

ISSUE 10 / MAY 2023

# THE **CHEVRA**CHADASHOT

CHEVRA MISHNAYES SYNAGOGUE NEWSLETTER



Wishing you a 'dairy' good Shavuot  
with family and friends!  
(May 25-27)

# MEMO FROM A MINYANNAIRE

'CONSTANT REGROWTH' BY CAMERON POITRAS

It's that time of year, I guess.

I'm not sure how many of you have your gardens in, but Skye and I, having recently moved into an apartment together, will be without one for the first time in a long time.

Laya, expect late night raids on peas, tomatoes, basil, chives... etc. This is your written warning.

As the snow is gone, seedlings poke out of the black soil and the trees are finally green, it's a period of regrowth in our little corner of the world. A chance to put down more roots and bloom.

But, lately I've been in a bit of a pickle.

What had been a flurry of excitement about studying new things on my journey through Judaism, has hit a bit of a snag. Stalled, even.

Lately, it's taken a lot of effort. I'm not talking about going to Shabbos services each week to be apart of the minyan I love, that's still easy. I'm talking about the nuts and bolts involved in the depth of Jewish learning. It has no bottom. It's daunting.

In a way, my current issues have made me feel inadequate. What's wrong with me? Have I let my passion dwindle? Am I really getting something from these psalms and brachot spoken and written in a language that I am mostly yet to comprehend?

I don't pretend to be the only person in this boat, I'm sure this is far from uncommon, but it has got me thinking.

Maybe, this is how it is supposed to be.

As the moon waxes and wanes, and the earth sifts from decomposition towards blossoming, perhaps the waves of spiritual acceleration is something that is supposed to speed up and slow down over the passage of time?

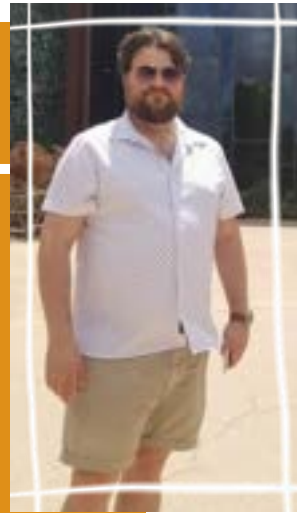
Winnipeg Blue Bomber receiver, Rasheed Bailey, selflessly signed a contract much lower than his value this off-season. If he went elsewhere he'd be making more cash, no doubt. However, he stayed to remain with his teammates and the football club. To win, of course, but to win with those he's formed an inseparable bond with.

"I think it was important for me to re-evaluate myself," Bailey said speaking to local media at Bomber training camp. "I had some soul searching. I'm not saying it was easy, it was definitely hard. But, there is a lesson and beauty in struggle." I believe that to be true.

We all struggle, but it's how we push through. It's about what we learn on the other side and what beauty we can uncover along the way.

I know that if I keep going, and keep looking, and keep trudging, I'll find something that will allow me to rediscover my spark.

I'll stumble again, no doubt, but I know that if I keep that flicker alive, my next bonfire will be around the corner.



CAM POITRAS,  
PICTURED HERE  
IN HIS 'SHUL  
SHORTS'

## DID JEW KNOW?

There is a Mi Sheberach (Prayer for Healing) for people who don't talk during services! This effort to promote decorum during worship dates to the 17th century C.E., so kibbitzing may be as old as the service itself!

If you can't make it to services on Shabbos but would like to say a Mi Sheberach for someone who is ill, please send their English/Hebrew name(s) to chevra@shaw.ca

## WHAT'S NU?

Want updates?  
You're in the right place!

## OY (SUR)VEY ZMIR

### POSITIVE ACTION RESULTS FROM COMMUNITY SURVEY

We are so grateful to those of you who took the time to complete our comprehensive survey last year. Since releasing the responses at our 2022 AGM, we have enacted many positive changes based on your feedback, including:

- Learning opportunities (Book Club - 1st Wednesday of every month)
- Interactive services with commentary and discussion (Dvar Torah & Mishna Study)
- More social programming (Movie Night, Brunches, Golf Day)
- Increased communication (hello Chevra Chadashot!!)
- Inclusive prayers for the sick on Shabbos (men and women together)

We are continuing to apply even more of your suggestions to our practices. If you have any other comments or ideas, please don't wait for the next survey - the Board is always here for you! Let us know what you think at [chevra@shaw.ca](mailto:chevra@shaw.ca)



## YARZEIT REMINDERS

### HEBREW ANNIVERSARY DATES OF PASSING\*

Month of Sivan (starts May 22)



**May 22:**

Alexander Cohen  
Mathes Gorsky  
Sydney Selver

**June 1:**

Shaindel Lifshitz  
Ida Gorin

**June 9:**

Sema Waldman  
Pauline Walter

**June 17:**

Rachel Gunn  
Morris Yacower  
Solomon Dorfman

**May 23:**

Michael Silver  
Herbert Daien

**June 3:**

Harry Lasker

**June 12:**

Norman Lachter

**May 26:**

August Walter  
Sidney Zipursky

**June 5:**

Louis Kneller

**June 16:**

Bella Singer  
Eva Lipson  
Margaret Shiffman

**May 29:**

Katie Waldman  
Machla Freund  
Ethel Nelko

**June 7:**

Frank Derie  
Matel Gruber



**SKYE  
KNELLER**

VICE PRESIDENT,  
LEAGUE KOMISH-INER



**CAM  
POITRAS**

BOARD MEMBER &  
CHIEF BLINTZ ROLLER

\*SOME NAMES AND/OR  
DATES MAY BE MISSING

*Thank you*

FOR READING THIS ISSUE!