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EYE ON MONTREAL

NAMES AND EVENTS IN THE NEWS

By MIKE COHEN

HIGH MARKS FOR NEW ISRAELI CONSUL GENERAL:

The local Jewish community has welcomed Israel's new Consul General to Quebec and the Maritimes with open arms. For Paul Hirschson, this marks the seventh country for which he has served Israel. The native of South Africa succeeded David Levy. Fascinated by North America, Africa, and the Arab world, Hirschson was the first Israeli to be posted to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) 17 years ago. Together with another diplomat, he established the initial viable conversation between Israel, the UAE, and other countries in the region. Later, he served as the consul in Miami and most recently, as ambassador in West Africa, based in Senegal and responsible for seven countries.

Hirschson says he has fallen in love with Montreal's culinary scene. "If this is what Montreal can do under restrictions, I will have to do five hours of power walking a day to manage my diet," he laughed. "I have enjoyed every calorie I consumed."

Over the years I have always made it a point to meet the new Consul General upon his arrival and strike up ties. Hirschson came here in the midst of a pandemic, so we initially connected via Zoom, telephone and social media channels. He is a most personable individual whom I know will charm everyone he meets.

"The first thing I did

was reopen our Consulate to all staff," Hirschson told me of the Westmount headquarters. "Everyone had been working remotely for
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souhaiter nos meilleurs
vœux à l'occasion de
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different cream cheese shmears. There are danishes, muffins, turnovers, potato knishes, salads, sandwiches, soups, coffee and drinks. It has already become a gathering spot, according to Interim CEO of the Y Jeff Bicher. In fact, it brings back memories of the legendary Mitchell's Restaurant at the same location many years ago.

District Bagel evolved out of a longtime dream that started in 2008 in Outremont. The owners

sold their sandwiches to schools and grocery stores. As their menu and reputation grew for Sandwich Plus, the opportunity arose to buy Mount Royal Bagel. They also have a location on Park Avenue in the Mile End. This is a 100 percent certified kosher location, with modern urban flare. At the Y, District Bagel is open from 7 am to 7 pm Monday to Thursdays; 7 am to 2:30 pm, Fridays; and 7 am to 5 pm, Sundays. Go to <https://www.ymywha.com/> to read more about the totally rejuvenated Y.

You can reach the owner of District Bagel, Shalom Grunwald at shalom@districtbagel.com or his mobile at 514-692-3855.

Mike Cohen can be reached at info@mikecohen.ca.

ANNIVERSARY

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in those negotiations, but he pressed both sides to keep the talks going and supported their outcome.

The Roosevelt administration's support for appeasement was dramatized by the tragic story of Holocaust rescuer Varian Fry. In 1940, Fry, an American journalist and editor, traveled to southern France, which was then governed by the Nazi puppet regime headquartered at Vichy.

Fry organized an underground network that saved more than 2,000 refugee scientists, artists and political dissidents, many of them Jews. Among the rescued were painter Marc Chagall, philosopher Hannah Arendt, author Franz Werfel, and Nobel Prize-winning scientist Otto Meyerhof.

When the Germans and Vichy French complained to Washington about Fry's activities,

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