

INSIDE: MESSAGE FROM THE CEO/RECREATION/FAMILY COUNCIL NEWS & MORE

JANUARY 2024 | ISSUE NO. 28

Snider

Schloosze



The Amazing Ayelet

Meet Ayelet Cohen Weil, the vibrant and compassionate force behind the Louis Brier Jewish Aged Foundation. As its Executive Director, Ayelet's love for Louis Brier residents radiates through her unwavering support and genuine care.

Get to know her more in this month's #LouisBrierSpotlight

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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Dr. David Keselman

Hello and welcome to this edition of the Snider Schmooze. I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for the dedication and hard work of each member of the Snider Campus family over the past year. Your commitment has been the driving force behind our success and I am confident 2024 will bring even greater accomplishments. This new year is a blank canvas awaiting the strokes of innovation, collaboration and shared victories. Let us approach it with a sense of optimism, courage and a collective determination.

Tu Bishvat (Jewish New Year for Trees) will be celebrated on January 25th. It serves as a symbolic marker, encouraging us to nurture the seeds of positive change, cultivate meaningful connections and embrace the potential for growth in the coming year. On this day, remember to eat figs, dates, olives, pomegranates and citrus fruits to celebrate the fertility of the land. If we are lucky and get good weather, I also highly encourage you to spend time outdoors and go for a walk.

January 27th is International Holocaust Remembrance Day. On this day, we stand united in memory. Let us remember the millions of innocent lives that were taken during one of humanity's darkest periods. Join us in a moment of reflection, whether through attending the memorial service in the Synagogue, attending educational programs led by Chaplain Rob or simply taking a moment of silence. Together, we acknowledge the pain of the past and strive for a future built on compassion and understanding.



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Continued

The grand opening of our much-anticipated Multi-Sensory Room is around the corner. The Recreation Supervisors have carefully designed this to engage and stimulate residents' senses in a space where they can relax and explore. The Multi-Sensory Room is a testament to our commitment to creating an environment that caters to the diverse needs and preferences of the Louis Brier and Weinberg community. Details about the opening ceremony will be shared soon. We look forward to sharing this exciting milestone with each member of the organization.

I would like to extend a special invitation to the Snider Campus staff, companions and families to join the Brier Fire Dragon Boat Team. Besides being a full-body workout that combines strength and endurance, it is a great opportunity to join a community of individuals who share a passion for teamwork, competition and the thrill of paddling.

To sign up or learn more, reach out to Renan Passatore at rpassatore@louisbrier.com or stop by his office. New and experienced paddlers are welcome!

If you have not had a chance to see the pictures from our wonderful Masquerade Ball, you can find the photo album here: https://bit.ly/masqueradeball_photos. You can look forward to many more fun events like this one in 2024! If you have any thoughts, suggestions or simply want to connect, please do not hesitate to reach out: info@louisbrier.com. We value your input and cherish the connections we have built.

Your support fuels our passion and drive to continue being a centre of excellence that provides exemplary resident and family-centred care. Happy January!



DR. DAVID KESELMAN, MN, DHA, CHE, RN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER





LOUIS BRIER JEWISH AGED
FOUNDATION

THE BRIER THEIR HOME

THE FOUNDATION 2023-2024 CAMPAIGN

GIVE TODAY

Visit: thelouisbrierfoundation.com
or e-mail us at foundation@louisbrier.com



RECREATION

CHANUKAH HIGHLIGHTS

This year we hosted a very special Chanukah, the Recreation Department wanted to give a heartfelt thank you for all those who made it so special. From the decorations, traditional games, food, and musical performances, it was a wonderful and festive celebration! Below are some highlights:

For the first candle lighting we hosted a performance by the Tzimmes Trio



We had a special visit from the students of The Beth Israel Hebrew School organized by Volunteer Coordinator Renan Passatore



We hosted a dreidel making workshop, followed by a Louis Brier's Third Annual Dreidel Tournament



Chaplain Rob and the Recreation Team held a special Chanukah Vigil



We hosted "A Taste of Chanukah" where residents, families, staff, and companions were treated to the sufganiyots, latkes, and traditions tunes by Sulam Band



And we concluded the holiday with a special Temple Shalom tea and performance by Cantor Shani Cohen



UPCOMING

Viano String Quartet Performance

On Tuesday, January 9th from 2-3 pm in the Homeside Lounge, we are excited to announce the special performance of the Viano String Quartet, who have graciously offered to play for our Residents for free! We are so honoured to host them at Louis Brier and look forward to their performance.



Praised for their “virtuosity, visceral expression, and rare unity of intention” (Boston Globe), the Viano Quartet are one of the most sought-after performing young ensembles today and currently in-residence at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center Bowers Program from 2024-2027. Since winning First Prize at the 2019 Banff International String Quartet Competition, they have traveled to nearly every major city across the globe, captivating audiences in New York, London, Berlin, Vancouver, Paris, Beijing, Toronto, Lucerne, and Los Angeles. - viaoquartet.com

Visit louisbrier.com/recreationcalendar for this month's Recreation Activities schedule

For questions and concerns, contact us:

recreationleaders@louisbrier.com

Tu BiShvat

The New Year of the Trees January 25th

The 15th of Shevat, in the Jewish calendar marks Tu BiShvat - The New Year of the Trees, and takes place on Thursday, January 25th. This day marks the end of the winter rains and the beginning of growth and renewal in the Land of Israel.

It is customary to honour Tu BiShvat by sampling the species of the Holy Land, which include grapes, olives, figs, dates and pomegranates. During this time themes of growth and renewal are interwoven into programs with Residents as we reflect on the importance of trees to our very existence.

We will be hosting a Tu BiShvat Seder with prayers related to the holiday and goodies containing ingredients from all of the species of Israel.



International Holocaust Remembrance Day January 27, 2024

In 2005, the United Nations General Assembly designated January 27th as the “International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust”. This day of remembrance is to honor those effected by and to create awareness about the atrocities of the Holocaust. We will be holding the ceremony this year at Louis Brier on Friday, January 26th at 10 am in the Homeside Lounge.

For more photos and videos of our Resident activities, follow us on our social media channels:



@LouisBrierBC



Louis Brier
Home and Hospital



@LouisBrierHome



@Louis_Brier



#LouisBrierSpotlight

Almost exactly three years ago, the Board of Directors of the Louis Brier Foundation announced the appointment of Mrs. Ayelet Cohen Weil as the new Executive Director of the Foundation. Ayelet Cohen Weil is a Mexican-born Israeli Jew, wife of Zohar Cohen, a Hightechist, Software Engineer working remote in the Silicon Valley, and mother of two beautiful girls, Shai (7 yo) and Shir (5 yo) Cohen Weil, both proud VTT students. Ayelet and her family moved to Vancouver 7 years ago from Tel Aviv. They are now active and grateful members of the Vancouver Jewish community, and members of the Schara Tzedek Synagogue. Both Ayelet and Zohar served in the IDF, Ayelet was an Intelligence Sergeant, and Zohar a combat paratrooper in Tzanchanim.

Ayelet has an impressive background in non-profit management, fundraising, strategic planning, community relations and development, with more than 15 years of experience working in Jewish community and academic institutions, both in BC and Israel. Prior to joining the Louis Brier Foundation on February 1st, 2021, Ayelet held the position of Associate Director of Community Engagement at the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver. She was also the Manager of Women's Philanthropy and Manager of Major Gifts for Jewish Federation's Annual Campaign. Her previous experience includes working in academia at the Interdisciplinary Centre (IDC) Herzliya (now Reichman University), the Institute of National Security Studies (INSS) in Tel Aviv, and Managing Director of Hillel BC. Ayelet holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy – Conflict Resolution and Mediation with distinction and International Mediation Certification from Tel Aviv University, and her first degree is in Political Science and Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Victoria (UVIC).

"The Brier is undoubtedly one of the most important and resource-demanding establishments in our Vancouver Jewish community in my opinion. For more than 60 years, 24/7, 365 days per year, rain or shine, the Home and Hospital Home has clinically and emotionally, cared for the most susceptible and often extremely ill members of our community, during the most vulnerable time of their lives. The Brier is the final stop for many, clients of several of our community agencies, and is currently the Home of 32 Holocaust survivors from the BC Jewish community.

The purpose of our Brier Foundation is to raise funds for the provision and distribution of resources towards maintaining and fostering the well-being of the Jewish aged of BC. My Foundation board is comprised of a group of exceptionally tenured and immensely dedicated community lay leaders, donors, whom have been in the forefront and in many occasions on the back-end of community allocations with great understanding of community fabric, needs and processes, and especially with best intentions and shared mission with the Brier. They are an extremely dedicated and high-caliber board of directors whom have continuously donated their time, funds, and fundraising expertise for the well-being of our community elders for decades. It is a sincere honour and privilege for me to work with them. Together with them, I run an extremely lean operation, with only two full-time staff members, and a remarkably slim budget.



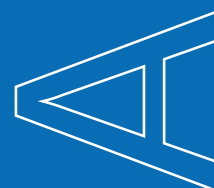
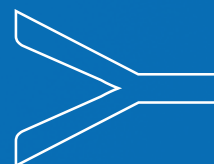
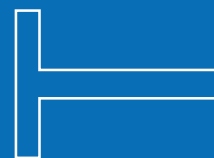
Ayelet

Executive Director,
Louis Brier Jewish Aged Foundation

As one of the most important funding partners of the Louis Brier Home and Hospital, now for more than twenty years, we hold an immense amount of responsibility on our shoulders. Early March 2022, the Home's Executive and Senior Leadership requested their annual funding from our Louis Brier Jewish Aged Foundation (LBJAF) for the 2022/2023 fiscal year at a total of \$1,448,670, with an incremental of \$354,960 from the prior year's funding of \$1,093,710. The requested funding for this fiscal year 2023-2024 to the Brier Foundation was \$1,218,000, and it was approved in full by the Brier Foundation Board. Only in 2015, we were supporting the Home and Hospital at a total of \$419,124, which means our funding responsibility has more than tripled in the past few years. It takes an immense amount of resources to manage such an operation.

After more than 15 years of being exposed to the many facets of the fabric of our community, I am now honoured to work for our seniors. The individuals who built our community for us. I first started working with the younger generation in my years with Hillel. With Federation, I worked across our community with Major Donors and Lions of Judah. In my position as Associate Director of Community Engagement, I worked with the regional communities, planning, allocations, newcomers, young adults, Ben Gurion Society, and partner agencies. I cannot stress enough the centrality of this establishment in the fabric of our community. The importance of caring for our elderly, and the sick. It is a command and collective due. I especially hope this message reaches the next generation, and perhaps it should across all generations. The idea of creating a substantial and long-lasting impact for my dear residents is what fills my batteries every day, especially after what we experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. My Brierland is a place where I witness the joy in Jewish living. The Brier is not an old age home; it is a place of family and hope. I stress the point, that our residents come here to live with us. It is not a small undertaking to care, in such a personal manner, to so many residents.

The Foundation board members and I are acutely aware of the immense responsibility we hold, and we thank all those whom have shared this responsibility with us over the years. It is only thanks to the commitment and consistency of the support of our donors, that our Louis Brier Foundation is able to provide the Home and Hospital with stable funding and proper budgeting foresight. Our Vancouver Jewish community continues to be the most important partner in our Brier Foundation's commitment to enhancing the very basic programs and services for residents, and in providing our elderly with the highest possible quality of life and care that recognizes their value and significance. Together with the exemplary staff and leadership of the Home and Hospital, the support of our community has helped the Brier achieve an unparalleled status in programming and services while remaining true to our Jewish values. Each of us, staff, and residents, learn to walk hand-in-hand through the most difficult situations. I personally hope my experience, sincere love and devotion to the Brier and our dear residents, will revitalize our Foundation and improve our level of community involvement, but most importantly, I hope it enhances the lives of our residents every single day that they are with us. I assure you we will continue to work tirelessly to honour and cherish the generation that came before us, and for the Brier to remain a place where small miracles happen every day." ~Cohen Weil



"As my ancestors planted for me before I was born, so do I now plant for those who come after me."



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Wishing you a Happy New Year 2024!

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Human Resources



Loren Tisdelle, CPHR
Director,
Human Resources



“

**18th of
Every Month!**

#LouisBrierLIFE Day

The “Louis Brier LIFE Day” is intended for everyone to demonstrate their pride in Louis Brier Home and Hospital & Weinberg Residence and everything that we stand for - our Mission, Vision and Values – and to celebrate CHAI (LIFE)!

We will be celebrating “Louis Brier LIFE Day” on the 18th of every month!

CHAI HONOURS Recognition Tree

Acknowledge individuals
within our community that
embody the LBHH&WR
“CHAI” Values, visit:
bit.ly/recognitiontree

”



CLICK HERE!





EMPLOYEE REFERRAL PROGRAM

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REFERRAL BONUS OF
UP TO **\$1,000!****

\$1000

"Hard to Fill Positions"
Nurses, Allied Health
Professionals

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Care Aide, Food Services,
Housekeeping, HCSW, etc.

The Employee Referral Program (ERP) is
open to all Employees, Companions,
Volunteers, Residents, and Family.



Volunteer Program

Bring joy and make a meaningful impact! Join our volunteer program at our Long-term care facility and support our beloved residents. Your contribution is vital in creating a vibrant and caring community.

By becoming a volunteer, you'll create priceless moments of companionship and brighten the lives of those we cherish. It's a chance to give back to our community and make a lasting difference. Gain personal fulfillment and build connections that warm your heart.

Step forward, be the light that illuminates lives! Sign up now and become a valued member of our volunteer family. Together, let's create a world of love, laughter, and support!

Sign up now by visiting louisbrier.com/volunteer-program or by sending an email to our Volunteer Coordinator, Renan Passatore, at rpassatore@louisbrier.com



FAMILY COUNCIL

The Family Council at Louis Brier Home and Hospital

Established in 2016, Family Council is an independent and voluntary body of family members, caregiver friends, and legal representatives of residents. Our primary focus is to advocate for the delivery of quality resident and family centered care.

Family Council is governed by an elected Executive Council guided by its Terms of Reference. It provides family members leadership opportunities in several capacities. It works in collaboration with the Louis Brier senior leadership team to review and discuss relevant opportunities to enhance the residents' experience. Family Council meets monthly to provide updates from senior leadership, Louis Brier Home and Hospital committees, educational workshops, and works together as a solution-focussed advocacy group.

Connect with us: lb.familycouncil@gmail.com

Check out our Family Portal: <http://louisbrier.com/family-portal>

We welcome all families and hope that you will take the opportunity to get involved.

Family Council



Notice of January 18 2024 Family Council Meeting and more!

Thank you to everyone who attended our November Family Council Meeting!

Minutes to be approved on January 18 2024. Minutes are attached.

2024 is shaping up to be a busy year for Family Councils in VCH:

1. Action For Residential Care Reform (ARRC) has been presenting a webinar series entitled:

Quality of Life in Long-term Care – What Will It Take?

Look forward to their next webinar, January 10 at 7PM.

Strengthening LTC Communities from Within –

Residents and Families. Make A Difference with What They Have – Their Voices

ILTCCABC hopes this webinar will build on the awareness among the public about ongoing issues in long-term care homes that compromise quality of life for residents. Our hope is that our building awareness and offering up recommendations will result in change and improvement to resident and family experience. We also hope our results will inspire others to get involved and put pressure on politicians and the government to address these concerns by advocating for system reform.

[Zoom link for January 10, 2024 Webinar](#)

Our Family Council continues to work towards in person meetings in 2024. We have decided to hold a few in person meetings when the weather brightens later in the Spring.

For our first 2024 meeting, we will meet virtually:

2. Louis Brier Family Council Meeting:

Time: Jan 18, 2024 7:00 – 8:00 PM Pacific Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82953849511?pwd=ME1oLOF3Uy9UVXdOQ2JlVWJ4YWVFdz09>

Meeting ID: 829 5384 9511

Passcode: 186079

Dial by your location

- +1 780 666 0144 Canada
- +1 204 272 7920 Canada
- +1 438 809 7799 Canada
- +1 587 328 1099 Canada
- +1 647 374 4685 Canada
- +1 647 558 0588 Canada
- +1 778 907 2071 Canada

Meeting ID: 829 5384 9511

Passcode: 186079

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcvIRHZZT8W>

Documents Attached:

[DRAFT Minutes of the November 2023 Meeting](#)

[LBHH Contact List for Families: “Who Do I Ask?”](#)

[Family Council Terms of Reference](#)

[Family Council Code of Conduct](#)

(Continued on next page)

Notice of January 18 2024 Family Council Meeting and more!

Please let us know what type of presentation and/or topics you would like us to include in our meetings. We leave time for personal sharing. Many personal stories are shared, which often are commonly experienced. With our collective experiences, many well-thought-out ideas and solutions emerge. In turn, we are able to bring these suggestions to Senior Leadership for their consideration every two months.

3. RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY:

We would like to invite you officially to an in-person Family Council 'mock meeting and coffee gathering' at Louis Brier on Thursday February 8th at 11am in the boardroom to help contribute to the 3rd stage of the UBC Research Project on Resident and Family Councils led by Naz Havaei and Sabina Staempfli. ([February 8, 2024 - Research Opportunity](#))

Continue your advocacy and support for improved long-term care in BC:
Get to know your provincial and regional association of family councils:
Independent Long-Term Care Councils Association BC ([ILTCCABC](#)) and Vancouver Coastal Association of Family Councils (VCAFC)
Email: vcafc.regional@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/VCAFC>

"Peer Support Corner"

Please share a resource that has helped you: lb.familycouncil@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you throughout 2024!

Family Council Executive

Lisa Dawson, Co-Chair
Fran Harrison, Co-Chair
Cassandra Siebel, Co-Chair
Evan Sahmet, Vice Co-Chair
Rahim Meghji, Treasurer



**BRIER FIRE IS NOW OPEN FOR REGISTRATION FOR THE
2024 DRAGON BOAT SEASON!**



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COACH: CARL MENDOZA

COMPETITIONS: VESSI, BURNWATER & CONCORD PACIFIC

REGISTRATION STARTS

**DECEMBER
2023**

PRACTICES

2X A WEEK
@ DRAGON ZONE
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JANUARY - AUGUST 2024

**MONDAYS & THURSDAYS
6:00-7:30PM**

TO REGISTER,

SEND AN EMAIL WITH YOUR NAME & PHONE NUMBER → RPASSATORE@LOUISBRIER.COM

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January

Andes, Merlyn
Barnes, Clara Angela
Bautista, Carmen
Biswas, Sudipta
Bolouri, Mitra
Brown, Tracy
Buter, Agnes
Calingasan, Leonora
Dass, Madhu
Divinagracia, Liza
Estupin, Elizabeth
Fanta, Tekeste
Gidal, Rebecca
Gill, Rajpreet
Guo, Chen Yue
Haratian, Niloofar
Kaur, Kamal Preet
Kaur, Nimrat
Lacanlale, Marlyn
Laririt, Ghysie
Mann, Sukhjinder
Mariano-Gosioco, Julie
Memaran, Hasti
Mina, Maricar
Nijjar, Balpreet
Olynyk, Marion
Orig, Maria Olga
Rai, Sandeep Kaur
Rivera, Jennifer
Samra, Sandeep
Sijera, Denel Liam
Silvestre, Jason
Sualog, Fe
Tanaquin, Roemilyn R
Ygbuhay, Daphne
Yin, Tina

HSK
HCAP - NURSING
NURSING
NURSING
FS
BUSOFF
STAFFING - HR
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NURSING
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COMPANION PROGRAM

We are here for you!

Did you know that Louis Brier Home & Hospital and Weinberg Residence offer an in-house Companion Program? We understand the needs of your family and loved-ones and we are here to assist in enhancing their personal and social well-being. Our in-house companion program provides added quality support at a reasonable rate. For more information, please contact:

Myla Carpio-Pelayo

Companion Coordinator

Ph: 604-267-4688

E: mpelayo@louisbrier.com

VIRTUAL VISIT

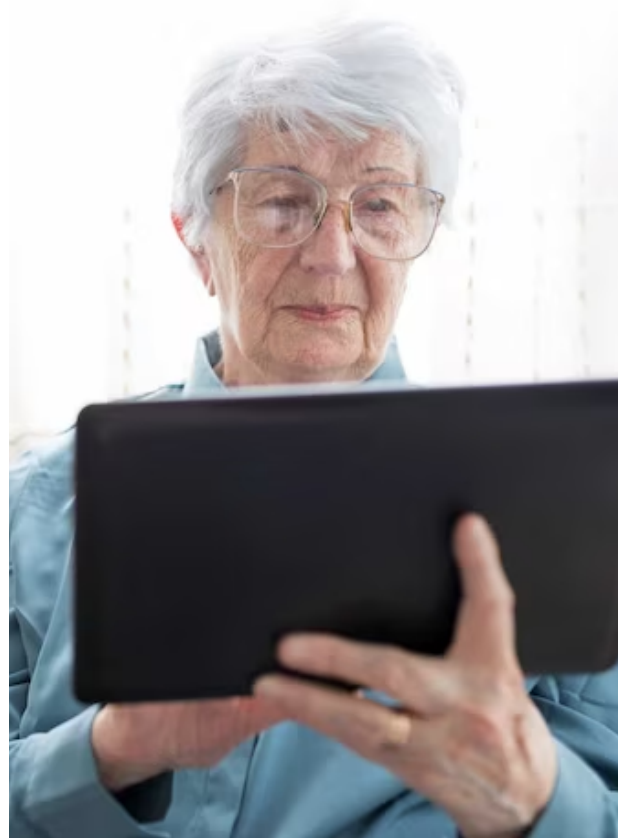
Book your Virtual Visit

Please, use the link <https://louisbrier.com/virtual-visit/> and follow the instructions on our website. We encourage families and friends to visit their loved ones in person at LBHH, and the Virtual Visit Program is focused on supporting those living in faraway cities, provinces and countries.

Each Virtual Visit is 15 minutes long with 5 minutes in between so staff can relocate between rooms and nursing units.

The program runs every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 09:30 am to 11:15 am. It does not run during Holidays, weekends and long weekends.

Please, do not hesitate to contact us at info@louisbrier.com or call +1 604-261-9376 if you have any questions or concerns.



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Want to contribute to the newsletter?

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Louis Brier
Home and Hospital



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