



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

Bulletin

December 1 2023 to February 29 2024
18 Kislev to 20 Adar I 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

We are living in very difficult times. These words have been spoken many times in the past and no doubt they will be spoken again in the future. It has been comforting to receive support from some of our neighbours (I shared two such letters recently with the congregation) but also very disturbing to hear those who voice their support for violence, hatred, and war. Let us hope and pray that peace will come soon – hostages will be released and no one else will have to sacrifice their lives in the name of war and hatred.

These days I get a lot of relief from the situation from my children, visiting my granddaughter and anticipating the birth of my second grandchild in January. May we all find ways to remember the blessings in our lives, even during these challenging times.

Winter is upon us – snow, ice and low temperatures are in our very near future. Hopefully, the Canal will open this year for skating (I know my husband looks forward to this every year). Something that will surely bring joy to some of us.

And then there's Chanukah. Candle lighting, latkes and chocolate all have a role in our celebrations. I have always found it interesting how we have elevated this holiday into something more important than it seems to merit. Some of us exchange gifts and have parties. It's hard to 'compete' with Christmas, yet, somehow, we feel that we must. I do not know how to 'stop' this competition and I am not even sure that I would want to do so: There are many

UPCOMING EVENTS

*All events will occur on the Zoom platform.
Zoom link will be sent a few days before each event.*

- December 17: Adath Shalom Poetry Group**
7:00pm *Delmore Schwartz* <see page 6 for details>
- January 14: David Brooks**
11:00am *the Prophet Jeremiah* <see page 4 for details>
- January 21: Adath Shalom Poetry Group**
7:00pm *Denise Levertov* <see page 6 for details>
- January 28: Rabbi Deborah Zuker**
11:00am *Parshat Beshallah* <see page 4 for details>
- February 11: Rabbi David Kay**
11:00am *Jewish Ethics and A.I* <see page 4 for details>
- February 25: Rivka Campbell**
3:00pm *the Jews of Jamaica* <see page 4 for details>
- March 3: Adath Shalom Poetry Group**
7:00pm *Abraham Sutzkever* <see page 6 for details>

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

<VIRTUAL>

December 3, 2023
(10:00am to 12:00pm)

'holidays of lights' in many religions and each one shines lights in what often seems to be a dark world.

May the flames of the Chanukah candles bring joy and light into your life during these rather 'dark' times.

Susan Kriger

BOARD NEWS DECEMBER 2023

With the joys of Chanukah upon us, even in a heart wrenching year, Adath Shalom has much to celebrate and look forward to. Although recent worrisome events make it seem like years ago, we can still celebrate and thank those who contributed to making our High Holy Holiday services as meaningful as they were.

Regarding service leaders, there were more new people taking on new tasks. Adath Shalom can be proud of its dedicated members who maintain their passion to learn. The Board thanks David Kriger who has done so much inspiring others to step up to lead the congregation in prayer.

The High Holy Holidays also brought Rabbi Deborah Zuker back to Adath Shalom. You may recall Rabbi Zuker was with us some years ago when she was a rabbinical student. Since the Holidays, feedback has been positive, and we are pleased the Rabbi will continue doing additional adult education programs as well as D'var Torahs every few months on Shabbat.

Meaningful High Holy Day services in a unique Shul like ours is the product of people working together but it takes leaders to get them together. The Board thanks Deborah Leader who took on the role as chairperson of the High Holy Day committee. A special thank you as well to Danielle Dugas and her crew of volunteers who helped turn the SJCC social hall into a place of worship.

In any organizational endeavour one must always expect the unexpected and that occurred with a last-minute invoice from the Federation on the cost of using the social hall.

It was a new formula which surprised us, but we dealt with it. With costs rising everywhere additional Shul costs are inevitable and our High Holiday experience is a case in point.

On the subject of dollars in and out, the Board thanks Rosalie Fox for her years as Adath Shalom's bookkeeper. Following Rosalie's decision to step aside, in a break with tradition, our new bookkeeper is from the outside. Deborah LeBlanc is experienced working with nonprofit organizations and will be a welcome addition. Because I heard an important question I will happily answer. The cost of our new bookkeeper is \$150 a month.

Another change involves our Membership Committee.

Stephen Acker will be the new chairperson after many years of Elaine Hauptman's hard work in a difficult role. Elaine, thank you.

The Board also wants to officially welcome Ivan Cohen as our new vice president. As a relatively new member Ivan's stepping up speaks volumes to Adath Shalom's tradition of good leadership.

As Adath Shalom heads to its fifth decade of existence, our thanks go to Fern Goldman who has documented the many years of gatherings and simchas in a beautiful virtual photo album.

On behalf of the Board, best Chanukah wishes to you and your families. There is no better time in recent history to remember and think about the miracle of light.

Jason Moscovitz

SOME IMPORTANT UPDATES

Due to rising costs (both financial and personal), we have made the difficult decision to stop mailing out any copies of the Adath Shalom Bulletin. If you have been receiving the Bulletin by snail mail in the past, and you have extenuating circumstances that require you to continue receiving it by snail mail, please let me or Peter Wolfe know asap. Otherwise, this will be the last edition that you will receive via Canada Post.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Eliane Herz-Fischler for her years of helping with the Bulletin. After many years (since the 1980's?), Eliane has retired. A big, truly grateful thank-you.

I would also like to thank Elaine Hauptman for her years of help as chair of the Membership Committee. Elaine, like Eliane, has also been in this volunteer position for many years. Another big thank you to Elaine! Stephen Acker has taken over this volunteer position. Big boots to fill Stephen but I think you are up to it. Thank you for taking this on.

Thanks to not only these volunteers but to all our volunteers who make it possible for Adath Shalom to exist.

Susan Kriger

ADATH SHALOM ADULT ED PROGRAMS (DECEMBER 2023 – FEBRUARY 2024)

*All Adult Ed programs will continue to be on the Zoom platform
Note: No programs scheduled in December*

Jan 14 11:00 – David Brooks – The Prophet Jeremiah

As the last of the Hebrew Prophets, Jeremiah is almost as well-known as Isaiah. However, Isaiah is always celebrated whereas Jeremiah is more often criticized or condemned. Perhaps those differences explain why the Book of Jeremiah is the longest in the Hebrew Bible.

Jeremiah's Hebrew name is Yermiyahu, which means that God is on high, or that God makes things rise to be on high, a name that he certainly deserved. Indeed, he was born into a family of priests, and that must have caused enormous anguish on both sides of the family as he later criticized the priesthood. Jeremiah is known for being the most personal of the prophets, which happily gives me a lot to consider other than his family problems.

Jan 28 11:00 – Rabbi Deborah Zuker – Parshat Beshallah

We will study the seminal event of our history: the crossing of the Red Sea and consider how this miracle shaped the Jewish psyche and continues to inform our perspectives.

Feb 11 11:00 – Rabbi David Kay – Jewish Ethics and A.I.

The recent upheaval at OpenAI underscores the growing

concern that technology may be outpacing our ability -- and the will -- to control it. Can Jewish law and tradition guide us in the age of artificial intelligence and machine learning?

Feb 25 3:00 – Rivka Campbell – The Jews of Jamaica

Jews in Jamaica have a history which started with the first wave of Jews escaping the Inquisition. It is a rich and diverse history which has left a lasting impact.



Rivka Campbell is the Executive Director at Beth Tikvah, Toronto, and is responsible for all aspects of the Synagogue Administration including fiscal management, membership recruitment and retention, catering, major events and building maintenance.

Rivka brings several years of experience in the Jewish non-profit sector. Her experience includes synagogue management and other leadership roles within the Jewish community.

Paul Adler

A NOTE FROM ADATH SHALOM'S SECURITY COMMITTEE

In these challenging times, please be aware that the SJCC Campus and the Jewish Federation of Ottawa continue to work closely with the Ottawa Police Services to be extra vigilant around the school, the Campus and other community institutions. The Campus is in touch with Adath to keep us abreast of its initiatives. We are fortunate that access to the school during our services continues to be monitored and controlled by the Campus security guards, whom many of you have now met.

In the meantime, your Security Committee continues to be busy. Everything we do is in line with advice we have received from Canadian and US security professionals. We are planning to rerun our *Run! Hide! Defend!* presentation periodically and to add drills. We are investigating the need

for more training programs, such as more First Aid training and ‘Stop the Bleed’ and AED (automated external defibrillator) training. We have introduced external greeters at b’nei mitzvot or other special events where we expect lots of visitors.

Behind the scenes, we have asked a few individuals to keep a cellphone on during services in case of an emergency, with the phone ring set to vibrate. Last year we reviewed our vetting procedures for potential new members, and we are reviewing our communications protocols.

ALL of us have a part to play in security. Coming together on Shabbat is especially meaningful now during these difficult times: DON’T be afraid to come to services but DO be alert to what is happening around you. If you SEE something, SAY something. DO participate in our *Run! Hide! Defend!* presentations, drills, and training when they are offered.

Feel free to contact David Kriger, Security Chair, if you want more information

David Kriger

JEWISHGEN MEMORIALS & PLAQUES DATABASE

Through personal genealogical research, many of you are already familiar with [JewishGen.org](https://www.jewishgen.org), the foremost Jewish genealogical organization in the world. JewishGen collects and provides electronic access to millions of records related to Jewish genealogy. A nonprofit organization, JewishGen is a division of the Museum of Jewish Heritage - A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. One of their projects is the Memorials & Plaques Database, which includes information from Jewish synagogue memorial plaques and yizkor lists worldwide. Such information is extremely helpful to genealogists, as it provides the name (including parents’ names) and date of death of deceased members of their congregations, and often the dates of birth as well. Currently, there are 602 participating organizations worldwide, including 29 in Canada, including 293,660 records which are now searchable on the <https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Memorial/> database, available to members only. (Membership is free, but one must register.) JewishGen has put out an appeal to all synagogues to add to their Memorials & Plaques Database, and we answered their call.

Adath Shalom, as you know, does not have memorial boards. However, being a small havura, a small group were able, together with our excellent electronic database, to compile the names of forty members who have died since Adath Shalom was founded. Our board considered whether we should share this information with JewishGen and decided that we could only share information that was publicly available elsewhere. We did not use any information from our membership records to do this.

We did the research, and were able to put together, all from public sources, the surnames, maiden name (as appropriate), given names in English and Hebrew, including fathers’ and in some cases mothers’ names, dates of birth (where it was available) and dates of death on both the English and Hebrew calendars, and have submitted it to JewishGen, for their Memorials & Plaques Database. We gleaned most of the information from Ottawa’s Jewish Memorial Gardens website, <https://www.jewishmemorialgardens.org/interment-listing/> which includes details for each gravestone, and in most cases, actual photos. Where these details were not available on that site, we were able to find the information in other locations, including sites with gravestone photos, obituaries, and newspaper and web-based articles.

It is our intention to send updates to JewishGen approximately every 2 years. We also hope to share this list with the Ottawa Jewish Archives, and to encourage them to work with other Ottawa synagogues to likewise make this information available.

Lawrence Wolofsky and Ellen Caplan



MORE FROM OUR ZOOM POETRY GROUP

Rolling right along, we have three more poets that we have chosen to read and learn about at our monthly poetry reading group. This group meets on Zoom, on a Sunday evening from 7 to 8:30 pm, and reads poems aloud, following a short biography of the poet by one of our attendees. Some come to read, others come just to listen. And all of us have come to enjoy and appreciate so much more poetry than we thought possible.

If you are interested in attending and are not a regular, let me know in advance and I will add you to the email list to whom I send internet links several weeks before each reading, to assist you in finding poems online by that poet.

On Sunday evening **December 17** we will read the poetry of American **Delmore Schwartz**. Fenja Brodo

will open by telling us about him and his work.

On Sunday evening **January 21** we will read from **Denise Levertov's** work, a British-American poet who wrote about politics, war, suffering, and religion. Sheila Baslaw will introduce her.

On Sunday evening **March 3** we will read, in translation, from the poetry of **Abraham Sutzkever**, acclaimed Yiddish poet, member of the artists' group Yung-Vilne, partisan, and a major figure in Yiddish letters. Steve Acker will do the introduction.

All are welcome to join us. A reminder and Zoom link are sent out in the week before the event.

Ellen Caplan



 LES DÉPARTEMENTS SE SONT REUNIS POUR
CÉLÉBRER LE 150^e ANNIVERSAIRE DU CANADA  **CIJA**

♦ CANADA'S ♦
RALLY
FOR THE JEWISH PEOPLE



NOW is the time to raise our voice. Join us as we
unite and rally in our nation's capital.
For the hostages. For the people of Israel.
For the safety of Jewish Canadians.

Don't miss this historic moment as we gather
on Parliament Hill and send a message to all Canadians.

Monday, December 4 | 1:30 PM
Parliament Hill - Ottawa

Supported by Canada's Jewish Federations and
the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA)