

TALMUD TORAH TIMES MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

The monthly newsletter of Edmonton Talmud Torah Society



WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE?

- A Word From Our TT Society President
- Society News
- ELC/OSC Highlights
- School News
- Community News

FEATURE The Don & Myrna Silverberg Lunchroom



MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Families, Alumni and Friends,

WELCOME BACK! We are so excited to share with you our newsletter each month for the 2022-23 school year.

Step inside to hear from our 2nd term TT Society President, Leeor Eliyahu, and from our new principal, Darin Johnson. Our new Don & Myrna Silverberg lunchroom is up and running, and you can read about this inside as well. There's more goodies as you turn each page, so sit back, relax, and take in all the wonderful things that are happening at Edmonton Talmud Torah!

Shana Tova :)
Natalie Soroka

TALMUD TORAH TIMES MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Message From Leeor Eliyahu President TT Society Board

Welcome to the new school year and to the September 2022 edition of the Talmud Torah Times! I hope your summer was spent in good health and was joyful and fun.

It is truly hard to believe that the first month of the 2022-23 school year is complete! Our students entered TT on the first day of school with bright eyes and wide smiles, and they continue to be engaged and excited to learn and grow here at Talmud Torah School.

While our students spent July and August in summer mode, Talmud Torah Society's 2022-23 board of directors and executive members met several times. The board participated in a two day orientation for new board members. It is extremely important that new board members become familiar with the workings and initiatives of the TT Society, in order for the year to be as productive and beneficial as possible. You can read about who has been elected to the 2022-23 TTS board, and the work of each committee, further in the newsletter.

July and August were also very busy months for our Lunchroom Committee. James Friedman, Lisa Hering and Natalie Soroka spent the summer overseeing the Don & Myrna Silverberg Lunchroom renovations at TT. Our team at Pemco Construction worked throughout the summer to ensure the lunchroom was ready for the first day of school. We held a ribbon cutting ceremony on August 30 to officially open the lunchroom.

Close friends of Don & Myrna, Esther and Howard Starkman, attended. Esther, a former Trustee of the Edmonton Public School Board, spoke about Don & Myrna's incredibly generous donation and their love of TT throughout their 8 years in Edmonton. Don & Myrna have resided in Israel for many, many years and of course could not attend the ceremony. Also in attendance were Kayla and Naomi Shocter, Myrna's sister and niece, along with new TT principal Darin Johnson and MLA Lorne Dach.

The lunchroom has been full of life, prayer and ruach since the first day of school. Principal Johnson and his team of lunch supervisors have been working hard at making sure the room runs efficiently and smoothly, and that the students are well fed, both physically and spiritually.

The TT Society will be running two very exciting after school programs for the first half of the school year: Robotics/Coding for Grades 1-5, and Basketball Drills for Grades 4-6. Families are already showing a lot of interest in both of these programs. If you have an idea of other programs you would like to see for our students after school, please contact Natalie in the Society office at 780-481-3377 or email her at nataliesoroka@talmudtorahsociety.com.

Chag Sameach!



TALMUD TORAH TIMES MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



INTRODUCING Our 2022-23 Society Board Committees



Governance Committee includes: **Chair, Jennifer Coppens**, Nomi Steen, Michael Sadovnick, Sharon Ohayon.

The Governance Committee oversees the work of the Board. It sets the governance framework, and ensures the Board governs in accordance with its framework. The committee also oversees Board recruitment, education, and self-evaluation. The Governance Committee is looking for another member to join our team. If you have any interest or experience in Board Governance and would like to contribute your passion and talents to the Talmud Torah Society, please contact Natalie at nataliesoroka@talmudtorahsociety.com.



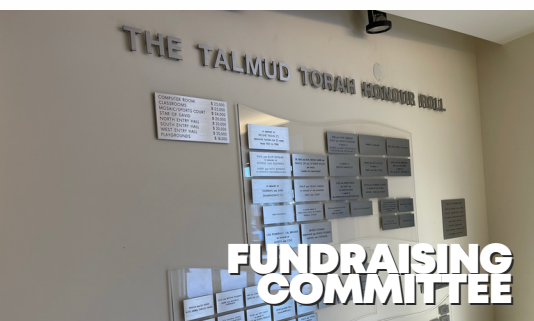
Education Committee includes: **Chair, Michelle Huberman**, Nurit Reshef, Karen Hering, Shoshi Aziza, Melissa Benjamin, Ruth Coppens, Gaylene Soifer.

We are continuing a review/revision of our Hebrew and Judaic program. Some changes this year include: An increased focus in Hebrew in the Kindergarten with Bianna engaging the children in daily hands on multisensory activities focusing on the aleph bet, basic vocabulary, conversational Hebrew as well as focusing our many holidays, customs and traditions. The comprehensive and robust iTalam (a Hebrew language and Jewish heritage) program is being used schoolwide. We anticipate that this will facilitate increased continuity between the grades. Hebrew support (funded by the TT Society) will mainly be facilitated through Bianna. She is providing support to teachers and students by working in the classrooms as well as meeting with small groups of students. Ben will be working with students who can benefit from an increased challenge in Hebrew.



Communication Committee includes: **Chair, Noga Vaisblat**, Nomi Steen.

- Our new website was launched late September. We are still tackling bugs and will continue working on content improvement. Beginning January, parents will receive login credentials to the secure section of the website. ELC communication with parents will be done solely through these profiles and all TTS members will slowly move to our new online payment system. Details will be announced when we are ready for the transition.
- We are working on an advertising and recruitment campaign to increase enrollment.
- Together with the Education committee we will be working on a satisfaction/ retention survey. We hope to make it a yearly survey that will allow the TTS and the school to grow and improve.



Fundraising Committee includes: **Chair, Sharon Marcus**; the committee is looking for volunteers

The Fund Development Committee supports the acquisition of philanthropic resources and activities necessary to support the mission, vision, values and strategic priorities set by the Talmud Torah Society.

TALMUD TORAH TIMES MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



ELC Committee includes: **Chair, Jessica Hogan**, Noga Vaisblat, Stacie Perlmutter, Andrew Gergely, Jay Lerner.

This year's TTELC committee is chaired by Jessica Hogan, and includes returning committee members Noga Vaisblat (previous chair), Stacie Perlmutter, and Andrew Gergely, along with new member Jay Lerner! These parents are passionate about the growth and care of each child attending our centre and are already busy working behind the scenes to continue the great work already being done. This year, they're particularly excited to support the TTELC in its new parent-engagement strategies, policy and procedure development, database enhancement, and Judaic and Hebrew study advancement.



Finance Committee includes: **Chair, Megan Mandel**, Leeor Eliyahu, James Friedman, Doug Kondor, Melissa Benjamin.

- We are in the process of transitioning to new auditors.
- Will be presenting our budget and fees for transparency
- Focus is always to operate within the budget



Security Committee includes: **Chair, Doug Kondor**, Becky Saegert, Albina Karpman.

Our main goal for this year is to decide on a security consultant to help us manage the security concerns of the school and review our security procedures and infrastructure.

Depending on where we stand we would also apply for some security related grants for the school if available.



Human Resources Committee includes: **Chair, Jennifer Coppens**, Ohad Eliyahu, Megan Mandel, Jessica Hogan, Ruth Coppens.

The HR Committee assists the Society in fulfilling its employee responsibilities by ensuring that personnel policies, procedures and practices are established, implemented, kept under review and modified when necessary.

This will help ensure that staff roles and responsibilities align with the TTS strategic plan and objectives.



Building Committee includes: **Chair, James Friedman**

Main Goals: Exploring a new shed to be shared between TT Society and ELC/OSC

TALMUD TORAH TIMES MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



The Don & Myrna Silverberg Lunchroom Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

On August 30, 2022, TT Society board members, school administration, lunchroom committee members, community leaders and friends gathered for a moving ceremony to open a new lunchroom at Talmud Torah School. Esther Starkman spoke eloquently about her and her husband, Howard's, longtime friendship with donors Don & Myrna Silverberg, and their "most generous, significant and sustaining" contribution to the school and community. Myrna's sister, Kayla Shoctor, and niece, Naomi Shoctor, were thrilled to be able to cut the ribbon to gain entry into the lunchroom. So many hands had an impact on making sure the lunchroom was ready in time for the first day of school. You know who you are, and we thank you. In particular, appreciation goes to the Lunchroom Committee - James Friedman, Lisa Hering and Natalie Soroka, for your dedication and commitment to seeing this project through. Thanks to Principal Darin Johnson for his consistent support of the TT Society and understanding its significant role in the community. Many thanks to Jewish Federation of Edmonton's UJA Allocations Committee for the donation of 9 brand new powerful microwaves to ensure meals are heated quickly and efficiently so all students are able to eat their lunch in a timely manner.

Of course, none of this could be said without Don & Myrna's unwavering commitment and love for Talmud Torah School. Yasher Koach!



TALMUD TORAH TIMES MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Alumni Highlight

Our alumni are important to us. If you are an alumni, we would love to know what you have been up to since graduating from Talmud Torah School. Our Alumni Highlight this month is Daniel Rubenstein (Grade 9 Class of 2010). He is a first year teacher at Talmud Torah and is excited to be a part of the TT family. Please read about what he has been up to lately by reading his biography below:



I attended Talmud Torah all the way from Kindergarten to Grade 9. After graduating from Talmud Torah, I went to Ross Sheppard High School and subsequently to the University of Alberta. While at the University of Alberta, I completed a Bachelor of Science with a specialization in Chemistry in 2017. In 2021, I completed the Bachelor of Secondary Education after degree program.

I now have the privilege of returning to Talmud Torah as a teacher. I truly believe that it was fate that I come back to Talmud Torah and educate the next generation of Jewish students. I will serve as a positive role model for the students and promote Jewish values and traditions within the learning environment.

I have maintained strong ties with the Edmonton Jewish community. For example, I am a member of and regularly attend Beth Shalom Synagogue for Shabbat services. I also help with community events organized by the Jewish Federation of Edmonton (e.g., Heritage Days Israel tent) and the Jewish National Fund.

Some of my best memories at Talmud Torah include:

- Bringing in Shabbat on Friday afternoons with lighting candles, drinking grape juice, and eating challah
- Performing in the Grade 6 Sound of Music play
- Going on the Grade 9 Israel trip with my classmates

FUN FACT:

There are currently six out of nine Talmud Torah alumni working as teachers at TT -- a whopping 67%. These teachers are:

Robin Marcus (Class of '72), Ariel Sniderman (Class of '97), Jessica Holtzman (Class of '99), Jennifer Kovacs (Class of '99), Daniel Rubenstein (Class of '10), Marlee Soroka (Class of '10). Talmud Torah School is very fortunate to have these former students not only teaching the school curriculum to our students, but also enriching the school experience for our students by sharing their own experiences of being students themselves at TT.

TT alumni, WE NEED YOU! We welcome and encourage our TT alumni to connect with us so we can include you. Please don't hesitate to drop us an email. You can send us something short and sweet, or long and luxurious....we just want to hear from you, and so do all our TT alumni and friends. Please email nataliesoroka@talmudtorahsociety.com.

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A Message from our Principal Darin Johnson

We have had a great start to the school year at Talmud Torah School. It has been exciting to have in person and multiple grade events again. These activities foster the development of community and relationships. From what I have learned, the community is the foundation of Talmud Torah School.

Students have spent time thinking about a word for the year based on the book One Word for Kids. My word is curious. It is important for me as a leader in the school to listen and learn about the rich culture and traditions of Talmud Torah School.

Routines are an important part of a successful school year. Students know what to do in a fire drill, how to sign out a library book and what is expected of them to do their best. Our students have made the transition to eating in our bright and colorful lunch room. The staff have supported this change. It is wonderful to hear the children engage in the prayers together once they have finished eating.

At our first assembly we highlighted the word considerate. The students are identifying ways to support one another. These simple acts of kindness will help us all to have a successful year. Yes, there will be some mistakes along the way, these are learning moments.

In line with the Jewish New Year, our K-6 students went on a field trip to Hawrelak Park recently to perform Tashlich at the footbridge. Our students said prayers and threw challah bread into the river while thinking about those things they did over the past year that may have been unkind.

In addition, the students ran/walked around the Hawrelak pond to raise money for the Terry Fox Foundation.

The Terry Fox Run is an annual fundraiser all Edmonton Public School students participate in, and it was so nice to see our students be able to enjoy it after two long years of not being able to due to the pandemic.

I would like to thank the larger Talmud Torah Community for your warm welcome and patience. It is exciting to be part of a collaborative team as we work on our Division's vision to enhance pathways for student success.

Darin Johnson
Principal Talmud Torah School



TALMUD TORAH TIMES MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



TTELC

If you walked our hallways... 



If you walked into our ELC/OSC rooms or wandered through our hallways during the summer, you would have seen and felt a cool temperature that you would have never felt before! As you know, the ELC undertook a major fundraising campaign this summer to install 6 roof mounted air conditioners, one in each of our rooms! Our goal was an ambitious \$42,000. One month in we were nearly halfway there, with just over \$18,000 being raised. By the end of the summer and the end of our campaign a grand total of \$25,037.20 was donated! All 6 units were installed and useable by mid-July, just in time for the heat wave! We would like to offer a HUGE, heartfelt thank you to all parents, alumni, grandparents and community members who supported this cause.

YOU made a difference in the lives of our youngest Jewish citizens, while at the same time participating in a mitzvah.

TODAH RABBAH!



Atzmaim - independent ones



Sakranim - curious ones



Tapsanim - climbers



Chokrim - researchers



Harpatkanim - adventurers



Yotzrim - creative ones

TALMUD TORAH TIMES MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



TTELC
In Pictures

ANNOUNCEMENT



[Under the new federal-provincial child care agreement, subsidy for child care is now available to families with a combined gross income of \\$180,000 or less. If your family has not qualified in the past, perhaps it does now!](#)

[Click on this link for more details.](#)



TALMUD TORAH TIMES MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



TTELC Welcome Event 2022

TTELC administration and educators couldn't have asked for a better day to welcome families to its Welcome Event 2022. The sun was shining, the weather was warm, and the school tarmac was filled with smiling faces and warm hearts. Families enjoyed delicious food prepared by Michal, and schmoozed with those they know and those they got to know. Irene St. Savard, Director of the TTELC, and Osi Goldsand, Program Coordinator, were thrilled with the turnout. Educators chatted with families as they served the food to hungry adults and children alike. Our older OSC children were excited to participate in this event and were very helpful with set up and take down. Thank you to them and those parents and families who also assisted us! It was very heartwarming to see families connecting in person again, and we anticipate more opportunities to connect in the near future.

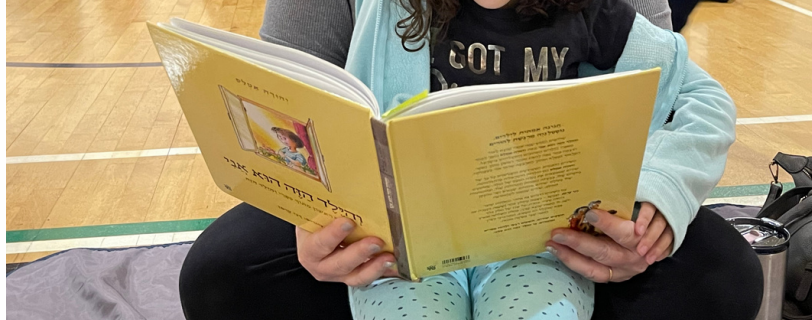


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Read In Week 2022 & Book-Nic

According to the Read In Week website (readin.ca), "The READ IN Week initiative began in the 1990's and consisted of representatives from Edmonton Catholic Schools, Edmonton Public Schools and Norquest (then) AVC. These organizations decided to join together to raise awareness for the importance of literacy". Ever since Esther Starkman (TT Class of '50), Chair/Founder of Read In Week, started Read In Week in the '90s when she was Chair of the Edmonton Public School Board, Talmud Torah has been participating in Read In Week. This year was no different. Teachers Jessica Holtzman and Lindsey Campbell organized this year's event, but also put it on super mode this year by thinking outside the box and creating the **TT Book-Nic** event! On the last day of Read In Week, TT families gathered together in the gym, with blankets and books, to read to each other and their friends. It was a wonderful expression of TT community spirit and a love of reading. This will definitely be an annual event!



TALMUD TORAH TIMES MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



TALMUD TORAH SCHOOL COUNCIL Our students appreciate your support

Welcome back!

Welcome back to our students, parents and teachers for the new school year!

We hope everyone had a restful and fun summer. It is nice to see our school bustling with students once again.

We are excited to see that our **TT family is growing**, with 144 students enrolled this year! A special welcome to our **new kinder families and students**. We look forward to getting to know you all.

We would like to thank the TTSC executive and class reps for all their service to the council last year. We couldn't do it without your energy, ideas, and contributions.

TALMUD TORAH TIMES

On September 20, the TT School Council held our AGM, thank you to all parents for attending.

Welcome to our new executive!

2022-23 SCHOOL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

Chair - Christina Reboh
Co Vice Chair - Ken Lister
Co Vice Chair - Marni Kondor
Secretary - Jamie Mozeson



Welcome to our new
Principal,
Darin Johnson!

What is the TTSC? Our primary focus is to create parental engagement and advise the principal in school matters, with the goal to **enrich the student experience**.

We do this by building relationships with parents, holding bi-monthly meetings, coordinating and holding small fundraisers and, of course, **our enrichment projects!** It takes all parents, staff, and even students to make these projects come to life. Stay tuned for ways to join the fun, in a way that fits your schedule and interests.

TALMUD TORAH TIMES MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

CONTACT US



talmudtorahschoolcouncil@partner.epsb.ca

TALMUD TORAH SCHOOL COUNCIL
Our students appreciate your support

Opportunities to support enrichment at TT:



[Click Here](#)



[Click Here](#)

The **TT Family** has always been **active and engaged** in the **learning and enrichment** for our students. There are endless ways to support your child and the school, no matter your time availability or passions. **ATTENDING MEETINGS** to keep informed and share your thoughts is a great way to guide what School Council, and TT, focuses on. **JOIN A COMMITTEE** for short-term projects that speak to your personal interests or skills. Currently we need volunteers for the Yearbook Committee and the Trickster Theatre Committee. **DOUBLE UP ON YOUR ERRANDS** to help get supplies while you're already out and about. We often need groceries or challah picked up. **SHARE YOUR HEBREW SKILLS**, by coming in to chat with our grade 6 students once or twice a month.

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CONTACT US



talmudtorahschoolcouncil
@partner.epsb.ca

TALMUD TORAH SCHOOL COUNCIL
Our students appreciate your support

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PROGRAM AT TT, BE A

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SPONSORSHIPS ARE USED TO COVER THE COST
OF BLISS CHALLAH FOR EVERY STUDENT AND
GRAPE JUICE FOR THE STUDENT PRAYER LEADERS.
THIS IS NOT A FUNDRAISER!

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LEAVE THE AT SCHOOL
CELEBRATION TO US!

**\$25 Birthday
Treats Council
Fundraiser**

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Pre-order kosher cupcakes or ice cream
sandwiches and SC will take care of
delivering to your child's class for their
special day.



[Click Here](https://www.talmudtorahsociety.com/shop)

TT School Council runs enrichment programs throughout the year, many of which have associated costs. **Our mandate** is to raise and use funds within the same school year; we are not a fundraising association. **Please consider** supporting student enrichment by participating in **any of our fundraisers**. We aim to make them effortless and useful and, in some cases, will not cost you anything extra.

TALMUD TORAH TIMES MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FEATURE BABIES



We love it when our community babies wear our TT baby bib! Aren't they adorable?

Please let us know if you are a new parent or you know of new parents, so we can drop off a TT baby bib and gift certificate towards your first month in the TT Early Learning Centre or K to 6 school! Call Natalie at the TT Society office (780) 481-3377 or nataliesoroka@talmudtorahsociety.com.



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FEDERATION PROGRAMS

Edmonton Talmud Torah is a beneficiary of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton.





They didn't know we were seeds

by Carol Wylie

September 29 - November 25
Stanley A. Milner Library



Jewish Federation
OF EDMONTON



The Jewish Federation of Edmonton and Edmonton Public Library are partnering to bring an art exhibit for public display at the Stanley A. Milner branch. The exhibit features painted portraits of trauma survivors. Nine are Residential School survivors and nine are Holocaust survivors. All survivors featured are from Alberta and Saskatchewan and the artist, Carol Wylie, is from Saskatoon. The work, titled *They didn't know we were seeds*, was inspired by the artist's desire to acknowledge the stories of these people who suffered through traumatic, horrific, historical persecution and to lift these stories, so they are never forgotten. As a painter, she feels that "people's stories live in the nuances of their faces" and her work seeks to confront its viewers with these stories.

The exhibit will be available for viewing in the Stanley A. Milner gallery spaces from September 29 to November 25.

This program is supported by the Isadore and Florence Burstyn Memorial Fund and KSW Calgary Holocaust Education & Commemoration Endowment Fund.

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our weekly e-newsletter.**

Visit our community calendar at jewishedmonton.org

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FEDERATION PROGRAMS

Edmonton Talmud Torah is a beneficiary of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton.



Jewish Federation
OF EDMONTON

Family Sukkot Happening

Sunday, October 16, 2022

Beth Shalom Synagogue

11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Children's program with PJ Library

12 p.m. Lunch catered by Vish, Edmonton's new Israeli restaurant, prepared in Beth Shalom's kosher kitchen

After lunch: Program for teens and adults

\$30 per family

\$12 for adults

\$6 for kids

To register: info@e-bethshalom.org

More information: 780-486-6333, ext. 301



Edmonton Beth Shalom Congregation, with support from Edmonton Jewish Federation and PJ Library, invites the entire Jewish community to a special Israeli style Sukkot lunch at Beth Shalom.

11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Children's Program with PJ Library

12 p.m. Lunch catered by Vish, Edmonton's new Israeli restaurant, prepared in Beth Shalom's kosher kitchen

After lunch - Program for teens and adults: A look at the laws and customs of Sukkot, the Lulav, and Hoshanah Rabah as the culmination of the High Holiday season.

\$30 per family

\$12 per adults

\$6 for kids aged six to 11

To register: email info@e-bethshalom.org or call 780-488-6333, ext. 301



Make an impact on how our Jewish Edmonton goes forward in building a better and stronger future for our community. Consider donating to the United Jewish Appeal.

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Visit our community calendar at jewishedmonton.org

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Say it with a card

Tribute cards are a wonderful way of honouring or paying tribute to a loved one.

Your donation helps us maintain a high quality experience for our students and families. A beautiful acknowledgement card is mailed to the recipient.

**Any occasion cards, including:
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