

SHORESH

שורש

Congregation Etz Chayim
Community News

SEPTEMBER 2018

תשרי תשע"ט | TISHREI 5779

Introducing
Rabbi Kliel

Rosh Hashanah
Resolutions

Sukkot Themes

Rachel Cares about Her Community.

Education
with Integrity



Gray Academy
OF JEWISH EDUCATION

LEARN MORE | GRAYACADEMY.CA

[facebook.com/grayacademy](https://www.facebook.com/grayacademy) | [@grayacademy](https://www.instagram.com/grayacademy) | [@mygrayacademy](https://www.tiktok.com/@mygrayacademy)

Reach Out

Shoresh was born in spring 2017, an endeavour to put a face on the community that is Congregation Etz Chayim. One part of a new strategic plan outlined for Etz Chayim the year before, the vision for *Shoresh* was lofty: We wanted to offer something of value to Etz Chayim members that would interest and inform readers, perhaps even educate a little. We imagined a publication that delved into a few of the finer details of members' lives, highlighting some of the work they do and the commitment they have for their *shul*. We pictured a medium that explored some broader issues touching people within the community, as well as philosophies and values that represent Etz Chayim on a global level. We aspired to foster conversation and facilitate connection among Etz Chayim folk—members, staff, and clergy. And ultimately, we hoped to cultivate pride within the community for the work Etz Chayim does, and the role our synagogue plays in the greater Jewish and Winnipeg communities.

Are we there yet? *Shoresh* is but a toddler—albeit a feisty one, we think, with sturdy legs, and solid vocals. *Shoresh* needs time to develop and mature into its full potential for a community news magazine.

And just as it takes a village to raise a child, so too does it take a community to raise a voice that will represent it with integrity. Which comes down to you. *Shoresh* requires your ideas, and the words into which you sculpt your thoughts. *Shoresh* demands your vision, and the photos you take to capture the moments that illustrate your synagogue life. *Shoresh* needs the chapter of the narrative that represents you, and all the others who make Etz Chayim a community.

Please reach out with your ideas. Connect to share what you like about *Shoresh*—what we get right. Communicate when *Shoresh* misses the mark—what parts you could live without. Help *Shoresh* evolve into the best possible vehicle to represent you, your family, and your community, as a Jew, a Winnipegger, and a member of Congregation Etz Chayim. ■

Leslie Malkin
Editor, *Shoresh*
LeslieMalkin@LofC.ca



SHORESH
שורש

Shoresh is a community news publication of



123 Matheson Avenue East
Winnipeg, Manitoba R2W 0C3
(204) 589-6305

Lesliemalkin@LofC.ca

www.congregationetzchayim.ca

Editor: Leslie Malkin

Design: Grandesign Ltd.

Advisory Committee:
Jonathan Buchwald
Mia Elfenbaum
Elana Schultz (chair)

Cover photo: Blueenayim



WE CAN LOWER YOUR EXPENSES BY 35% OR MORE, WITH NO COSTS AND ZERO RISK



Telecom



Merchant Services



Small Package Shipping & Courier

Independent, unbiased expenses audit
Over 18,000 clients in North America
Success based fees

WE ARE YOUR VENDOR WATCHDOGS.
Contact Hernán Popper today.

Call: 204.816.1500
hernan.popper@schooleymitchell.com
www.schooleymitchell.com/hpopper





Re-New Mobility
HOME HEALTH CARE PRODUCTS

204-453-6473
NEW, USED & RENTAL PRODUCTS • SERVICE & INSTALLATION
Pembina & Stafford

Creating Space for All

A First Conversation with Rabbi Kliel Rose



Rabbi Kliel Rose brings to Congregation Etz Chayim a rich base of knowledge and practice in topics of inclusion and social justice; wisdom and ideas about keeping a synagogue congregation vibrant and relevant; outlook on change and innovation within Jewish communities; and an educated desire to facilitate the evolution of Judaism.

On Inclusion and Social Justice

Themes of inclusion and social justice have woven significantly through Rabbi Kliel's 14-year rabbinate—his efforts to advocate for interfaith dialogue, for example; his work to welcome individuals with cognitive and physical learning challenges within various faith communities; his actions to combat bigotry and Islamophobia. Rabbi Kliel touches on why these threads have been a critical part of his work.

"The core value of Judaism is to raise our voices and take steps to protect and expand the rights of those who feel voiceless or are disadvantaged or vulnerable. I view these two threads as compulsory Jewish behaviours, as valuable as the requirements of Torah study and prayer.

"I've been exploring how religious institutions could work to broaden who they serve; and how institutions meant to be mindful of every person can have the opposite effect for some people.

"How do we create space for all?"

Early Influencers

Rabbi Kliel speaks of early inspirations that spurred career and life choices for him.

"I've had great role models who inspired me to pursue acts of social justice. Chief among those are my father (Rabbi Neal Rose) and my mother (writer/educator Carol Rose).

"Also, as a child, I volunteered at Shalom Residences (a Winnipeg organization that provides care and support of adults with intellectual disabilities). I learned that G-d creates people in different ways, and all are made in the image of the divine. That inspired me to be an advocate for greater inclusion."

The Clergy Leadership Incubator (CLI)

Halfway through a two-year fellowship, Rabbi Kliel is one of 20 rabbis selected for cohort 3 of the CLI program, which supports education for rabbis in change management, organizational leadership, and institutional transformation. The brainchild of Rabbi Sid Schwarz (Etz

Chayim Scholar in Residence, March 2015), CLI focuses on visionary leadership and innovative practice. Rabbi Kliel discusses why two important goals for a 21st-century rabbi are developing managerial and leadership skills and exploring change and innovation within Jewish communities.

"At rabbinical school, while we learn a tremendous amount of tradition, we aren't imparted many skills in organizational management, or how to think about sustaining a congregation and making it relevant on a continual basis.

"Rabbis are often visionaries. But we also need to learn how to *implement* visions, and work with lay leadership and professional staff to bring about change and circumstance that feels compelling to people, so they want to be part of that organization and the Jewish life."

Change, Innovation, Technology, and Judaism

Rabbi Kliel believes change and innovation are necessary ingredients for creating a meaningful and dynamic tradition in the 21st century.

"Judaism has never been static, that is the genius of our religion. It has always utilized advancements from the general society, so followers feel both grounded in roots from the past and current with present technology, to remain relevant. The evolution is gradual and varies by setting. But one of the treasures of Judaism is that it has learned to be applicable to the people associated with the tradition.

"In the Conservative movement we don't fear technology and science; we aim to understand how science and technology can live symbiotically with traditional Judaism. Sometimes technology and science have enabled Judaism to grow and improve."

Two Examples

He offers two examples of technology enabling the evolution of Judaism for the better: As advances toward equality of (1) women and (2) members of the LGBTQ community were made within the broader society, reflections of this progress were seen in the wider Jewish community, too, thanks in part to a continually evolving communications industry and growing globalization (i.e., technology).

"In our general society, we're at a place where women are being recognized as equals, and that has had an impact on Judaism. The global Jewish community has become better as a

result, and that has enriched the fabric of our identity.

“The same is true as it relates to the LGBTQ community. Trends and development within the general society have made it clear that Judaism *must* be receptive to the needs of *all* G-d’s creatures. If we’re truly a community, we don’t need to blend together—we want people to retain their own unique identities. But we *all* need to be a part of the whole.”



What He Brings

Rabbi Kliei proudly shares details about his family, joining him on the adventure to Winnipeg. He also reveals (considerably more humbly) what else he brings to Congregation Etz Chayim.

“A boost in membership (laughs), because I’m bringing my whole crew, a family of seven: my spouse, Dorit Kosmin, and our five beautiful, active children (17 through 4). Our two oldest are boys, the younger three are girls.”

“What’s been reflected back to me is that I’m dynamic and passionate. I like to collaborate with others who have that same kind of intensity and belief in this enterprise known as Judaism.

“I’m really devoted to my craft, and a key area for me is pastoral counseling. Those are things I pride myself on, along with issues of inclusion and social justice.”

Winnipeg Roots

Born in Jerusalem, Rabbi Kliei immigrated to Winnipeg, Canada with his family when he was not yet 2, and he lived here until age 21. The two decades left him with robust memories of the Winnipeg vibe, and a genuine appreciation for the city.

“I know what it’s like to grow up in Winnipeg. I’m familiar with the surroundings and with many of the people.

I had a good childhood in Winnipeg. There was a great diversity of Jewish life, and it was a wholesome place to grow up. My parents really urged pluralism—both Jewish and general pluralism—and appreciation for all faiths. And there seemed to be a plethora of opportunities within the Jewish community for that.

“I like that Winnipeg is progressive-minded. For a city not that large, it’s quite cosmopolitan and eclectic and culturally rich, especially in the arts. I have early memories of my mom *schlepping* me to Folklorama and the Folk Festival and the Fringe Festival. I learned to really appreciate those things, and I’ve noticed as an adult, living in various cities, that not every place is like Winnipeg, with such an abundance of cultural opportunities.”

Some Goals

“A personal goal, for the first hundred days of serving Congregation Etz Chayim, is to get to know as many people as possible. And to reintroduce members to each other and ignite meaningful dialogue among them.

“I hope to boost the sense of pride congregants have in identifying as Etz Chayim members, and to help Etz Chayim become a greater presence within the Winnipeg Jewish community and the larger Winnipeg community. I want to magnify the strengths and flourishes that already exist and make them more apparent to others. I want to help inspire others to step in and be a part of building something exciting and vibrant.

“Congregation Etz Chayim has something to bring to the general society that no other synagogue has. Each synagogue has their gift; we have a voice and offerings that can really help others grow.” ■

Moments From the Annual Congregation Etz Chayim Golf Tournament



Juggling Etrogs, Fussing with Schach*, and that “Odd Box on the Deck”... A Sukkot Compendium

Ask an Etz Chayim member a few questions about Sukkot, and some delightful details emerge. Here are a few themes:



Photos: Top: Lazar family. Bottom: L-R sukkahs: Jesierski/Maltz; Schultz; Cohen/Slayen (Noah, Stu); Hoult/Eviatar

OUTDOOR WARMTH

SHIRA COHEN (SC): A rabbi once told me Sukkot is like Jewish Christmas. It's a harvest holiday, it's outside, it's hanging-on to the last outdoor opportunity. The rituals of shaking the *lulav* and smelling the *etrog* evoke the senses, and it's fun.

ELANA SCHULTZ (ES): Building a *sukkah* and hanging out there means more time spent outdoors... a little protected. We decorate with twinkly lights and lanterns, so it feels a little magical to sit in the *sukkah* in the evening. It's cozy, a bit snug, and not easy to get up and down from the table, so sometimes it means as a family we linger longer over a meal.

COMMUNITY EFFORTS

SHARON MALTZ (SM): Over the years, friends have helped us with *sukkah* design and construction. In recent years our children and their friends have been a big part of that effort.

GILON LAZAR (GL): Building the *sukkah* is great, we never do it alone. Sometimes we invite cousins or friends and we put it up together. When we have little kids there it's fun... handing them the power tools (*wink*).

ES: My dad (Ben Goldberg) likes buying lumber and building stuff. He designed our *sukkah* so it can be 'knocked down' and put away for the following year.

BUILDING IDEAS

MIA ELFENBAUM (ME): Our first *sukkah* was plywood with metal joints that we got online (the kit included cute

instructions that distinguished between good and “*feh*” joints). Over time, we switched to an easy-to-assemble *sukkah* kit with poles and canvas.

ES: We have a plexiglass window in one panel. This is a great feature, I recommend windows. Also, build something light and easy to assemble, take down, and store.

DAVID HOULT (DH): A *sukkah* made of wood panels that bolt together will not blow away in storms and provides a fair degree of insulation.

SCHACH* FUSS

SM: One year, we had a visitor just before Sukkot who was concerned we did not have sufficient *schach*. He made a phone call, and shortly thereafter a truck filled with pine branches arrived at our house, and some orthodox gentlemen threw *schach* on the *sukkah* until it was covered to their satisfaction.

DH: A growing problem is getting *schach*. It's unlawful to cut down a tree in a forest. I'm thinking of contacting Christmas tree growers to see if one would open their nursery in September.

HOSTING VISITORS

GL: We cram as many people as we can into our *sukkah*. My mom bakes round *challah* with a little well in the middle. She puts a ramekin in and fills it with honey. You tear off the sides and dip in the middle—it's delicious.

SM: Every year we try to invite some guests who have not been to our *sukkah* previously. It's nice how people

of different ages and backgrounds come together for the experience.

DH: Hosting visitors is fun, cramming people in. Sometimes we've had non-Jews as guests, who tend to find it fascinating. I like the questions this odd box on the deck elicits from children, neighbours, and passers-by. Anything that promotes interfaith communication is generally a good thing.

MEMORIES

ME: Marshall (Stitz) had the idea to mark our children's heights on one of the wood panels. The first year was 2000: Dena was 6, Liat 2½. Gilad was born in 2001; at a couple months old, we took his last measurement from the pediatrician (25") and marked it on the board. When we switched to the canvas *sukkah* we saved that panel, and we bring it out each year to mark each child's height (albeit Gilad is the only one still growing).

SC: One year, Stu and Carrie (Slayen) slept in the *sukkah*... or tried to sleep. It's often pretty cold during Sukkot, so they would have had sleeping bags and parkas.

GL: My sister Galya's birthday is September 24, which sometimes falls during Sukkot. When we were little, sometimes we'd throw her a *sukkah*-themed birthday party. We'd call Rabbi Baruch Heidingsfeld, a juggler, who'd juggle etrogs. ■

* Organic material for *sukkah* roof.




 PRESENTS
A TRIBUTE TO LEONARD COHEN His Life His Music His Roots
 A CABARET EVENING
 with Tracy Kasner Greaves, Len Udow, and Friends
Tickets \$35

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 20, 2018
7:30 PM

CALL FOR TICKETS 204-589-6305
 CONGREGATION ETZ CHAYIM, 123 MATHESON AVE E, INFO@ETZCHAYIM.CA
 WWW.CONGREGATIONETZCHAYIM.CA







DO YOU WANT TO BE PART OF A REAL TV SHOW?
FOR KIDS 10-14 YEARS OLD
LOCATION: CONGREGATION ETZ CHAYIM, 123 MATHESON AVE E

JOIN US
 INSTRUCTOR
TAYA RTICHSHEVA
 Media Producer, Founder of RTV

12 CLASSES FOR \$225

FROM IDEA TO BROADCAST

PRODUCE YOUR OWN MEDIA TO REGISTER CALL OR EMAIL

- exploring valuable Jewish themes
- understanding the camera
- announcing
- audio production and editing
- interviewing
- directing for television
- non-linear editing
- broadcast

(204) 589-6305
 INFO@ETZCHAYIM.CA

Special thanks to the Reich family for their support of this project.



WWW.CONGREGATIONETZCHAYIM.CA






REGISTER TODAY

MACCABIAH SPORTS

2018-2019
 36 SUNDAYS STARTING SEPTEMBER 9
 4-6 YEARS OLD 10AM-11AM
 7-12 YEARS OLD 11AM-12:30PM
CALL TO REGISTER 204.589.6305

CONGREGATION ETZ CHAYIM presents "Maccabiah Sports" - a series of classes to introduce children to the world of rhythmic gymnastics. Students will learn to enhance their body awareness and flexibility as well as learn to work with different apparatus (i.e.: ball, hoop, ribbon, rope). Classes will be led by Canadian and Provincial Champion in "Group of 5" competition, Elite Manitoba 2018 Champion Anastasia Kurakin.

LOCATION:
 123 DONCASTER STREET
 ASPER JEWISH COMMUNITY CAMPUS
 GA WELLNESS ROOM

BEGINNERS \$270
ADVANCED \$300
 FOR THE WINTER/SPRING SESSION

CONGREGATION ETZ CHAYIM, 123 MATHESON AVE E, WINNIPEG
 INFO@ETZCHAYIM.CA, WWW.CONGREGATIONETZCHAYIM.CA

OUR TREES OF LIFE
 The stories that really matter


CAPTURE STORIES
 by documenting family life experiences

Now is the time to do it

Become a part of "OUR TREES OF LIFE" documentary series about Jewish families of Manitoba, presented by Congregation Etz Chayim.

Contact Cantor Tracy at tkasner@etzchayim.ca





Shanah Tovah G

Elissa Abrams and Alex Singer, Claudia, Ben, and Hannah

Wishing our family and friends a healthy and happy New Year

Diane and Richard Boroditsky and family

Wishing our family and friends a healthy and happy New Year

Dina and Mark Cantor, Gail, Ron, and Marlee Cantor

Wishing a happy and healthy New Year to all our family and friends

Wendy, Alan, Laurie, and Jillian Daien

Wishing our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year

Darlene and Jerry Davis

Wishing our family and friends a healthy and happy New Year

Ann, Max, and Elie Feierstein

Wishing your families a year of *gezunt*, health, and wellbeing

Norman Freedman and family

Wishing family and friends a healthy and happy New Year

Dina and Bruce Granove

May good health, good times, and good memories accompany you throughout the coming year

Phyllis and Aubrey Himlestein and family

Wishing our family and friends a healthy and happy New Year

Kim Hirt, Jerry Rubin, Rachel, and Bina

A sweet and happy New Year to all our family and friends

Lil and Ben Hirt and family

Wishing our family and friends a healthy and happy New Year

Margaret Kasner and family

Wishing our family and friends a healthy and happy New Year

Greetings

Terry and Jerry Katz Q.C.

Wishing our family and friends a healthy and happy New Year

Howard Kideckel

Wishing family and friends a healthy and happy New Year

Matthew, Nola, Ezra, Yona, Galya, and Gilon Lazar

Shana Tova U'Metukah

Estrid Mandel and family

Wishing family and friends a healthy and happy New Year

Evelyn Numerow and family

Wishing family and friends a healthy and happy New Year

Jane, Ronald, and Tiffany Reider

Wishing family and friends a healthy and happy New Year

Lorraine Reiner

Wishing family and friends a healthy and happy New Year

Sid and Joyce Rosenhek and family

Wishing family and friends a healthy and happy New Year

Colette Rubin

Wishing family and friends a healthy and happy New Year

Marvin and Esther Samphir and family

Wishing family and friends a healthy and happy New Year

Shayna and Merrill Shulman and family

Wishing our family and friends a healthy and happy New Year

Avery and Nata Spigelman, Adam, David, Jenny, Deborah, Joshua, and Connor

Wishing our family and friends a healthy and happy New Year

Women's League of Congregation Etz Chayim

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy New Year

Once Upon a TV Studio

The Evolution of TVKids

What began as a seed-idea in Taya Rtichsheva's mind bloomed into fruition in fall of 2016 with the launch of TV Kids Media School at Congregation Etz Chayim.

As TVKids producer/instructor, Taya's vision was to offer theoretical and practical media skills for children. To realize this goal, the *shul* accepted gracious support from Shaw TV Winnipeg: for session 1, while classroom learning was at the Simkin Centre, studio classes were hosted at Shaw.

An instant hit, TVKids was popular with kids and parents. So, in 2017, awarded a generous grant from the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba, Etz Chayim created an independent production studio for TVKids in its own basement. Equipment was purchased—video cameras, tripods, an audio system, and various production studio gear. Another recent grant, from TELUS, enabled the *shul* to purchase more equipment.

And as the space evolved, so did the school.

"The idea is to have a different concept each session," says Taya, also communications specialist for Etz Chayim.

In TVKids session 1 (fall 2016), students learned basic theory and created a short film, *Chanukah Stories*, later broadcast on Shaw TV.

Building on that, in session 2 students produced six culturally themed programs ranging in focus from Chai Folk Ensemble, to Ma Mawiwi Chi Itata centre and traditional Pow wow singing and dancing, to African drumming.

By fall 2017, students were pitching their own ideas and producing programs independently at the Etz Chayim studio. By the end of that session, they had created seven shows for broadcast on Shaw's *Community Producers* series, ranging from a talkshow, to comedy cooking, to science and animal programming.

During the recent spring 2018 TVKids session, students produced two music videos based on Jewish composer Alan Menken's music, created for Disney. The videos will also be broadcast on Shaw.

Still on the "wish-list" for TVKids is studio renovation, like refurbishing of flooring and blinds.

As for the TVKids themselves, they continue to learn—perhaps the next Carson Daly or Oprah in the making. Keep watching! ■

Taya Rtichsheva (far left) and the TVKids



Gastronomic Adventures

Together, Bogie and Ewa Stras make up the Congregation Etz Chayim catering team. Or "Team Cuisine," if you prefer.



Team Cuisine

If you meet Bogie and Ewa Stras together, you notice immediately that they are a team. They often finish each other's sentences, sometimes to suggest a forgotten English word (their first language is Polish). They know one another's schedules, and spell each other off as necessary. Etz Chayim Executive Chef Bogie (Boguslaw) and Sous-Chef Ewa are in it together, and they work in concert tightly, like a harmonic vocal duo or an Olympic skating couple. You might call them "Team Cuisine."

"That's my right hand," Bogie says, gesturing at Ewa, who laughs (because she knows it's true).

Both born and raised in Poland, Bogie and Ewa immigrated to Winnipeg, Canada in 1991. Bogie had completed culinary training in Poland; he updated his chef training in Canada to learn the English terminology.

Ewa had earned an animal sciences degree in Poland, and her working career began with a volunteer position in a UofM lab, Faculty of Medicine and Animal Care Centre. Later, the Department of Zoology hired her as an animal technician. But Ewa's path was meant to curve. After eight years at this job, she developed serious allergies and had to resign.

In 2003, Congregation Etz Chayim hired Bogie as chef. "When I started here, there was almost no catering, and it was not very good," he says.

When Bogie's scheduled kitchen help didn't show up for work, one week, Ewa stepped in temporarily.

"I had cooked for our children and baked at home," she says, as if to justify an idea that sounds otherwise outlandish. In fact, things went so smoothly that the temporary help turned into a full-time job.

"I became a cook and later, sous chef," says Ewa, now sous chef at Etz Chayim for a decade.

"I took her under my wing and taught her well," Bogie says, and Ewa agrees.

"He taught me a lot, and I learned fast. I read many professional cookbooks, too," she says, adding that she learned more about baking and developed some recipes.

"I like working with recipes, and I'm constantly learning," she says. "There is always something new."

Before coming to work at Etz Chayim, the couple earned some superb experience running the Valour Curling Club catering restaurant together.

"I learned a lot," Ewa says. "We did lots of parties there and at peoples' homes, and take out. It was hard work."

Culinary Transformation

The hard work paid off and together, Bogie and Ewa used their knowledge and experience to transform the Etz Chayim catering department.

"I brought the catering to a very high level and made a very good name here," Bogie says proudly. "People know, when they come here, they'll get good food."

Ewa, who enjoys any kitchen work, took special interest in baking and taught herself to be an expert.

"It's my adventure with cooking. I like trying different decorations, bringing in new recipes, being creative," she says, adding that she loves being challenged in the kitchen.

"I can't call myself a pastry chef," she says (though by technical standards, she is one), "because I taught myself, I didn't complete baking and pastry arts education."

"But I manage this part of the job," Ewa says with confidence. She knows she's good.

Ewa also transformed the Etz Chayim kitchen by eliminating nuts, a common allergen, from Etz Chayim baking.

"Nuts add to the taste when you bake with them," she acknowledges. "But I developed something else. Instead of nuts, I bring something else into the recipe. They come out very well, and people are happy."

Bogie says, "we are very cautious about allergies. Each menu is made from scratch," so they can easily cater to clients' preferences and dietary requests (gluten free, nut free, Celiac friendly, Diabetic friendly, vegetarian, vegan, or other).

Keeping Things Unique

Etz Chayim catering often follows European style and "everybody likes it," Bogie says. He's not overly interested

Kosher Catering Service

Congregation Etz Chayim Catering offers a variety of Kosher Shabbat, Kiddush, dinner, and party menus. We also cater home events, office meetings, shiva meals, and more. Let us know how we can help you: (204) 589-6305.

Dreams, goals, and aspirations for the new year.

RKR: Rabbi Kliel Rose, CEC Rabbi since August 2018

CTKG: Cantor Tracy Kasner Greaves, CEC Cantor since 2004

MAR: Mary Ann Rosenbloom, CEC Board Member since 2015

SS: Shelley Sklover, CEC Funeral Coordinator since 2010

Shoresh: What are your Rosh Hashanah resolutions—personal, community-related, professional, or spiritual goals for 5779?



Photos: Taya Rtichsheva

in what other Winnipeg caterers do—except to ensure he’s doing something different.

“We try to be different. This is what I serve here; over there, they have another thing. When people come here, for the most part, they love it,” he says, offering his homemade turkey roll as example.

“Everybody knows my turkey roll. You can’t buy this anywhere, especially kosher,” he says proudly, describing his process of deboning a whole turkey, separating the white meat from the dark, rolling leg and breast together, and cooking it.

Bogie loves trying new and different cuisine—from European, to Israeli, to Oriental, to East Indian.

“We can even do butter chicken. We don’t use cream, but we can use coconut milk, and it’s very good,” he says.

“And if not coconut milk,” Ewa jumps in (because some people are allergic) “you can use soya milk. We look for substitutes.”

Indeed, being a chef is more than cooking and baking, say the couple, who have two grown children, Bartosz and Sara.

It’s also about knowing how to adapt, substitute, be spontaneous and innovative, and solve problems quickly, Bogie says. This means “being in control and knowing how to fix things,” he adds, offering, as example, an entire pot of gravy falling onto the floor just as dinner is about to be served (with no particular reference in mind).

“You have to be a good chef to know how to fix this in just a few minutes,” Bogie laughs.

The Future of Etz Chayim Catering

Bogie and Ewa expect to put more energy into Etz Chayim home-catering in coming years.

“Home catering will be our future,” Bogie forecasts, describing one example in mind: an Etz Chayim-catered Shabbat dinner, for about twenty.

“But if somebody orders for six people, we won’t say no,” Ewa is quick to add, mentioning that Etz Chayim catering already offers takeout.

“We’ll be working to develop the takeout menu more, Bogie says. “Everyone does Skip the Dishes now; hopefully people will start ordering from us too.” ■



RKR: I’d like to open myself up to meaningful dialogue and experiences with my new congregation; I hope people feel comfortable letting me in to some of those sacred spaces. I’d also like to bring the congregation to a place where we are representing Judaism at its very best, and help people understand that you don’t have to be a rabbi or cantor to do that. We can lead the way in creating greater equality and tolerance in our society by speaking from that Jewish perspective.



CTKG: I’d like to return to studying the impact of music to enhance services and our ability to pray. I have always been fascinated by the power of music and its ability to change the feeling in the room. We have a participatory congregation and I often feel the camaraderie through the music. I hope to expand the congregation’s repertoire, add new versions of songs or prayers without taking away from the feeling of nostalgia attached to the music.



MAR: I want to continue helping our synagogue move forward within our strategic plan. I see great potential with our new clergy team and planned programming. I feel it is especially important for us to be recognized as a caring community; focusing my efforts there and on programming will be a priority for me.



SS: During the High Holidays, I reflect on how fortunate and grateful I am to have a kind, supportive family and good friends, who lovingly care for each other through happy and difficult times. In both my personal and professional life, I strive to treat others with dignity, kindness, and compassion; and to listen, while doing my best to return support and kindness. I remember that humour brings joy and happiness to people we love. ■

Communal Prayer

The Mitzvah of Daily *Minyan*

For generations, Jews have congregated each morning and every evening in a *minyan*, a quorum of 10 adults. A *minyan* is necessary to fulfill certain mitzvot (commandments), according to Jewish law; without a *minyan* we cannot recite prayers like the *Barechu* and the *Kaddish* aloud, nor can we read from the Torah.

Although we may pray alone, Jews are encouraged to pray communally. Observance of *minyans* over thousands of years has helped keep Jewish communities together in isolated areas. Observing *minyan* at death and during mourning ensures grievers are surrounded by community.

Merrill Shulman began attending regular *minyan* services after his mother died, more than 20 years ago.

“Daily *minyan* is a wonderful process for dealing with grief and building community,” he says. “I found it very therapeutic, an important part of getting over losing my mother.”

Reeva Abrams (above) became a regular *minyanaire* after her father died in 1993. She agrees that daily *minyan* can be therapeutic in grief.

“Observing *shiva*, *shloshim*, and 11 months of *Kaddish* as part of a community help tremendously in the healing process,” she says.

Counting Women

Traditionally, only men were counted in a *minyan*, a requirement that

perpetuates today in more traditional streams of Judaism. Within egalitarian *shul* communities like Congregation Etz Chayim, however, women are counted as part of a *minyan*.

Reeva spent two years saying *Kaddish* for her parents in the '90s, when egalitarianism was but a budding concept at Etz Chayim—first, for her father; shortly after, for her mother.

“Having gone to *minyan* for two years when I was not counted and having felt the experience of healing that a *shul* community can provide, I took it upon myself to continue to go once a week.” She encouraged her friends to do the same.

“I understand the importance of making sure anyone who is saying *Kaddish* has a *minyan*, so I became part of the regular *minyan*.” Reeva rarely misses a Thursday morning *minyan* at Etz Chayim, and she attends occasional Wednesday evening services at the Simkin Centre, and often on Shabbat morning.

“I always attend when I have a *yahrzeit*,” she adds.

Once the year of saying *Kaddish* for his mother had passed, Merrill also continued attending regular *minyans*.

“After a year of attending services and becoming engaged in the synagogue, it doesn't take long to realize that the daily *minyan* is the backbone of the

synagogue. It is the daily *minyan* that gives the synagogue its distinct reason for existing.”

Building Community

Attending daily *minyan* is also a good way to get to know the synagogue community, Merrill says, and he has built many a relationship that way.

“The breakfast after the morning service is a wonderful opportunity for conversation,” he says, adding, “we're always looking for one more. So, when you attend a *minyan* and you haven't

The daily *minyan* is the backbone of the synagogue. It is the daily *minyan* that gives the synagogue its distinct reason for existing.

been there often, be prepared to be adopted.”

Bruce Granove agrees that the social aspect becomes part of the *minyanaire* experience, but he makes it clear that this isn't his reason for going. His motivation is more about contributing to his community than about socializing.

“I go to *minyans* to help make a *minyan*,” he says plainly, “so that when people have to say *Kaddish*, hopefully there are 10 people, and they can.”

To help make regular *minyans* at the weekly Wednesday evening Simkin Centre service, Bruce took things one step further.

“I play Hearts Wednesday nights,” says Bruce, who attends morning and evening *minyan* six days a week.

“So, I talked the guys into coming to the Wednesday evening *minyan* before the card game.”

Growing Familiarity

Merrill was not a regular *shul* attendee before his year of *Kaddish* for his mother.

“I was a typical three-days-a-year attendee. I'd gone to Talmud Torah and could read Hebrew, but I had no real understanding and I'd forgotten more than I'd learned,” he says.



“When I started attending regularly, it was picking something up from my past, and I found that satisfying.”

With time, Merrill realized he was capable of leading a prayer service.

“On one occasion, a leader didn’t show up. I had never lead before, and I remember saying, ‘if you’re prepared to stay until tomorrow morning (because it’ll take me that long to go through the service) I’m prepared to give it a try.’ That was how it started.”

During the year of mourning for his mother, Merrill was asked to lead the weekly Wednesday evening service—which he has been doing now for more than 20 years. More recently, when the Wednesday evening service moved to the Simkin Centre, as a south-end of Winnipeg alternative for Etz Chayim members to pray, Merrill moved too.

Now that he can comfortably lead a service, he is proud to be called upon, occasionally, to lead *shivah* services.

“It’s a wonderful opportunity to participate in something like that.”

Reeva also noticed her davening abilities improve over time.

“When I first started going, I didn’t believe anyone could read Hebrew fast enough to get through the entire *Amidah* in the time allotted. Now, I have accomplished this.”

“Learning is a process,” she adds, “and repetition is helpful. Familiarity comes with time.”

Observing daily attendance decreasing, Merrill is concerned that daily *minyan* is in jeopardy.

“There is no substitute,” he says. “If people are not attending daily *minyan*, they are losing something integral to Jewish identity.”

For more information about daily *minyan*, contact Cantor Tracy: (204) 589-6305, ext. 229. ■

MEMBER NEWS & LIFE-CYCLE EVENTS

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS

JULY

Sharna Berman, Jerry Klein, Joan Kraitberg, Sharon Labinsky, Bert Schaffer, Frank Shiffman, Andrea Slusky, Harold Stone, Faye Tessler, Lynn Wolfe, Mara Zylberman

AUGUST

Wendy Daien, Claudia Griner, Susan Greenberg, Susan Kahanovitch, Adeena Lunger, Jerry Rubin, Zalmen Shuster

SEPTEMBER

Carey Boroditsky, Harriet Boroditsky, Roberta Cantor, Gina Chodirker, Jerry Davis, Margaret Kasner, Gerald Levin, Sheldon Ostrove, Judith Putter, Steven Raber, Sheryl Rosenberg, Emily Shane, Ilana Simon, Sidney Wolchock

OCTOBER

Reeva Abrams, Richard Boroditsky, Maxine Chamish, Alan Daien, Sima Feuer, Arnold Frieman, Karen Gall, Murray Hyman, Beverly Jesierski, Carol Levin, Cindy Pasternak, Susan Permut, Clarice Rayter, Colette Rubin, Elana Schultz, Nikki Spigelman

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

JULY

Asnat and Ben Gall (55); Maylene and Israel Ludwig (45); Carol and Mark Tolchinsky (45); Ilana Abrams and Steven Hyman (15)

AUGUST

Miriam and Phil Maltz (60); Terri Lee and John Farber (50); Shayna and Merrill Shulman (50); Andrea and Sid Hochman (40); Nata and Avery Spigelman (40); Jackie and Paul Winestock (35); Rebecca Cramer and Mark Binder (25); Cindy and Craig Pasternak (20); Na’ama and Joel Samphir (15); Leigh and Steven Raber (10)

SEPTEMBER

Rochelle and Jack Litvack (55); Sandy and Murray Hyman (50); Joan and Larry Kraitberg (25).

OCTOBER

Elana and Myron Schultz (25)

IN MEMORIAM

Norman Adelberg
Louis Cogan
Shirley Drabinsky
Bryan Hershfield
Sarah (Sukie) Pitch
Walter Saltzberg
Jodi Swire
Nathan Werner

MAZEL TOVS

Alyssa and Rhianna Cohen (daughters of Sandy and Robert Cohen) on their Manitoba Music Festival awards.

Jennifer and Ian Dimerman on the Bar Mitzvah of son Sam, September 22.

Heather and Jordan Farber on the birth of daughter Ann Eugenie.

Terri Lee and John Farber on the birth of granddaughter Ann Eugenie.

Nomi Feuer, Nesya Greaves, Ethan Levene, Jillian Roitenberg, and Justin Segall, on their achievements in the Canadian National Math League.

Arnold Frieman on receiving an honorary Doctorate of Law from U of M.

Serky Goldberg on receiving the Max and Mollie Shore Memorial Award (Jewish Federation Kavod Evening, May 17).

David Kideckel (son of Howard Kideckel) on his new position as Director, Institutional Equity Research and Head of Healthcare and Biotechnology, Beacon Securities.

Sharon and Benson Labinsky on the Bat Mitzvah of granddaughter Bracha.

Marla and Adam Levene on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Ethan, November 3.

Sherril and David Levene on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson Ethan, November 3.

Bernice Marmel on receiving the Order of Manitoba.

Ike Permut z”l on receiving the Gwen Sectar Creative Living Centre Award (JF Kavod Evening).

Jane Reider for her nomination to WLCJ Intra Continental Region Membership Chair.

Amy and Daniel Samphir on the Bar Mitzvah of son Coby, September 29.

Coby Samphir on winning the Junior Chemistry Award and Gold Medal in chemistry at Manitoba Science Symposium.

Esther and Marvin Samphir on the Bar Mitzvah of grandson Coby, September 29.

Alissa Schacter and Michael Conner on the Bar Mitzvah of son Jonah, May 26.

Rebby and Alan Schacter on the Bar Mitzvah of grandson Jonah, May 26.

Elaine and Bert Schaffer on the birth of grandson, Zev Liam.

Emily Shane on receiving the Larry Hurtig Jewish Communal Professional Award (JF Kavod Evening).

Mimi and Earl Singer on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson Ethan, November 3.

Nata and Avery Spigelman on the birth of grandson Connor Spigelman.

Fritzi Telpner on the birth of great granddaughter Ann Eugenie.

Michael Weinstein on receiving the Shem Tov Award – B’nai Brith Camp (JF Kavod Evening).



Congregation Etz Chayim Funeral and Cemetery Services

Congregation Etz Chayim provides funeral services at the synagogue, graveside, or at Chesed Shel Emes community funeral chapel.

Etz Chayim also operates three cemeteries: Bnay Abraham, Hebrew Sick Benefit, and Rosh Pina Memorial Park.

For help, please contact Etz Chayim Funeral Director Shelley Sklover: (204) 589-6305 ext. 214 or ssklover@etzchayim.ca.

The Mitzvah of the Volunteer Pallbearer

Serving as a pallbearer is a final mitzvah we can offer a person (or their family) in death, a symbol of personal tribute to the deceased. At a Jewish funeral, six Jewish pallbearers are needed to carry the casket.

But not everyone can find six Jews for pallbearers, says Shelley Sklover, Funeral Coordinator for Congregation Etz Chyaim. So, Shelley has a list of names she turns to when volunteer pallbearers are needed.

"That request is made more often than people think," she says.

Shelley can usually count on Howard Kideckel (past President, Etz Chyaim), who says he has volunteered as a pallbearer for 12 or 13 years.

"I could not think of a reason I shouldn't do it, nor a reason I *wouldn't* help when I was needed," says Howard, about his reason for volunteering.

"It's not easy to find the six, especially on short notice, and that's when we're called," he adds. And he is happy to oblige.

"I feel good that I'm helping the family when they need it," he says.

Shelley explains that although Etz Chyaim. is egalitarian, the Chesed Shel Emes (*Chevra Kadisha*, or Jewish Burial Society of Winnipeg) is not. Thus, at the Chesed, only male Jews can serve as pallbearers.

"The Chesed is for everybody in the community. They are the starting point, so we honour the highest level of orthodoxy," Shelley says.

Once the procession arrives at the cemetery or Etz Chyaim, a woman can be a pallbearer, so Shelley accepts both male and female names for her list.

To have your name added, please email Shelley: ssklover@etzchayim.ca; or call 204-589-6305, ext. 214. ■

Comfort is always in Style

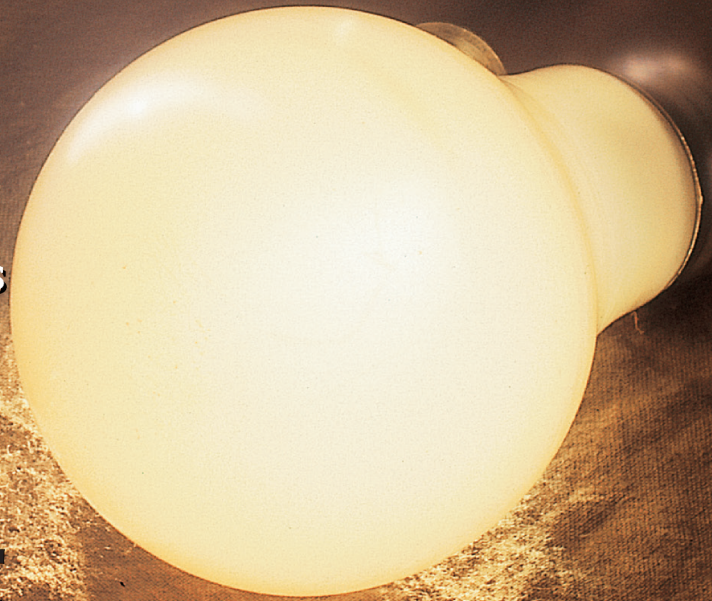
Visit our showroom to view an exceptional selection of coats, jackets, slippers and accessories.

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SHEEPSKIN



250 Dufferin Ave Winnipeg MB Canada R2W 5J1 1-204-586-8097 info@lambskin.com www.worldofsheepskin.com

plug
into the
SOURCE
for all your lighting needs



MANITOBA'S LARGEST LIGHTING STORE

Visit our newly expanded state of the art showroom located at 1040 Waverley Street

www.superlite.com

8 LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU!

The only Jewish family
owned & operated
Insurance Brokerage
in Manitoba

autopac

A Manitoba Public Insurance product



REIDER
INSURANCE

*** Investment Properties**

*** Homeowners**

*** Commercial Business**

📍 Corydon at Cockburn - 204.284.5142

📍 Garden City Square - 204.338.3888

📍 Madison Square - 204.885.3200

📍 Weston Square - 204.775.7385

📍 Munroe Shopping Centre - 204.663.3881

📍 Northgate Shopping Centre - 204.334.4319

📍 University of Manitoba - 204.261.9016

📍 Rosenort, MB - 204.746.8411

<http://reider.ca/>



M. C. De Landes

Monuments & Memorials Inc.

927 Main St Winnipeg

204 - 947 - 3712

mcd@mcdelandes.ca www.mcdelandes.ca

WE SPECIALIZE IN ON - SITE CEMETERY INSCRIPTIONS

אֵת נִצְבֵי הַ

SERVICING WINNIPEG'S JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1938