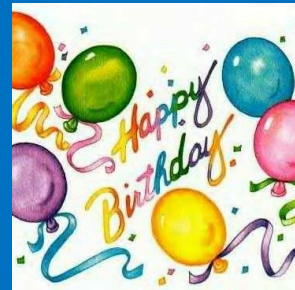
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UPCOMING Dates To Remember... SPECIAL OCCASIONS, ANNIVERSARIES, BIRTHDAYS, YAHRTZEITS.

Thank you for submitting your updates quickly so we can maintain a current list of your special events.

January

Natalie Spevakow	Jan 2
Ben Levitan	Jan 3
Beau Loomer (Faigan)	Jan 11
Alissa Segal	Jan 12
Judy Hess	Jan-13
Adarah Challmie	Jan 14
Nuri Fisher	Jan 15
Skyla Golbey	Jan 21
Trust Elohim Cripps	Jan 22
Samara Levitan	Jan 29
Marina Heitner	Jan 31



February

Michela Reicher	Feb 1
Robert Steinberg	Feb 2
Sharon Silver Gitlin	Feb 4
Maya Pilin	Feb 10
Hailey Fisher	Feb 16
Seymour Zidle	Feb 16
Steve Faigan	Feb 16
Marc Edelson	Feb 18
Simon Yanow	Feb 19
Robert Steinberg	Feb 20
Rob Westbury	Feb 24

March

Dan Sigal	Mar 5
Harley Kushmier	Mar 8
Jack McPheeters	Mar 12
Bonnie Cunningham	Mar 13
Philip Heitner	Mar 19
Bernie David	Mar 19
Michael Ford	Mar 21
Adam Tyk	Mar 21
Ariel Tyk	Mar 22
Aliya Rosove	Mar 24
Clara McPheeters	Mar 25
Max Mandelbaum	Mar 25
Rene Goldman	Mar 25
Mondy Challmie	Mar 26

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YAHREZEITS 5780/2020

* Please note that the Hebrew dates listed below are matched with the corresponding English dates for 2020.

Please accept our apologies if anyone has been missed.

If you wish to add anyone or feel that the date is incorrect, please contact the office at (250) 862-2305

TEVET

8	Emil	Klein	Jan 5th
10	Marjorie	Segal	Jan 7th
13	Betty	Richards	Jan 10
14	Herman	Shapiro	Jan 11
17	Rose	Lyons	Jan 14
23	Samuel	Lyons	Jan 20
24	Ronda	Schwartz	Jan 21

SHEVAT

1	Maxine	Bond	Jan 27
5	Annette	Bidner	Jan 31
7	Leisha	Udashkin	Feb 2
9	Lillian	Schwartz	Feb 4
9	Elsie	Segal	Feb 4
12	Harry	Meyers	Feb 7
15	Rony	Bloom	Feb 10
26	Joseph	Silver	Feb 21

ADAR

7	Mary	Nichols (Mallick)	Mar 3
10	Toby	Larry	Mar 6
13	Samuel	Bloom	Mar 9
15	Donald	Neuman	Mar 11
19	Bill	Nadler	Mar 15
21	Lily	Feldberg	Mar 17
25	Ethel	Forbes	Mar 21
28	Norma	Bloom	Mar 21
29	Gerald	Pockett	Mar 24
		Vines	Mar 25

NISAN

2	Marcel	Blitz	Mar 27
3	Benjamin	Cohen	Mar 28
5	George	Gill	Mar 30
6	Mordechai	Cohen - Urieli	Mar 31



UPCOMING Dates
To Remember...
SPECIAL OCCASIONS,
ANNIVERSARIES,
BIRTHDAYS,
YAHREZEITS. **Thank you
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BULLETIN BOARD - JEWISH HUMOUR



“Dear Mr. Einstein:

I am writing you with a wonderful suggestion that I know would bring about gigantic changes in the world and improve the lot of Jews everywhere. Mr. Einstein, I am a fellow Jew and proud of it. Your name is sacred to me as to people of our faith around the globe. That the Nazis chased you from Germany is our gain and their loss a million times over, if they even know what a loss is, and I only hope and pray that you are happy here in “the land of the free.”

Here is my suggestion. Why don’t you go on the radio every week with your own show? If you would agree I would like to manage you, so that your famous mind would not have to be cluttered up with business and so on. I am ashamed to say this in the same breath with your name, but probably you are aware of “The Answer Man” program which is on every night from seven to seven fifteen. If you’re not, just listen for a minute some night. Children all over America think this fake is “an Einstein” probably, when the real Einstein is something they would faint to hear in person. I would like them to know that THE GENIUS OF ALL TIME IS A JEW! This is something the world must know, and soon.

*Respectfully yours, M. Lippman, Talent Agent
—PHILLIP ROTH, from “On the Air”*



“A TEXAN is visiting Israel, and feeling thirsty, he stops at a house along the road. “Can you give me a drink of water?” asks the Texan.

“Of course,” says the Israeli, and invites the Texan to come in.

“What do you do?” says the Texan.

“I raise a few chickens,” says the Israeli.

“Really?” says the Texan. “I’m also a farmer. How much land do you have?”

“Well,” says the Israeli, “out front it’s fifty meters, as you can see, and in the back we have close to a hundred meters of property. And what about your place?”

“Well,” says the Texan, “on my ranch, I have breakfast and get into the car, and I drive and drive—and I don’t reach the end of the ranch until dinnertime.”

“Really,” replied the Israeli. “I once had a car like that.””

Excerpts from “The Big Book of Jewish Humor” Edited and Annotated by William Novak & Moshe Waldoks

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BULLETIN BOARD - RECIPES

Tu B'shvat is the New Year for the trees on Feb. 9-10, 2020. It's time to celebrate the seven species of Israel, wheat, barley, olives, dates, grapes, figs and pomegranates. Here's a recipe to include in making this seven species menu. If you like, make a traditional Tu B'Shvat Seder and serve 4 cups of wine with the seven species of fruit.

CHICKEN WITH ROASTED FIGS AND DATES

Serves 4, can be doubled

- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 1 teaspoon cornstarch
- ¼ cup honey
- 1 chicken, cut in 1/8's
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt, divided
- ¾ teaspoon black pepper, divided
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 large shallots, sliced
- 6 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh oregano or 2 teaspoons dried oregano
- 10 figs, stems trimmed, halved
- 1 cup pitted dates



Preheat oven to 400°F. In a small bowl, whisk ¼ cup water, vinegar, and cornstarch. Whisk in honey and set aside. Sprinkle chicken on both sides with ¾ teaspoon salt and ½ teaspoon pepper.

In a large sauté pan, heat oil over medium heat. Brown chicken, skin side down for about 6 minutes. Turn over and brown on the other side for 3 more minutes. Transfer chicken to plate and set aside.

Discard all but 2 tablespoons fat from the pan and return it to moderate heat. Add shallots and cook until soft and translucent, about 5 minutes. Add garlic and cook 1 more minute. Add cornstarch mixture, oregano, and remaining ¼ teaspoon salt and pepper. Cook until mixture bubbles, about 2 minutes and is slightly thickened. Return chicken to pan, skin side up and add figs and dates to pan. Roast in the oven for 15 minutes, until figs are soft and chicken is cooked through.

Serve chicken with sauce, figs and a sprinkle of fresh oregano or parsley.

Tu B'Shvat Food Art: <https://youtu.be/e881QIIRT5Q>

Purim:

March 9, 10, 2020 Serve Hamentashen & Kreplach



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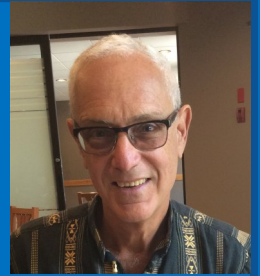
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

How lucky we are to be able to celebrate two New Years each year - in the Fall for Rosh Hashanah and also January 1st for the secular new year. Wishing you all a doubly happy new year from your OJC executive board.



This month represents the official launch of our new and updated website at "ojcc.ca". We have been working on this project for several months and it has quietly gone "live" over the month of December to ensure there were no major glitches and we are now happy to launch it officially. We had realized that the website is often the portal of entry for persons enquiring about our Community from afar, and we also needed to make it more functional and user-friendly for our own members. The information is clear and concise with tabs and drop boxes on the top for selective information, with three central boxes for our Community's vision statement, including history of the community, board members and staff; information about Kelowna for visitors, and most importantly upcoming events. The events section features an events calendar for quick review of upcoming events and their details. The blog area reviews our recent past events. Other features include member services, life events and contact information. We are trying to emphasize the website as our main source of information. Please visit it and become familiar with its layout and function. Special thanks to Uri Hess, who has taken the lead with the website design project, along with help from David Spevakow and our web designer, Lisa Armstrong. Your contribution in this project will help solidify our ability to communicate effectively with persons seeking information on our Community.

The Rabbi search committee continues their search. After being somewhat disappointed last month about Rabbi Orenstein's inability to come to Kelowna for personal reasons, there is no doubt that eventually we will find the most suitable Rabbi to fulfill our needs. Keep your eyes and ears open for upcoming visiting Rabbi candidates visits.

We are looking forward to a great year, with great activities and programs including weekly beginner's Israeli dancing, regular services, Shakshuka Israeli breakfast, Taste of Kelowna event, Tu B'Shvat Seder, Limmud Vancouver. All of these events are detailed on the new website. Go check it out!



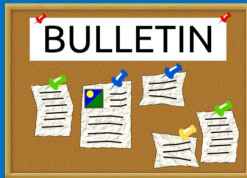
In closing this report, I would like especially to thank the OJC board for their tremendous effort in leading our Community and especially in my one month's absence in December. Each board member is taking on specific roles and projects in the areas that they do best! Thank you all! Best wishes to everyone (twice in the last 4 months) for a healthy and happy New Year. Steven Finkleman, OJC President

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- ◆ Sunshine Seniors: Please contact Barb Finkleman at whatscooking@babaskitchen.ca if you know of anyone who is 'blue' or unwell, and could benefit from receiving a card, a call, or gesture to uplift their soul/spirit.
- ◆ The OJC Ladies Group has asked, as a Spring Cleaning project, that we save household items, such as clothes, gently-used small appliances, new-unopened cosmetics, etc. that would normally be given away and bring them to the next meeting or the OJCC. Donations will be taken to the Women's Shelter Store.
- ◆ **TODAH RABBAH TO ALL WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED AND ASSISTED IN MAKING OJCC'S EVENTS AND OUR RABBI SEARCH A SUCCESS - WE APPRECIATE ALL YOUR EFFORTS! THANK YOU**

JUDAICA Corner, Cards, Library, & the TREE OF LIFE

We have Shabbat, Yahrzeit, & Chanukkah candles available as well as miscellaneous gift items & cards; and a Looney / Twooney Table with various clearance items.

OJCC Library has an extensive selection of Jewish, travel, cultural books and literary publications for your review. There will be a checkout clipboard in the Judaica Corner if you'd like to check out books or publications.

If you wish to make a donation to have a sympathy card sent out, we will do so for you. The person is advised that there has been a donation made in Memory of their loved one however the amount remains confidential.

"Memory Tree of Life" - If you have a special occasion you wish to honour or want to purchase a leaf In Memory, we have the 'Tree of Life' in the hallway and a leaf can be purchased for \$72.00 which will be inscribed appropriately.

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