

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah Book (Sefer Bar Mitzvah)



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Milestones

Births

Proud parents Shayna (Davis) and Travis Kershaw would like to announce the birth of their daughter, Chloe Anne Kershaw, on Oct. 20, 2012, at 2:39 a.m. Her very happy grandparents are Debra and Martin Davis (Richmond, B.C.) and Diane Crowe (Vancouver, B.C.). Also welcoming her are her uncles and aunt, Jared Davis (Richmond, B.C.) and Sean and Laura Kershaw (Vernon, B.C.), and her great-grandmother, Marianne Latte (Victoria, B.C.).

B'nai Mitzvah

Talya Wollner, daughter of Tom Wollner and Cheryl Woolstone, will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah on Jan. 19, 2013, at Temple Sholom Synagogue. Talya will be conducting the service and reading from the Torah and Haftarah.

Imagine 50 kids, mostly girls, racks of cool clothing, shoes and accessories, and an opportunity to help some really important charities who support youth? What do you have? The first teen/tween clothing swap organized by Talia Shugarman.

Inspired by her mom, who has organized adult clothing swaps for the past five years, Talia decided this would be a good way to give back to the community through her peer group. As part of the preparation for her bat mitzvah, she decided that her tikkun olam project would be a clothing swap. Her goal was to have as many schools represented as possible so that the idea would get out there, with the plan that an even more extensive kids clothing swap could happen in the spring.

Talia invited friends from her own school, Trafalgar Elementary; from her brother's school, Vancouver Talmud Torah; from York House, where she wants to go for high school; as well as from Point Grey, Quilchena, Jules Quesnel, Jamison, West Van High, St. Anthony's, Montroyal and King David High School. And, each of these friends invited a few of their friends.

The charities Talia chose were YWCA Crabtree Corner, Covenant House and the Talmud Torah/Beth Israel Coat Drive. During the week, kids and moms dropped off clothing in advance so that it could be sorted and hung on racks. On Dec. 6, the kids arrived, armed with cans for the food bank as well. They enjoyed a sparkling drink in champagne flutes and perused the clothing, which was arranged according to type: jeans, dresses, hoodies, etc. After everyone had a chance to look through the items, Talia gathered the crowd and spoke about the charities that would be receiving the clothes and then the guests chose numbers to see who could pick their two favorite pieces first. The tweens had a great time, and got to take home the few gems on which they had their eye. The evening was wonderful and the charities will be receiving more than 20 large bags of quality kids/teen clothing. Stay tuned for the bigger kids clothing swap coming soon!



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Achievements

Member of the Legislative Assembly Linda Reid (Richmond East) is pleased to have presented Dr. Lionel Tenby with a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in recognition of his "service and commitment to the citizens of Richmond" and his "continued work within the community." She notes, "50 years as a medical practitioner is truly a remarkable achievement and one that should be applauded."

Originally from England, Dr. Tenby first came to Canada after graduating from medical school in 1955, after enlisting in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corp's militia as a medical officer with the ranking of acting captain. In 1957, he started practising medicine in British Columbia and, in August 1961, opened his practice at the Seafair Shopping Centre. In 1982, the office moved to its current location on Francis Road.

In 1966, when Richmond Hospital opened, Dr. Tenby was the first doctor to admit the very first patient, on March 17 of that year, and he has been an active staff member ever since.

Member of Parliament Joyce Murray congratulates Roberta Lando Beiser, recipient of a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for outstanding service to the Vancouver Quadra community, for her "exceptional lifelong community leadership as a volunteer and philanthropist, and founder of creative initiatives to support organizations including Vancouver General Hospital, UBC Hospital and GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre."

A retired registered psychologist, Beiser wrote in her letter of consideration, "I come from a family with long and deep roots in the city's economic, cultural and philanthropic life. My father, Esmond Lando, was a lawyer and businessman who served on the boards of several charities and civic groups. He was a candidate for alderman in the early '60s." Among several other endeavors primarily dealing with children, immigrants and the arts, her mother, Edith Lando, "established the Edith Lando Charitable Foundation, which makes grants to 'hard to fund' projects in the nonprofit sector." Beiser has chaired this foundation since 2003.

"My parents and their parents were excellent role models. Since a very young age, I have tried to emulate them," wrote Beiser, whose resumé includes work as a volunteer on many boards over the years, including those mentioned above, as well as the Vancouver Public Library, the Vancouver Symphony Society and, currently, the Arts Club Theatre.



Roberta Lando Beiser

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Achievements

MP Joyce Murray also congratulates Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal recipients Robert Krell, M.D., Jack Rootman, M.D., and Lorne Segal for outstanding service to the Vancouver Quadra community. Murray praised Krell as an "outstanding human rights educator, particularly in relation to the establishment of the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre and the high school Holocaust education program"; Rootman for his "ground-breaking contributions to the development of the field of ophthalmology in Canada and internationally"; and Segal for his "exceptional community leadership and philanthropy supporting youth and individuals with mental health, disabilities and social challenges, including as chair of We Day and the Courage to Come Back Awards."

Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver wishes a kol hakavod to Karen James, Bernard Pinsky and Ted Zacks, three Vancouver-area Jewish leaders with a strong record of leadership and service to the community, who were recognized in Ottawa recently as they received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. Pinsky and Zacks have both served as general chairs of the Federation annual campaign and as board chairs of Federation, along with service to many other community institutions, and both are still actively involved in various aspects of Federation's work. James is a current officer of Federation and is a past chair of its women's philanthropy division.

Other recent recipients from the community include Marian Dewitt, Dr. Larry Goldenberg, Dr. Paula Gordon, Rabbi Andrew Rosenblatt, Gary Segal, Dr. Dorothy Shaw-Millman and Rabbi Yosef Wosk.

Appointments



The newly appointed board of the Peretz Centre for Secular Jewish Culture: front row, left to right, Bernice Kastner (president), Gary Shilling (member at large) and Anton Friedman (recording secretary); back row, left to right, Victor Neuman (treasurer), Rivka Stein (alternate), Colin Nicol-Smith (member at large), Serena Stone (alternate) and Mark Neuman (financial secretary); and, inset, Gene Homel (vice-president).

This year's annual general meeting for Congregation Or Shalom was held Oct. 21. In addition to the regular business, approval was given to the modernized and simplified version of the congregation's bylaws.

The new board of directors is comprised of Pam Atnikov, Jordana Corenblum, Ron Einblau, Robert Ezzy (new), Martin Gotfrit, Dave Kauffman, Linda Peritz, Laura Rosenthal, Mark Winston and Leora Zalik. The congregation thanks outgoing members for their contributions: Adele Ritch, who was board co-chair and has served on many committees; Avi Dolgin, who contributed to adult education and in many other ways, such as historian; and Val Lev-Dolgin, who served as YAC liaison. Thank you to all who serve, and have served, on the board and other Or Shalom committees.

Mazal Tov

Please send your submissions for Milestones by mail or e-mail. All announcements must include a contact name and a daytime phone number. Items under 150 words are free. Our next deadline is Jan. 16 for publication Jan. 25. If you want your photo returned, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Mail to Jewish Independent, Attn: Milestones, 99-291 East 2nd Ave., Vancouver, B.C., V5T 1B8. Or, e-mail to editor@jewishindependent.ca.



From the page to the canvas

Artist Alina Smolyansky is an author, painter and a translator.

"It's always been a question with me ... writing or painting." These days, it's painting that takes precedence in **Alina Smolyansky's** creative expression. "I've written numerous short stories and two short novels," she says. "While I'm still writing and working as a translator, I'm now concentrating on my canvases."

Born in Kiev, Alina spent four years in Israel prior to settling on Canada as home ... specifically, Vancouver. Why not, eh?

Beginning to study art at age 11, Alina's instructors soon found that she had "an aptitude for painting" ... an aptitude that I'd say, after looking at her work, is indeed evident. Her style ... "In the traditional egg tempura," explains Alina, "distinctly known, in part, for its complexity in composition and warm saturated colors." To learn more of her work and background, visit her website ... iconinspired.com.

Alina tells me she has sold her work privately, and has been exhibited in Germany, Victoria and Vancouver. A current exhibit is at Enigma restaurant on West 10th Avenue, in West Point Grey, known for displaying some of this town's finest fine art.

Acoustical analysis reportedly reveals, among a variety of animal species, the presence of a "complex series of communication signals" and "arrangement of sounds known as syntax" (sentence structure among us humans). An example ... across regions within Israel, there's the male hyrax (a small social mammal) with its "distinct syntactical dialects." Ashkenazi or Sephardi, I wonder?

"He makes a mean schnitzel the size of your head!" That's what is being said about **Eran Marom**, chef/owner of Toronto's kosher restaurant, Marron Bistro, now celebrating its seventh year at 948 Eglinton Ave. West. So, when you're in Toronto and crave a head-sized serving of kosher schnitzel, you now know where to head!

A post-Chanukah treat for children and, I'd say, adults too ... a posthumously published picture book by famed American children's book author and illustrator **Maurice Sendak**. *My Brother's Book*, described as "poem inspired by his late brother **Jack**," is scheduled to be published in February. Sendak, you may recall, died last May at age 83.

Recently visiting the United States from France to present a talk at New York University was Nazi hunter **Serge Klarsfeld**. Klarsfeld along with his wife of 52 years, **Beate**, are responsible for making possible the conviction of **Klaus Barbie** and other top Nazi officials. Now aged 77, Klarsfeld is said



Alina Smolyansky

to be "the last living Nazi hunter."

Serving decades in the U.S. Senate, **Joe Lieberman** bid goodbye to his chamber pals on Dec. 12 ... reportedly the anniversary of the Supreme Court ruling, 12 years earlier, handing the presidency to **George W. Bush**. The decision denied Lieberman, selected by Democratic presidential candidate **Al Gore** as his running mate, the privilege of becoming his county's first Jewish vice-president.

Howard Goldblatt, 73, is the "foremost Chinese-English translator in the world." He has translated more than 50 books in his almost 40-year career. Goldblatt not only translated most of celebrated Chinese author **Mo Yan**, but nominated him for a Nobel Prize, which Yan recently won. Question now is, how to celebrate ... with deli or dim sum!

It's estimated that Las Vegas casino hotel resort tycoon **Sheldon Adelson** spent more than \$100 million in support of the Republican campaign during the recent U.S. presidential election. As to future GOP donations ... "I'll spend that much and more," says Adelson. That reminds me ... I meant to increase my weekly JNF tzedakah box donation!

Chocolate! Most divine word ever ... not to mention taste. Ask Rabbi **Deborah R. Prinz**, whose book, *On the Chocolate Trail*, ex-

plores the "surprising Jewish and other religious connections to chocolate." It's a "gastronomic adventure through cultures, countries, centuries, convictions." Prinz "unravels religious connections in the early chocolate trade and shows how Jewish and other religious values infuse chocolate today." Confection of a read!

A seasonal statistic ... **Irving Berlin, Sammy Cahn, Julie Styne, Mel Tormé, Johnny Marks** ... all Jewish tunesmiths of iconic Christmas songs. Statistical update ... add the name of 27-year-old **Benj Pasek**, who, with co-songwriter **Justin Paul**, wrote the lyrics and music to the recent smash Broadway seasonal musical *A Christmas Story*, based on the 1983 blockbuster movie. "Funny, funny musical," an anonymous audience member enthusiastically commented. "I hummed along and ho, ho, hoed through the whole show."

American historian **Marc Shapiro** says that Torah Judaism today retains more of its youth than all the years since the 19th century. Among Ashkenazi Jews brought up in Sabbath-observant homes, Shapiro notes, "those who had come of age since 1966 were more likely to continue to keep the Sabbath than at any time since the *Haskalah* [Jewish Enlightenment]." With this thought ... Good Shabbos, folks, and see ya next year! ♫

Alex Kliner has a varied background in theatre, education and community service.