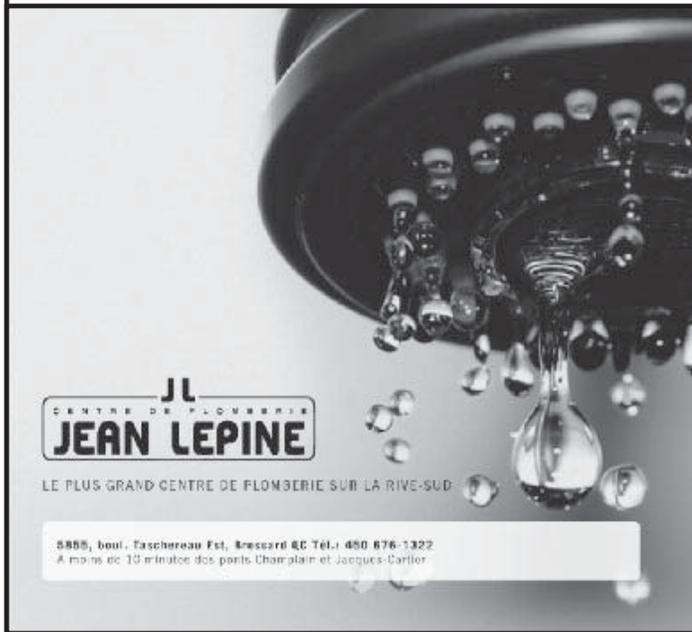


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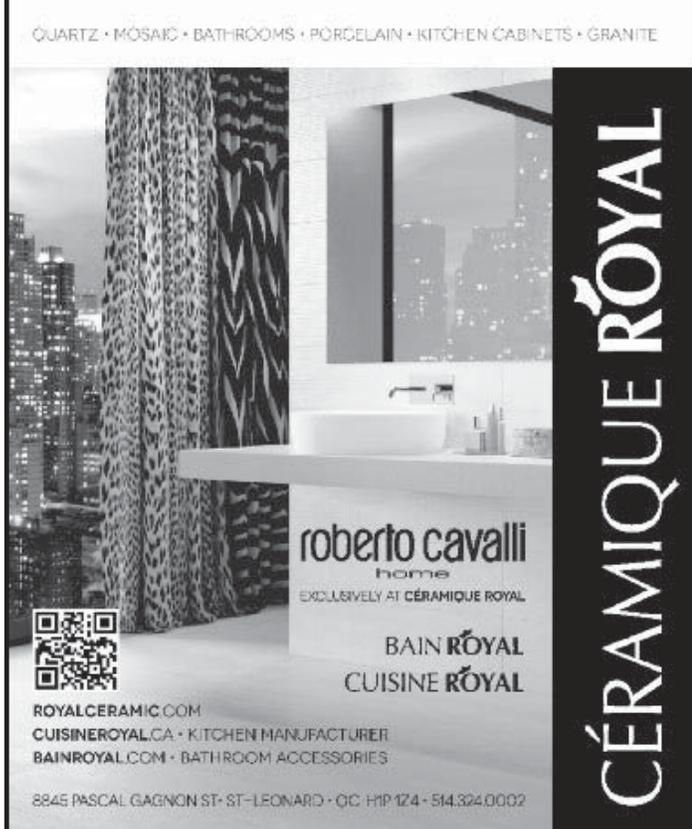


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EYE ON MONTREAL

NAMES IN THE NEWS IN OUR CITY

By **MIKE COHEN**

A REMARKABLE ARTIST: Nelly Leitner is one remarkable lady. At 85 years young she continues to work as a professional art teacher, drives a car, takes daily walks and keeps up her home of 46 years in immaculate condition. In fact, walking through her town house is like being at a high-end art gallery with beautiful paintings hanging at all levels. Born in Romania, she speaks English, French,

Spanish and some German. At the age of 12 she began to paint. "One day in art class the teacher told me that I had a lot of talent and I should learn to draw," she said. "I ended up taking private lessons for piano and painting."

In 1952 Nelly moved to Israel, where her brothers had settled. She worked in the Air Force as a radar operator, but left after year after
(Please turn to page 10)

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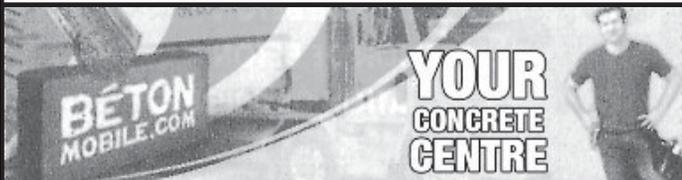
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TRAVEL TALES

(Continued from preceding page)

tours.com), which we used to enjoy the incredible Muir Woods and Sausalito tour. A comfortable van picked us up in front of our hotel and what an incredible chauffeur/tour guide we had in charismatic Paul Berman, a Jewish native of Scotland. He moved here 27 years ago with his wife and never left. The Muir Woods tour took us across the Golden Gate Bridge, past the Marin Headlands, and into a magical Redwood forest known as Muir Woods. It's an incredible sight. The Coastal Sequoias (Redwoods)

in Muir Woods are the tallest trees in the world, found only along the Northern California coast, and after decades of logging only five percent of these old growth trees remain. Tour prices are \$45 for children and \$60 for adults. This does not include the \$10 entrance fee to the Muir Woods National Park.

Mike Cohen's email address is info@mikecohen.ca. Follow him on Twitter @mikecohencl and read his detailed overview of San Francisco at www.sandboxworld.com/travel.

EYE ON MONTREAL

(Continued from page 6)

meeting and marrying Joseph Leitner in 1954. The couple had two children, a boy Amy and a girl, Orly. The family moved to Montreal in 1960. Joseph found work in the antique business while Nelly raised the children. She would ultimately go on to study at l'École des Beaux Arts de Montréal, the l'Université de Québec à Montréal and obtained a certificate

in sculpturing from the then Loyola College. Her passion became plastic arts. One day Nelly wound up at an art gallery at Place Bonaventure with one of her paintings. It turned out that the manager had previously worked for the city of Montreal. He thought she'd be a good teacher. That was 1973 and she has been doing so, in French, ever since.

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“At the start I was working seven days a week and people stood in line for my classes,” said Nelly.

Two years ago Nelly scaled back and went into semi-retirement. She now only teaches Monday afternoons and Saturday mornings. Over

her career she has had dozens of exhibitions across the island. “I am a self-made woman,” says Nelly, whose husband passed away nearly 30 years ago. “Nobody was helping me. I worked for everything myself.”

(Please turn to following page)



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Côte-de-Liesse
District



Michèle D. Biron

Borough Councillor,
Norman-McLaren
District



EYE ON MONTREAL

(Continued from preceding page)

CHOMEDEY CONGREGATIONS: The difficult and unsure future of the Ashkenazi Jewish Orthodox community is again alive and well in Chomedey. The merger between the Chevra

Mishnayis Congregation and the Young Israel of Chomedey has created a larger Ashkenazi Orthodox Congregation.

When the Orthodox Young Israel of Chomedey Congregation sold its historic building last year and decided to take part in an eight month cohabitation trial with the nearby Conservative Shaar Shalom, neither side knew if this partnership would work. But as members tell me, this “marriage” has been a blessing to both sides who have been working in close harmony ever since. The Young Israel had already merged with the Chevra Mishnayis Congregation and could have taken over their empty building. Instead, the membership voted overwhelming to remain

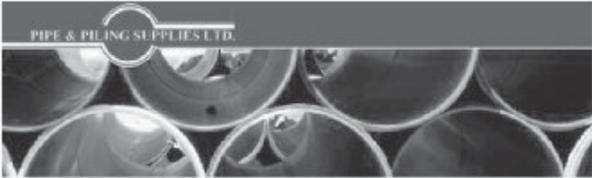
with the Shaar Shalom.

Since the move, and the decision to stay in the Shaar Shalom building, a new slate of executives has been elected: President Issie Baum, First Vice President David Green, Second Vice-President Fred Rudy and Vice Presidents Stan Plant, Robert Bergson and Carl Wooden. Rabbi Avrum Bannon remains the spiritual leader.

The two congregations hold joint holiday celebrations, breakfasts after services and just regular chit chats “and we all are enjoying each other’s company,” says Rudy. “Since the elections, the new executive has undertaken to complete the projects that were started previously under the past executive in order to prepare the Shaar Shalom building to accommodate a larger amount of people for the upcoming Jewish new year high holidays.”

Many more new projects that are required to give the new premises more of the old Young

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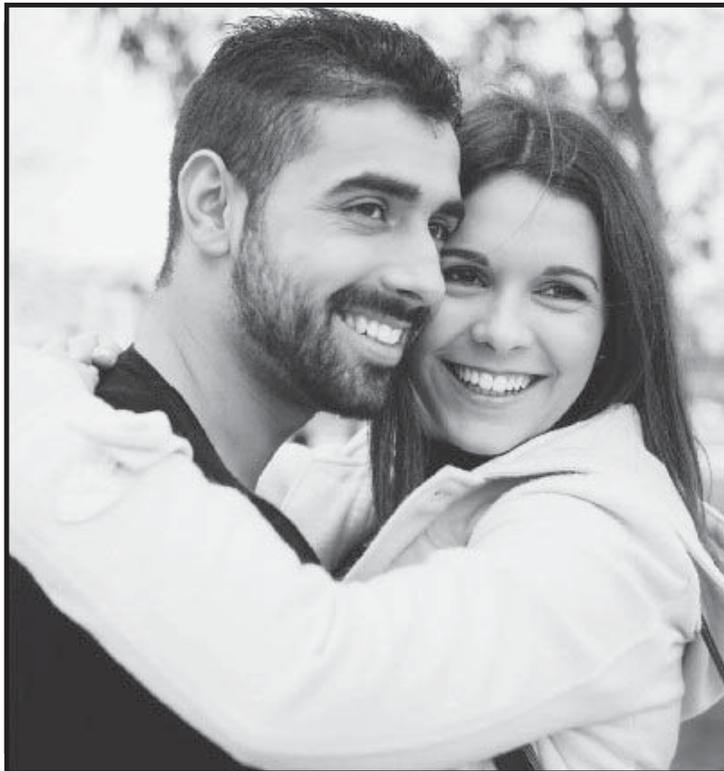


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Israel feeling are also being attended to under the supervision of Vice-President David Green. Both congregations are funding many

of these projects jointly, and others by the Young Israel alone. "We are in- stalling a fire escape from the top floor, and a (Please turn to following page)



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EYE ON MONTREAL

(Continued from preceding page)

stair lift since many of the congregation are elderly and have problems with the stairs," says Rudy. "The large Menorah which was in the front of the Young Israel building is being installed on the front lawn of the building, the names of Young Israel and Chevra Mishmayis are being installed on the front of the building, the stained glass windows from the Young Israel building are being prepared for hanging in the main sanctuary. The large Memorial Boards are also being prepared for mounting and our 'Tree of Life' will be installed on the entrance wall as well. The building has wheelchair access

through a ground level side door from the parking lot, which is very convenient. As well Young Israel has updated its website to allow the entire Jewish community to hear, read and see the new happenings in what we are hoping to be the start of a new beginning in Chomedey."

SOUSSANA ON RADIO: On October 16 (7 pm) Victor Soussana, who operates the very successful Intercoupe Le Spa on Decarie Boulevard with Georges Ouaknine, will be a special guest on Today's Entrepreneur. That is the Monday night CJAD program, sponsored by the accounting firm of Fuller Landau.

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Du Travail bien fait, ça se voit!

PHIL ON PIANO:

The wonderful and talented Phil Matlin continues to entertain folks in the Harold Greenspon Auditorium of the CSL Public Library Sundays at 2 pm. His upcoming shows are October 1 November 19 and December 3.

LITERARY CLUB:

The Mount Sinai Hospital Literary Breakfast Club celebrated its 13th season in June with a festive breakfast buffet! The Literary Club has hosted the reviews for many years to an enthusiastic 250 plus membership, five Wednesday mornings

each year, at the Beth El Synagogues in TMR. After enjoying a mini breakfast the members proceed to the plush sanctuary to engage in a professional and stimulating book review by distinguished reviewers. The co-chairpersons are Ellen Fabian and Sheila Lackman.

GOOD LUCK:

Congratulations to Maurice Cohen, who is retiring as a St. Laurent city councillor after several decades on the job.

Mike Cohen can be reached at info@mikecohen.ca. Log on to his personal website at www.mikecohen.ca

Avec les hommages de David Birnbaum, député de D'Arcy-McGee et adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation et de la ministre de l'Enseignement supérieur

À l'occasion de Rosh Hashanah
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Best wishes from David Birnbaum, MNA for D'Arcy-McGee and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education and the Minister of Higher Education

Happy Rosh Hashanah
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