



April 17, 2024

A note from our Chair

Passover seems to land differently this year with all that has happened over in Israel and around the world since October 7th, 2023. A holiday meant to celebrate our freedom from oppression and antisemitism told through a cautionary tale of redemption and ending with the wisdom of “let us not forget” and “next year in Jerusalem” now more than ever seems like an eerie combination of sound advice and foreshadowing passed on from generational wisdom.

I am sure I am not alone in feeling how ironic the famous lines of “never again” and “let my people go” are to us this year. Just as we are about to retell the ancient story of the Exodus from Egypt, we are again fighting for our right to exist and our right for safety and freedom. This familiar concept of hate for Jews in conjunction with the strength and miraculous ability of our people to defeat these evil forces that seek to eliminate us are once again playing out all over the world but mainly in our homeland of Israel.

With over 130 hostages still in captivity, some have suggested a small modification to our traditional seders. One way to symbolize our sorrow we are feeling from the loss of our missing people, and the feeling that we are collectively incomplete, might be to start the seder with 2 pieces of matzah at the table instead of the usual 3. This was once suggested by the Vilna Gaon, Rabbi Eliyahu Ben Shlomo Zalman, as symbolic of the deprivation of the Jews. This year it symbolizes the missing piece of us. Of course, this is just a suggestion and whatever feels right for you and your family is always the best option.

I feel an overwhelming sense of optimism that something great will come from these tragic events of late. More than ever do I feel a sense of pride in being part of such a remarkable group of people who have shown such immense strength, perseverance, adaptability and unity in our shared fight against antisemitism.

-- Rashell Feldman

SGBJC

Newsletter Highlights

A NOTE FROM OUR CHAIR

COMMUNITY UPDATES

UPCOMING EVENTS

GET INVOLVED

STAY IN TOUCH!

Community updates

Defining antisemitism

We're excited to share that the town of Wasaga Beach and Collingwood have now officially adopted the IHRA's definition of antisemitism and Blue Mountains and Clearview Townships are in the consideration process! Over the next 4 weeks, Rashell will be presenting to the City of Orillia, the Town of Owen Sound and Simcoe County. She has also recently met with MPP Brian Saunderson and we have received his support in our on going efforts to address matters locally as well as provincially. We won't slow down in our mission to build our presence in the Southern Georgian Bay Area, and insist on our right to be recognized and properly treated. Our hope is that, by doing this, we will increase both our community influence and overall sense of safety for all members of our Jewish community.



Pesach Prep



Our kids group learned all about Passover this Sunday and had tons of fun baking matzah brittle and matzah pizza, playing Passover Bingo, reading a kid-friendly version of the Haggadah, singing Ma Nishtanah, making ten plagues finger puppets, and even making their own seder plates! It was a fun-filled day and now everyone is ready for the seders.

Huge thank you to Monique and Rashell for organizing such a wonderful and educational activity for the little ones.





Do you and your family have plans for the second seder (April 23)? Do you have room to host people at your seder? Whether you have a few extra places, or are looking to join a family, click on the link below.

[Complete this form!](#)

*While we aren't planning a seder, we are happy to help connect & coordinate members of the community. If you have any questions email rashell.feldman@icloud.com.

Upcoming Events

Presented by:



Pesach Shtick!

Passover inspired cocktail & sweet treats!

Come for the Shtick, stay for the Schmooze.

April 28, 2024
Time: 7pm - 9pm EST
Tickets: \$20 + tax
49 Bruce St S, Thornbury.

SUN APR 28 | 7-9 PM EST

Pesach Shtick & Shmooze

Come for the shtick, stay for the shmooze! The SGBJC, in partnership with Lovebird Brewing and Misfits Hospitality, present the first of many Shticks, an evening at Lovebird with a little learning and a lot of libations and fun. Tickets are \$20 and include some traditional Pesach treats and a welcome cocktail. This is a 19+ event.

[Save your spot!](#)

SUNDAY APRIL 28 | 10 AM EST

Tikkun Olam

It's Earth Day at the end of the month and we'd love to practice Tikkun Olam by participating in The Town of Blue Mountain's Pitch In Week.

- **What to bring:** Gloves, garbage bags and a Ziplock (for cigarette butts)
- **Meeting spot:** The Ice Shop across from Sunset Park

Hope to see you there!



Get Involved & Stay Connected

Have your voice heard

Rashell is in contact with our local MPP and some of the mayors to discuss the concerns we have and the struggles we are facing combatting antisemitism in the area.

If you or your family have anything you would like to share for Rashell to surface at the meetings, please send let us know so she can continue her efforts to represent us as a community in our collective interest.

Volunteer with us!

For anyone interested in lending a hand or volunteering along with us please feel free to email us and let us know what type of activity or event you'd be interested in.

Activities and events could include:

- Educational events
- Community outreach/volunteering
- Shabbat and holiday events
- Kid's programming
- Bar and Bat Mitzvah prep

**Email us at atshalom@sbgjc.ca if you'd like to get involved!
And follow us on social media.**

Connect with us on social media

