



Beth Shalom Synagogue

A Welcoming Shul for All!

Bulletin

January 2024 /Tevet-Shevat, 5784

Beth Shalom Synagogue Bulletin www.edmontonbethshalom.org

Tu B'Shevat Celebration at Beth Shalom Sunday, January 21

- Pre-Purim Costume swap- launch (info for drop- off boxes, and more info, in the registration)
- Heal a houseplant - with Cheyenne, Horticulturalist
- PJ Library Tu B'Shvat activities
- Plant with JNF
- Explore and taste Tu B'Shvat foods, and their significance
- Lorax movie, wine tasting, cash snack bar and much more

Tune in for more information



The "Bissell" Lunch, December 24th , 2023

The Inner City Pastoral Ministry (ICPM) has served lunch every Sunday since 1978 to the people of Edmonton's inner city. Different churches take turns through the year, supplying the food and servers.

In the mid 1990's we found out that the Sunday before Christmas was the most difficult one for which to find volunteers, and the Jewish community stepped up. For the first few years we prepared everything at Beth Shalom (BS), and then developed a different method, with individuals making sandwiches at home. COVID put an end to that.

Thanks to the generosity of BS and Temple Beth Ora (TBO) we handed out 200 bag lunches on December 24. A wonderful new addition this year was that 7 kids from TBO's B'nai Mitzvah class assembled the bags at one family's house. They created an assembly line to stuff the 200 lunch bags with a juice box, a protein bar, a tuna or chicken snack, cheese strings, a bag of chips and hand warmers. They made quick work of it while having fun! The class and their parents then took time to visit over snacks.

Before COVID we would supply 15 servers for the lunch, often teens and their parents, so this is a welcome return to family involvement.

The ICPM Sunday service was an interfaith event, with Indigenous Knowledge Keeper Verna and her family offering prayers, teachings and a smudge. Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church sent two volunteers and made a connection with a local restaurant that sent box lunches. "Our" food items can last several days so everything worked out very well.

Huge thanks to Tony R., Shelley W. and Bruce B. for handing out food and drink, and Linda H. for once again donating and delivering oranges and bananas.

For the first time ever we are short a few hundred dollars, it's not too late to be part of this important mitzvah. Donations sent to BS will receive a tax receipt.

Submitted by Netta Phillet (see page # 6 for more information)

Candle Lighting Time on Fridays:



January 5	4:12 pm
January 12	4:22 pm
January 19	4:34 pm
January 26	4:47 pm

*Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech Ha Olam,
Asher Kidshanu B'Mitzvotav Vitzevanu Lehadlik
Ner Shel Shabbat. Blessed art Thou, O Lord our
God, Sovereign of the Universe, Who has sanctified
us by Thy commandments, and has commanded
us to kindle the Sabbath lights.*

Shabbat Services: Shacharit 9:30 am

January 6	Shemot
January 13	Vayera
January 20	Bo
January 27	Beshalach

Weekday Morning

Minyans:

Sunday at 9:00 am

<https://bit.ly/2yE4EyR>

Monday to Friday at 8:00 am

<https://bit.ly/352FIIT>

Minyans on civic holidays are
at the usual time.



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Update

The Rabbi search committee has been hard at work over the last month. We are pleased to share that at the beginning of October we submitted the required documents to the USCJ/RA placement commission to officially start our search. It is still early and we look forward to receiving applications over the coming weeks.

The committee has also met about how to ensure your voice is heard as part of the Rabbi search process. We plan on having a formal opportunity for our membership to be heard in January. Please stay tuned for more information. In the meantime, please feel free to reach out to either of us, or your board, to share any thoughts or ideas you may have.

Erica Solomon & Steven Katz

erica.solomon@gmail.com

katz.steven2@gmail.com



*Beth Shalom caters life
cycle events, private
and all synagogue events*

Potato Knishes	Honey Cake
Onion,	Apple Cake
Mushroom, or	Coffee Cake
Cheese Kugels	Kuffles
Potato or	Kamish
Mushroom	Rollie Polly
Strudels	Assorted
Assorted Soups	Cookies
Perogies	Cabbage Rolls

*The Beth Shalom philosophy is to provide high
quality kosher food at reasonable costs*

For more information please contact Helena at
780.4886333/301 or info@e-bethshalom.org

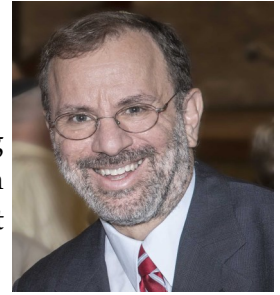


Join the conversation in our special Facebook
group, open only to Beth Shalom members, at
facebook.com/groups/BethShalomEdmonton

Over 100 Beth Shalom members are
in the group!

January 2024/Tevet-Shevat, 5784

A Message from your Rabbi, Steven Schwarzman



You may have seen the meme going around each year around now that says something like "New Year? We did that three months ago". Of course, the Jewish year starts in Tishrei, more or less in September. So when the civil calendar starts over in January, what might be a good way for us Jews to mark the occasion?

On the one hand, it's not our holiday. The Romans, who invented this calendar, were not our friends. On the other hand, it's what most of the world uses, and for most people, it has lost any religious significance and is now mostly a secular day.

All in all, the beginning of a new secular year can serve, if we allow it to, as a reminder to reflect on how well we are doing as human beings and specifically as Jewish human beings. We all did a lot of reflecting on that in Tishrei, as we do each year. But whatever its origins, the beginning of a new secular year can also serve as a prompt to think about whether we are really investing our time and energy where we should be.

And all the more so in this existential moment in Jewish history, when Israel continues its fight for the safety of all its citizens and we here in Canada are forced to consider our own safety and sense of belonging in the face of public displays of hatred to Jews and Israel.

So, give some thought, as part of a periodic spiritual checkup, to how you really want to spend your time as compared with how you're actually spending it. We should all live till 120, in good health, but life, in this world at least, is finite. If there's a gap between what we know we ought to be doing and what we're actually doing, this is as good a time as any to remedy that.

Enjoy winter, whether here in Edmonton or in warmer places!

Rabbi Steven Schwarzman

BAR/BAT To B'nai Mitzvah
MITZVAH Parents: Please make
sure we receive the
article and photo of your child as soon
as possible! This will help us to ensure
their information is available in the ap-
propriate monthly bulletin. Thank You!

B'Nei Mitzvah Class 10:00am held on Sundays
on Zoom [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83893994219?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83893994219?pwd=ZHO5SUhyUGZ6MHUxTitob1ptOTJnOT09)
[pwd=ZHO5SUhyUGZ6MHUxTitob1ptOTJnOT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83893994219?pwd=ZHO5SUhyUGZ6MHUxTitob1ptOTJnOT09)

And we'll also be on Zoom as we are every day except Shabbat,
so the minyan regulars and anyone else can join us at
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85075108038?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85075108038?pwd=S3pFUWxpaS9pTW5EWHh5THNSVDZyQT09)
[pwd=S3pFUWxpaS9pTW5EWHh5THNSVDZyQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85075108038?pwd=S3pFUWxpaS9pTW5EWHh5THNSVDZyQT09)

January 2024/Tevet-Shevat, 5784

A Message from your President, Dr. Michael Alpern

Wishing you and yours a healthy, safe, and happy 2024.



It's challenging to think positively about the future and to be happy while, in Israel, the traumas, sadness, loss of young lives, and the fate of hostages continues to be unknown. However, as I stated in my November report, while the memory of the murders and atrocities that occurred on October 7, 2023, will never and must never be forgotten, out of this darkness, our Kehila unites with Jews around the world in supporting the people of Israel. Long may the names be remembered of those murdered, taken hostage, and those killed in the battle against the evil called Hamas, and long may the lights of unity and solidarity in and for Israel shine. **Am Yisrael Chai.**

Shirley Goldberg z"l.

It is with extreme sadness that I record the recent passing of our matriarch, Shirley Goldberg. For over half a century, first as Beth Shalom's rebbetzin and subsequently as one of our Kehila's most Judaically informed congregants, Shirley was Beth Shalom's Jewish conscience and the Edmonton Jewish community's humourist.

During her many years in Edmonton, spiritual leaders changed several times, and each was nourished by Shirley's intellect, knowledge and, of course, her exemplary Kosher cooking and hospitality. Shirley was a "giver". She gave with her heart, her soul, and her chequebook in supporting Jews and Judaism regardless of denomination. Some have said, and I tend to agree, that Shirley's commitment and contribution to Judaism and to Edmonton Jewry was unmatched and may never again be matched. I shall miss her. Congregation Beth Shalom will miss her. The Edmonton Jewish community and its many organizations will miss her. But none should or will ever forget her. May the many memories of Shirley Goldberg, of blessed memory, be forever a blessing to and for us all.

USCJ 2023 General Assembly.

I recently attended via Zoom the General Assembly of our parent body, the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ). While there was minimal opportunity to engage with USCJ staff or other 100+ attendees, the theme of the assembly, "What once worked... does not now." resonated with my thoughts about our shul. When the recorded details of the general assembly have been published and are available on-line, I'll provide more details. However, in the interim, the presentations facilitated the following reflections about what Beth Shalom is and what we strive to be:

Beth Shalom's membership continues to be strong, however,
... our dues and donations revenue have been diminishing annually.

Beth Shalom is blessed to have a small but dedicated cohort of dedicated, regular service attendees, however,

... attendance at minyan, Shabbat, and High Holiday services is weak.

... new ways of engaging with members by providing meaningful and accessible Conservative Judaism need to be developed and implemented.

continued on page #5

January 2024/Tevet-Shevat, 5784

Beth Shalom, at its current location, has a justifiably proud 70+ years of tradition, however,
... to be sustainable, Beth Shalom needs a renewed focus on meeting the current and emergent needs of all our members not just on the committed few who regularly attend services
... as stated at the general assembly, "We need to take Judaism to where people are."

Beth Shalom's Board of Directors care deeply about the shul, however,
... the role of Board members needs to be revisited and new leaders with a futuristic vision need to be identified and encouraged to accept Board and Committee leadership roles.

Beth Shalom's vision and mission statements have not changed substantially in many years. While providing consistency and continuity, members' perceptions, and acceptance of organized religion as a critical part of their Jewish life, has changed significantly, therefore,
... to be sustainable, Beth Shalom needs to have a new or at least a renewed focus on making Conservative Judaism more meaningful and accessible especially to the younger cohort among our members and to the youth who will hopefully be the future synagogue attendees and leaders of Conservative Judaism in Edmonton.

...as noted at the general assembly, it is critical, for each shul to develop a new **value proposition** to present to current and potential members that will enhance both the meaning and benefits associated with membership and being actively engaged in our Kehila's prayer services, programs, and social activities.

Beth Shalom's AGM: March 10, 2024

The Shul's next Annual General Meeting is scheduled for 10:30am to Noon, Sunday, March 10. The AGM is the time when elections are held for your Board of Directors. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please contact Laurence Abbott, Nominations Committee Chair. If you have questions about the role and related responsibilities of a Board member, please contact Laurence or me. Members with previous Board membership/leadership experiences in Jewish or non-Jewish organizations are encouraged to consider becoming a member of the Beth Shalom Board of Directors. In 2024. As a member of the Board of Directors, you will help guide and shape the future of our Kehila.

As always, and at any time and on any topic, please share your thoughts and ideas by email or text about what we can collectively do to make Beth Shalom a more welcoming, engaging, spiritual, and sustainable community gathering place.

Email: president@edmontonbethshalom.org

Text: 780 953 5986

Toda raba,

Dr. Michael Alpern

Welcome!
ברוכים הבאים!

To our new members: Rayna Lew & Alon Faitelis

**Thank you for the following members for their donation
towards Bissel Centre Lunch on December 24th**

Rob & Erin Lerner	Shulamit Gil & Keith Dannaker	
Shari & Gary McNeil	David Mannes & Sandra Gitter-Mannes	
Carol & Ron Ritch	Shelley Weinstein & Bruce Bradley	
Gary Wolch & Mor Barzel	Magdalena Noe & Juan Manuel	
Norm & Roberta Hanson	Howie & Debbie Sniderman	
Abe & Karen Hering	Jon & Francie Nobleman	
Sharon Abbott	Susan Baram	Henk Deinum
Diana Ferreira	Judith Goldsand	Karen Gall
Linda Hartum		

*Thank
You* ♥



The costs associated with manufacturing **Yahrzeit Plaques** and maintaining the memorial boards in the sanctuary continue to climb. In turn, Edmonton Beth Shalom adjusts the fees we assess for the purchase of a yahrzeit plaque from time-to-time.

**Beth Shalom Short
Stories Reading Club**



in the Beth Shalom board- short stories by Philip Roth. They are **ELI THE FANATIC** and **THE CONVERSION of THE JEWS**. They are both thought-provoking stories and should make for an interesting discussion.

The Reading Club will reconvene on **Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 1:30**

room to discuss two early

Please mark the date on your calendar and join us.

Everyone is welcome. The links to the stories are below. If you have any questions, please contact me at pennyhardin@shaw.ca.

<https://www.commentary.org/articles/philip-roth/eli-the-fanatic-story/>

<https://www.theparisreview.org/fiction/4830/the-conversion-of-the-jews-philip-roth>

In 2022, we began inviting members who have purchased a yahrzeit plaque on our newest memorial board to make a \$180 donation to reserve one spot adjacent to the plaque just purchased, so that the only fees owing will be the cost for casting and shipping the additional plaque.

Going forward, in the interest of aligning the fee our office assesses for the purchase of yahrzeit plaques with the reservation fee introduced in 2022, Edmonton Beth Shalom will separate the fee assessed for the purchase of the plaques into two portions:

- The current cost of manufacturing each plaque – casting and shipping.
- A \$180.00 donation to Edmonton Beth Shalom Congregation to help offset the costs of maintaining the memorial boards in the sanctuary.

A charitable receipt will be issued for each portion of the fee.



**Gifts to RELLish
Judaica Shop**

**Judaica Shop Open:
Monday-Thursday
9:30am & 4:00pm;**

**New at the Shop!
2023-2024 calendar
diaries have finally
arrived!!!**

*** All cookbooks**

**Gift Registry available for
Weddings &
Bar/Bat Mitzvahs**

January 2024/Tevet-Shevat, 5784

Hannukah Celebration at Beth Shalom

Thank you for the following participants for their help in leading the celebration: Susan Baram; Jerry Katz; Paul Polushin; Bettina Schawrzman; Gaylene Soifer; & Members of BBYO!



January 2024/Tevet-Shevat, 5784

Happy Birthday!

Molly Collier
Tessa Gregson
Zoey Karasick-Acosta
Megan Rabinovitch
Marvin Bercovich
Alan Swerling
Diane Radnoff
Laurence Abbott
David Margolus
Ari Sniderman
Jayden Leung



Happy Anniversary!

Paul & Erin Silverman
Alan & Ruth Swerling
Martin & Fezula Grosh
Danny & Connie Zalmanowitz
Bruce Bradley & Shelley Weinstein



SHAREit

If you have a special occasion or accomplishment to share with the congregation please contact the office at 780-488-6333 ext. 301 or info@e-bethshalom.org



Advertising Beth Shalom welcomes advertising from members of our congregation and the community. Only business card size ads are accepted.

The cost is \$25.00 per issue or \$250.00 for a full year when paid for in advance. To arrange for an ad in the next Bulletin, please call the office at 780-488-6333, ext. 301.

Liad Wolch
Reeva Parker
Rayna Lew
Alyssa Katz
Karen Oshry
Sean Sonogo
Aliya Brick
Clive Oshry
Boris Plots
Lana Black
Faye Kay
Phillip Hardin
Heidi Oshry
Sharon Cohen

Supporting our Kiddush Lunch Fund:

It is customary to help sponsor our Kiddush Lunch to honour the memory of loved ones at the time of their Yahrzeit or in honour of a special occasion. Donations to the Kiddush Lunch Fund can be made online on our website or by contacting the office at 780.488.6333 ext. 301.

Tax receipts are provided. We are grateful for your ongoing support!



December 2 - Kiddush Lunch. Thank you for the donation to the Kiddush Fund by Judith Friedman in honour of Teen Shabbat; by Janice Richman & David Eisenstat in honour of the visitors from Parkland Baptist Church; & by Cheryl & Wayne Shur in honour of the members of the Reading Group.

December 9 - Kiddush Lunch. Thank you for the donation to the Kiddush Fund by Judith Goldsand in memory of her husband, George Goldsan; & by Judith Friedman in memory of her aunt, Ethel Benditt.

December 16 - Kiddush Lunch. Thank you for the donation to the Kiddush Fund by Sharon Abbott in memory of her father, Dr. Max Cantor; & by Anna Linetsky in memory of her grandmother, Sura Akselrod.

December 23 - Kiddush Lunch, sponsored by Trudy & Bill Dolman in honour of Trudy's special Birthday.

December 30 - Kiddush Lunch. Thank you for the donation to the Kiddush Fund by Carol & Ron Ritch in memory of Carol's mother, Dora Kettner; & by Netta & Frank Phillet.



A group of friends started a fund in memory of

Shirley Goldberg z"l.

The goal of the fund is to install a Yahrzeit plaque in the sanctuary.

Donations of \$30.00 will be greatly appreciated.

Yahrzeit Plaque Fund

A donation has been made towards a yahrzeit plaque in memory of Shirley Goldberg **From:** Shelley Weinstein & Bruce Bradley
Judith Goldsand
Howie & Debbie Sniderman
Jean & Aaron Oshry
Michael & Sylvia Alpern
Jerry & Miriam Katz
Netta & Frank Phillet
Henk Deinum

January 2024/Tevet-Shevat, 5784

TRIBUTE FUNDS

(Charitable tax receipts are sent out every year in February).

Todah Rabah, Mazal Tov, Get Well, Condolences	\$18.00
Yedlin Library	\$18.00 & up
Rabbi's Discretionary Fund	\$18.00 & up
Chai Fund	\$18.00 & up
Tree of Life	\$250.00
Sim Shalom Siddur Machzor/Lev Shalem Machzor	\$54.00
Etz Hayim Chumash	\$125.00
Building Improvement Fund	\$50.00 & multiples
Torah Restoration Fund	\$18.00 per letter/ \$36.00 per word

The Board of Directors & Congregation
offer their deepest condolences
to the following families:

The family of Shirley Goldberg on
the loss of Shirley z"l.

Sam Fialkow & Marilyn Shechter &
family on the loss of Sam's sister.

May their memory be a blessing

Condolences

To Jay & Dia Silver
on the loss of their mother &
grandmother

From: Cantor David Mannes &
Sandra Gitter-Mannes
Howie & Debbie Sniderman
Russ & Molly Albert

To Jane & Hersh Sobel
on the loss of Jane's step-mother,
Shirley Goldberg
From: Tulane Rollinger &
Lauren Gayle Pearson
Howie & Debbie Sniderman

To Norman Lyons
on the loss of his wife, Wendy
From: Phillip & Toni Gold

Torah Restoration Fund

A word has been inscribed
in memory of Solomon, Hanna,
Hans, Arnold & Jeanne de Groot
From: Henk Deinum

Condolences to the family of
Shirley Goldberg
A word has been inscribed in
memory of Shirley
From: Sharon Abbott
Marvin, Esther & Janet Karrel

Kiddush Fund

Condolences to the family of
Shirley Goldberg

A donation has been made
in memory of Shirley

From: Judy Eidelman
Rhoda Friedman
Eva & Sam Weiz & Joel Weisz
Judith Friedman

Condolences to Jane Sobel &
family
on the loss of Shirley Goldberg
From: Marilyn, Marvin &
Aaron Bercovich
Shirley & Aubrey Hyman
Carol Hollanger

A donation has been made
in memory of Paula's parents,
Alexander Zigmund & Bella
Weiss & aunt, Cecile Wechster
From: Paula Snyder

A donation has been made
in memory of Judith's mother-
in-law, Rose Goldsand
From: Judith Goldsand

New Small Torah Fund

A donation has been made by Jay & Dia Silver & family
In memory of their mother & grandmother, Shirley Goldberg

A donation has been made in memory
of Phyllis' grandmother, Chai Kranis &
Mel's brother, Morton Harold Wyne
From: Phyllis Nurgitz & Mel Wyne

Prayerbook Fund

Condolences to the family of Shirley
Goldberg
A Siddur has been dedicated in memory
of Shirley
From: Michael & Sylvia Alpern
Lauren & Geoff Sky
Dianne Marcovitch

An Etz Chayim Chumash has been
dedicated in memory of Shirley Goldberg
From: Howie & Debbie Sniderman

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

A donation has been made In memory of
Marilyn's father, Leon Krygier
From: Marilyn & Marvin Bercovich

Mazal Tov

To Cyril & Fay Kay on their 70th
Wedding Anniversary
From: Jean & Aaron Oshry

Beth Shalom M. Yedlin Memorial Library

LIBRARY NEW DONATION

The Life and Times of General Two-Gun

Cohen by Charles Drage

(review from Commentary Magazine, 1954)



*Our library is accessible to the entire community,
and beyond, during synagogue office hours:
Monday to Thursday between 9am & 4:30pm;
Fridays between 9am-2:30pm;
Closed Saturdays & Sundays.*

Please consult Netta Phillet about the donating to the library prior to bringing books to the library. Thank You!

In Taipeh, back in 1953, the new Old China Hands addressed him respectfully as General, while the real Old China Hands called him Morris (and sometimes Moishe). You could find him 'most any afternoon in the lounge of the Friends of China Club, a big, bland man, looking a bit like a statue of Buddha come to life and talking in a curious combination of Cockney and Canadian about days on the mainland now half-forgotten—about the revolutionaries and the war lords, the patriots and the puppets, the compradores and the Communists, the gun runners, the opium smugglers, the imperialists, the adventurers. There was always a crowd clustered about him, for the big, bland man had known them all; and he too, at one time or another, had been a revolutionary and a patriot, a gun runner and an adventurer. Those were legendary days—days of chaos, yet of hope—and he, too, was a legend.

Until his capture by the Japanese on Boxing Day 1941, Morris Abraham Cohen, a Jew born in the slums of Whitechapel, had been a general in the Chinese Army.

Charles Drage, a retired commander in the Royal Navy and a friend of Cohen's for thirty years...tells his story. It's a fabulous story, and Drage tells it best when he lets Cohen tell it, which, fortunately, is just about as often as possible.

Morris Abraham Cohen was born on August 3, 1889. His parents were immigrants from Poland. "They were an old-fashioned, strictly orthodox couple and they kept up all the old customs," Drage quotes him as saying. "When my mother married she sheared her hair and for the rest of her life she wore a wig, the *sheitel*. My father was the churchwarden, or *gabai*, of our synagogue and on Saturdays he would walk there along Commercial Road wearing his shiny top hat, his black cutaway coat, and low waistcoat which showed a fine expanse of white shirt. It was a sin for grownups to carry anything on the Sabbath and so I would walk beside him with the velvet bag that held his prayer shawl, the *tallis*; and when he met his friends and said '*Sholom*,' 'Peace be unto you,' in his deep voice, I felt very proud.

"By the time I was four I'd learned to play truant from home without being caught and I used to hang around Gardiner's Corner and watch the world go by. . . ."

Morris was an incorrigible. He graduated from truancy to stealing firewood, and from that to stirring up business for a glazier by throwing rocks through windows. ("He paid us a commission of a halfpenny on every pane he mended.") At eight, he was fighting professionally, under the name of "Cockney Cohen," in the People's Arcade and in the back of a blacksmith's shop. (He got two shillings for his first fight.) He stumbled into trouble with the police, and went straight for a time by acting as a shill for a streetcorner swindler named Harry the Gonof, who sold purses, but he didn't go straight for long. At ten, he was arrested as "a person suspected of attempting to pick pockets." He was committed to a reform school, the Hayes Industrial School, run by the Jewish Board of Guardians, the Spanish and Portuguese Congregations, and the United Synagogue.

continued on page #

January 2024/Tevet-Shevat, 5784

Morris was released from the reform school when he reached the age of sixteen, and his family sent him to work on a ranch in Western Canada with five sovereigns and this advice— “Always remember the words of the wise Rabbi Koretz.”

In 1905, Western Canada still was the Wild West. Morris learned how to ride a horse, roll a seven, palm an ace, and deal from the bottom of the deck. More important, he became a dead shot with either hand, and he made a friend, an elderly Chinese named Mah Sam, who ran a chop-suey joint in Saskatoon and was a leading supporter of Sun Yat-sen in Canada. Through Mah Sam, he met other Chinese, and eventually he joined the Tsing Chung-hui, a tong pledged to Dr. Sun and the destruction of the Manchu dynasty. When Dr. Sun made a visit to Canada to preach the cause of the Chinese Revolution, he became his bodyguard. The road to China lay ahead—but he didn’t know it yet for there was a detour on the way, World War I.

Morris joined the Royal Canadian Army, made sergeant, and was twice wounded in action, once badly. He went AWOL from the hospital after the Armistice and lost his stripes, but the flags were flying when he returned to Canada and the bands were playing. And his Chinese friends were waiting. Dr. Sun “needed someone he could trust absolutely—a foreigner who’d keep right outside Chinese internal politics and who’d look after his personal safety. . . .”

In August 1922, Morris landed in Shanghai with eight guns in his luggage. He was now thirty-three, a colonel in the Chinese Army, and aide-de-camp to Dr. Sun.

Morris not only served as Dr. Sun’s bodyguard, he also did undercover work, handled economic negotiations, and helped smuggle guns for him. And since there was a civil war raging, he did a bit of fighting on the side. Soon he was known throughout China as “Two-Gun Cohen.” And when Dr. Sun died, he became General Cohen.

There was trouble with the war lords and trouble with the Communists and trouble with the Japanese. Morris’s life was a life of turbulence and intrigue, complete with a sultry, stupid White Russian, in the pay of the Japs, who sought to entice him into working for the Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere.

“I’ve always wanted to meet you, General Cohen,” she told him. “May I call you Morris? You see, although we’ve never actually talked to each other before, I feel I know you quite well from all the *wonderful* stories I’ve heard about you. And now I’ve seen you in the flesh, I can believe *all* those stories. You know, Morris, you’ve got what they call sex-appeal.”

“Mme. Snoopoff,” as Morris dubbed her, didn’t get very far.

Morris was in Hong Kong when the Japs captured the city. He was thrown into Stanley Prison Camp, beaten and tortured, then beaten again. One day he was dragged into the interrogation room and made to kneel. “The officer who . . . was the biggest beast of the lot jerked his great two-handed samurai sword out of its scabbard, swung it up and said, ‘Put your head forward!’

“I muttered ‘*Shema Yisrael, Adonai Elohenu, Adonai Ehad.*’ Aloud I said with what I really thought would be my last breath, ‘Get on with it, you lousy bastard!’” All I got was a kick in the ribs that knocked me clean over on my side. . . . “The next thing that came along was that we were released. . . .”

Morris was in Taipeh in 1953 refreshing his memories of “The Life and Times of Two-Gun Cohen.” Now, with the book written, he’s back in Canada—but he’s “Two-Gun Cohen” no longer. After his release from Stanley, he met and married a Montreal couturière. Call him Mr. Cohen.

Congregation Beth Shalom

11916 Jasper Ave. NW

Edmonton AB T5K 0N9

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Email: info@e-bethshalom.org

Website: <http://www.edmontonbethshalom.org>

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM — 4:30 PM

Friday 9:00 AM—2:30 PM

Board of Directors 2022-2023

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Cheryl Shur	VP Membership
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Farrel Shadlyn	Treasurer
Netta Phillet	Secretary
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Seth Glick	Director
Marvin Karrel	Director
Anna Linetsky	Director
Alex Rabinovich	Director
Daniel Rubenstein	Director
Ruth-Ellen Shafir	Director
Erica Solomon	Director

Synagogue Staff

Rabbi Steven Schwarzman — Spiritual Leader

rabbi@edmontonbethshalom.org, or ext. 302

Helena Khazanovsky — Office Manager

info@e-bethshalom.org, ext. 301

Dorothy Turner — Bookkeeper

edmontonbethshalom.org, ext. 304

Please contact Helena Khazanovsky for catering inquiries.

Accuracy of Information: We do our best to ensure the accuracy of all the information in the Bulletin, but despite our best efforts, sometimes an error appears. Please accept our sincere apologies for any errors. Please let us know so that we can correct them as soon as possible or update our records where necessary.

Important Kehila Reminders

Bikkur Cholim: If you would like to be contacted by Rabbi Schwarzman please contact him at 780.4886333/302 or rabbi@edmontonbethshalom.org

Scent Free Shul: Out of respect for your fellow congregants who may suffer from allergies, please reduce your use of scented products when you are in the synagogue.

Mishebeirah—prayer for the sick: If you would like us to include the name of someone who is not well during the Mishebeirach prayer, please either call 780.488-6333/301 or email info@e-bethshalom.org, with their Hebrew or English name/s. Traditionally we include the person's Hebrew name(s) and their mother's Hebrew name(s), for example, "Moshe ben D'vorah" or "D'vorah bat Miriam" (ben or bat means son or daughter of). If, however, you do not have a Hebrew name for this person or they are not Jewish then an English name will do. If a name on the list should no longer be listed, can you kindly let us know so we can remove the individual from our list?

Due to the Canadian privacy of information laws we require that congregants get permission from the ill person(s) to have their name(s) read aloud from the Bimah on Shabbat.



Security at Beth Shalom

Want to help keep our synagogue secure?

We're looking for volunteers to greet and screen people at the door for all of our in-person Shabbat and holiday services. Your job will be to recognize the regulars and talk to anyone you don't personally know, to make sure they should be allowed to come into the synagogue. Together with our paid security, you will help make Beth Shalom more secure.

For more information, please contact Rabbi Schwarzman at rabbi@edmontonbethshalom.org or Seth Glick at Seth@glickandglick.com.

Todah Raba to our Publishing Volunteers

Thank you to Sharon Abbott & Ruth-Ellen Shafir for editing our Beth Shalom Publications.

Thank You!

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