



June 12, 2026

A Note From Our Chair

It's almost summer and for those of us lucky enough to be living in the Southern Georgian Bay area, it's been a beautiful late spring. April showers brought to us May flowers and our beloved Mountain is once again a gorgeous vibrant green.

Last month we celebrated Jewish Heritage Month which has now been formally recognized by the Town of Collingwood. We raised a Jewish Heritage Month flag designed by our very own Ellen Oelbaum and our proclamation was read in honour of Jewish Heritage Month. We also partnered with the Town of Collingwood and the Collingwood Public Library to offer some children's cultural programming around the spirit of Shabbat, held our



SGBJC Newsletter Highlights

A NOTE FROM OUR
CHAIR

FLAG RAISING

NATE LEIPCIGER

"BE THE LIGHT"
CAMPAIGN

Shabbat Luncheon catered by the United Bakers Dairy and planned with Cindy Chisvin and Peter Seligman.



Our celebrations culminated with the amazing talk with Holocaust survivor Nate Leipziger. In collaboration with Bobby Koven, he explored his deeply moving personal story of survival in Auschwitz and Mauthausen, and what it takes to survive and how to be resilient even when faced with challenges in support of mental health awareness. What a fabulous event and opportunity to share some important insights that have the power to help all of us navigate all types of challenges we may be facing in life.



"Life is for the living. You have to go on, and make the best you can out of your present situation and utilize your tools."

— Nate Leipziger

SGBJC Newsletter Highlights

JEWISH HERITAGE
MONTH IN REVIEW

SHABBAT LUNCHEON

NATE LEIPCIGER

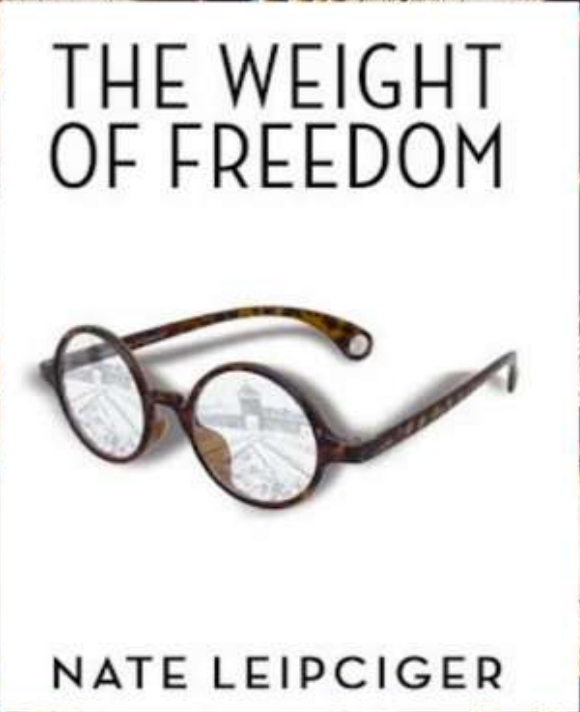
"BE THE LIGHT"
CAMPAIGN

We also had a wonderful showcase in the Collingwood town hall window during the middle of May highlighting some prominent Jewish people throughout Canadian history. Considering Jewish people make up approximately 0.2% of the global population and only about 1% of the overall Canadian population, it was noteworthy that so many Jewish people have made significant contributions to Canada and society over the years. We as Jewish people have much to celebrate and be proud of in terms of the ways in which we have given back to the general well-being of the societies in which we have lived. I hope you had a chance to check out the video made by Peter Seligman and Naomi Raponi while walking downtown, but if not we will be sure to post this online.

Next up is our book club meeting happening on Wednesday June 17th 2026 at 7pm upstairs at the Huron Club on Pine Street.

BOOK CLUB MEETING

THE WEIGHT OF FREEDOM



NATE LEIPCIGER

Nate Leipziger, a thoughtful, shy eleven-year-old boy, is plunged into an incomprehensible web of ghettos, concentration and death camps during the German occupation of Poland. As he struggles to survive, he forges a new, unbreakable bond with his father and yearns for a free future. But when he is finally liberated, the weight of his pain will not ease, and his memories remain etched in tragedy. Introspective, complicated and raw, *The Weight of Freedom* is Nate's journey through a past that he can never leave behind.

SGBJC Newsletter Highlights

JEWISH HERITAGE
MONTH IN REVIEW

TOWN HALL DISPLAY

BOOK CLUB

Coming soon: This summer we are working on the launch of our “Be The Light” campaign. The central Jewish concept of “Tikkun Olam” means that we each have a responsibility to improving society and pursuing social justice in our communities. We will be looking for volunteers to help us launch our “Be The Light” campaign with the goal of increasing local awareness of people in need within our own communities and partnering with those interested in helping with charitable organizations looking for additional supports. If this sounds like something you might be interested in being a part of please email us at shalom@sbgjc.ca.

So much is being worked on behind the scenes including fortifying our alliances with supporting organizations, government, and the Simcoe County District School Board to help combat the dramatic rise of antisemitism in Canada since 2023. Now more than ever is it essential that we as Jewish people come together and get involved, stay positive and operate strategically and as a community. Stand up, speak out and be proud. Let us not succumb to the pressures created by hate movements dressed as social activism and false moral superiority. Let us advocate in honour of what is right and just, knowing that we aren’t just defending ourselves but that we are also fighting for the basic rights and dignities of everyone. History teaches that what starts with the Jews never ends with the Jews.

Looking forward to reaching out soon with more opportunities to be together and to enjoy one another as well as the beautiful weather this coming summer!

Rashell Feldman
Chair, Southern Georgian Bay Jewish Community

SGBJC Newsletter Highlights

“BE THE LIGHT”
CAMPAIGN

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY

SUMMER IS HERE
