



February 4th, 2024

I am excited to announce that we have officially welcomed the members of the executive committee of the Southern Georgian Bay Jewish Community. These members are graciously volunteering and committing their time to helping develop and implement all of the programming and events that are soon to be offered to all of you. I am grateful to be extending a warm welcome to all of the executive board members whose contributions are essential to our future successes.

Peter Seligman (Vice-Chair)

Dr. Michael Feldman

Monique Szigeti

Cindy Chisvin

Dr. Rebecca Henry

Amanda Levine

David Yanowsky

We also have a beautiful new logo for the SGBJC that was designed by our very own Monique Szigeti. You can check it out on line (SGBJC.ca) or at the top of our newsletters.

Please take some time to answer a few questions that we are sending your way in the form of an online survey included in this email. Your information will be kept strictly confidential but will allow us to glean some further insights into the interests, needs and wants of our members which will assist us in better curating our planned events.

As previously mentioned, on January 22nd, 2024, Michael and I presented at the Collingwood town council meeting our request for deposition to have a motion to officially adopt the IHRA's definition of antisemitism. At tomorrow's town council meeting they will be voting on a proposal to ask their staff to prepare a background report and recommendations regarding next steps for adopting the definition of antisemitism by the town of Collingwood.

I will also be making a deputation to the council for the Town of Blue Mountains this Monday morning with the same request, Clearview Township on February 12th 2024 and the Wasaga Beach Town council on February 29th, 2024. My hope is that this will be the first step from which we will continue to build on in order to create a greater sense of safety for all of us. If you are at all interested in attending these meetings in support or sending an email to your town council please check out their websites for more information regarding meetings or contacts.

Last Tuesday January 30th, 2024, Daniella Lurion from Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre (FSWC) for Holocaust Studies presented at the Collingwood Library in commemoration of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, a talk on “The Lessons and Legacies of the Holocaust”. What a wonderful opportunity to take a deeper dive into the subject and to share this with our local friends and neighbours. I am looking forward to more opportunities like these as they help to remind us all of the possible outcomes of such systemic hatred and the importance and need for our communities to stand together against hate of all kinds.

Finally, we are in search of a Judaica/Hebrew teacher for interested parents of children in our community. If you or someone you know would be able and interested in investing 2 hours a week (in person and in Collingwood) please let me know. We are working to put together much needed opportunities for all ages and stages and will be in touch with more details just as soon as we hear back from our survey!

Please stay tuned!

Rashell Feldman Chair and President