Beth Tzedec
בית צדק
CONGREGATION

Bulletin

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Enjoy the Holidays at Beth Tzedec



Shanah Tovah!
שנה טובה

Upcoming Events

1 **Community Shabbat Dinner honouring Lorne Hanick**
OCTOBER 30
See p. 2

2 **Grafstein Annual Lecture with Dr. Michael Rosenthal**
NOVEMBER 24
See p. 16

3 **Simchat Torah Luncheon**
OCTOBER 4
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Program Guide Fall 2026
See pages 36-47

Community Shabbat Dinner

honouring

Lorne Hanick



Friday, October 30
Services 6:00 PM | Dinner 7:15 PM

Lorne Hanick has dedicated the last 27 years to generations of our members as Beth Tzedec's beloved Ritual Director. As Lorne prepares to retire and begin his next chapter, please join us in a warm send-off as we celebrate Lorne's contributions to our *kehillah*. This special evening in his honour begins with a meaningful and musical Shabbat at the Floor Service, followed by an enhanced dinner from Apex Kosher Catering.

Cost for dinner: $95 adults; $27 youth (ages 4 to 14). Limited seating available. Pre-registration is required by **Monday, October 26 at 12:00 NOON**. To reserve, visit **bit.ly/lorne-hanick-tribute-dinner** or scan the QR code below.

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Rabbi Steven Wernick

Cheshbon Hanefesh, Growth and BTogether: Where Our Vision Stands as 5787 Begins

Agudah achat doesn't happen by accident. It happens because people were willing to ask and to hear the answer.

There is a moment every Rosh Hashanah when the shofar sounds and, for just a breath, the room goes still. That stillness is not empty. It is full: full of the year we actually lived, not the year we planned to live. That is what חֶשְׁבּוֹן הַנֶּפֶשׁ (*cheshbon hanefesh*), an honest accounting of the soul, asks of us: look clearly, not kindly and not harshly, at who we have become.

Before I tell you what we are calling this new year, I want to give you the verse underneath it—because it is the thread that runs through everything below. It comes from the *Amidah* for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur:

וְיֵעָשׂוּ כֻלָּם אֲגֻדָּה אֶחָת
V'*ye'asu khulam agudah achat*
"Let them all unite as one."

Notice what the grammar is doing. This is not a description of what already is. It is a verbal form expressing a command—a prayer, a longing, a direction of travel: let it be so. *Agudah*, a bundle bound together, does not mean uniformity; it means bond, even across difference. And *khulam*, all of them, is deliberately, insistently inclusive. No one is meant to stand outside it. Hold that verse loosely as you read what follows. It will come back.

The Data Dive as Cheshbon Hanefesh

This year, Beth Tzedec did that soul-accounting as a community, not only as individuals. Over the past two years, our Visioning Committee did not simply ask what we hoped was true about ourselves. We asked, and then we actually listened to the answer: through a congregation-wide survey with more than 350 respondents; through 15 focus groups and 13 leadership interviews reaching more than 80 participants; through two Board workshops that debated honestly about what they heard. That is *cheshbon hanefesh* at an institutional scale: not a strategic plan dressed up in spiritual language, but the real thing—a community willing to look at itself in the mirror before Rosh Hashanah and not look away. *Agudah achat* doesn't happen by accident. It happens because people were willing to ask and to hear the answer.

Ask 100 people to imagine Beth Tzedec ten years from now and something remarkable happens: before anyone describes what should change, they describe what must stay. Belonging. Home. Multigenerational warmth. Joy. Our core values, our pillars, the heart of the synagogue—these came back again and again as the things that must remain true no matter what else grows or shifts around them. Our six Pathways (Care, Celebrate, Connect, Learn, Pray and Tzedakah) carry those values forward—unanimously adopted by the Board this past spring as the framework for everything that follows. *Khulam*—whatever changes, this is who all of us are.

Here is what honest accounting also revealed: since 2022, when we faced a real risk of decline, Beth Tzedec has grown by 40 percent, from 1,700 to more than 2,400 member units. Membership of under-40 households nearly tripled, from 450 to over 1,100, making us home to the largest community of young adults and young families of any synagogue in the world. More than half of the members who joined through our complimentary under-40 Generations Membership initiative have transitioned to paid membership, and 97 percent of them

are still with us into their second and third years. Philanthropy exceeded our target by 37 percent last year and is on pace to do so again this year. Families who engage with our programming are five to seven times more likely to give, and 89 percent say they feel a stronger connection to this community because of it. This is not luck. It is what happens when relationship, not transaction, becomes the operating model of a synagogue—*agudah achat*, made real, one person at a time.

Interesting Gaps—Where the Real Work Begins

Cheshbon hanefesh is only honest if it includes the findings that don't flatter us. So, let's start with a number that we could easily have buried: 67 percent of our members report a genuine, strong peer relationship at Beth Tzedec—someone here they'd call if something happened, good or bad. Before we talk about what that number is missing, I want to sit with what it is. Two out of every three people who walk through our doors have found, here, the thing most people in this country today are quietly starving for.

In May 2023, the U.S. Surgeon General declared loneliness a public health epidemic, finding that a lack of social connection carries a mortality risk comparable to smoking 15 cigarettes a day, and that social isolation raises the risk of premature death by 29 percent. The picture in Canada is no gentler. Statistics Canada's own Canadian Social Survey and the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging found loneliness roughly doubled during the pandemic from about 31 percent of adults before COVID to over 50 percent during it, and nearly one in four young adults still report feeling lonely often. That is the world we are coming from when we walk through our doors. Against that backdrop, a 67 percent peer-connection rate isn't a shortfall. It's a genuine achievement, and it is worth naming as one.

So, what is the remaining third telling us? Not that we have failed them. They are telling us they want more of exactly what the other two-thirds already have. That is not a complaint; it is an invitation—and it is, if you think about it, the most *agudah achat* sentence a member can say to their synagogue: I feel connected to this place, and I want to feel bound to the people in it. Closing that gap through structured peer connections, Small Groups, connector volunteers—a real belonging metric we track year over year—is now our second strategic priority. It is one every member can help build, not just receive.

A few other honest findings round out the picture. We know members drift from us at predictable moments: after a B'nai Mitzvah; when a Generations family ages into paid membership; after a loss; and especially in the 50-to-75 cohort, which our research named as our most underserved group. We still speak to our members more than we speak with them, broadcasting one message to everyone rather than reaching each person through what matters to them—and even though nearly three-quarters of respondents named Jewish learning as a core value, many don't know what learning is already happening here. Members also told us, plainly, that affordability creates real anxiety; that we need to move from "can I afford this?" to "is this worth it?" Every one of these issues is solvable. None of them is a surprise once you know what to look for, and now we do.

None of this reads as decline-management. It reads as growth: deliberate, values-anchored growth. Our Vision asks us to grow our endowments, deepen engagement at every age and stage, and invest in the infrastructure—physical and relational—that lets connection happen.

The "Eight Big Ideas" approved by our Board this spring turn that ambition into direction: knowing our members as individuals, closing the belonging gap, mastering the lifecycle, personalizing how we communicate, embedding learning into our culture, addressing the affordability challenge, renewing our physical space around gathering and flexible prayer, and building the operational discipline to make sure the vision doesn't just sit on paper. Growth, in other words, isn't a metric. It's a direction: toward more of what already remained true about us, shared with more people, bound more tightly together—*agudah achat*—more deeply.

With Gratitude and an Invitation

None of this happened on its own and *cheshbon hanefesh* should always include *hakarat hatov*, the naming of good. This entire process began under the leadership of Brian Segal as Chair of the Board and Don Smith as President, and I want to thank them, and the administration and Board of Directors that served alongside them, for the vision and the courage to ask a large, thriving congregation to look honestly at itself. It is not a small thing to open your institution to that kind of scrutiny, and we are the better for their having done it.

I want to thank Mitch Max and Debbie Rothstein, who co-chaired our Visioning Committee through two years of surveys, focus groups, workshops and drafts, and who carried this process to a unanimous Board vote this past spring. That is an enormous volunteer commitment, and this community owes them real gratitude.

And I want to welcome Debbie Rothstein, continuing in a new capacity, and Naomi Kramer, joining her, as co-chairs of our new Transformation

Leadership Committee—the body now charged with turning this vision into the texture of daily congregational life. Their work is just beginning, and it cannot be theirs alone.

Here is the invitation: this vision was built by listening to hundreds of you, and it will only become real the same way. Over the coming months, each of the "Eight Big Ideas" will be developed by a committee or task force, in partnership with our clergy and staff, with a seat held open for members who want to help shape what comes next. If any of this—peer connection, the 50-to-75 cohort, learning, membership, our physical space—speaks to you, tell us. Join a task force. Show up to a co-design session. *Khulam* means all of them. That includes you.

BTogether: This Year's Launch

Which brings us back to the verse I gave you at the start. That line—recited every day, all year, at the close of every service—is why this year's High Holy Day theme is BTogether. Yes, the capitalization is intentional: togetherness for us is never abstract. It happens here, in this kehillah, in the space between the person who has found their person and the person still looking.

וְיֵעָשׂוּ כֻלָּם אֲגֻדָּה אֶחָת
V'ye'asu khulam agudah achat
"Let them all unite as one."

Every idea in this article—the honesty of our data dive, the values that remained true, the successes we've earned, the gaps we can now see clearly, and the growth strategy ahead—is really one idea, said in different registers: we are bound to one another, even in difference, and the binding is not finished. It is aspiration, not achievement. That is the spirit in which we launch this next chapter: not with a finished vision to admire, but with a covenant to carry—together, *khulam*, all of us—into 5787.

Shanah tovah.



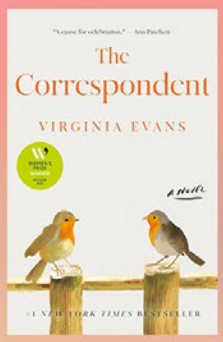
BT BOOK & FILM CLUB

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS

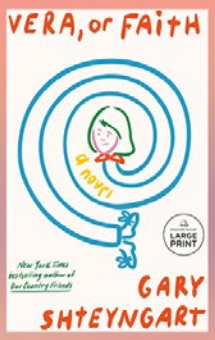
1:30 to 3:30 PM

Join us Wednesday afternoons for our Book and Film Club series for a cultural connection to Judaism, unexpected points of view and enhancement of your understanding of the books and films featured.

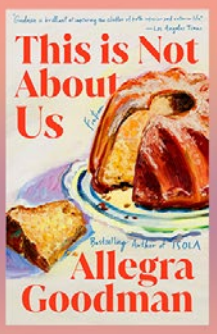
To register, visit **https://bit.ly/book-and-film-club-26-27.**



October 7:
The Correspondent
by Virginia Evans
Led by Elaine Newton



November 4
Vera or Faith
by Gary Shteyngar
Led by Cynthia Good



November 25
This Is Not About Us
by Allegra Goodman
Led by Janna Nadler

Generations Membership

Our NO-FEE membership for under-40s



For information about membership, contact Klara at 416-781-3514, ext. 220 or **kromm@beth-tzedec.org.**



Brian Segal

Looking Forward by Looking Back

The Vision for Beth Tzedec is seemingly simple: "Where every generation carries Jewish life forward bound in peoplehood, honouring our past, shaping our future."

As a first-year President at Beth Tzedec tasked with writing a message to the Congregation for the High Holy Days, I began by reading what my predecessors had written. I started with Debbie Rothstein's messages, followed by Patti Rotman's and then Don Smith's.

Reading these messages reminded me that the Congregation has come through a lot, both good and bad, over the last six years. The "bad", of course, was enduring a pandemic. It shut down our operations almost completely. It was a challenge to figure out how to navigate issues of a synagogue with virtually no one allowed into the building. Gradually we started to reopen, but even then, we did so with great concern for the health and welfare of our members. We formed a reopening task force with input from our lawyers, doctors and health official members. Should individuals be allowed in our building without proof of vaccination? What about masks? Should we have a section exclusively for those who wanted to wear masks and did not want to be near those who did not?

The "good" during this bleak time was the opening up of streaming possibilities. Individuals who could not attend in person—indeed, most of us—had an opportunity to attend remotely and be part of Beth Tzedec. We invested heavily in developing streaming and it paid off. The Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services during COVID were well produced and carried online. There were a few hiccups, but for the most part, the production values were high and we were able to bring Beth Tzedec to our members, many of whom felt isolated in those days.

Outside of religious services, we introduced remote access to our administrative staff in their everyday work and to our members at our Annual Meetings. This applied also to committee meetings, Board meetings and Executive Committee meetings, as well as to our Spiritual Leadership Team. Much of this continues today.

Seemingly a good thing, however, some Board members worried that streaming and Zoom meant we would never get people back into the building. Surprisingly to some, that never happened. Possibly because people were "itching" to get back into public spaces, the opening up of Beth Tzedec was greeted with enthusiasm and in no time, we had people back in our building looking to form new bonds and shed the shackles of isolationism.

Navigating through the pandemic fell largely to Debbie and Patti, and we are indebted to them for their tireless work in keeping Beth Tzedec meaningful to our Congregation during this most challenging period. By the time Don took over, things were more or less back to normal, and the focus became how we would move forward. We had already introduced a policy of free membership for the under-40s, our "Gen Mems". The number of people in this age group that we attracted with this initiative is well known and, frankly, impressive. It far exceeded expectations. But, to state the obvious, there is no point in offering free membership if we cannot make these new members feel welcome and wanted. The Under-40 initiative has breathed new life into our Congregation, and with Don's

guidance we have been able to build on this.

This brings me to my term as president, and the "good" and "bad" that we now face. The new "bad" is the scourge of antisemitism post-October-7, and the impact it has had on us. Like many Jewish institutions, Beth Tzedec has invested heavily in keeping our building and surroundings safe. This is done, and continues to be done, at a very significant cost, both in terms of the cost of physically erecting protective barriers and in increased security staffing. The challenge is to do this in a way that best ensures that our synagogue does not become Fortress Beth Tzedec, cut off from the community. We are mindful that the synagogue should feel welcoming to all our members, yet at the same time serve as a "sanctuary" where members can feel safe and secure.

The "good" is the number of initiatives that our Board has recently approved, as we continue to make Beth Tzedec relevant not only to our Gen Mems but to all members. As many of you are aware, over the past year, we have done extensive surveys of our membership views and attitudes, conducted one-on-one interviews, focus groups and a synagogue-wide survey. This was all part of developing a vision for Beth Tzedec in the immediate and longer term. The responses we received were carefully analyzed and have resulted in our Vision, Mission and Core Values, which were unanimously passed by our Board prior to our last Annual Meeting.

The Vision for Beth Tzedec is seemingly simple: "Where every generation carries Jewish life forward, bound in peoplehood, honouring our past, shaping our future." Our mission is "building meaningful Jewish lives in an engaged community". It is built on our core values:
(1) relational,
(2) tradition and innovation,
(3) welcoming,
(4) accessible, and
(5) peoplehood.

"Relational" means that every member feels recognized, not merely served. "Tradition and innovation" means honouring traditional practice while innovating to meet people where they are. "Welcoming" means creating a culture of belonging regardless of background or journey. "Accessible" means removing physical, financial and informational barriers, and "Peoplehood" means being bound to *K'lal Yisrael*, the State of Israel and Jewish life beyond our walls. It has six pathways of engagement: Care, Celebrate, Connect, Learn, Pray and Tzedakah.

Our Vision does not become reality unless our members make it reality. This requires a new level of engagement by members of the Congregation. That is why, before approving the Vision, the Board approved a revised committee structure and a set of flexible rules designed to ensure proper governance for committees as we move forward. We now have a Transformation Leadership Team to help guide our committees as they face new challenges in giving life to the Vision and a Governance Committee to ensure that processes are in place to help ensure success.

In the coming months, we will begin revitalizing existing committees and creating new ones. We have already started the process and continue to look for members who are willing to chair and serve on committees. We welcome the participation of all members who have an interest in serving on one or more of over 30 committees. With the help of our Congregation and our wonderful Spiritual Leadership Team and administrative staff, we will move forward in helping to bring our Vision to life.

Which brings me to why looking to the past and living the present makes me hopeful for the future. The common thread to all of this can be summed up in one word: resilience. Whatever the challenge, be it dealing with a pandemic or with growing antisemitism, Beth Tzedec has always shown resilience, the ability to make good out of bad and the ability to reach new heights. Because our membership is growing and our demographics are balanced, we are now in a position for great things. With the engagement of our members and the steps we have taken, I am confident in our ability to help realize our Vision and continue to make Beth Tzedec the great institution our founders dreamt of over 70 years ago. We are well on our way!

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy and sweet year.

Chag Sameach!



Phil David

There is so much happening at the synagogue. It's like a small friendly city here at Beth Tzedec and I guarantee, we have something for you.

Belonging Matters More Than Ever

Membership Is About More Than a Ticket

As the High Holy Days approach, annual contribution statements arrive in mailboxes and inboxes across our community. For some members, that naturally leads to a question:

"What exactly am I supporting?"

It's a fair question.

After all, membership can sometimes feel transactional. A contribution is made. A ticket arrives. A renewal notice follows the next year.

But Beth Tzedec was never intended to be a transaction.

Membership is really about belonging.

It is about knowing there is a Jewish community here when you want to celebrate a simcha, mourn a loss, learn something new, attend a holiday service, volunteer, make friends or simply reconnect with Jewish life.

For some members, that connection happens every week. For others, it happens a few times a year. Some join us for classes, lectures, concerts, family programming, social events or volunteer opportunities. Others quietly find comfort in knowing Beth Tzedec is here when they need it most.

Every one of those connections matters.

In a time when antisemitism has reached levels many of us never imagined we would experience in Canada, the importance of strong, vibrant Jewish institutions has become even clearer.

Communities do not sustain themselves by accident. They require investment, participation, leadership and shared responsibility.

That is what membership helps make possible.

What Your Membership Supports

As I enter my fifth year as your Executive Director, one of the things I've come to appreciate about Beth Tzedec is that, on any given day, someone is writing a chapter of their Jewish story here. A child attending a family program. A teen preparing for a milestone. A couple celebrating a simcha. An adult exploring a new area of Jewish learning. A mourner finding comfort in minyan. A volunteer helping strengthen our Congregation for the next generation.

Most of us only see a small part of that story. What we don't always see is that these moments are happening throughout the day, every day. From morning minyan to evening programs, from lifecycle events to holiday celebrations, Beth Tzedec is constantly bringing people together to pray, learn, celebrate, connect, volunteer and support one another.

Membership helps ensure that those moments continue to happen, day after day, year after year, for thousands of people who call Beth Tzedec home.

And perhaps that's the real value of membership. Not access to a building. Not a ticket. A community that is here before you need it, when you need it, and long after.

And behind everything we do is an extraordinary partnership.

Our Board of Directors focuses on governance, strategy, policy and stewardship.

Our Spiritual Leadership Team (SLT) guides our community through prayer, learning, lifecycle events and pastoral support.

Our Administration, Engagement, Events, Programming, Facilities, Finance, Security, Development, Cemetery,

Marketing and SLT ensure that infinite details come together every day so that our members can focus on what matters most: Jewish life, community and connection.

Simply put, Beth Tzedec would not be Beth Tzedec without them. Thank you.

Membership Builds the Foundation. Philanthropy Helps Us Build Beyond It

Membership dues are essential but they do not fully fund the breadth of what Beth Tzedec provides.

That is why each year we invite congregants to support our **Annual Appeal**, contributing in a way that is meaningful and comfortable for them.

As Canada's largest congregation, Beth Tzedec impacts the lives of almost 5,000 individuals. Our mission is to build meaningful Jewish lives in an engaged community through our six pathways of engagemen—Care, Celebrate, Connect, Learn, Pray and Tzedakah.

A gift to the 2026 Annual Appeal helps sustain the programs, security, Jewish learning, clergy support, community engagement and infrastructure that allow Beth Tzedec to thrive today and remain strong for future generations.

Most importantly, I am pleased to share that the **Larry and Judy Tanenbaum Foundation will match every donation dollar-for-dollar up to $300,000**, effectively doubling the impact of every gift.

If Beth Tzedec has made a difference in your life or the lives of your family, I encourage you to consider making a contribution in an amount you are most comfortable.

To learn more or make a gift, please visit bt.crowdchange.ca/147381.

Preparing for the High Holy Days

We are now preparing to welcome almost 5,000 individuals from our *kehillah* through the doors for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

To make your arrival as smooth as possible, I encourage members with outstanding balances to make payment arrangements now so that High Holy Day tickets can be mailed in advance. Doing so will help avoid lineups and allow you to begin the season focused on prayer, reflection and community.

I also encourage everyone to **review our High Holy Day FAQs** visit bit.ly/2026-FAQs before the holidays.

The FAQs contain important information regarding schedules, seating, parking, accessibility, security procedures and other practical details that will help you prepare for a meaningful experience.

Safety Is a Sacred Responsibility

One topic that understandably remains top of mind for many members is security.

While we do not discuss operational details publicly, please know that the safety of our community remains one of our highest priorities.

Over the past several years, Beth Tzedec has continued to strengthen security through investments in personnel, technology, infrastructure, training and emergency preparedness. These enhancements include controlled building access, secured entry points, AI-enabled surveillance technology, lockdown capabilities in key spaces, professional security personnel and close cooperation with both the Jewish Security Network and Toronto Police.

Our goal is simple: to create an environment where members can gather, pray, learn, celebrate and connect with confidence.

Shabbat Scholar Weekend
with Rabbi Deborah Sacks Mintz

Friday, November 13 and Saturday, November 14

Join us as we welcome Rabbi Deborah Sacks Mintz for a special Shabbat of songful prayer, teaching Torah and communal song. On the Friday evening, Rabbi Sacks Mintz will lead us in joyful prayer followed by a catered community dinner and a special Tisch with more participatory singing and learning hosted by the Little Minyan.

On Shabbat morning, Rabbi Sacks Mintz joins the Sanctuary Service where she will lead us in prayer once again, give a sermon from the bimah and join us for the Congregational Kiddish and learning following.

Cost for dinner. Pre-registration is required.
Watch for links and additional information coming soon.



Security is not about fear. It is about responsibility.

Remaining Open While Becoming More Secure

This fall, members will begin to see the installation of a new perimeter security fence around portions of our property.

In collaboration with the Federal Government's CCSP grant program, the decision reflects the security realities confronting Jewish institutions and follows several deeply troubling incidents involving synagogues across Toronto since October 7, and in particular, over this past year.

Some may wonder whether a security fence contradicts our desire to remain warm, welcoming, and accessible.

I would suggest the opposite.

The fence is not intended to keep people out. It is intended to help keep our community safe.

A welcoming community and a secure community are not competing ideas. In today's environment, they must exist together.

Our commitment remains unchanged: Beth Tzedec will continue to be a place where people feel connected, cared for, respected, and welcome.

Looking for a Deeper Connection? Volunteerism at Beth Tzedec

There is another important way to strengthen your connection to Beth Tzedec: volunteer leadership.

Our Congregation has always benefited from members who generously share their professional expertise, wisdom and experience.

As we continue to evolve, we are actively seeking members who wish to contribute through committee service and special projects, particularly in areas aligned with their professional backgrounds.

Whether your expertise is in **Budget & Finance, Investing, Human Resources, Marketing & Communications, Artificial Intelligence and Digital Transformation, Facilities, Real Estate, Legal Services, or Strategic Planning, to name just a few**, there may be an opportunity for you to make a meaningful contribution.

Volunteering is more than giving your time. It is an opportunity to help shape the future of Beth Tzedec while deepening your own connection to the community.

If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities, I encourage you to reach out. We are always looking for talented people who want to put their skills to work on behalf of our Congregation.

AVODAT LEV:
A Shabbat Mindfulness Service

Saturdays, October 31 and November 28
9:30 to 10:45 AM

There are many ways to pray, many ways to connect to oneself, community and the Divine

Join **Aviva Chernick** for Avodat Lev—Service of the Heart—a sacred Shabbat space through chanting, silence and Torah study together. We will conclude in time for participants to attend the Musaf Service. All Hebrew will be transliterated and translated. No prior experience required—just bring your curiosity as we come together for a service of cultivating an open heart.

This service is offered for in-person participation only.



Milestones and Celebrations

We can't share your good news unless you tell us about it. Send an email to thumphries@beth-tzedec.org or call 416-781-3514, ext. 212. The deadline for the next *Bulletin* covering December 1 through February 28 is October 31.

Births

Olivia Shai, daughter of Dana & Scott Kaplin, granddaughter of Helene & Jory Griesman and Cindi & Richard Kaplin, great-granddaughter of Elaine Bronstein & David z"l Bronstein, Anita & Jack z"l Westreich, Frances & Stanley z"l Griesman and Hortense & Leon Kaplinsky z"l, **born January 24**.

Skye Morgan, daughter of Jessica & Shane Slater, sister of Oaklee Faye and Ivy Banks, granddaughter of Terri & Adam Abramovitz and Missi & Gary Slater, **born February 4**.



Amar "Ami, son of Suzanne Carson & Hussein Hirjee, grandson of Louise & Terry Carson and Abdul & and the late Anar Hirjee, great-grandson of Murray and Phyllis Levin, **born April 30**.



Brooks Joy, daughter of Carly Ostroff & Noah Mandel, baby sister of Rhodes and Marlowe, granddaughter of Shawna & Jack Ostroff and Marie & the late Dr. Fred Mandel, **born June 14**.

Benyamin David, son of Aliza Feld Haber & Ari Haber (of Efrat, Israel), grandson of Alan Feld & Dr. Leeona Fisher Feld (of Caesarea, Israel), great-grandson of Judy Feld Carr and late Dr. Ronald Feld and the late Donald Carr, born June 8. He is named in memory of the great grandfathers, Donald Carr and Dr. Benjamin Fisher.



Leo Albie, son of Matthew Cole & Allie Gottlieb, grandson of Laurie Sheff & Jonathon Cole and Matthew & Aviva Gottlieb, great-grandson of Gerald Sheff & Shanitha Kachan and Marlene Sheff, **born July 6**.

Bree Rowe, daughter of Joshua Glied-Beliak & Erin Silver, sister of Jack, granddaughter of Robert Beliak & Tammy Glied and Perry & Faiga Silver, great-granddaughter of Marika Glied, Marty & Barbara Sversky and Anita Silver, **born July 7**.

Owen Charlie Barreca, son of Jillian Barreca & Lucas Samuels, grandson of Corinne & Jeffrey Samuels and Cathy & Günter Barreca, **born July 13**.

Gavriel Revaya (Gavi), daughter of Rabbi Lara Rodin & Jonah Levitt, granddaughter of Andria Paul Rodin & Greg Rodin z"l and Beth Gamulka & Wally Levitt, great-granddaughter of Margaret Felberg-Levitt and Ala Gamulka, **born August 23**.

Congratulations

Art Andrews, who celebrated his 85th birthday on July 5.

Jacob Brenzel, son of Michelle & Jonathan Brenzel, who celebrated his Bar Mitzvah on September 7.

Tal Freeman, son of Liat Margolis & Mark Freeman, who celebrated his Bar Mitzvah on August 10.

Dr. Nate Greenberg, who celebrated his 90th birthday on September 8.

Neil & Janet Katz, who celebrated their 43rd anniversary on August 14.

Isaac Markowitz, son of Shauna & Richard Markowitz, who will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on October 17.

Lily Markowitz, daughter of Shauna & Richard Markowitz, who will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on October 17.

Marjorie Rasky, who will celebrate her 90th birthday on September 17.

Patti & Sheldon Rotman, who celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on July 5.

Jay Solomon, who was appointed Hillel Ontario's Chief Executive Officer.

Jacob Walters, son of Steven (Skip) Walters & Daphna Rabinovitch, grandson of Zipporah (Bubz) Dunsky, Jack Rabinovitch z"l and Harry & Jeanette Walters z"l, and **Goldie Turk**, daughter of Stephen Turk & Maura Levine, sister of Drew Turk, granddaughter of Merle Langford Levine, Michael & Sue Turk z"l and Andrew Levine z"l, on their engagement.

Lyon Wexler, who celebrated is 92nd birthday on July 11.

Sharon Yale & Blake Teichman, who celebrated their 40th anniversary on July 6.

Eliana Sara Pesachov, daughter of Avshalom & Aviva Pesachov, who will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on November 21.

Weddings

Ira Carson, son of Louise & Terry Carson, grandson of Phyllis & Murray Levin z"l and Nan & Max Carson z"l, and **Lauren Heath**, daughter of Leslie & Nigel Heath, granddaughter of Diana Heath and Barb & Barry Diceman, who were married on August 29.

Alex Rose, son of Susan & John Rose, and **Joelle Brooker**, daughter of Lisa & David Brooker, who were married on August 30.

Sam Shiff, son of Elliott & Risa Shiff, grandson of Min & the late Harvey Drevnig and Judy & the late Ralph Shiff, and **Ashley Gerlock**, daughter of Elisa Ship and Michael Gerlock, granddaughter of Rickiee & Bernie Itovitch and Helen & Sandy Gerlock, who were married on August 2.

Hannah Shuster-Hyman, daughter of Avi Hyman & Heidi Shuster, and **Dan Schechner**, son of Ronen & Elinoar Schechner, who were married on June 28.

Many Thanks

David & Emily Segal, who sponsored a Congregation Kiddush on June 13 honouring their daughter **Hailey Segal** on her Bat Mitzvah.

The Slater Family, who sponsored a Congregation Kiddush on June 27 honouring the naming of **Skye Morgan Slater**.

Phyllis Flatt and Harold Wolfe, who sponsored a Congregation Kiddush on July 18 honouring their birthdays.

Patti & Sheldon Rotman, who sponsored a Congregation Kiddush on July 25 honouring **Dr. Lauren Rotman & Adam Goldberg** on their naming of their daughter **Lillian Ray**.

Gail Teperman and family, who sponsored a Congregation Kiddush on August 1 honouring **Max Collie & Sidra Noorzad** on their marriage.

The Zigler and Gryfe Families, who sponsored *Seudah Shlisheet* on August 8 commemorating the 20th yahrtzeit of **Etty Zigler**.

Mark Freeman & Liat Margolis, who sponsored a Congregation Kiddush on August 14 honouring their son **Tal Freeman** on his Bar Mitzvah.

John & Susan Rose, who sponsored a Congregation Kiddush on August 22 honouring **Alex Rose & Joelle Brooker** on their marriage.

Marcia Schnoor, who sponsored a Congregation Kiddush on August 22 honouring her Bat Mitzvah.

The Trachtenberg and Oykhman Families, who sponsored a Congregation Kiddush on August 22 honouring the naming of **Sadie Fira Oykhman**.

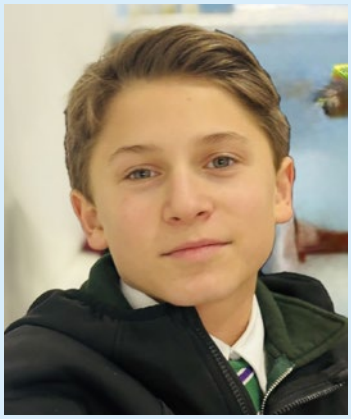
Liane Greenberg, who sponsored *Seudah Shlisheet* on September 5 honouring **Dr. Nate Greenberg** who will celebrate his 90th birthday.

Andria Paul Rodin and Beth Gamulka & Wally Levitt, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on September 5 honouring the birth of their granddaughter, **Gavriel Revaya Levitt**.

The Grandchildren and partners of Marjorie Rasky, who will sponsor a Congregation Kiddush on September 19 honouring **Marjorie Rasky** on her 90th birthday.

Mazal Tov *to our* B'nai Mitzvah

WHO HAVE COMPLETED OUR BAR/BAT MITZVAH PROGRAM



September 3
Cory Peikes
son of J.B. Peikes & Serena Wolfond
קובי זאב בן יהודה ברוך ושרה יונה



October 15
Jayden Alter
daughter of Eli Alter & Jessica Fenton
צביה יוספה בת אלי ויהודית שמחה



Cantor Chaim Stern

How I Became a Cantor: Part 2

I was studying at a higher Yeshiva (a traditional institution for advanced Jewish and *Talmudic* studies). Those were fascinating days. The daily schedule was incredibly intense: we sat and poured over complex *Talmudic* texts from morning until the small hours of the night, with barely any breaks except for quick meals or a short afternoon rest. There wasn't much free time to think about anything else.

What little time remained was spent on a rushed lunch at a local working-class diner or the neighborhood pizzeria or on fiery arguments about local politics. In between, I tried to catch some music on my upgraded MP3 player (Eight gigabytes, which felt like an infinite amount back then!) and hum the latest Jewish and *Hasidic* songs with my roommates in the dorm.



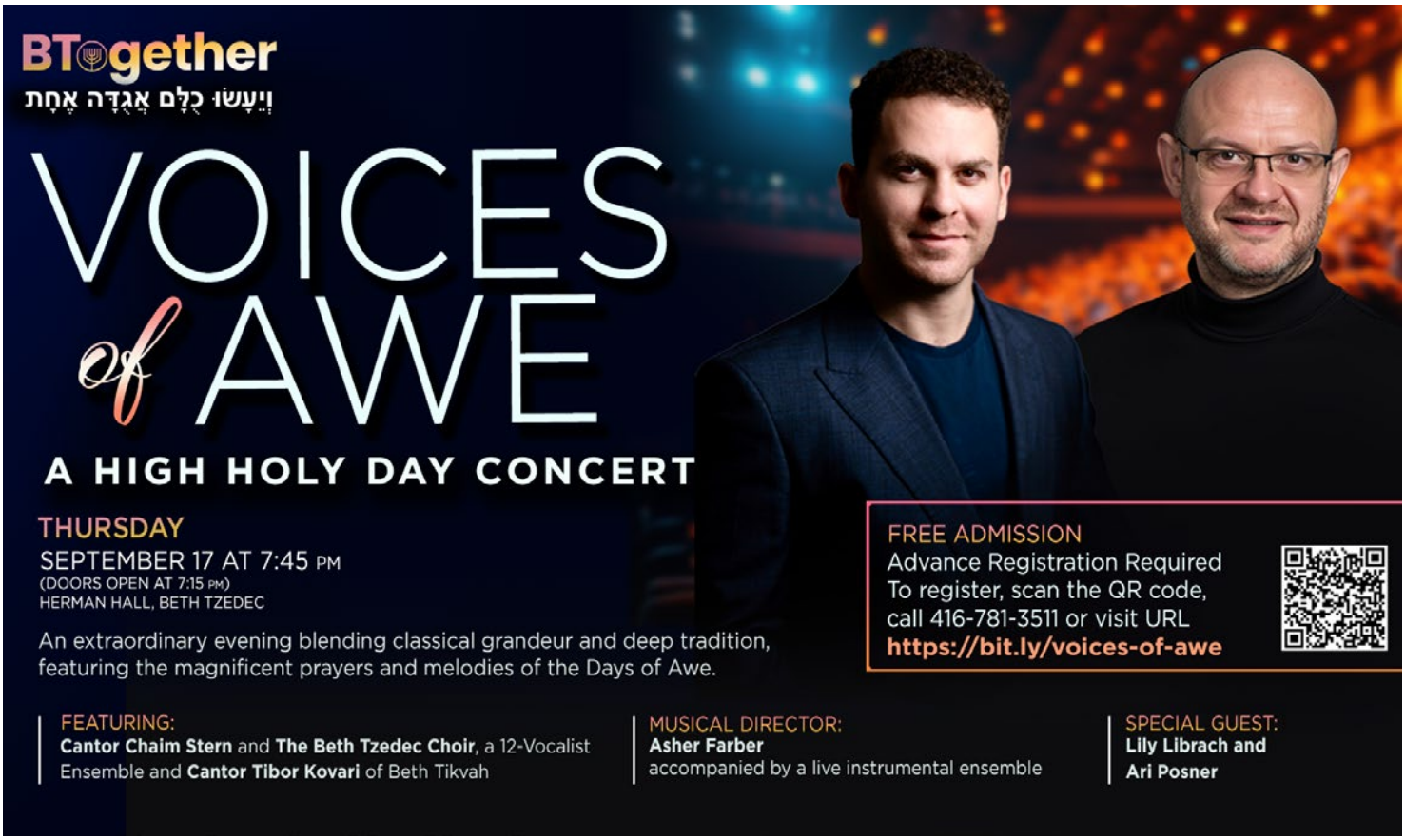
One of the main highlights for us in those days was going out in the evenings to weddings of students from the older graduating classes. Even though I was much younger than them, I was fortunate enough to be on friendly terms with many of them, so I found myself invited to a wedding every few weeks. At first, I arrived simply as a regular guest looking to celebrate, dancing in the circles with my many friends and enjoying the traditional buffet, which featured classic, warm comfort food like cholent (a slow-cooked Shabbat stew), potato kugel (baked pudding) and sweet drinks.

At one particular wedding, everything changed. The groom, who was a few years older than me, knew about my deep passion for cantorial and liturgical music. During the intermission between the dancing sets, he walked up to me and asked me to get up on stage and sing for the crowd. At first, I refused, simply because I was terrified of the moment, as I had never stood up and performed in front of such a massive audience. But he insisted and wouldn't take no for an answer. Suddenly, I found myself standing on stage with the wedding band improvising a perfect accompaniment behind me to the song I chose. Although I kept my eyes tightly shut out of fear for almost the entire song, and even though my voice was not yet trained or stable, that spontaneous performance received overwhelming praise from the crowd and my fellow students.

From then on, it became a regular tradition: the grooms knew that when they invited me, they would get a heartfelt performance at their wedding for free—the guests enjoyed good music—and I got exactly what I needed most: a stage, exposure and practical experience. It was a true win-win situation.

A year later, shortly after the holiday of Purim, my older sister, Pnina, got married. I was 17 then; a young, excited and proud brother. After the first round of dancing, several family members approached me and asked me to sing. I invited my father, who was blessed with a beautiful, warm and sweet voice, to join me on stage, and together we performed two songs to the roaring applause of our entire extended family.

A few weeks later, we celebrated Passover. We all sat around the Seder table at my grandparents' house, along with my parents, aunts, uncles and cousins. My grandfather, who had already heard about my new "musical career" from the wedding, asked me to lead the traditional singing and cantorial pieces during the reading of the *Haggadah*. I sang and my family sat captivated and amazed.



The real turning point happened right after the holiday. Two of my father's brothers, my uncles Chaim and Yonti, quietly called me aside into a private room. They handed me an envelope, inside of which was a check for 1,200 Shekels. They looked at me seriously and said, "It's a shame to let this talent go to waste. Take this money and do something with it." I thanked them with tears of excitement, and the very next morning, I officially began my search for professional vocal coaches.

The first teacher I found lived in Jerusalem and I scheduled a trial lesson with him. When I arrived at his studio, the door was opened by a man in his 50s, pleasant-looking but rather tough in practice. His theory was simple: professional singing requires strong physical support, so the foundation of any good voice is strong core and chest muscles. And so, instead of standing and singing scales, I found myself lying on a thin mat on the floor of his small studio doing grueling sets of crunches and push-ups. After an hour, I left there exhausted, with sore muscles all over my body and promised myself one thing: I am never going back there.

Fortunately, my second teacher was a completely different story. He was an American guy—tall, full of energy and smiling—who ran the lesson in a rather amusing way: throughout the entire session, he sat with a gray house cat that looked quite angry and grumpy resting on his lap.

His approach was highly technical and anatomical: he claimed that every phonetic syllable in singing has its own unique mouth shape that needs to be isolated. And so, I found myself standing for hours in front of the large mirror in his living room, watching myself contort my mouth into strange vocal exercises like "Oooo-Ahhh-Aeee," while fighting with all my might not to burst out laughing in front of his serious face and the cat's glare.

He recorded a series of vocal exercises for me to practice at home. Out of pure embarrassment—and because I was terrified that someone at the Yeshiva would hear these strange, bizarre noises I had to produce—I used to sneak out late in the evening to the building's isolated underground bomb shelter. I would slam and lock the heavy steel door, and only then, in absolute isolation from the world, would I begin to practice.

*For Part I, please read the Spring Bulletin that can be accessed at https://bit.ly/2026-summer-bulletin

Volunteer in Israel

with Beth Tzedec and Rabbi Fryer Bodzin

November 24 to December 3, 2026

Birthright Israel and UJA invite the Beth Tzedec community to rally our support and volunteer in Israel. From Tel Aviv, we'll travel to Jerusalem, plus the North and South of the country, pitching in along the way. For information or to register, visit https://bit.ly/bt-volunteer-in-israel-2026 or scan the QR code.

Registration deadline: **September 13.**



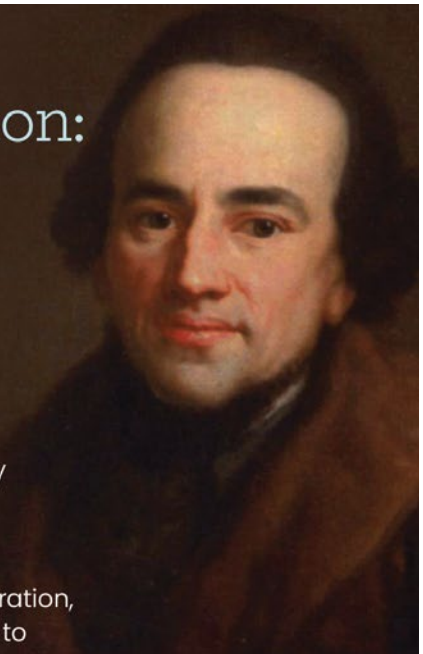
TAGLIT BIRTHRIGHT ISRAEL

UJA FEDERATION of Greater Toronto

Beth Tzedec בית צדק CONGREGATION

THE SENATOR JERAHMIEL S. AND CAROLE[Z'L] GRAFSTEIN LECTURE

Emancipation, Toleration and Tradition: Reading Mendelssohn's "Jerusalem" in Toronto Today



Tuesday, November 24 at 7:30 PM



Dr. Michael Rosenthal, the Grafstein Professor of Jewish Philosophy at University of Toronto, examines the enduring relevance of Moses Mendelssohn's 1783 work, Jerusalem, for Jewish life today.

Through a discussion of 18TH century debates on emancipation, toleration, and religious reform, he explores how these historic ideas continue to inform contemporary questions of Jewish identity, citizenship, and religious freedom in democratic societies such as Canada.

To register, visit: **https://bit.ly/grafstein-lecture-2026**

The Senator Jerahmiel and Carole[Z'L] Grafstein Lecture



Rabbi Robyn Fryer Bodzin

Wrapped in White: An Invitation for Neilah

Imagine entering Neilah clothed in white—not as a symbol of what we seek, but as a sign of what we have become through the sacred work of the day.

In September, when Yom Kippur draws toward its final hours, I want to invite all of us into a practice as old as it is beautiful. Wear white for *Neilah*.

The custom of dressing in white on Yom Kippur runs deep in our tradition, rooted in this day's call to purity and renewal. The *Shulchan Aruch* (*Orach Chayim* 610:4) records the custom of wearing clean, white garments on Yom Kippur, and the *Mishnah Berurah* teaches that white clothing, like the *kittel* worn by prayer leaders and so many others, calls to mind the purity of angels, reminding us of the simplicity and humility with which we stand before God on this holiest of days.

White is also bound up with hope. It recalls Isaiah's promise: "Though your sins be like scarlet, they shall become white as snow" (*Isaiah* 1:18). White is the colour of forgiveness, of new beginnings, of a slate wiped clean.

Imagine entering *Neilah* clothed in white—not as a symbol of what we seek, but as a sign of what we have become through the sacred work of the day. White can represent the purity for which we have striven, the forgiveness we pray to receive and the new beginning that awaits us as the gates of Yom Kippur draw to a close.

But there is something more that white does, something I think about especially as we gather for *Neilah*.

When we all wear white together, as a community, the differences between us begin to soften. For these final, sacred moments of Yom Kippur, none of us is distinguished by what we wear or where we come from. The person beside you, the stranger you have not yet met, and your oldest and dearest friend all become the same. At that final moment, we are simply a community, wrapped in the same colour, standing together as the gates begin to close.

Neilah is the moment our tradition imagines the gates of heaven swinging shut. But it is also, I believe, the moment the gates between us can swing wide open. There is something profoundly unifying in looking around the room and seeing a sea of white. If you have experienced this before in another community, you know exactly what I mean. It is a visual prayer in and of itself.

When we all wear white, it is as though we are calling out to God that we are one people, pleading as one voice and hoping as one heart.

So, on Yom Kippur, as the afternoon turns to evening and we make our way back for the final, breathless moments of the day, I encourage you—whether you have a *kittel*, a white dress, a white shirt, or simply a white scarf—to wear white as you return for *Neilah*.

Let it be a small, outward sign of an inward truth: that on this day, and always, we belong to each other.

May this Yom Kippur's *Neilah* find us standing together, wrapped in white, bound as one community before the Source of all forgiveness.

Many blessings,

Rabbi Fryer Bodzin



Cantor Sidney Ezer

Torah! Torah! Torah! … or Forlorn for Lorne

Pardon the pun, but I know there are many of you who will feel forlorn for Lorne once he is gone. So, consider this your surprise wake-up call now—Torah! Torah! Torah!

Over the years, I have come to enjoy spending evenings with my mother watching old movies on television. We often tune into channels such as Turner Classic Movies (TCM) or Silver Screen Classics. One such evening, I found myself looking up information online about a particular movie actor. From the filmography, one title jumped out at me: *Tora! Tora! Tora!* Out of sheer ignorance or just a natural Jewish reaction, I assumed that this must be a movie about Torah. What immediately came to mind was the song "Torah Tzivah Lanu Moshe". We typically sing it on Simchat Torah or often during *Hagbah* and *Gelilah*. The common melody we usually sing opens with the word Torah in clusters of three, hence the association with the movie title.

I was, of course, mistaken. *Tora! Tora! Tora!* is a 1970 epic war film that dramatizes the events leading up to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, from both American and Japanese positions. The Tora of the title, although literally meaning "tiger", is actually a two-syllable codeword that abbreviated the longer phrase Totsugeki Raigeki ("lightning attack"), used by the invaders to indicate that complete surprise had been achieved.

Although I still have not seen *Tora! Tora! Tora!*, I came to think about that movie title when I learned that our Ritual Director Lorne Hanick would be retiring at the end of 2026. To many people, the announcement of Lorne's impending retirement came as a shock. Lorne has been a fixture at Beth Tzedec for over 27 years. Both in full view and often behind the scenes, it is he who has kept the synagogue operating smoothly. The shul certainly will never be the same without him. In fact, the Ritual Director, Synagogue Sexton or *Shamash*, the colloquially known title of the past, is becoming more and more rare in today's congregations. Back in 2005, I attended the School for *Shamashim*, a specialized institution within Beth Tzedec started by Rabbi Roy Tanenbaum to train prospective synagogue caretakers, beadles and ritual assistants in liturgy, *halakhah*, and synagogue management. It was the only school of its kind in the world offering such training. Nowadays, most synagogues do not have a full-time ritual director and there are fewer Jewish professionals with that title or skill set. The usual responsibilities of a ritual director in many modern-day congregations will often fall to the *Chazzan Sheini*, if there is one, or a qualified layperson.

Going forward, Beth Tzedec will be no exception. We are not hiring a full-time ritual director to replace Lorne. Beginning in January, I will be taking up much of Lorne's duties. I will be the primary Torah reader for the Sanctuary Service for Shabbat, festivals and all applicable weekday services. This will also include assisting the Little Minyan in Torah reading, coordinating the Torah and Haftarah reading for the High Holy Day Mezzanine Service, as well as the reading of the five *Megillot* for Purim (Esther), Pesach (*Shir Hashirim*), Shavuot (Ruth), Tisha B'Av (*Eichah*), and Sukkot (*Kohelet*). Although I will be the official Torah reader, the ultimate goal is not to have me reading, but rather to involve more members of the Congregation.

To that end, Beth Tzedec has hired a new Education Coordinator, Matthew Jadd. Although his key responsibilities

will lie with the Congregational School, Matthew will assist me in recruiting and scheduling lay Torah and Haftarah readers, including coordinating practice sessions and pairing newer readers with mentors. He will maintain a database of lay readers, their *parashiyot*, skill levels and availability, tracking reader development over time. He will not be a B'nai Mitzvah tutor, but rather he will be responsible for the administration of the B'nai Mitzvah process. He will serve as the primary point of contact for B'nai Mitzvah families from initial outreach through celebration. He will liaise with other future tutors, clergy, families and me to schedule tutoring assignments and track student progress against the B'nai Mitzvah preparation timeline. Overall, he will coordinate congregational Torah and Haftarah reading assignments with B'nai Mitzvah scheduling and special Shabbats to ensure a meaningful, well-prepared service experience.

One initiative of Yacov Fruchter to encourage the continuing participation of teens after their B'nai Mitzvah was to issue a challenge to read one *Aliyah* from each book of the Torah. One of my students, Lev Bar-Isaac, successfully accepted that challenge and genuinely enjoyed the experience. Having an Iraqi background like myself, Lev also learned to chant an *Aliyah* in the Baghdadi trop. Before then, I had been the only one at Beth Tzedec to chant Torah using that trop, but I was incredibly happy to pass the torch. Not only teens, but also those in the adult B'nai Mitzvah program, have stepped up to the challenge of learning to read Torah and Haftarah. I am currently working with one such student who will read an *Aliyah* on Shavuot when she graduates from the program.

In the movie *Tora! Tora! Tora!*, General Short and Admiral Kimmel finally receive Marshall's telegram warning of the impending danger hours after the Pearl Harbour attack is over. Aboard his flagship, Admiral Yamamoto, lamenting that the declaration of war arrived after the attack began, notes that nothing would infuriate the U.S. more and concludes: "I fear all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve." I know Lorne's retirement comes as a shock, but what it should do is hopefully wake us up and fill us with a strong resolve.

Now, do not fear; I am fully capable of reading the entire Torah portion on any given week and will make sure I am ready to do so. However, I too will eventually retire, so the more lay Torah readers we develop now, the better off we will be in the future. A synagogue can always hire a professional Torah reader, a *Ba'al Keri'ah*, although as the years go by, there may be fewer such professionals in the Conservative movement. So if you have read one *Aliyah* of Torah in the past, consider learning to read more. If you have never read Torah before, consider studying with me, either one-on-one or in a class setting. Matthew Jadd is also currently helping me, Lorne and Daniel Silverman create a contact list of past B'nai Mitzvah students with Torah reading skills. If your children have the skills and interest, please encourage them to take on the challenge of reading Torah.

Pardon the pun, but I know there are many of you who will feel forlorn for Lorne once he is gone. So, consider this your surprise wake-up call now—Torah! Torah! Torah! Start with learning to chant one *Aliyah*, then perhaps consider Yacov's challenge of reading one *Aliyah* from each book of the Torah.

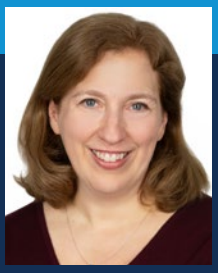
It is true that there is indeed no replacing Lorne, and I apologize in advance for the mistakes that I will make in trying to fill his shoes. However, when it comes to Torah, Haftarah or *Megillah* chant, as much as I enjoy preparing and reading everything myself, I will only consider myself successful if most or all of the Torah reading is covered by the Congregation by the time I retire.

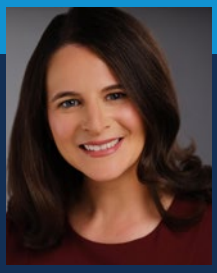
Let's start building this now—for Lorne, not forlorn.

SAVE THE DATE

Building the Jewish Future with Dara Horn and Sarah Hurwitz

Monday, November 9 at 7:00 PM







Jonathan Ain

Continuing the Momentum: Building Meaningful Jewish Lives Together

The Appeal has become increasingly important as Beth Tzedec continues its commitment to reducing barriers to participation, welcoming the next generation of Jewish families.

As Beth Tzedec reaches the conclusion of another Jewish year, we stand at a remarkable moment in the history of the synagogue. In 2026, during our 70th anniversary celebrations, our Annual Appeal was able to raise a record-breaking $610,000 from 380 donors. Together, we demonstrated what is possible. Now, we want to build on the strength we know we have to reach an even higher goal. With matching gifts from the Larry & Judy Tanenbaum Family Foundation, we are aiming to raise $700,000 in this year's Appeal. To put this number in perspective, in years prior to this revitalized effort, the Annual Appeal generated approximately $100,000 annually.

For Naomi Oelbaum and Jay Feldman, co-chairs of this year's campaign, the fundraising goal is about much more than dollars and cents. It is about ensuring that Beth Tzedec remains a vibrant centre of Jewish life for generations to come.

"Beth Tzedec is continuing to evolve. It's not staying stagnant. It's really continuing to branch out. I respect that and I respect the clergy and the administration for making changes," says Naomi.

Like their fellow congregants, Naomi and Jay are witnessing firsthand how Beth Tzedec is embracing innovation while remaining always rooted in Conservative Jewish values. From family Shabbat dinners to Pride events, educational programs for seniors through our "To 120" Club, to the outstanding concerts with our Cantor Chaim Stern and Musical Director Asher Farber, each year brings fresh change while celebrating traditions that make us who we are.

"We're going where the community is going, as opposed to resisting. I love that," says Jay.

For Naomi, one of Beth Tzedec's greatest strengths is its ability to foster genuine community togetherness—in turn strengthening *K'lal Yisrael*, the Jewish People.

"We are a tribe and we want this tribe to thrive and do good works in whichever way it can," she explains.

That sense of collective responsibility lies at the heart of Beth Tzedec's Annual Appeal. Membership contributions support only a portion of the operating needs. The Appeal provides critical funding enabling Beth Tzedec to offer meaningful worship, innovative learning opportunities, pastoral care, youth and family engagement, social programs, community outreach and much more.

The Appeal has become increasingly important as Beth Tzedec continues its commitment to reducing barriers to participation, welcoming the next generation of Jewish families. Thanks to the groundbreaking Generations Membership program, which continues to provide free membership to under-40s, Beth Tzedec today has the largest under-40 demographic of any congregation in North America.

"Over the past several years, Beth Tzedec has demonstrated what is possible when a community embraces both tradition and change. There were naysayers; people who

were not expecting that we might be able to prove that exceptional changes can lead to exceptional results. Those voices are not as loud now," says Rabbi Steven Wernick.

This is seconded by President Brian Segal. "I'm thrilled to have taken on a role that will help guide the synagogue as we follow the next steps in ensuring our success now and into the future. The Annual Appeal is an investment in that future, and a statement that we believe the next generation deserves a Beth Tzedec that is as strong, dynamic and inspiring as the one we have been privileged to be part of."

This success is only possible because of the philanthropic nature of our members.

Jonathan Ain, Director of Development, is proud to continue to steward this philanthropy. "I would be lying if I didn't say I was thrilled by how successful we've been recently in light of numerous challenges facing the Jewish community. It's up to all of us to continue building on this present momentum and positioning the synagogue for the major leaps forward that it is set to take."

The goal of raising $700,000 in our Annual Appeal is ambitious but Beth Tzedec has never been a congregation that shies away from ambitious goals. Over the past several years, members have repeatedly demonstrated their willingness to invest in a strong and vibrant future for Jewish life in Toronto.

As always, Beth Tzedec extends deep appreciation to the Tzedec Circle—those congregants who contribute $1,800 or more each year. This group of leadership donors now accounts for 85 percent of all funds raised. That doesn't mean that small donations are any less meaningful: every single dollar given to the campaign plays a major part in ensuring the long-term sustainability of our *kehillah*.

The financial strength of the synagogue is a critical indicator, but is only one aspect of the revitalization process that Beth Tzedec has been going through. This is quantified through the overwhelming positivity of members towards the changes that have been made, and the increases in new kinds of engagement from the grassroots up to the committees.

As Jay reflects on Beth Tzedec's future, his vision is clear. "I hope it will be a vital place, a place that has energy, a place that's attractive to a broad cross-section of people in our community. That's what I hope it will be."

We invite every member to join us in this shared effort. Together, we can ensure that Beth Tzedec continues to thrive as a centre of Jewish life, learning, spirituality and community for generations to come.

2026
Annual Appeal
Make your annual gift today to help shape Beth Tzedec's future.



This September, join our community-powered campaign to raise more funds than ever in support of meaningful Jewish living at Beth Tzedec.

For the first time, you can go beyond giving—you can lead. Set up your own fundraising page, rally your friends and family, and help ensure Beth Tzedec continues to inspire, connect, and grow.

Make your contribution at bit.ly/annual-appeal-5787.

Beth Tzedec
בית צדק
CONGREGATION

Building Engagement



Daniel Silverman

"People don't buy WHAT you do, they buy WHY you do it".

—Simon Sinek

In his book *Start With Why*, Simon Sinek continually returns to a mantra that he applies to businesses: "People don't buy WHAT you do, they buy WHY you do it". He references companies that have adopted and internalized this principle—Apple, Southwest Airlines, and Harley Davidson—and that have created a legion of dedicated customers committed to the principles of the corporation itself, not just the products they make, sell or offer.

As the staff person in charge of programming at Beth Tzedec, this mantra has become a North Star for me and my colleagues and lay leaders. "People don't engage in Beth Tzedec because of WHAT we offer, they engage in Beth Tzedec because of the organization's—and their personal—WHY".

The organization's WHY is demonstrated through our new strategic framework exemplified by our High Holy Day theme of BTogether—we are seeking to increase the connections that members feel with each other. That means that within programs we are challenged to find moments and opportunities for attendees to meet each other, learn about each other and feel connected to each other. While this may not obviously fit within the framework of a lecture or presentation, we are continuing to think creatively about how to offer more programming that is relational at its core and bring relational elements into programming that might otherwise be frontal.

We are also expanding other types of programming that is more relational as its core purpose. Building on the success of our Small Groups initiative, we are expanding this format to include teen participants. We will be running more adult learning groups that allow participants to get to know each other more deeply. We are engaging more volunteers to connect with congregants who are homebound and to come together to work on other *chesed* activities. We are expanding programming for new parents and for seniors, seeking to bring cohorts together around shared experiences and interests.

All these ideas build on Beth Tzedec's WHY: to build meaningful Jewish lives in an engaged community. To take care of each other. To learn and pray together. To celebrate and mourn in supportive community. And through these actions, activities, programs and initiatives, to build and strengthen the community that binds us to each other.

This is the WHY of Beth Tzedec.

I hope that you are already dedicated to the synagogue and its WHY. If you are, you'll undoubtedly join us for the countless WHATs that we offer. And if this is still percolating within you, then I encourage you to try something new at the shul—maybe a class or a small group or a program. As you meet new people, you'll be helping to further Beth Tzedec's WHY and find meaning and connection for yourself.

May this New Year bring us safety, health, growth and a renewed commitment to our community.

Shanah Tovah.

BTogether



Aviva Chernick

Teshuvah begins with a single turn.

A Wise Tradition

Looking back on my childhood, this was the time of year when I came home from Hebrew Day School and asked my mother to forgive me.

I was so earnest. I laid out the various things I felt I had done that were disrespectful—I was late, I didn't listen—and asked for her forgiveness.

Busy preparing for the *chagim*, she brushed me off. And so, just as I had been taught at school, I apologized once again and waited desperately, with the scales hanging in the balance. Would I be forgiven? Nothing. And so, with great courage and tenacity, I stepped forward for a third time and once again declared the error of my ways. My mom turned to me and impatiently replied, "Yes, yes, enough. I forgive you."

In Day School I learned that at this time of year, we recognize the ways we haven't been our best selves, so we can apologize and seek forgiveness. This is the humbling process of *Teshuvah*. This is our process for repairing what needs fixing.

We stand in front of one another and acknowledge that there are ways that we have missed the mark. We pray for and actively work towards repair, cultivating awareness about how we have been in the world, taking responsibility for our words and actions, and recommitting to relationships.

Although essential and prescribed for this time of *Yamim Noraim* (the days of Awe), *Teshuvah* is a foundational Jewish value, one that can be practiced daily throughout the year.

Our tradition is so very wise.

As we enter this season, what might it be like for each of us to identify one place in our lives where repair is waiting? One conversation we have been avoiding. One relationship that could use a little more tenderness. One apology we need to offer or, perhaps, one forgiveness we are ready to extend.

Teshuvah comes from the root word *Shuv*—to turn, to return. It is not about punishing yourself: it is about making intentional decisions, some small, some larger, to change direction. *Teshuvah* begins with a single turn. Taking into account our ways of being in the world and choosing well, we return home to our best selves, in relationship with each other and the Divine.

May we find the courage, commitment, and compassion to make those turns and take the first step towards repair.

Shanah Tovah.



Jewish Free Loan Toronto

Last year, we said YES to:

420 Interest-Free Loans

233 Personal Loans
Helped people afford basic amenities and overcome financial hardship

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Listen to Our Voice



Asher Farber

Let us build and augment the beauty and power of our prayers—hundreds of voices, all together.

Taking inspiration from our theme this year, "BTogether," I encourage us all to take every opportunity to sing together, to strengthen our collective voice. Let us also focus on the profound meaning and intention (*Kavanah*) in our prayers. But my message goes even deeper.

Perhaps while we listen to the shofar during these High Holy Days, I suggest that we should consider how remarkable and unique this experience is: No other Jewish holiday has a biblical commandment involving a musical instrument. Furthermore, the blessing we make for the shofar sums up my message perfectly: "*Lishmoa Kol shofar*", "To listen to the voice of the shofar". This shows that the mitzvah is not centered on the act of blowing the shofar, but rather on listening to its voice as a community.

The concept of collective listening is further explored in our *machzor*, often while we ask God to listen to our voice. For example: "*Sh'ma Koleinu*; *chus v'rachem aleinu*", "Listen to Our Voice; spare us and have compassion on us." I interpret this not just poetically, but also literally and sequentially. First, our voice needs to come out. Next, God listens. Then, and only then, are we ultimately granted forgiveness. Therefore, the act of collective singing is essential, as it possesses a unique and transformative power in our communication with the Divine.

This year, as Musical Director, I am honoured once again to conduct our High Holy Day Choir, an exceptional group of singers, alongside our Senior Cantor, Chaim Stern. I welcome you to sing with us at every opportunity.

Let us build and augment the beauty and power of our prayers—hundreds of voices, all together.

L'shanah tova tikatevu v'techatemu: may we all be written and inscribed for a sweet and happy New Year.



Greetings from Sisterhood

The Beth Tzedec Sisterhood wishes everyone a healthy and happy new year.

For information about the Sisterhood, please contact Ruthann Lubin or Rhoda Salama through the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511 or **info@beth-tzedec.org.**

BETH TZEDEC בית צדק SISTERHOOD


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שנה
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Our Services

We're bringing your favourite High Holy Days services for you and your family to enjoy! Beth Tzedec members can participate in-person or online.

This High Holy Days Guide will be updated with direct links to access the services as we move closer to Rosh Hashanah. Check your emails, and weekly eblasts for updated information and virtual links or visit our High Holy Days hub page at bit.ly/bt-hhds-2026.



Sanctuary Services

Join Rabbi Steve Wernick, Cantor Chaim Stern and musical director Asher Farber with the High Holy Day Choir for our spectacular and inspiring High Holy Day services with excellent chazzanut, choral singing and teaching. Congregational Torah and Haftarah readers participate in the Torah Service.

On Sunday, the Shofar Service and initial blasts begin at approximately 10:30 *am*. There is no shofar on Saturday, the first day of Rosh Hashanah.

The Sanctuary Services will be livestreamed via bit.ly/hhd-livestream.

Rosh Hashanah
September 12 & 13 at 8:30 AM

Kol Nidrei
September 20 at 7:05 PM

Yom Kippur
September 21 at 9:00 PM



Mezzanine Services

Join Rabbi Robyn Fryer Bodzin, Cantor Sidney Ezer and Ritual Director Lorne Hanick for this inspiring and participatory service. The warm atmosphere and emphasis on singing will help every member engage with the liturgy as we celebrate the chagim. These Services are offered in-person only.

Rosh Hashanah
September 12 & 13 at 8:30 AM

Kol Nidrei
September 20 at 7:05 PM

Yom Kippur
September 21 at 9:00 AM



Return Again and Again: Meditation

Begin your day with time in silent reflection, simple repeated melodies and deep learning. Spiritual Leader Aviva Chernick will guide us using the mindfulness tools of returning to the breath and the body, together with the teachings of this season, to awaken our hearts and open the pathway for the prayers that are waiting to be spoken. All are welcome. Previous experience with meditation is not necessary.

Rosh Hashanah
September 12 & 13 at 9:30 AM

Yom Kippur
September 21 at 12:45 PM



Short & Sweet Outdoor Services

Join Yacov Fruchter, Director of Community Building and Spiritual Engagement, and Spiritual Leader Aviva Chernick for this spirited and welcoming 90-minute Service highlighting essential elements of the liturgy (Machzor), and combining familiar melodies and meaningful takeaways in an approachable way. This year, these Services are offered in-person only.

Rosh Hashanah
September 12 & 13 at 10:30 AM

Kol Nidrei
September 20 at 7:05 PM

Yom Kippur
September 21 at 10:30 AM



Family Services

This 75-minute service is lively and lots of fun. Join Daniel Silverman, Director of Education & Program Development, and rabbinic student Michele Wernick for stories and songs to delight the family. These Services are in the Hendeles Chapel and offered in-person only.

Rosh Hashanah
September 12 & 13 at 11:00 AM

Kol Nidrei
September 20 at 7:05 PM

Yom Kippur
September 21 at 11:00 AM



Festival Mincha-Ma'ariv

Everyone is invited to join us at the end of each day for evening services in the Hendeles Chapel or on our livestream via bit.ly/hhd-livestream.

Erev Rosh Hashanah
September 11 at 6:00 PM

Rosh Hashanah
September 12 & 13 at 7:15 PM

Kol Nidrei: Early Mincha
September 20 at 2:00 pm



Yom Kippur Mincha Service

Join us in the Sanctuary for our Mincha Service with a Torah reading and a reading of the Book of Jonah. It will also be livestreamed via bit.ly/hhd-livestream.

Yom Kippur
September 21 at 5:00 PM



Neilah, Ma'ariv and Shofar Blowing

Join members of our Spiritual Leadership in the Sanctuary as we conclude the High Holy Days with this beautiful and inspiring service in which we imagine the Gates of Heaven closing and offer our final plea for redemption and life.

Neilah will be followed by Ma'ariv, Havdalah and the final shofar blowing. You are encouraged to bring your shofar

If joining us via our livestream feed, for Havdalah, we suggest that you turn off the lights and turn on a glow stick. Then grab your shofar and sound the final blast with us.

This service will also be livestreamed via bit.ly/hhd-livestream.

Yom Kippur Evening
September 21 at 6:30 PM



A Selichot Service with Cantor Chaim Stern and guests Neta Elkayam and Amit Hai Cohen

Saturday, September 4 10:30 PM

As part of our special weekend leading into the High Holy Days, join us for an extraordinary spiritual and musical experience with Cantor Chaim Stern, accompanied by musical director Asher Farber and a talented ensemble of musicians for a powerful night of piyyut and prayer, in collaboration with guests Neta Elkayam and Amit Hai Cohen.

There is no charge but pre-registration is required via bit.ly/selichot-service-2026 or call 416-781-3511.



Connect Lounge

Looking for a quiet place to sit, relax and connect with congregants, friends and family over a cup of coffee and freshly baked cookies? Make plans to meet up in the Connect Lounge!

Rosh Hashanah
September 12 & 13 from 10:30 AM to 12:00 NOON

Our High Holy Days Programs



Camp Hi Ho: High Holy Days Children's Care Experience

While you are in Services, your camper will be participating in developmentally appropriate explorations around the themes and messages of the holidays. Games, singing, acting, physical play, food crafting, lively tefillah experiences, puppet shows and of course, on Yom Kippur, the world-famous Tarnogolympics!

CAMP UNITS:

Shofar Babies: Birth to age two—with professional childcare staff

Tekiah Tots: Pre-K, JK and SK—Ages 3 to 5

Shevet Shevarim: Grades 1 and 2—Ages 6 and 7

Troop Teruah: Grades 3 and 4—Ages 8 and 9

The Tekiah Gedolah Gang: Grades 5 to 8—Ages 10 to 14

Rosh Hashanah
September 12 & 13
from 9:30 am to 12:30 PM

Kol Nidrei
September 20
from 6:55 to 9:00 PM
(Babysitting, childcare and programs for children up to Grade 3 only)

Yom Kippur
September 21
from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Pre-registration is requested. To register, visit bit.ly/camp-hiho-20264.



20s & 30s Rosh Hashanah Kiddush

Gather with other 20s and 30s for a Rosh Hashanah Kiddush featuring an apple and cider tasting with leaders of our 20s and 30s Committee.

Rosh Hashanah
September 13 from 12:00 to 12:30 PM



Tefillah and Tales

for kids in Pre-School, JK and SK and their families

A joyful 30-minute holiday adventure for little ones—with songs, prayers, stories and shofar blasts!

Rosh Hashanah
September 12 & 13 at 9:45 AM

Yom Kippur
September 21 at 9:45 AM



Voices of Awe: A High Holy Day Concert featuring Cantor Chaim Stern and the High Holy Day Choir

Thursday, September 17 at 7:45 PM

Join us at Beth Tzedec for our High Holy Day concert, blending classical grandeur and deep tradition of the magnificent prayers and melodies of the Days of Awe.

The evening showcases Cantor Chaim Stern and the Beth Tzedec Choir, a 12-vocalist ensemble, with special guest Cantor Tibor Kovari (Beth Tikvah). Musical direction by Asher Farber accompanied by a live instrumental ensemble, and special appearances by Lily Librach and Ari Posner.

Everyone is welcome. There is no charge but pre-registration is required via bit.ly/voices-of-awe or call 416-781-3511.





Outdoor Family Experience: Shofar Blowing and Tashlikh with Daniel Silverman

Sunday, September 13 3:30 PM

Join Daniel Silverman at the baseball diamond at Cedarvale Park for an outdoor shofar blowing after which we will walk to Cedarvale Ravine to perform the ritual of Tashlikh, symbolically casting our sins into the river. Bring some pieces of bread to 'cast' into the river.

Pre-registration is recommended via email to dsilverman@beth-tzedec.org.



Downtown Shofar Blowing with Yacov Fruchter

Sunday, September 13 5:00 PM

Join Yacov Fruchter in the Rosh Hashanah mitzvah of the shofar blowing. We will meet at the Labyrinth (700 Markham St., Toronto). All are welcome.

Pre-registration is not required. If you have any questions, please email Yacov Fruchter at yfruchter@beth-tzedec.org.



Yom Tov Morning Fun

(For children ages 0 to 4, with a parent; and for kids ages 5 to 7 and ages 8 to 12)

Saturday, September 26, Sunday, September 27, Saturday, October 3 and Sunday, October 4 at 9:30 AM

Children up to age 12 are welcome to join our Yom Tov drop-in programs when our holiday services are held during the week. We start with Yom Tov free play then engage in age-appropriate prayer experiences and welcome special guests like our shinshinim. We conclude with blessings and snacks.

This is a drop-in program.



Outdoor Shofar Blowing and Tashlikh with Rabbi Steve Wernick

Sunday, September 13 4:30 PM

Join Reb Steve in the Beth Tzedec parking lot for an outdoor shofar blowing. Then, at approximately 5:00 pm, we will walk to Cedarvale Ravine to perform the ritual of Tashlikh, symbolically casting our sins into the river.

Pre-registration is recommended via email to rgolan@beth-tzedec.org.



High Holy Days Hot Topics!



AI and Thou: Human Connection in the New Age of Machine Learning

Rosh Hashanah Day 1
from 11:00 to 11:45 AM

Martin Buber distinguishes two types of human relationships: I-It, where the "other" is someone to be used, analyzed or categorized; and I-Thou, where the "other" is encountered with mutual respect as a whole, present individual. Today, AI applications are able to predict our personal medical futures and can help guide mental health therapies. How might the undeniable usefulness of AI challenge our deeper understanding of ourselves and others?.

Judy Libman in conversation with **Simon Weisz** and **Benjamin Walters**, two tech entrepreneurs and Beth Tzedec members.



With a Strong Hand *and* an Outstretched Arm: Building Safe and Warm Communities in an Age of Anxiety

Rosh Hashanah Day 2
from 11:00 to 11:45 AM

What is the right balance between security and serenity, barriers and belonging? How is our community responding to the challenges of our time.

Judy Libman in conversation with **Sara Lefton**, Chief Development Officer, UJA, and **Brett Copeland**, Principal, Robbins Hebrew Academy.



The Beth Tzedec Sukkah has been donated by the ***Sitzer Family*** in memory of ***Minnie Sitzer.***

Many of the decorations are provided by the ***Greenspan Family***



Al Haemet v'Shalom—On Truth & Peace: Navigating Difficult Conversations in Difficult Times

Yom Kippur—Session 1
from 12:45 to 1:30 PM

Political and religious differences, especially with regards to our relationships with Israel, can create emotional conflict within our families, our friendships and our communities. How can we find better ways to listen and communicate with each other?

Yacov Fruchter in conversation with **Michelle Shulman**, Chair of Shalom Hartman Institute of Canada.



Human Rights During Difficult Times

Yom Kippur—Session 2
from 3:15 to 4:30 PM

Rabbi Steve Wernick will be joined by **Justice Rosalie Abella** for a conversation on nurturing the next generation of compassionate Jews.

Sukkot and Simchat Torah



A Stuffie Sukkah-bration!

(For kids ages 3 to 6 and the grown-ups who love them!)

Sunday, September 27 at 1:00 PM

The Stuffies came to us and asked, "Why do humans have all the fun? We want to celebrate Sukkot too!"

"No problem," we said. "Come with your favourite stuffed animal and let's show them what fun Sukkot can be together!"

There is no charge but pre-registration is required via bit.ly/stuffie-sukkah-bration.



Short & Sweet Multi-Generational Family Service and Sukkah Hop

Saturday, September 26 at 10:30 AM

Join us for a special Short & Sweet Sukkot Family Service! We'll pray, sing and have lots of fun on Yom Tov!

After services, we'll have lunch in stages as we visit sukkot in the neighbourhood. (In the case of rain, lunch will be at Beth Tzedec).

There is no charge but pre-registration is required via bit.ly/family-service-sukkah-hop-2026.



YESH! After Dark: Sukkah Edition

(For kids in Grades 5 to 8)

Sunday, September 27 at 8:00 PM

Once a month, when the sun goes down, the fun turns up! Join us for an evening packed with awesome activities, chill time with friends, and a touch of Jewish inspiration.

Join us in the Sukkah for a movie that will take you out of this world. Popcorn and snacks will be served.

Cost: $10. Pre-registration is required via bit.ly/yesh-sukkot-2026.



Let's Sit: Sukkah Edition

Monday, September 28 at 7:15 PM

Sitting in the Sukkah offers a special kind of comfort and embrace. Join Aviva Chernick for this edition of our community mindfulness gathering, in silence, in reflection, in song and...in the Sukkah. And there will be soup and tea to keep us warm. No previous meditation experience required. Any text shared will be translated and transliterated.

Please dress warmly.

All members of the LGBTQ+ community welcome.

There is no charge but pre-registration is required via bit.ly/lets-sit-sukkot-2026.



20s & 30s Dinner in the Sukkah

Friday, October 2
Services 6:00 pm | Dinner 7:15 PM

Join BT 20s and 30s for our monthly Shabbat dinner ... beginning with Kiddush in the Beth Tzedec Sukkah!

We will begin with our Shabbat at the Floor monthly service followed by a delicious Shabbat dinner by Apex Kosher Catering.

Cost for dinner. Pre-registration is required by Monday, September 28 via bit.ly/20s-30s-sukkah-shabbat6.



Family SimcHAT Torah Party, Hakafot and Dinner

Saturday, October 3
6:30 to 8:00 PM

Don't miss the CROWNing event of the season!

CAP off the fall holiday run with this grand finale celebration. This party's gonna be LID! The Royal Ascot and Kentucky Derby are so passé; we've TOPPED them both! What will this year's Millinery Midrash reveal? Decorate a hat and join the parade!

Cost for dinner. Pre-registration is required via bit.ly/simchat-torah-family-dinner.


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Monday's Ma'a'gal:
Parents Circle
with Jaquie Dason and Rachel Hindel
Mondays from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM
from September 28 to December 14
(No session on October 12)
"Monday's Ma'a'gal" is a welcoming community for parents on parental leave. Each week, we'll gather to build friendships, share experiences and explore the joys and challenge of early parenthood through a l ens of connection, compassion and Jewish values. Every session will offer practical tools, thoughtful conversation and plenty of space to ask questions in a supportive, judgement- free environment, and will include a light lunch.
Come as you are. Bring your baby. Find your village.
Cost: $330. Pre-registration is required. To register, visit https://bit.ly/mondays-maagal.
Parenthood wasn't meant to be done alone.





BETH TZEDEC'S ANNUAL

Simchat Torah Luncheon

Sunday, October 4, following Services

Join us in the Orenstein Mezzanine Hall as we honour our *Chattan Torah* **Lorne Hanick** and our *Kallat Bereisheet* **Phyllis Flatt**.

Reserve online at **bit.ly/simchat-torah-lunch-2026** or call the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511.

Beth Tzedec
בית צדק
CONGREGATION

Celebrating Our Simchat Torah Honourees

On Sunday, October 4, join us at Beth Tzedec as we celebrate our Simchat Torah honourees **Lorne Hanick**, who will honoured as our *Chattan Torah*, and **Phyllis Flatt,** who will be honoured as *Kallat Bereisheet*. Each have demonstrated an outstanding dedication to our Congregation and the community.

Lorne Hanick



It has been my honour to serve as the Ritual Director of Beth Tzedec since August 1999.

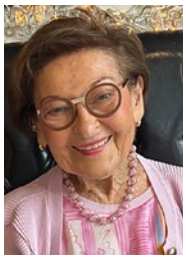
We have a list of 132 Simchat Torah honourees since 1958. I know or have known 60 percent of them personally. Some have been colleagues; all have been friends.

Since 2002, we have chosen a woman as one of the two candidates each year. This year, you have chosen Phyllis Flatt to be *Kallat Bereisheet*. Phyllis, along with the husband Ab z"l and their large extended family are among my most enduring memories at this Congregation. There are few other families where I have taught so many cousins and/or assisted them in celebrating their *smachot*. Kudos to them.

Yes, it is true that I am retiring at the end of the year and you can read more about it in the interview conducted by Michael Goodbaum in this *Bulletin*. *[You can read the profile article on Lorne Hanick on pages 50 to 52.]*

Shanah Tovah u'Metukah!

Phyllis Flatt



As we approach the *chagim*, I cannot help but reflect on how my shul has been such an integral part of my life.

My parents, Beatrice and Max Wolfe z"l, were among the original members of the McCaul Street Shul, a special place where my brother Harold and I attended services on Shabbat and throughout the *chagim*.

Some of my most cherished memories are of sitting in the balcony each week with my mother and my beloved Bubbie, Nettie Albert, peeking over the railing to watch my father and brother *davening* in the men's section.

The amalgamation of McCaul Street Shul and Goel Tzedec to form Beth Tzedec Congregation, and its move to Bathurst Street closer to our home, marked a very special chapter for our family. The dedication of the Beit Alpha Floor by my parents, together with my Aunt Tillie and Uncle Maurice Wolfe, remains a source of great pride and a treasured family memory.

My husband, Ab z"l, and I often reflected on those years with deep gratitude and incredibly fond memories.

Over the decades, Beth Tzedec has remained our spiritual home. It has been the setting for so many of our family's meaningful milestones—weddings, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, baby namings and countless celebrations that have enriched our lives.

Our other spiritual home has always been Camp Ramah, where our four children, our grandchildren, and now even a great-grandchild have shared more than 50 years of unforgettable experiences. As I often say, "You may leave Ramah, but the friendships, values and memories never leave you."

I am deeply honoured to be recognized as *Kallat Bereisheet* on October 4 at this year's Simchat Torah celebration. Thank you to Beth Tzedec for this meaningful honour, and thank you to our wonderful community for being such an important part of my life's journey.

Todah Rabbah and *Chag Sameach*.

Renew Your Commitment to Beth Tzedec

There is still time to renew your Beth Tzedec membership

Contact Klara Romm at 416-781-3514 ext. 220 or kromm@beth-tzedec.org.



Care • Connect • Learn • Pray • Celebrate • Tzedakah

These six core values represent the unified mosaic guiding the programs, services and events offered by Beth Tzedec that make our *kehillah* such a special and unique place.

Care



Beth Tzedec's ChazaKits: A Hug from the Beth Tzedec Community

Beth Tzedec is the place where we share our lives' journeys—the ups and the downs. We'll all go through them; no one's immune. We're introducing a way to help our friends and families get through the most intense and challenging times: a collective Beth Tzedec hug in the form of a box with a handle.

ChazaKits have been carefully curated around life events such as the birth of a sibling, divorce and separation, a death of a loved one, when a loved one has a mental health challenge or disease, a newly blended family, a major change in living arrangements.

Recipients can keep the ChazaKits for as long as they find them helpful, and return them when they're ready so other families can use them.

If you know of a family who could benefit from receiving a ChazaKit—just call the office or send an email to any Beth Tzedec staff member, tell them the family and the situation, and we'll get a ChazaKit to them. It's that simple.

For more information or to request a ChazaKit, contact Penina Hoffnung at phoffnung@beth-tzedec.org.



Grieving Together Groups

For Those who have Lost Partners
Wednesdays, October 28 and November 4, 11 & 18 at 2:45 PM

For Those who have Lost Parents
Thursdays, October 29 and November 5, 12 & 19 at 7:30 PM

There are moments in life that divide time into before and after. The loss of a spouse or parent is one of them. In the days and months that follow, the world continues, but often not in the way it once did. Familiar rhythms shift. Silence can feel heavier. And even surrounded by community, it can still feel like no one understands the particular shape of your loss.

And yet, in our tradition, we are never meant to carry grief alone.

Rabbi Fryer Bodzin and Yacov Fructher draw on the wisdom of our tradition—texts, prayers, and the rhythms of Jewish life—not to explain away grief, but to help hold it, and perhaps, over time, find moments of meaning and connection within it.

There is no charge but pre-registration is required. To register for those who have lost partners, visit bit.ly/grieving-together-partners-fall-2026. To register for those who have lost parents, visit bit.ly/grieving-together-parents-fall-2026.

PRESENTED AS PART OF THE BETH TZEDEC CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING



Making a Minyan: WhatsApp Group

Saturday and Weekday Services

We need your help to make a minyan for morning and evening services.

Daveners can use our WhatsApp reservation system to see which services require additional attendance to form a minyan.

To register for the WhatsApp group, visit https://www.bethtzedec.tv/book.

Connect

Beth Tzedec Small Groups

Beth Tzedec Small Groups are an opportunity to connect with other Beth Tzedec members over a shared goal, project or interest. They are not just a 'program'. They are a way to commit to a new peer group and learn, explore and build community together.

What:

BT Small Groups consist of eight to 15 people meeting on Zoom or in person to discuss a topic or engage in an activity that is of particular interest to YOU.

Who:

Led by a fellow Beth Tzedec member, BT Small Groups are made up of mostly BT members. Group members are asked to commit to attending regularly from November to June.

Where:

Some groups will meet over Zoom, others will plan to meet in person, while some will be hybrid (at times in person and at times on Zoom). Check the description carefully to see the leader's plan.

Why:

To learn, laugh and develop meaningful relationships that deepen connections to other members, to Judaism and to Beth Tzedec while engaging in activities that are important to YOU.

When:

Most groups meet monthly while others may meet more regularly.

For more information, visit https://bit.ly/small-groups-2026.



Postnatal Yoga for Parents & Babies from newborn to crawling stage *with Marcee Bar-Isaac*

Thursdays, September 17, 24, October 1, 8, 15 & 22

11:45 AM to 12:45 PM

Reconnect with your body while bonding with your baby in this welcoming postnatal yoga class. Each class includes gentle movement to rebuild strength, improve mobility and support recovery, along with breathing, relaxation and playful interaction with your little one.

Feed, cuddle or change your baby whenever needed—this is a relaxed, judgment-free space to connect, move and build community with other new parents.

Cost: $150 for full series; $35 per session. Pre-registration is required via bit.ly/post-natal-yoga.

PRESENTED AS PART OF THE BETH TZEDEC CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING



Chair Yoga *with Marcee Bar-Isaac*

Thursdays, September 17, 24, October 1, 8, 15 & 22

1:00 to 2:00 PM

Improve strength, balance, flexibility and confidence in a supportive chair yoga class that combines seated and optional standing exercises using the chair for support. We'll explore gentle movement, stretching, breathing practices and relaxation to help enhance mobility, ease stiffness and support everyday activities.

Whether you're new to yoga, returning after a break or looking for a safe way to stay active, this class can be adapted to suit a range of abilities. .

Cost: $150 for full series; $35 per session. Pre-registration is required via bit.ly/post-natal-yoga.

PRESENTED AS PART OF THE BETH TZEDEC CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING

FAMILY SHABBAT DINNER

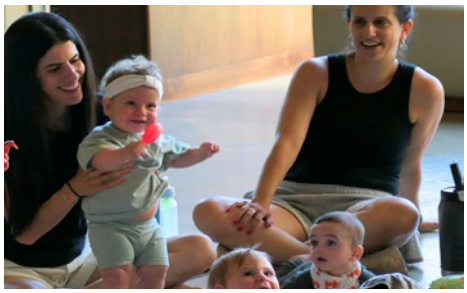
Fridays, October 16 and November 20 beginning at 5:15 PM

Join us for our fabulous, month Family Shabbat experience and dinner. These dinners sell out fast; be sure to register early!

Cost for dinner, dependent on membership status and number of people in your party. To register for the October dinner, visit bit.ly/family-shabbat-experience-oct-2026 .

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY THE GERTNER FAMILY





Babies, Blessings and Shabbat Fun

Fridays, September 25, October 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 and November 6, 13, 20 & 27 and December 4 & 11

Session 1: 11:45 AM to 12:30 PM
Session 2: 12:30 to 1:15 PM

Welcome Shabbat with a class featuring Shabbat songs and blessings, *challah* and lots of fun. We have partnered with L'Dance Classes for for children up to 18 months old, accompanied by an adult.

Cost for fall term: $195.

To register for the 11:45 AM session, visit bit.ly/babies-blessings-fall-2026-am.

To register for the 12:30 PM session, visit bit.ly/babies-blessings-fall-2026-pm.

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY THE FLATT FAMILY IN MEMORY OF AB FLATT Z"L



Connecting the Expecting

Wednesdays, September 30 and October 7 & 14 6:30 to 8:00 PM

A warm and welcoming program for first-time Jewish parents. Join us for interactive sessions that cover newborn basics, parental mental health, Jewish baby rituals, and how to build a meaningful Jewish home.

Meet other expectant parents, learn practical skills, and discover ways to bring Jewish values into your growing family's life.

Cost for series: $50. Each session will begin with a dinner. Pre-registration is required via bit.ly/connecting-the-expecting-fall-2026.



YESH: After Dark

(For kids in Grades 5 to 8)

Sundays, September 27 and November 22; Check website for times

Once a month, when the sun goes down, the fun turns up! Join us for awesome activities, chill time with friends and a touch of Jewish inspiration. When the program falls on a Saturday night, we'll kick things off with a meaningful Havdalah celebration. Come connect, laugh and build community—because the best memories are made when you're having fun with good friends.

For information, contact the Synagogue office at info@beth-tzedec.org.

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY THE FLATT FAMILY IN MEMORY OF AB FLATT Z"L



Mayim Rabin: A Jewish Mindfulness Canoe Trip

Thursday, October 8 to Sunday, October 11

Co-led by Aviva Chernick, Director of Beth Tzedec's Centre from Spiritual Well-Being, with Jordan Bendat-Appell of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality, and wilderness guide Alexander Savatti from Tripshed, this expedition invites participants to explore the deep connections between Jewish practice and the land.

This trip is limited to 14 participants. Cost: $1,800; subsidies available. To register, contact the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511.

PRESENTED AS PART OF THE BETH TZEDEC CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING



Monday's Ma'a'gal: Parents Circle

Mondays, September 28, October 5, 26, November 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 and December 7 & 14

11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

"Monday's Ma'a'gal" is a welcoming community for parents on parental leave. We'll gather to build friendships, share experiences and explore the joys and challenge of early parenthood through a lens of connection, compassion and Jewish values.

Together, we'll discuss topics such as infant mental health, attachment and attunement, sleep, feeding, relationships, identity and the many transitions that come with raising young children. We'll also reflect on how Jewish traditions, rituals and values help create meaningful family connections during the early years.

Every session offers practical tools, thoughtful conversation and plenty of space to ask questions in a supportive, judgement-free environment.

Co-facilitated by **Jaquie Dason**, New Parent Educator, Postpartum Doula and Pediatric Sleep Consultant, and **Rachel Hindel**, MSW, RSw, a therapist specializing in perinatal mental health and major life transitions, this group combine expert guidance with genuine community—because parents deserve support just as much as their children do.

Come as you are. Bring your baby. Find your village.

Cost: $330 (includes a light lunch each week). Pre-registration is required. To register, bit.ly/mondays-maagal.

PRESENTED AS PART OF THE BETH TZEDEC CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING



Beth Tzedec Book & Film Club

Wednesdays 1:30 PM

Join us for the Book and Film Club, a year-long series eight sessions from October through May. Each session will include light refreshments.

FALL SESSIONS

October 7: *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans

This debut fiction novel, told entirely through letters and emails follows Sybil Van Antwerp, a 73-year-old retired lawyer who writes thousands of letters to family, friends and authors. An unexpected letter from her past forces her to confront old grief and self-reflection. **Led by Elaine Newton**

November 4: *Vera or Faith* by Gary Shteyngar

Master satirist Gary Shteyngart delivers a compressed, powerful coming-of-age tale centring on Vera, a precocious ten-year-old dealing with the fallout of her parents' divorce while her country is sliding into authoritarian rule. Seeking comfort, Vera turns to an electronic chess game named Kaspie to help her find her birth mother and make a friend.

With biting wit and profound tenderness, this novel is a brilliant portrait of modern anxiety and resilient hope. **Led by Cynthia Good**

November 25: *This Is Not About Us* by Allegra Goodman

Part sharp comedy, part tender family drama, Allegra Goodman's latest novel follows a sprawling Jewish-American family fractured by a petty multi-generational grievance. Told through alternating perspectives, it captures the messy, hilarious and heart-breaking realities of growing up and growing old. Come ready to discuss family dynamics, secrets and what happens when the people who are supposed to be the wisest act the most childish! **Led by Janna Nadler**

WINTER SESSIONS

January 27: *Kaplan's Plot* by Jason Diamond

This 2025 contemporary and historical debut novel balances a heavy family drama with a gritty 1920s true-crime mystery, switching between a modern mother-son relationship and the violent history of the early 20th-century Chicago underworld. **Led by Sharoni Sibony**

February 17: *Study for Obedience* by Sarah Bernstein

A haunting, compressed masterwork from an extraordinary new voice in Canadian fiction, *Study for Obedience* follows an unnamed narrator who moves to a remote northern country to keep house for her brother after his wife leaves. As inexplicable blights and livestock panics plague the town, frosty locals cast suspicious glances at the newcomer, exploring deep-seated themes of power, displacement and prejudice.

With a sharp, lyrical voice, Bernstein powerfully explores complicity and power, displacement and inheritance **Led by Philippa Sheppard**

March 31: *Motherland* by Julia Ioffe

A fascinating journey through a century of upheaval, Julia Ioffe explores the secret history of modern Russia through the stories of its women. From the trenches of World War II to the modern political resistance against Putin's regime, this book reveals how the sacrifices of women shaped a nation—and how the state ultimately failed them. **Led by Julia Zaransky**

May 5: Film Screening: Title *TBC* **Led by Jillian Helfield**

May 26: *Inheritance* by Dani Shapiro

Imagine waking up to find your family history has crumbled beneath you.

Dani Shapiro's best-selling memoir Inheritance follows her sudden journey of discovery after a commercial DNA test reveals her father is not her biological dad. Part tech-mystery and part moving emotional reckoning, this book explores what truly makes us who we are. **Led by Tina Urman**

Cost for all eight sessions: $100; $15 per session. Pre-registration is required via bit.ly/book-film-club-2026.



Niggun and Chassidut *with Aviva Chernick and Rabbi Nava Berenstein*

Mondays, November 2 & 23

7:30 to 9:00 PM

Join Aviva Chernick and Rabbi Nava Berenstein (of Adath Israel) as they lead a two-part series where we will weave together *Chassidic* text and melody, opening our hearts and stirring the soul.

No previous experience with *Chassidic* text study or the singing of *niggunim* required. You are welcome to come to either or both sessions.

Pre-registration is required. Watch for links coming soon.

PRESENTED AS PART OF THE BETH TZEDEC CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING



Family Shabbat Experience and Dinner

Fridays, October 16 and November 20

Beginning at 5:15 PM

Join us for our fabulous, month Family Shabbat experience and dinner. These dinners sell out fast; be sure to register early!

Cost for dinner, dependent on membership status and number of people in your party. To register for the October dinner, visit bit.ly/family-shabbat-experience-oct-2026 .

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY THE GERTNER FAMILY



YESH: Youth. Energy. Shabbat. Happiness.

(For Grades 5 to 8)

Saturdays, October 17, November 14 and December 19

10:30 AM to 12:00 NOON

Join us each month for a meaningful morning of Jewish learning, spirited *tefillah* and fun activities! This is a space to connect with friends, grow in Jewish pride and start the day with purpose and joy.

For information, contact Shirel Barkan Slater at sbarkan@beth-tzedec.org.

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY THE FLATT FAMILY IN MEMORY OF AB FLATT ז"ל



Torah and Tree Pose

Wednesdays, October 28, November 25 and December 16

7:30 to 8:30 PM

Join Marcee Bar-Isaac and Rabbi Fryer Bodzin for a brief Torah text study followed by yoga and moments of mindfulness and meditation. Bring your own yoga mat and water

Cost: $10 per session. Register via bit.ly/torah-tree-pose-2026.

PRESENTED AS PART OF THE BETH TZEDEC CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING



Wise Aging *with Yacov Fruchter and Aviva Chernick*

Thursdays, October 22 & 29, November 5, 12, 19, 26 and December 3

10:00 to 11:30 AM

Aging can bring a rich mix of growth and opportunities, challenges and losses. Join us as we learn and explore how to discover, within this time of life, a sense of joy, meaning and connectedness. Together, we will reflect on our life experiences, integrate the lessons learned, share our wisdom and deepen our experiences through meditations and spiritual practices. We will be exploring topics such as our changing bodies, relationships, forgiveness and reconciliation, cultivating spiritual qualities for well-being, living with loss and leaving a meaningful legacy.

There is no charge, but pre-registration is required via bit.ly/torah-mindfulness-lens-fall-2026.



Conversations of Curiosity

Wednesday, November 4

7:30 to 9:00 PM

Rabbi Fryer Bodzin and Father Don Beyers of Grace Church on-the-Hill open a conversation on interfaith engagement.

This is the first of a two-part series. (The second session will be on April 12, 2027.)

Watch for registration links coming soon.



Shabbat Scholar Weekend *with Rabbi Deborah Sacks Mintz*

Friday, November 13 and Saturday, November 14

Join us as we welcome Rabbi Deborah Sacks Mintz for a special Shabbat of songful prayer, teaching Torah and communal song. On the Friday evening, Rabbi Sacks Mintz will lead us in joyful prayer followed by a catered community dinner and a special Tisch with more participatory singing and learning hosted by the Little Minyan.

On Shabbat morning, Rabbi Sacks Mintz joins the Sanctuary Service where she will lead us in prayer once again, give a sermon from the bimah and join us for the Congregational Kiddish and learning following.

Cost for dinner. Pre-registration is required. Watch for links and additional information coming soon.

PRESENTED BY THE BETH TZEDEC CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING



20s and 30s Shabbat Dinner

Friday, November 6

Services 6:00 PM | Dinner 7:15 PM

Join BT 20s and 30s for our monthly Shabbat dinner.

We will begin with our Shabbat at the Floor monthly service followed by a delicious catered Shabbat dinner by Apex Kosher Catering.

Cost for dinner. Pre-registration is required by Monday, November 6 via bit.ly/20s-30s-shabbat-dinner-nov-2026.

PRESENTED BY THE LITTLE MINYAN AND THE BETH TZEDEC CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING



Shabbat Afternoon Games Café and Open Gym

Saturday afternoons 12:30 PM

Love to play games? Join us Saturdays for a games café featuring over 350 classic and award-winning Shabbat-compliant, including Mahjong. Join us! We have a curated collection of games suitable for young children, all the way through adulthood.

Interested in learning Mah Jong? Jody Wernick will be on-hand to teach those interested in learning this game.



Faith and Food

Wednesday, November 11 6:00 PM

Faith can inform what we eat in meaningful ways: what we eat where and when, and how and who we eat it with can all be important ways of communicating our values and beliefs, and how we relate to each other within our communities. From how we use food in celebrating holidays to how we bless it around the table to the role of religious and cultural laws and global histories that shape what's on our plates, food plays a key role in how we can learn about and experience each other's faith traditions.

Learners will prepare and share a meal together. In this way, we will learn about and experience each other's cultures and flavours, receive hospitality, explore each other's spaces and hear about the ways that faith and fellowship are practiced across Toronto.

Watch for registration links coming soon.



BeGeD Kef It and YESH Go to the Toronto Marlies

(For Grades 2 to 4 and Grades 5 to 8)

Sunday, November 22 4:00 to 8:00 PM

BeGeD Kef It Club for Grades 2 to 4 and YESH After Dark for Grades 5 to 8 are heading out to see the Marlies in hockey action. Parents are welcome to attend.

Watch for registration info coming soon.

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY THE FLATT FAMILY IN MEMORY OF AB FLATT ז"ל



Na'aleh: Ohr/Light

Sunday, November 29

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Join us at Beth Tzedec for Ohr/Light, presented as part of the Na'aleh program initiative, an opportunity for the Toronto Jewish community to engage in and deepen practice and to be part of building, nurturing and sustaining a thriving Jewish mindfulness community.

Let's sit together exploring the light and darkness of Chanukah.

Cost: $50 (includes lunch). Pre-registration is required. Watch for registration links coming soon.



Thursday Games Afternoons

Thursday afternoons

12:30 to 3:30 PM

Join us for a social afternoon of Mahjong, Bridge and Canasta. For beginners and seasoned veterans alike. Light refreshments will be available.

And for those interested in learning how to play Mahj and Canasta, we are pleased to share that Judi Rosen, our experienced instructor, offers lessons in both games in small group settings at Beth Tzedec. Contact the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511 for information.

Cost: $2, supporting our *chesed* initiatives.

Learn



Talking Torah: *with Daniel Silverman*

Saturday mornings at 9:30 AM *(beginning September 5)*

Join Daniel Silverman, Director of Education, for a weekly examination of the Book of Leviticus (*Sefer VaYikra*).

Traditionally, *VaYikra* is the first book of Torah that a child studies. Explore how this book of Torah—often considered less relevant today due to its focus on animal sacrifice and ritual purity—has much to offer us. Using traditional and modern commentaries and academic perspectives, Leviticus will come to life.



Nosh and Drash

Saturdays following Services, beginning September 19

Each week, a member of the Spiritual Leadership Team will teach a short session on the weekly *parashah* during the Kiddush. Everyone is welcome.

Check the website for the weekly schedule of presenters. Note that Cantor Stern's sessions will be presented in Hebrew.



Siddur Hebrew for Advanced Beginners *with Eric Cohen*

Mondays, October 5, 19 & 26, November 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 and December 7 & 14

7:45 to 9:00 PM

Designed for advanced beginners who can already recognize the Hebrew alphabet, this course will help participants deepen their understanding of liturgical Hebrew and engage more meaningfully with the siddur. Through familiar prayers from Shabbat morning services, we will explore common Hebrew roots, prefixes, suffixes, and key vocabulary while uncovering the meaning and structure of the siddur.

There is no charge. Limited spaces available. Pre-registration is required via bit.ly/siddur-hebrew-fall-2026.



Torah Through the Ages *with Rabbi Fryer Bodzin*

Wednesdays, October 21 & 28 and November 4, 11, 18 & 25

9:30 to 10:30 AM

Rabbi Fryer Bodzin leads a lively in-depth look at the book of *Deuteronomy/Sefer Devarim* with traditional and modern commentaries. Dialogue and debate are welcome. No background required. Materials will be provided.

There is no charge but pre-registration is required via bit.ly/ttta-2026-2027.



Torah Through a Mindfulness Lens

Thursdays, October 8, 22 & 29

7:30 to 9:00 PM

Join Aviva Chernick for an opportunity to study the weekly Torah portion through a mindfulness lens—reflecting on the ways the Torah's wisdom resonates within our own lives. Together we read in Hebrew and English, finding meaning that connects us to ourselves, each other and the Divine.

There is no charge. Register via bit.ly/torah-mindfulness-lens-fall-2026.

PRESENTED AS PART OF THE BETH TZEDEC CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING



Tech Tuesdays

Tuesdays, October 13, November 10 and December 8

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

We're delighted to announce that a new set of graduate students from Seneca Polytech, under the direction of Caroline Grammer, will join us to teach us about the amazing opportunities and the potential pitfalls of new technology. Bring your devices and join us for a fabulous social and educational opportunity. This series is offered in-person only. If you can only come for part of the day, that's fine. Lunch will be served. Sessions continue throughout the year.

There is no charge but RSVPs appreciated. Register for the October session at bit.ly/tech-tuesday-oct-2026.

PRESENTED BY BETH TZEDEC'S "TO 120" CLUB



Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class: Year Two

Resumes Sunday, October 15 and continue every other week through June 2027

10:00 to 11:30 AM

Our most ambitious offering will start this fall. Once the High Holy Days season is completed and our sukkot are disassembled, our new "Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class" will begin. The class will meet bi-weekly for two years on Sunday mornings, with a big break in the summer. While Rabbi Fryer Bodzin will be the lead teacher and curriculum designer, Rabbi Steve Wernick and Yacov Fruchter will also teach.

This class is for adults in our community who did not have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah at age 12 or 13, for people who converted to Judaism, as well as men and women who were not offered the opportunity when they were younger.

Topics in the first year will include Jewish time, kosher dietary laws, prayer, family obligations, Shabbat and Jewish pride.

After two years, at the conclusion of the course, participants will deliver a *d'var* Torah, read a short Torah reading and come up to the Torah for an aliyah.

This is the continuation of the two-year program. Registration is closed.



BT Teens Beit Midrash and Moot Court Team: Torah Study for Teens in Grades 8 to 12

SEMESTER ONE
Saturdays, November 7, 14, 21 & 28

12:30 to 2:00 PM

Join Yacov Fruchter to explore real-world ethical dilemmas through Jewish texts and prepare to compete in the Maimonides Moot Court Competition (MMCC), a North American Shabbaton and debate experience.

Following our successful inaugural year in which both of our Beth Tzedec teams won their competition, we are participating again this year in Hadar's Maimonides Moot Court Competition. The experience includes Saturday afternoon learning and discussions based on Jewish texts, ethics and law, and culminates with a Shabbaton retreat and competition.

This first semester will focus on exploring a Jewish ethical issue as a way of becoming more comfortable with Torah and rabbinic texts and beginning the process of mankind halakhic arguments. This will be a different topic than the one that will be debated in April.

Pre-registration is required. Cost for the Moot Shabbaton is $450. The study sessions are open to all pre-registered participants.

Registration information coming soon.

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Understanding Zionism: The Return of the Jewish Homeland

Thursdays, November 12, 19, 26 and December 3, 10 & 17

7:00 to 9:00 PM

"The Story of Zionism", our first series with The Melton School, explores the journey of the Jewish people from exile and enduring connection to their ancestral homeland to the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948.

Through primary sources, firsthand accounts and historical documents, this course examines the religious, cultural, national, and political forces that shaped the Zionist movement. It also considers the meaning of Zionism today, its relationship to Jewish life in the Diaspora and the challenges and debates surrounding it in the modern era. Join us to deepen your understanding of Israel's origins and its significance for the Jewish people.

FALL SESSIONS

November 12: Seeds of Zionism

November 19: Building a Jewish Homeland

November 26: The Birth of the State of Israel

December 3: Defining Zionism Today

December 10: Zionism and the Diaspora

December 17: Looking Ahead: The Challenges and Promises of Zionism

Cost: $179. Scholarships are available. To register for the fall term, visit via bit.ly/melton-at-bt-2026.

For scholarship information, contact Rabbi Fryer Bodzin at rabbirfb@beth-tzedec.org.

PRESENTED BY BETH TZEDEC AND THE FLORENCE MELTON SCHOOL OF ADULT JEWISH LEARNING

For information and registration links for all upcoming programs, classes and events, visit beth-tzedec.org.



Learn Talmud with Reb Steve

Begins Monday, November 16 and continues through June 2027

7:45 to 9:00 PM

Honi drew a circle in the dirt and refused to step out of it until it rained.

Our *Talmud* learning opens a new tractate this fall: *Masekhet Ta'anit*, Chapter Three—the *Talmud* at its most human. Drought and fasting, rainmakers and rooftop sages, ordinary people whose prayers were answered when the scholars' were not. Underneath it all sits a question we know: what do we do when heaven seems silent?

No Hebrew or Aramaic needed. We read together and we argue together—whether you've been learning with us for years or you're opening a page of *Talmud* for the first time.

There is no charge. Pre-registration is required at bit.ly/learn-talmud-5786.



Emancipation, Toleration and Tradition: Reading Mendelssohn's "Jerusalem" in Toronto Today

Tuesday, November 24

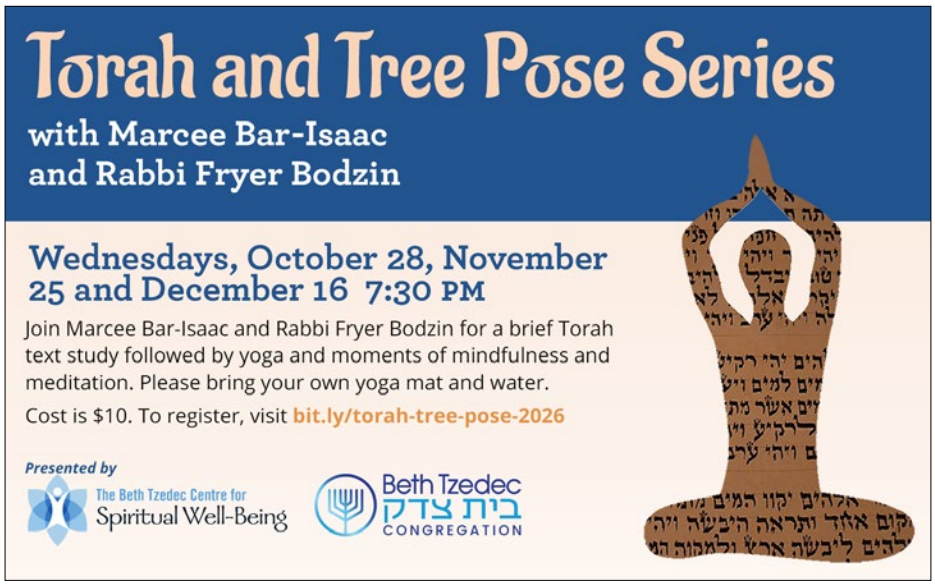
7:30 PM

Dr. Michael Rosenthal, the Grafstein Professor of Jewish Philosophy at University of Toronto, examines the enduring relevance of Moses Mendelssohn's 1783 work, Jerusalem, for Jewish life today.

Through a discussion of 18th century debates on emancipation, toleration, and religious reform, he explores how these historic ideas continue to inform contemporary questions of Jewish identity, citizenship, and religious freedom in democratic societies such as Canada.

There is no charge but pre-registration is required via bit.ly/grafstein-lecture-2026.

THE SENATOR JERAHMIEL S. AND CAROLE ZL GRAFSTEIN LECTURE



Pray



Weekday Shacharit Services

Sunday mornings at 8:45 AM
Weekday mornings at 7:30 AM

Begin your day with Beth Tzedec's morning minyan, either in person or virtually on Zoom:

Sundays:
us02web.zoom.us/j/89341642578
Weekdays:
us02web.zoom.us/j/88238564368

You can also join by phone. Visit beth-tzedec.org for the phone numbers and meeting IDs.



Weekday Mincha-Ma'ariv Services

Sunday to Thursday evenings: Check website for times

At the end of the day, join us in person in the Hendeles Chapel or on Zoom for our evening services via us02web.zoom.us/j/87480852789.

You can also join by phone. Visit beth-tzedec.org for the phone numbers and meeting IDs.



Kabbalat Shabbat and Ma'ariv

Every Friday evening at 6:00 PM

Prepare your spirit for Shabbat with song, comfort and community at our Kabbalat Shabbat and *Ma'ariv* services.

Our Friday evening Services are offered in person in the Hendeles Chapel and livestreamed via **bit.ly/BT-Livestream**.



Shabbat at the Floor

Fridays, September 4, November 3 and December 4

6:00 PM

Shabbat at the Floor is a welcoming, inclusive, musical, connected, caring and relevant monthly Kabbalat Shabbat experience. We choose music intentionally to represent diverse Jewish voices, identities and life stories—some familiar, others new. Prepare to be moved and inspired.

Shabbat at the Floor services are offered in person or online via **bit.ly/BT-Livestream**.



For candle-lighting and Service times, refer to our website calendar.



Shabbat Sanctuary Services

Every Saturday morning 9:00 AM

Our Shabbat Service offers the energy and inspiration of a complete spiritual and liturgical Shabbat experience as you sing along with Cantor Chaim Stern and Cantor Sidney Ezer. Rabbi Steven Wernick and Rabbi Fryer Bodzin offer insights into our Torah reading, expertly chanted by ritual director Lorne Hanick.

Services are offered for in person *daveners* and are livestreamed via **bit.ly/BT-Livestream**.



Little Minyan Service

Saturdays, September 5, October 17, 24 & 31 and November 14, 21 and 28
9:15 AM

For those looking to be more actively involved in the worship experience, the Little Minyan offers a traditional service in a welcoming, relaxed atmosphere. Participants lead portions of the service, read Torah and Haftarah and share Torah insights. Torah readers, *daveners* and those wishing to give a *d'var Torah* are welcome and are offered skills, support and encouragement. Come to participate or to experience a Shabbat service full of song, spirit and warmth.

Little Minyan Services are offered for in-person participation only.



Short and Sweet Multi-Generational Family Service

Saturdays, November 7, December 5

10:30 AM

Our monthly Short & Sweet Multi-Generational Family Service offers a lively, engaging prayer service incorporating the participation of the children, teens and families in attendance, followed by a community dairy luncheon.

The Family Service is offered for in-person participation only.



Avodat Lev: A Shabbat Mindfulness Service

Saturdays, October 31 and November 28
9:30 to 10:45 AM

There are many ways to pray, many ways to connect to oneself, community and the Divine.

Join Aviva Chernick for Avodat Lev—Service of the Heart—a sacred Shabbat space through chanting, silence and Torah study together. We will conclude in time for participants to attend the *Musaf* Service. All Hebrew will be transliterated and translated. No prior experience required—just bring your curiosity as we come together for a service of cultivating an open heart.

This service is offered for in-person participation only.



Mincha-Seudah Shlisheet-Ma'ariv

Every Saturday evening; check website for times

Join us for *Mincha* followed by *Seudah Shlisheet* (the third Sabbath meal) and Torah study. We will then return to the Chapel for *Ma'ariv* and *Havdalah* following. This Service is offered in-person only.

For candle-lighting and Service times, refer to our website calendar.



Bim Bam Bunch

(For children ages 0 to 5)

Saturday mornings 9:30 AM

The day starts with free play, then transitions to a little people *tefillah* (prayer) experience at 10:30 AM led by Cantor Audrey Klein followed a nutritious snack and special stories, songs or visits from our *Shinshinim* (young Israeli emissaries).

On days where there is a Multi-Generational Family Service, Bim Bam Bunch will conclude at 10:15 AM so that families can join our service and lunch.

Please note that children 3 and under must have a grown up with them. Older children can stay on their own if they're comfortable doing that.

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY THE FLATT FAMILY IN MEMORY OF AB FLATT Z"L



Shabbabah: Shabbat Morning Fun

(For children ages 6 and older)

Saturday mornings 9:30 AM

This Shabbat morning program begins with free play, followed by a 10:30 AM kid-led *tefillah* (prayer) service at 10:30 AM and concluding with visits from our *Shinshinim* (young Israeli emissaries), games, theme days and a nutritious snack. Grown ups are welcome to stay if they'd like.

On days where there is a Multi-Generational Family Service, Shabbabah Bam Bunch will conclude at 10:15 *am* so that families can join our service and lunch.

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY THE FLATT FAMILY IN MEMORY OF AB FLATT Z"L



Shana Tova!

As one year ends and another begins, we are grateful to be part of your celebrations.

Wishing you a sweet, healthy, and joyful New Year.

The Apex Team

Our Rosh Hashanah menu is now available online.

www.apexkoshercatering.com

info@apexkoshercatering.com
416 901 5044 x2
apexkoshercatering

APEX KOSHER CATERING

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Celebrate



Community Shabbat Dinner honouring Lorne Hanick

Friday, October 30
Service 6:00 PM | Dinner 7:15 PM

Lorne Hanick has dedicated the last 27 years to generations of our members as Beth Tzedec's beloved Ritual Director.

As Lorne prepares to retire and begin his next chapter, please join us in a warm sendoff as we celebrate Lorne's contributions to our *kehillah*. This special evening in his honour begins with a meaningful and musical Shabbat at the Floor Service followed by an elegant dinner from Apex Kosher Catering.

Cost for dinner: $95 adults (ages 16 and older); $27 youth (ages 4 to 15). Limited seating available. Pre-registration is required by Monday, October 26 at bit.ly/lorne-hanick-tribute-dinner.

Thank you for understanding that an event of this size will be very difficult to manage with people registering just days before the event—place cards, table arrangements, table linens and napkins, chair rentals, floral centrepieces etc. We will be unable to accept registration requests after ***October 26****.*



Tribute Book of Greetings Celebrating Lorne Hanick

As we prepare to mark Lorne Hanick's retirement as our Ritual Director, we are creating a special Tribute Book filled with greetings and messages from our community.

Whether you'd like to share a favourite memory, express your appreciation, offer him best wishes for the future or simply add your family's name in acknowledgement of all he has done, we would be honoured to include your words.

Full page: $360
Half page: $180
Quarter page: $72*

Please note that quarter page tributes will only include the family's name.

Together, let's create a meaningful tribute that reflects the impact Lorne has had on Beth Tzedec and all who have been fortunate to know, work with or learn from him.

Deadline for Tribute Book submissions: Friday, October 9 at 3:00 PM. To submit your greeting, visit bit.ly/hanick-tribute-book or call the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511.

Tzedakah



Monthly Teen Volunteering Opportunity

(For teens in Grades 9 to 12)

Sundays, October 18, November 15 and December 7

Check the website for times

As part of the growing volunteering opportunities for teens, we're excited to offer a monthly hands-on volunteering experience for students in grades 9 to 12.

Volunteering isn't just about helping others—it's about building empathy, leadership, and a deep sense of responsibility. In Judaism, the values of *chesed* (acts of loving-kindness) and tzedek (justice and doing what's right) call on us to show up for others and create a more compassionate community. Bring those values to life through meaningful, real-world action while you connect with peers, contribute to causes that matter, earn volunteer hours, and grow as engaged, thoughtful Jewish leaders.

For information, contact the Synagogue office at info@beth-tzedec.org.

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY THE FLATT FAMILY IN MEMORY OF AB FLATT Z"L

PRESENTED BY THE MELTON SCHOOL

Understanding Zionism: The Return of the Jewish Homeland

Thursdays, November 12, 19, 26 and December 3, 10 & 17 7:00 to 9:00 PM

"The Story of Zionism", our first series with The Melton School, explores the journey of the Jewish people from exile and enduring connection to their ancestral homeland to the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948.

Join us to deepen your understanding of Israel's origins and its significance for the Jewish people.





Michael Goodbaum

Lorne Hanick: Graduating to Congregant

For more than a quarter century, generations of Beth Tzedec congregants have known Lorne Hanick as a teacher, Torah reader, ritual guide and reassuring presence at life's most significant moments.

This December, after more than 27 years as Beth Tzedec's Ritual Director and three and a half decades in synagogue work, Lorne will retire. I sat down with him to discuss his career, his interests and what comes next.

MG: We should start with working in synagogues. What was the first job?

LH: Before I was here, I was at Beth David for six and a half years. I left Beth David in April 1999—and I was very lucky—I got a job here only 90 days later, starting on August 1. On the morning of my first day of work, I came into the building and went straight to the Chapel. There was no one there. I thought, "Oh my God, did I come too early? Did I come too late?" I walked around and eventually found that the air conditioning was not working in most of the building, and they were pumping air into the Board Room. So, I wasn't late on my first day of work!

I started in two part-time jobs that were merged into one after the first year: Filling the need for a Bar Mitzvah tutor when now Cantors Jonathan Rosen and Ben Silverberg left to pursue cantorial studies, and the other doing administrative and performative ritual work. In those early years The Little Minyan was less self-sufficient than it is now. I was their fill-in, and sometimes only, Torah Reader and would supplement the reading in the Sanctuary with what I had already prepared for The Little Minyan. Eventually, circumstances led to my becoming the primary reader for the Congregation.



I have never counted the number of students I have taught between the two congregations—probably over a thousand. Nor was I ever the only tutor in a congregation this size. I was ably assisted over the years by Meir Bester, Faye Kellerstein, Debra Cutler and Esther Ben-Ari. Since 2011, Cantor Sidney Ezer and I have divided the teaching. While teaching is a delight, the icing on the cake is doing the rehearsal and seeing my students on the *bimah* for their finale. I love it, and the families love it.

Now it has come full-circle. In the last few years, and particularly in the last few months, many of my former students have married and started families. Some of my students have married each other. At a recent Shabbat morning service, I had taught both the mother of a baby naming and the groom of a wedding *aufruf* and their siblings. I was startled to see how many hands went up when Rabbi Wernick asked how many people's children had been taught by me.

MG: With over 1,000 students, have any gone into clergy life or become notable in other ways?

LH: Yes, I constantly hear from parents. "My son is a doctor." "My daughter is a scientist." "This one is pursuing a PhD." A number have gone into communal Jewish life or Jewish education at varying levels and a few are now active members of the Congregation, including serving on the Board. Do I remember them? Some yes, others no. Some of them I do not recognise six months later. Sometimes I'll run into a student and they'll say, "Hi, Mr. Hanick." And I'll say, "What year were you?" For some, I remember their *parashah*.



One of the photos right behind me on the wall is of me with two former students, Eli Feldman and Maxwell Charlat. It was featured on the front cover of the *Bulletin* when I was celebrated for my 50th birthday and my first ten years. Eli is here in Toronto. Maxwell lives in the U.S. and recently became a father. They did a parody in my honour at the dinner. That evening, I learned I had a knack for giving funny speeches. None of it is rehearsed and most of it is off-the-cuff. Which led to my being invited back to humour everyone at more luncheons and dinners ...

MG: Speaking of humour, year after year, you were part of the Purim spiel. You had a recurring role.

LH: In the years of the large-scale Purim productions organised by Cantor Simon and Aliza Spiro—which brought the whole community together—I played a goofed-up version of Teresh, one of the king's guards. I used a silly voice and contorted my face. I reprised it at the *megillah* reading this past spring but it had been so long that many did not get the reference. I was not in every play but I was in many of them. Nowadays the Spiritual Leadership Team does a theme every year for Purim costumes. Although the days of those big shows are gone, the Beth Tzedec evening *megillah* reading remains an event in a league of its own.

MG: What was your educational background?

LH: I went to public schools in the Bathurst Manor and east Willowdale, but not Hebrew day school. The first shul I ever knew was Beth Emeth, where I initially went to cheder, until the summer of 1968, when my family moved to the Bayview-Steeles area and were among the founding members of Beth Tikvah Congregation.

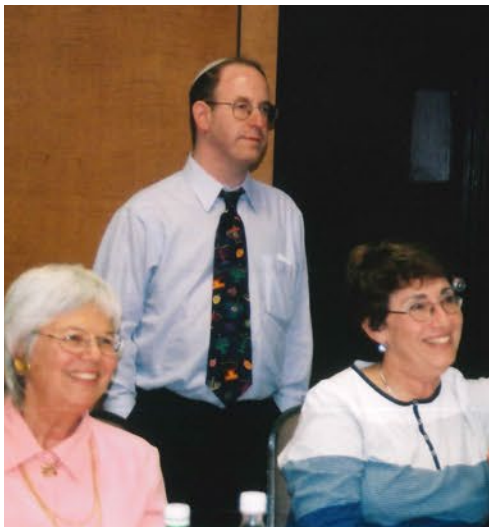
They don't make Hebrew schools like that any more. Beth Emeth was five days-a-week, Monday to Thursday after school and Sunday mornings. By the end of grade 1, I was reading Hebrew fluently and new all the songs in the Shabbat *tefillot*. Beth Tikvah had a three day-a-week school and it was at Beth Tikvah that I became Bar Mitzvah in 1972.

I was not from an observant home. The Shabbat morning after my Bar Mitzvah—on my own—I put on my suit and walked to shul, which I enjoyed. I became involved in Beth Tikvah USY. Beth Tikvah in that era was a happening-scene steered on Shabbat morning by the late Rabbi-Cantor Herbert Feder z"l, Srul Glick z"l and an amazing all-volunteer choir. I would return Shabbat afternoons for a *Talmud* class an hour before *Mincha*, which kicked-started my fascination with Jewish learning. That led to my being a Jewish Studies major at York University, including my junior year at Hebrew University and a break-year at two kibbutzim. One of those kibbutzim, Ein Tzurim, north of Ashkelon, is where Shirel Barkan-Slater's husband Yehuda's family is from. I knew Yehuda's father Avraham z"l, before Yehuda was born.

I went to the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York for graduate school where I did an M.A. concentrating in Bible. I worked for several years on a Ph.D. in Bible and Semitic Languages which, for a variety of reasons, I never finished. But the knowledge certainly enhances what I do. Torah reading, *davening*, running *minyanim* and the ritual administrative skills are not things you learn in graduate school. They are skills I had acquired, partly informally,









over many years, from listening to rabbis, cantors and others. Most importantly, paying attention to what is being done and why.

In life, there is good timing and bad timing, good luck and bad luck. I was very lucky in 1992. Both Beth David and Beth Emeth were looking for a *shamash* or ritual director. I started part-time at Beth David in the fall of 1992 and they made it a full-time job six months later. My great-grandfather for whom I am named, Yehuda Leibush Frojmowicz, was the Torah reader and *shamash* to Rabbi Gedalia Felder z"l at the old Shomrei Shabbos building at Brunswick and Sussex Avenues. Torah reading is in my blood, some people say. Unlike the *shamash* my ancestor was, I do not run to the bakery at 5:00 AM, unlock the door, put on the water and scramble the eggs. Like me, he probably shlepped around *Torot*, *siddurim* and *chumashim*.

MG: When did you become interested in Jewish genealogy?

LH: I had the genealogy bug—and more recently the Polish-Jewish history bug—in the back of my head and on pieces of paper for many years. For many, as for me, it took off In the early 2000s when companies started creating stand-alone software for creating family trees. That was followed by the ability to create online trees that you could share with others, from Ancestry, Geni and MyHeritage, among others. Then came the addictive supply of databases from governments, libraries and archives around the world included in your subscription with information that could confirm, refute or add to what you already knew. If you like puzzles, this is the ultimate addiction.

There is a Hebrew expression, *ein sof la-davar*; there is no end to the matter. There is always another generation to trace, another branch to explore, another cousin to discover and reach out to. The further back you go and the more pedigree lines you uncover, the more relatives you find. It becomes incredibly engaging. I remind you that we are fifth cousins. [A third-great grandfather of mine and a third-great grandfather of Michael Goodbaum, from Lagow, Poland, were siblings.]

In 2014, I attended my first of several conferences of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS). It was in Salt Lake City.I spent more time at the Family History Library down the street from the hotel than at the conference itself, because I knew what I was looking for. Today, most of the records you could only access by physically walking into the library have been digitized and are available on-line. You don't need to travel to Salt Lake City anymore to get a lot of that information. That said, it's still an amazing place to visit.

MG: Have you ever thought about doing it professionally?

LH: People ask me that all the time. It's one of the things I may pursue after I leave Beth Tzedec. I'm also working on a publication. I may return to private *B'nai Mitzvah* tutoring, but need a rest from it.

MG: Do you have any travel plans?

LH: I have never been to a warm climate during the winter and I am overdue for a trip to Israel. I am somewhat embarrassed how little of Canada I have seen. I have never travelled east of Quebec City or west of Ontario. I have seen more of the U.S. and Europe.

MG: What comes to mind as memorable moments from your time here?

LH: I have fond memories of many cantorial concerts, guest scholar weekends and other special events. You will continue to see me at these. They will keep me connected to the Beth Tzedec community.

I have ongoing connections with so many congregants. In a certain sense, I know the Congregation better than anyone except for Rav Baruch, whose time precedes mine.

MG: Do you have any hobbies people might not know about?

LH: I enjoy science-fiction TV and movies but need to catch up on some that I have missed.

MG: Twenty-seven and a half years. What are you proudest of from that time?

LH: My teaching and coaching will be remembered because it's touched so many families. My presence at shiva homes, funerals, witnessing conversions, baby namings, special anniversaries, a *bris* or more than one *bris* in a family, *pidyon haben*. I've been there at all these lifecycle events.

MG: What message would you have for someone considering a career in synagogue ritual work or clergy work?

LH: All synagogue clergy and clergy-type work is very time-consuming. My colleagues and I are always on-call. We are always thinking about what's coming. Even on a Shabbat morning when I'm doing less Torah reading—or possibly no Torah reading—it still feels like work. It is difficult to fully relax.

My retirement joke is that I am graduating. I am going to be a congregant again. I have not been a congregant in 35 years. It will not be easy. I am so used to running services, looking around the room and thinking about who needs an aliyah, who should be honoured and how everything should be organized. It will be hard to turn that instinct off. I can imagine myself sitting in shul and having to resist the urge to take charge.

MG: That gives me one final question. Penina Hoffnung, our Family Engagement Specialist, asked staff their favourite *parashah* so she can design and make hats for the SimcHAT Torah celebration. What's yours?

LH: My favourite *parashah* is my own Bar Mitzvah portion: *Vayeitzei*, particularly the initial story about Jacob fleeing to Haran and seeing the vision of the angels descending and climbing the ladder. I have climbed the ladder and now I am coming down.



Celebrate

Lorne Hanick's Legacy

Submit Your Greeting, Memory or Best Wishes to our Tribute Book

As we prepare to mark Lorne Hanick's retirement as our Ritual Director, we are creating a special Tribute Book filled with greetings and messages from our community.

Whether you'd like to share a favourite memory, express your appreciation, offer your best wishes for the future or simply add your family's name in acknowledgement of all he has done, we would be honoured to include your words.

Full Page: **$360** / Half Page: **$180** / Quarter Page: **$72***

**Please note that for quarter page tributes, we are only able to include your family's names.*

Deadline for submissions: **Friday, October 9 at 3:00 PM.**
Visit: **bit.ly/hanick-tribute-book** or scan the QR code.

All proceeds support the Lorne Hanick Torah Reading Fund.





David Grossman

Memories can be very powerful and emotional.

Quite the Life

Memories can be very powerful and emotional.

One that keeps recurring for me, dates back some 70 years ago.

I lived in the west end of Toronto, a place known as Parkdale. Home for me was above and behind a haberdashery store on Queen Street. Financially, times were tough.

As a youngster, there were always many things on my mind. I kept thinking about the future. Even these days, when I hear the four questions asked at Passover, I think about the many more I had - and not all related to why one night was different from another.

My mother, Sarah[z"l], had always been fascinated with a song by American actress and singer, Doris Day. The lyrics, with a few adjustments by me, would linger in my mind. It was

"Que será, será". Not sure if the language was Spanish, French or Italian. What did matter was the translation, "whatever will be, will be".

Paraphrasing a few words, here's what registered with me.

"When I was just a little boy (changed from girl), I asked my mother, what will I be?

Will I be handsome (changed from pretty)? Will I be rich?

And here's what she said to me. "Que será, será".

Whatever will be, will be, the future's not ours to see, what will be will be."

I think of that again today.

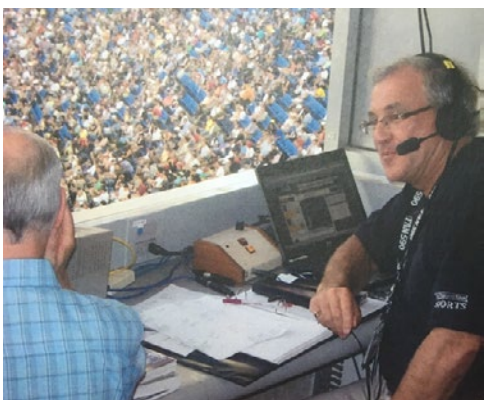
For me, back when I was a toddler and eventual teen, there were times when I returned from elementary and secondary school with broken glasses, bruises or blood-stained clothes. It was scary and traumatic. Blaming it on a fall, maybe participating in a sports game or some other kind of a minor accident were my excuses. That is until, my mother became suspicious and learned that I was the victim of antisemitic slurs and bullying. Yes, it happened in the mid-60s—and likely before that, too.

It affected me in many ways. Things didn't help when my father Harry[z"l] died while I was in my teen years. Somehow, I forged ahead thinking of acceptance, friendship, a future of success and peace—and what will be, will be. At the time, I was also the only Jewish kid at my school. My friends, from camp and synagogue, resided in predominantly Jewish communities.

What would emerge in the years to come?

As a juvenile, there were times when I never gave much thought about other things. When I became increasingly aware of life beyond school, several words clicked in—determination, perseverance, and chutzpah. I tinkered with the idea of accomplishing things that were once simply a dream.









Let's see, there was the thought of writing stories—mainly about amateur sports. Could that become a reality and have them published in the largest newspapers in Canada—the *Telegram* (now *the Sun*), *The Globe and Mail* and the *Toronto Star*?

Maybe, I thought, if I was fortunate a few stories would go that route. Truth be told, what came about were some 50,000 stories, over a 30-year span, about sports and the lives of athletes. Each one had a significant impact on people including myself.

Linking with major mainstream media was no easy task. For me, it started by taking on the job as a student high school sports reporter and earning 50 cents for each game score and highlight that I shared. The totals quickly added up—especially when I reported every school sport. I was fascinated by the job and earned a nice bit of what my mother referred to as "gelt"—especially when I repeated the same thing for multiple media. Cheques mailed to me. That was something.

While prosperity was looking good, other things were not.

Devoting so much time compiling information about sports and people, a huge personal penalty was happening. My academics suffered. Finding a way to move on from high school became a major priority. Studies and good grades would not be something I would brag about.

Times would get even more interesting in those younger years. Who would have thought, after taking two streetcars and a bus twice a week to Hebrew school at Beth Tzedec, and those Bar Mitzvah lessons with Cantor Morris Soberman[z"l], that I would also hear a variety of Jew-hatred comments while on public transit. I had to hide my Hebrew school books.

I was learning about lifeand more challenges. This time, it was leading to a community college education. I took a three-year Journalism program and completed it in two years with academic honours. With those teenage years now gone, I would have to make a choice at that first big job: pursuing a newspaper career or accepting an invite to work as the first Director of Communications for Humber College.

No easy selection, so I took on both.

Confident, indeed. It wasn't long before I added another responsibility. This time, I got a call from a program director inviting me to host a radio sports show. At first, I thought someone was pulling a joke on me. My tenure at something now known as SPORTSNET THE FAN 590 lasted a remarkable 23 years. Although I retired in 2012, that program—which focussed on amateur sport—also ended. Looking back, it was the longest running show of its kind in the country.

I never gave up thinking about the future. What would be the ultimate career? Since high school, there was this itch to highlight people, share their stories and shine the spotlight on individuals who weren't the celebrities and elite athletes. But what was over the horizon.

The telephone call. The one inviting me to work at Queen's Park. Wearing a suit to work was strange. Assigned several special assignments for three Ontario Premiers was great but then chosen to take on an assortment of contentious and high priority projects for a variety of Government Ministries. I must have been doing something well to get that kind of attention.

Yes, there were busy times—and I didn't give up the newspaper job at The Star. After the Government day job had ended, it was time to change my clothing attire and shuffle off to handle the journalism duties. I was careful to not mix one job with another.

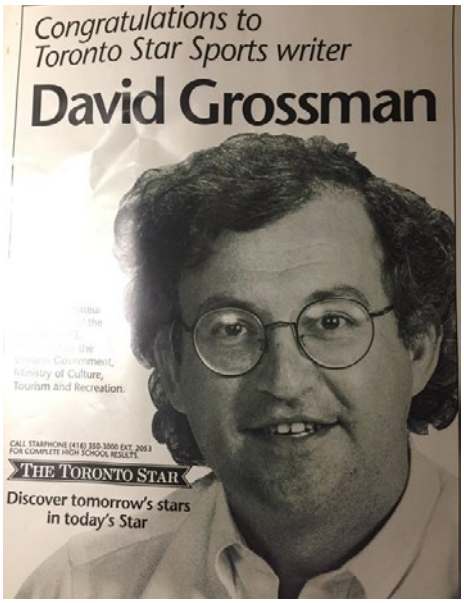
סבלנות, התמדה ויזע יוצרים שילוב מנצח להצלחה

Patience, persistence and perspiration make an unbeatable combination for success.

Writing this story, it's amazing what one can remember. In Israel one summer—it was a Friday morning tour—I remember asking the Rabbi at the Great Synagogue of Jerusalem if I could keep the kippah. It had the name of the synagogue, and I thought it would be a great souvenir of my special visit. He smiled and approved.

On the way out of the shul, what a surprise! Former Beth Tzedec Rabbi J. Benjamin Friedberg[z"l] approached me. He was there, noticed the kippah and reminded me that I should leave it behind. When I explained that I was given permission to take it, he gave





me a quick sermon on the Jewish mode of interpretation that engages the words of the text in the Midrash. He also smiled and said not to be late for Shabbat services.

I recall another conversation. This time with former Rabbi Emeritus Baruch Frydman-Kohl. It was about my career—the struggles and challenges. Somehow, that led to a discussion about highlighting Jewish athletes, coaches and officials. It also became the launching pad for my audio and visual presentation on "Jews in Hockey".

What quickly followed was another production that went beyond ice and skates. This time, highlighting "Jews and Sports". Rabbi Frydman-Kohl was there for that debut at Beth Tzedec. Word got out and interest flowed in from a variety of other Toronto area synagogues and community organizations.

As a career journalist, I can recall the many hours of research and production that were devoted to highlighting Jewish athletes in these two promotions. Initially thinking the work could get done quickly, I was wrong. To my surprise, the vast number of Jewish people excelling in a variety of sports was an eye-opener. Jewish people excelling in martial arts? How about water skiing and sumo wrestling? How could it be? Also, Jews competing and winning Olympic and World championship medals. Their achievements, and greatness in many cases, needed to be articulated and disseminated.

Some of the more prominent Canadian Jewish athletes that I interviewed were Josh Binstock, a beach volleyball Olympian; figure skater Dylan Moscovitch, who won an Olympic pairs silver medal with his partner Kirsten Moore-Towers, Andrew Sznajder, inducted into the Canada Tennis Hall of Fame; former Canadian Football League player Gerry Sternberg, who won a Grey Cup with Hamilton; and Kevin Pillar, who spent seven seasons with the Toronto Blue Jays.

Canadian youngsters needed to know, back then and now, that the door was open for them to also set goals. Furthermore, that what may have been impossible was in fact—achievable.

For me, it has always been about a winning attitude—persistence, hard work, timeless wisdom and focussing on what I do best. But there have been bumps along the way, when challenging times interrupt life, and one seeks advice, wisdom and guidance. That's where much gratitude goes to Beth Tzedec's Senior Rabbi, Steve Wernick, for being there when needed.

Raising the flag for Jewish athletes became paramount. I was asked to join Maccabi Canada as a Communications Advisor in 2005. My goal, make that my big achievement, was relaying information to Canadian mainstream media. Winning medals, too. It was a frustrating hurdle—even with my contacts. Little interest, excuses and disseminating Jewish success to them was just not a priority.

Determined, I was resilient and pushed on. The job got done. Radio, television and newspapers - from the Canadian Press to the CBC, and the list goes on, carried my stories presented to them from Israel. I even had athletes elaborate on their experiences while doing live interviews on the phone. What a feeling.

To my knowledge, this media success has never been repeated. There's one more thing. Despite an invite to join the executive of Maccabi World Union, the largest Jewish sports and education organization, I had to decline.

Busy times, along with jealousy and personal egos from others, also got in the way. That became apparent when I asked for an opportunity to compete for Canada during those Games—and went on to win a silver medal in swimming.

תמיד תהיה עצמך,בטא את
עצמך,האמן בעצמך; אל תחפש
אישיות מצליחה לחקות

Always be yourself, express yourself, have faith in yourself. Do not go out and look for a successful personality and duplicate it.

Memories of my life associated with Beth Tzedec have been many. Those previously mentioned years of Hebrew school, my Bar Mitzvah, my wife's adult Bat Mitzvah, our wedding, the coming-of-age milestones for our children, marriage of our daughter, and grand-daughter baby-naming. Far too many to list here.

As for my Jewish identity, and it possibly influencing my work, that's something that requires far more space, explanation—and, likely, conversations.

Though I reported for The Star on some 60 sports, and did dozens of interviews via newspaper, radio and television, there wasn't one highlight

or memorable event. Each one became a glow of radiant celebration. Talking with athletes allowed them to open their lives a bit more and highlight successes as well as the trials and tribulations.

Hitting a home run, scoring a goal, and the feelings of earning a trophy meant so much to people—and, especially, when they were too young to think about the professional highly paid athletes. This was their golden moment, and I was someone who illuminated their achievements.

I have always been enamored, fascinated, inspired, maybe choose your own word, by the ability of people with disabilities to do things in sport that others may have thought twice about. Watching them perform means more than a medal.

Jewish people have made monumental contributions to adaptive sports and the Paralympic movement. I've written about them.

Think about it—wheelchair tennis or the track and field star born with congenital limb differences who then went on to shatter world records in the high jump. How about, with the help of a specially adapted surfboard, the woman who went on to compete in international competitions, fearlessly taking on able-bodied athletes? Her story was so inspiring that she became the subject of a Hollywood movie.

While I also wrote stories on a freelance basis for international newspapers, including Haaretz, not all of them were zooming in on personal achievements of others. Sadly, there were stories that needed to be exposed with the hope of action taken to correct contentious issues. Here are two that come to mind.

I was at a Toronto high school basketball game that involved the all-boys Orthodox school, Yeshivat Or Chaim. Game officials were adamant that kipot had to be removed. They didn't like the clips. A replacement was needed to keep a brimless cloth cap worn to respect and awe for Hashem. When officials saw me in attendance, they paused and realized an embarrassing story that would mention them was developing. Suddenly, they settled for the option of alternative fasteners.

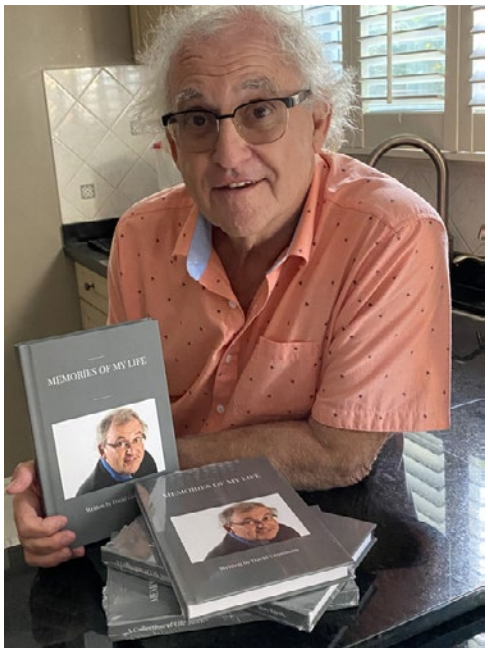
It may not be known in Canada that observant Jewish student athletes have, for years, faced conflicts. I recall writing about the Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic Associations staging a girls gymnastics championship in 2017. It was scheduled during Passover.

Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto had to choose between competing in that major event—or follow Jewish customs. The media comments from an OFSAA organizer created tensions. The convenor had said "We can't please everyone, and I know that sounds terrible, but only one small group was affected."

Think about that for a minute. I wrote the story—and became the recipient of some nasty language.

During my career, I have been very fortunate to be the recipient of many awards and honors which include the Government of Ontario Sport Citation in recognition of my distinguished contribution to amateur sport. This past June was another milestone. In fact, something incredible and my family was there to celebrate.

The City of Toronto inducted me to the Sports Hall of Honour with a Lifetime Achievement Award. A commemoration added to my legacy. Synagogue sermons often include reference to belonging—a connection, a camaraderie and fellowship of sorts. I guess I fit in somewhere.



Most important and precious to me, is being blessed with a wonderful wife, Carol, and our children and grandchild.

It has been a journey—and it's not over as I continue, part time, to write about more athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers for provincial sport organizations.

Just a few words about determination and responsibility. They were borrowed from a religious Jewish leader and scholar by the name of Rabbi Hillel. I am told that he was one of the best-known sages of the Talmud and known for a phrase from *Pikei Avot* 1:14.

I read it and read it again. It's about the challenges one has building personal strength and success, but most important to also use it to help others.

הוּא הָיָה אוֹמֵר, אִם אֵין אֲנִי לִי, מִי לִי. וּכְשֶׁאֲנִי לְעַצְמִי, מָה אֲנִי. וְאִם לֹא עַכְשָׁיו, אֵימָתַי

"If I am not for myself, who will be for me? But if I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?"

Chesed Report

Out of the Cold Resumes at Beth Sholom in January

Beth Tzedec and Beth Sholom will resume their Monday night OOTC program at Beth Sholom starting in January, running for 12 weeks from 4:00 to 9:30 PM. Guests receive:

- a hot dinner
- musical entertainment
- clothing distribution
- art program
- BINGO
- bagged lunches

Volunteer Opportunities

Teens, adults, and Bar/Bat Mitzvah groups are invited to help. Community service hours are available for high school students. Shifts are approximately two hours and include:

- dinner set-up and service
- clothing distribution
- art and BINGO support
- sandwich making
- guest/volunteer check-in
- shift leadership

Volunteer registration opens in early November via Beth Tzedec's enewsletters and website.

Urgent Donations Needed

OOTC is self-funded and our inventory is low. We urgently need **NEW or GENTLY USED ADULTS-ONLY ITEMS:**

- jeans, pants, t-shirts, sweatpants, sweatshirts
- warm ski jackets, running shoes, winter/hiking boots
- hats, scarves, gloves
- **new** sleeping bags, underwear, hotel-sized toiletries

Corporate donations are always welcome.

Please note: We do not accept summer clothing or children's clothing.

Drop-off: Weekdays, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Beth Sholom, beginning in early November.

Contact: 416-781-3511 or info@beth-tzedec.org (Attn: Maureen Tanz)

Thursday Games Afternoons—Join the Fun!

Canasta and Mahjong are thriving **Thursdays from 12:30 to 4:00 PM** at Beth Tzedec! Whether you're a seasoned player or new to the games, come solo or with friends for a fun and social afternoon. Cost: **$2 weekly contribution**.

Interested in learning? **Judi Rosen**, an experienced instructor, offers lessons in both games. Contact the Synagogue Office at 416-781-3511 to be connected.

Do you have a spare **Mahjong set**? Donations are welcome to help keep extra sets on hand.

Chesed Fund Occasion Cards

Tribute *chesed* cards are available for purchase through the Synagogue office for all your family occasions, including Rosh Hashanah. Please consider supporting our program by having the funds directed to the Out of the Cold program.

Wishing you a sweet and meaningful Shanah Tovah.

—Maureen Tanz, *Chesed Chair*



Men's Club Makes a Difference

Men's Club Scholarships for 2027

The Beth Tzedec Men's Club is pleased to sponsor our long-standing scholarship program to assist young men and women who are pursuing programs of higher Jewish education. Applicants need not be a member of Beth Tzedec. Awards are available for a wide range of Jewish studies including education, arts, social work and cantorial and rabbinic studies.

The criteria we use to judge each applicant is based on the following and should be given careful consideration when applying. The information provided with this application is the sole source upon which the scholarship committee will make a decision.

- The financial need of the candidate.
- The program of study for which the funds will be used.
- The career goals of the candidate and how the program of study relates to it.
- The benefit that may be brought to the Jewish community by the candidate.
- The overall quality of the submitted application.
- Special needs or consideration.
- Recipients must attend a scholarship breakfast in June 2027.

The relationship between and the planned area of study and what benefit will be provided to the Jewish community by the candidates' career goals should be detailed very clearly.

The deadline for submissions is April 10, 2027.

Applications and information are available from the Beth Tzedec Men's Club at 416-781-3511 or email hershr@rogers.com.

NOW ... MORE THAN EVER ... BETH TZEDEC NEEDS A STRONG MEN'S CLUB

For only $36, Men's Club Contribution gives you

- ☑ A Personalized Plastic 3-Year Membership Card & Jewish Holiday Calendar
- ☑ Preferred Seating at Selected Men's Club Sponsored Events
- ☑ Benefits from National Men's Club Federation
- ☑ FREE Dinner with Fellow Men's Club Board Members









Men's Club Hits a Home Run at Blue Jays Night!

On August 11, the Beth Tzedec Men's Club hosted their annual Jays night. Fifty people headed down to Rogers to watch the Blue Jays eke out a win against the Boston Red Sox.

Tributes

Make a donation, send a tribute card and include your listing here to honour your friends and loved ones. For more information about tribute opportunities, call the office at 416-781-3511.

Arts and Culture Fund

Rosalee Berlin and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Harold Albert Green**.

Rosalee Berlin and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Abraham Greenberg**.

Rosalee Berlin and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Max David Berli**n.

Steve Levitan, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Chonon Levitan**.

Sidura Ludwig, acknowledging **Nora Gold** in memory of **Lynn Gold**.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Prep Club

Jerrold and Doreen Greenspan, acknowledging the Black Family in memory of **Beverley Black**.

Cantor Ezer Discretionary Fund

Mitch and Ann Max, honouring **Cantor Sidney Ezer** and **Asher Farber**.

Cantor Stern Discretionary Fund

Paula Hoffman, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Harry Hoffman**.

Paula Hoffman, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Shirley Hoffman**.

Paula Hoffman, honouring **Avital Narvey**.

Stephen and Robyn Libin and family, honouring **Shep Gangbar** on his 90th birthday.

Chesed Fund

Frances Ackerman and Henry Einstoss, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Bella Einstoss**.

Shirley and Perry Cooper and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Betty Korzenstein**.

Perry and Shirley Cooper, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Doris Cooper**.

Irving Gold, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Max Gold**.

Irving Gold, honouring the memories of **Max and Dora Gold**.

Irving and Wendy gold, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Dora Gold**.

Terri Humphries, acknowledging **Michael Goodbaum** in memory of **Lillian Ander**.

Helen Lester, acknowledging **Howard Black** in memory of **Beverley Black**.

Ruth Margles and family, honouring **Rabbi Baruch Frydman Kohl** for his guidance and helping the Margles Family during shiva.

Lorraine and Alan Sandler, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Mickey Weinstock**.

Lorraine and Alan Sandler, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Sonia Weinstock**.

Lorraine and Alan Sandler, honouring **Lawrence and Suzanne Ross** on the wedding of their son **Noah Ross and Cassandra Daley**.

Lorraine and Alan Sandler, honouring **Les and Lisa Aaron** on the engagement of their son **Noah Aaron**.

Sharon Yale and Blake Teichman, acknowledging the **Black Family** in memory of **Beverley Black**.

Sharon Yale and Blake Teichman, honouring **Stephen Kauffman**.

Nadine and Terry Walman and family, acknowledging **Howard Black** in memory of **Beverley Black**.

Oscar Zimmerman and Anna Day, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Lucy Zimmerman**.

Daily Minyan Breakfast Fund

The Brockman Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Louis Brockman**.

Robert, Ruth, Loren Jeffrey, Kathy, Robyn and Stewart, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Harry Chelin**.

The Cummings Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Robert Cummings**.

Janet and Edwin Durbin, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Annette Ethel Devon**.

Wendy and Elliott Eisen, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Selma Eisen**.

Nancy and Bruce Elman, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Fani Adelsberg**.

Lana Rayman and Eric Epstein and family, commemorating the first yahrtzeit of **Irving Rayman**.

Judy Feld Carr, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Abraham Feld**.

Judy Feld Carr, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Jack Leve**.

Reny Friedman, Michael Friedman and Debbie Rothstein, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Elsa Salomon**.

Reny Friedman, Michael Friedman and Debbie Rothstein, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Henry Friedman**.

Rabbi Robyn Fryer Bodzin and Rabbi Lara Rodin, acknowledging **Aviva Chernick** in memory of **Dr. Avinoam Chernick**.

Shep and Lorraine Ganbgbar, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Sarah Gangbar**.

Melissa and Sam Glazer, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Bernie Dorfman**.

Melissa and Sam Glazer, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Bernard Dorfman**.

Sam and Melissa Glazer, commemorating the *yahrtzeiten* of **Jennie and Melville Potash**.

Nancy Golden and David Golden and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Dr. Sidney Golden**.

The Goodman and Hirsh Families, honouring **Kevin Goodman** on his Tefillin Bar Mitzvah.

The Haber Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Nathan Haber**.

Edna Hussman, Ayal Lesh and Dori Hussman-Lesh, honouring **Esther Hussman** on her 97th birthday.

Esther Hussman and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Dov Hussman**.

Esther Hussman, Edna Hussman, Ayal Lesh and Dori Hussman-Lesh, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Dov Hussman**.

Esther Hussman, Edna Hussman, Ayal Lesh and Dori Hussman-Lesh, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Arie Leszcz**.

The Kachuck Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **David Kachuck**.

Norman and Jackie Kahn honouring the memory of **Bernard Waldman**.

Helen, John, Sharon, Stella and Esther Singer and families, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **David Singer**.

Helen, John, Sharon, Stella and Esther Singer and families, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Sylvia Singer**.

Carole Kerbel and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Harvey Kerbel**.

Alan Lerman and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Maureen Lerman**.

Nathan and Glennie Lindenberg, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Miriam Lindenberg**.

Phil Markel, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Daniel Eric Markel**.

Mitch and Anne Max and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Shirley Max**.

Lori Merson and family, honouring **Nicole and Marc Levine** on the naming of their daughter **Stella**.

The Promislow Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Shirley Promislow**.

Charles Radzinski, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Thomas Radzinski**.

Les Richmond and Toby Rayman, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Sam Richmond**.

Debbie Rothstein and Michael Friedman, acknowledging **Sheldon Rotman** in memory of **Elaine Milrad**.

Debbie Rothstein and Michael Friedman, acknowledging **Vicci Macmull** in memory of **Ellis Macmull**.

Debbie Rothstein and Michael Friedman, honouring **Shep Gangbar** on his 90th birthday.

Caren Ruby and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Gerry Ruby**.

Roslyn Levine and Brian Segal, marking the conclusion of Kaddish for **Beatrice Levine**.

Jeffrey and Aviva Shiff and Abe and Carol Szymkowicz, honouring **David and Lisa** on their wedding.

Elliott and Risa Shiff and family, honouring **Sam Shiff and Ashley Gerlock** on their marriage.

The Sobel Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Bert Fine**.

The Sobel Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Norman Sobel**.

Deborah Staiman, acknowledging **Blake Teichman** in memory of **Queenie Teichman**.

Carol and Bernie Starkman and Ruthanne and Lawrie Lubin, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Ettie Lubin**.

Lawrence, Ruthie and Michael Swern, marking the conclusion of *shloshim* for **Teresa Swern**.

The Tanenbaum Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Max Tanenbaum**.

Howard Tanenbaum and Larry Tanenbaum and families, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Harold Tanenbaum**.

The Teichman Family, marking the conclusion of *shloshim* for **Queenie Teichman**.

Dorothy Tessis and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Yadja Yetta Wajgensberg**.

Larry and Nina Wallach, honouring the birth of **Theo Rowan**.

Debra and Gary Walters and family and Barbra Walters and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Dr. Eli Adler**.

Debra and Gary Walters and family and Barbra Walters and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Rita Taylor**.

Thea Weisdorf and Allan Kanee and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Isa Elman Ots**.

Lisa and Howard Winston and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Shirley Krem**.

Sara Wunch Glick, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Srul Irving Glick**.

Emergency Security Fund

Gerry and Merle Birnbaum, honouring **Beth Tzedec Congregation**.

The Brockman Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Sophie Brockman**.

Bella and Leonard Brody, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Abraham Jacobs**.

Edward Brown and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Sam Brown**.

Rochelle Citron, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Zelma Smith**.

Anne Clavir and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Allen Clavir**.

Anne Clavir and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Martin Frank**.

The Cummings Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Sylvia Cummings**.

The Feldman Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Leslie Feldman**.

Maxine Gallander Wintre and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Harold Gallander**.

Sam and Melissa Glazer, acknowledging **Sheldon Rotman** in memory of **Elaine Milrad**.

Morton and Elaine Goldbach, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Fanny Goldbach**.

David Golden and Connie Putterman, commemorating the yahrzteit of **Rayzel Miriam Golden**.

Michael Gross and Marsha Hurwitz, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Roslyn Gross**.

Martin Halpern and Karen Glass, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Malca Janice Litovitz**.

Linda Hechter, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Shirley Herschman**.

David and Karen Jackson, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Esther Schwartz**.

David and Karen Jackson, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Samuel Jackson**.

Andrea and Terry Jacobs and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Peter Green**.

Steven G. Kelman, acknowledging **Alan Abrams** in memory of **Claude Abrams**.

Ellin and Norman Kert, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Julius Goldberg**.

David Koff, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Judith Koff**.

David Koff, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Simon Zalman Koff**.

Jerry and Esther Kravice, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Max Kravice**.

Ellen Levine, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Shirley Steinberg**.

Stephanie Orleans and Justin Linden, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Dr. Marvin Orleans**.

Roslyn Mendelson, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Joseph Bigman**.

Pauline Menkes and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Murray Menkes**.

Marilyn and Saul Merrick, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Sylvia Etlin**.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE. DONATE TODAY.

By contributing to Beth Tzedec's many funds, scholarships, and initiatives, you heal and build our community. For a list of Beth Tzedec Funds, contact the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511.

Joseph Milner and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Jerome Milner**.

Joe, Allison, Becky, Gaby and Sylvie, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Israel Milner**.

The Orenstein Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Joseph Orenstein**.

Philip and Marlene Pattenick and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Pauline Pattenick**.

Millie Pollock, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Sidney Philip Pollock**.

Michele Friedlich-Pollock and Diane Betel and families, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Aurelia Aranka Friedlich**.

Ted and Nancy Rabinovitch and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Gerald Rabinovitch**.

Ted and Nancy Rabinovitch and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Marlene Rabinovitch**.

Ralph and Karen Rabinowicz, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Louis Rabinowicz**.

Gella and Paul Rothstein, acknowledging **Elizabeth and Manny Crotin** in memory of **Jeffrey Crotin**.

Gella and Paul Rothstein, acknowledging **Sheldon and Patti Rotman** in memory of **Elaine Milrad**.

Sheila Rubinoff and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Gary Brian Rubinoff**.

Toby Saltzman and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Kenneth Saltzman**.

Joanne and Earl Schwebel, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Mannie Robbins**.

Joel and Tammy Seigel, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Dr. Harold Seigel**.

Alan Lerman, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Gerda Sless**.

Alan Lerman, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Maureen Sless**.

Alan Lerman, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Dr. Philip Sless**.

Deborah Staiman, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Alexander Staiman**.

Mary Martha Starkman and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Salvatore Ruscica**.

The Valo Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Thomas Valo**.

Nadine and Terry Walman and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Michael Pupko**.

Nadine and Terry Walman and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Rose Pupko**.

Dot Whitehouse, honouring **Rabbi Steve Wernick**.

Fay and Jamie Wilks, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Shirley Houser**.

Cecile Zaifman and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Zenia Zaifman**.

The Zidel Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Sheina (Sheila) Zidel**.

David and Ellen Zworth and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Ann Zworth**.

Family Shabbat Dinner Fund

Jeffrey and Jane Gertner, honouring **Shep Gangbar** on his 90th birthday.

Patti and Sheldon Rotman, acknowledging **Marlene Rattner, Michael Black and Howard Black and families** in memory of **Beverley Black**.

Patti and Sheldon Rotman, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Norem Litvak**.

Patti and Sheldon Rotman and family, acknowledging **Vicci Macmull and family** in memory of **Ellis Macmull**.

Deborah Staiman, acknowledging **Sheldon Rotman** in memory of **Elaine Milrad**.

Food Insecurity Fund

Gold Irving

Brian Heller and Beverley Kupfert and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Dr. Leon Heller**.

Beverly Kupfert, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Eva Altenberg Kupfert**.

Mitch and Anne Max, acknowledging **Nora Gold** in memory of **Lynn Lubin Gold**.

Norman Tobias and Ava Kanner, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Rabbi Joseph Kanner**.

Arlyn and Danny Zimmerman, honouring **Shep Gangbar** on his 90th birthday.

General Fund

Liddy Beck and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Mary Beck**.

Pam Beiles and family, acknowledging **David Promislow and family** in memory of **Shirley Promislow**.

Lynn Catzman and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Hon. Justice Marvin Catzman**.

Martin Karp and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Sandra Karp**.

The Miller Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Allan Miller**.

The Miller Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Bessie Miller**.

Jerry Schendel, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Klara Scheindel**.

Sylvia Steinberg, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Arnold Steinberg**.

Sylvia Steinberg, commemorating the *yahrtzeiten* of **Rozica and Josef Glanzstein**.

Daniel Wilchesky, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Nachum (Chuck) Wilchesky**.

Noah Zeitz, honouring **Phil David**.

Howard (Hy) Cooper Trust Fund

Art and Carole Andrews, acknowledging **Sheldon and Patti Rotman and family** in memory of **Elaine Milrad**.

David and Carol Grossman, acknowledging **Lori Grafstein** in memory of **Annette Grafstein**.

Rayna Jolley, honouring **Art Andrews** on his 85th birthday.

Amy and Barry Rapkowski, honouring **David and Carol Grossman** on their 75th birthdays.

Hersh and Cheryl Rosenthal, honouring the **Libman Family** on their birth of their grandson **Levi Yitzvhak**.

Dorothy Tonchin, honouring **Lyon Wexler**.

Kaddish Fund

Sharon Freitag, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Leo Aizanman**.

Kosher Food Bank

Jocelynn and Fred Engle, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Molly Krivel**.

Amy and Paul, honouring **Adele Weinstein** on her Bat Mitzvah, and on becoming Regional President for International Northeast Readion of WICJ.

Amy Phillips, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Frances Phillips**.

Lorne Hanick Torah Reading Table Fund

Dorothy Ross, honouring **Lorne Hanick**.

Deborah Sacrob, honouring **Lorne Hanick**.

Margaret and Paul Shuckett, honouring **Bernard Rubenstein** on his special birthday.

Shoshana Steel, honouring **Lorne Hanick**.

Music Fund

Janis and Sidney Ackerman, honouring **Shep Gangbar** on his 90th birthday.

Shep and Lorraine Ganbgbar, acknowledging the **Black Family** in memory of **Beverley Black**.

Shep and Lorraine Ganbgbar, honouring **Sheldon and Patti Rotman** on their 45th anniversary.

Bonnie and Saul Greenberg, honouring **Shep Gangbar** on his special birthday.

Rayna Jolley, honouring **Robert Sunderland** on his birthday.

Rayna Jolley, honouring **Sheldon and Patti Rotman** on their 45th anniversary.

Rayna Jolley, honouring **Shep Gangbar** on his 90th birthday.

Debbie Rothstein and Michael Friedman, honouring **Lyon Wexler** on his 92nd birthday.

Deborah Staiman, honouring **Shep Gangbar** on his 90th birthday.

Rickie and Paul Wise and James and Bob Myers, honouring **Shep Gangbar** on his special birthday.

Out-of-the-Cold Fund

Gary and Patti Pollock, honouring their 50th anniversary.

Deborah Staiman, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Shirley Jane Staiman**.

Maureen and Bernie Tanz and family, honouring **Lony Gropper** on his 95th birthday.

Prayer Book Fund: Chumash

Mary Ellen Herman, acknowledging **Skippy Segal** in memory of **Lynn Segal**.

Rabbi Fryer Bodzin Discretionary Fund

Marcelo Aprosoff and Viviana Goldenberg, honouring **Cami Aprosoff and Oren Binnun** on their marriage.

Jidi Binnun, honouring **Oren Binnun and Cami Aprosoff** on their marriage.

Jordan Cohen

Nancy and Bruce Elman, honouring **Rabbi Fryer Bodzin** for assisting and officiating at the naming of their granddaughter **Audrey Eva**.

Donnie Friedman, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Miriam Bohnen**.

Carol Grossman, honouring **Rabbi Fryer Bodzin**.

Marjorie Rasky, honouring **Rabbi Fryer Bodzin**.

Mindy Simon, acknowledging **Barry Simon** in memory of **Zel Simon**.

Jeffrey Stutz, honouring **Rabbi Fryer Bodzin**.

Rabbi Rodin Discretionary Fund

Mary Ellen Herman and Phil Markel, acknowledging **Rabbi Lara Rodin** in memory of **Greg Rodin**.

Allan and Ellen Rosenbluth and family, acknowledging **Rabbi Lara Rodin** in memory of **Greg Rodin**.

Alan and Lorraine Sandler, acknowledging **Rabbi Lara Rodin** in memory of **Greg Rodin**.

Rabbi Wernick Discretionary Fund

Jack and Elaine Barkin, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Boris Barkin**.

Paul and Tammy Brown and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Gina Brown**.

Bruce and Nancy Elman, acknowledging **Sheldon Rotman** in memory of **Elaine Milrad**.

Carol Grossman, honouring **Rabbi Steve Wernick**.

Roz Halman, honouring **Rabbi Steve Wernick**.

Rayna Jolley, honouring **Rabbi Steve and Jody Wernick**.

Pearl and Jerome Kazdan, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Jeanette Schwartz**.

Diana Perl, acknowledging **Natalie Shenkar** in memory of **Jason Brenzel**.

Millard Roth, commemorating the *yahrtzeiten* of **Juanita and Manuel Roth**.

Dot Whitehouse, honouring **Rabbi Steve Wernick**.

Shabbat and Holiday Kiddush Fund

Bernie Abrams, Sasha Abrams-Hill and Manny and Ruthie Putter, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Tona Abrams**.

Brooke and Kyle Brill, honouring the birth of their daughter **Orli Beatrice**.

Laura Freitag and Dr. Marlon Danilewitz, honouring the naming of **Billie Diana**.

Phyllis Flatt and Harold Wolfe, honouring their birthdays.

Maurice Grzeda and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Yankiel Grzeda**.

Mary Ellen Herman, honouring **Lyon Wexler** on his birthday.

The Karlin and Goodman Families, honouring the birth of **Harper Beth**.

Marlene Kazman, honouring **Cole Solish and Becca Lash** on their marriage.

Anne and Mitch Max and Elliott and Risa Shiff and families, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Ralph Shiff**.

John and Susan Rose, honouring **Alex Rose and Joelle Brooker** on their marriage.

Patti and Sheldon Rotman, honouring **Dr. Lauren Rotman and Adam Goldberg** on the naming of their daughter **Lillian Ray**.

Rosette Rutman, Stephen and Tamara Abrams, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Tom Valo**.

Marcia Schnoor, honouring her adult Bat Mitzvah.

The Slater Family, honouring the birth of **Skye Morgan Slater**.

Howard Tanenbaum and Larry Tanenbaum and families, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Anne Tanenbaum**.

The Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl Endowment Fund

Rosylin and Gerold Goldlist, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Rubin Goldlust**.

Rayna Jolley, honouring **Martin and Judy Friedland**.

Manny and Ruthie Putter, commemorating the third yahrtzeit of **Tona Putter Abrams**.

Gerald and Lynda White, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Anne White**.

Lynda and Gerald White, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Florence Swartz**.

Victims of Terror Fund

Ethel Abramowitz, acknowledging **Marvin Miller** in memory of **Barbara Miller**.

Sharon and Norman Bacal, acknowledging **Marvin Miller** in memory of **Barbara Miller**.

Todd Beallor and Cathy Weinberg, acknowledging **Marvin Miller** in memory of **Barbara Miller**.

Jeffrey Berliner, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Szyja (Sy) Berliner**.

Ava Brodsky, acknowledging **Marvin Miller and family** in memory of **Barbara Miller**.

Ellen and David Chaikof, acknowledging **Marvin Miller** in memory of **Barbara Miller**.

Stephen and Susan Cohen and family, acknowledging **Adrienne, Blayne and the Miller and Lastman Families** in memory of **Barbara Miller**.

Debbie, Jason and Laurie, acknowledging **Marvin Miller** in memory of **Barbara Miller**.

Arlene and Fred Faber, acknowledging **Marvin Miller** in memory of **Barbara Miller**.

Doreen Fogel and family, acknowledging **Marvin Miller and family** in memory of **Barbara Miller**.

Edward and Zipora Goldberg, acknowledging **Marvin Miller** in memory of **Barbara Miller**.

Gerold and Rosylin Goldlist, acknowledging **Adrienne Lastman and family** in memory of **Barbara Miller**.

Alan Goodman, acknowledging **Marvin Miller** in memory of **Barbara Miller**.

Sharon Grosman and Paul Friese, acknowledging **Marvin Miller** in memory of **Barbara Miller**.

YM Payroll Department, acknowledging **Marvin Miller** in memory of **Barbara Miller**.

Andrew and Sharon Himel and family, acknowledging **Marvin Miller** in memory of **Barbara Miller**.

Sharon and Irv Hochman and family, acknowledging **Brooke Miller and family** in memory of **Barbara Miller**.

Rayna Jolley, acknowledging **Marvin Miller** in memory of **Barbara Miller**.

Helen, John, Sharon, Stella and Esther Singer and families, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **David Singer**.

Helen, John, Sharon, Stella and Esther Singer and families, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Sylvia Singer**.

Lana Kerzner, wishing the **Bessin Family** a Happy Passover.

Lana Kerzner, wishing **Cathy Weinberg, Todd Baellor, Mitchell and Adam** a Happy Passover.

Andrea and Elliot Kohn, acknowledging **Marvin Miller** in memory of **Barbara Miller**.

Eileen Kruger, acknowledging the **Miller Family** in memory of **Barbara Miller**.

Malki Lazar, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Evelyn Lazar**.

Malki Lazar, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Regina Lazar**.

Hyla and Kobi Lederman, acknowledging **Marvin Miller and family** in memory of **Barbara Miller**.

Adrienne Levinter, acknowledging **Marvin Miller** in memory of **Barbara Miller**.

Ruthann and Lawrie Lubin, acknowledging **Marvin Miller** in memory of **Barbara Miller**.

Irene Marcovitz, acknowledging **Marvin Miller** in memory of **Barbara Miller**.

Marilyn and Saul Merrick, acknowledging **Marvin Miller** in memory of **Barbara Miller**.

Millie Pollock, acknowledging **Marvin Miller and family** in memory of **Barbara Miller**.

Marlene Rattner, acknowledging **Marvin Miller** in memory of **Barbara Miller**.

Linda Reitapple and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Howard Allen Reitapple**.

Andrea Rovet, acknowledging the **Miller and Lastman Families** in memory of **Barbara Miller**.

Sheila Rubinoff and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Gary Brian Rubinoff**.

Sheila Rubinoff, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Rose Langer**.

Sheila Rubinoff, honouring the memory of **Gary Brian Rubinoff** on his birthday.

Mark and Marla Shoom, acknowledging **Marvin Miller** in memory of **Barbara Miller**.

Deborah Staiman, acknowledging **Marvin Miller** on the conclusion of *shloshim* for **Barbara Miller**.

Elaine and Joey Steiner, acknowledging the **Miller Family** in memory of **Barbara Miller**.

Felicia Valo and Arlene Travis and the Valo Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Regina Valo**.

Felicia Valo and Arlene Travis and the Valo Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Sheva Brandes**.

Larry and Robbin Yunger, acknowledging **Marvin Miller and Adrienne Lastman and families** in memory of **Barbara Miller**.

Arlyn and Danny Zimmerman, acknowledging **Sheldon and Patti Rotman** in memory of **Elaine Milrad**.

Yom Hashoah Candle Fund, in memory of Jules and Pearl Surdin

Ellen Joy Buchman

Morley Goldberg

Zachary Morison

Ralph Rabinowicz

Bernie and Carole Starkman

Condolences

The Congregation extends our heartfelt condolences to the families of the late:

Ron (Ronald) Anderson
Faigie Birnbaum
Brian Feldman
Abigail (Abby) Gardiner
Miron Goldszmidt
Louis Kerzner
Martin Koven
Shelley Kudlats
Paula Lipnik
Paul Merrick
Dorit Najgoldberg
Saul Reichert
Sidney Stephen Ross
Larry Weiner

"May the God of mercy sustain and strengthen them in their sorrow."

Everything We Do Today is for Tomorrow

Beth Tzedec has a number of opportunities for members wishing to support our *tzedakah* initiatives. Honour the memory of a loved one by making a contribution to one of our funds or inscribing a siddur on a yahrtzeit. For a complete list of Synagogue funds, call the Synagogue off at 416-781-3511.

If you are interested in leaving a legacy for the Congregation to name a special project, youth program or adult education seminar, we would be pleased to help you plan today for tomorrow. Email our Executive Director, **Phil David** at 416-781-3514 ext. 211 to discuss these opportunities in confidence.

Beth Tzedec's Spiritual Leadership and Staff

Beth Tzedec בית צדק CONGREGATION

1700 BATHURST STREET, TORONTO ON M5P 3K3
416-781-3511 | INFO@BETH-TZEDEC.ORG | BETH-TZEDEC.ORG

Spiritual Leadership Team

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BETH TZEDEC SMALL GROUPS

Beth Tzedec's Small Groups are **an opportunity to connect with other people over a shared goal, project or interest and to build relationships**.

We invite you to imagine hundreds of Beth Tzedec members gathering regularly in small, lay-led groups to learn, to laugh and to develop meaningful relationships that deepen their connection to one another, to Judaism and to Beth Tzedec, while engaging in activities that are important to each of them.

Our 2026-2027 Small Groups registration will be open in September, and we are looking for leaders interested in continuing a current Small Group or creating a new Small Group.

General

BT Craft Club: Made With Love
Chapters for Change: A Social Action Book Club
For the Love of Bread
Jam Night
Let My Meeple Play
Let's Talk Aliyah
Miles for Malt
Reading Israeli Authors Book Club
The Rocky Road of Raising Kids
Stitch and Kvetch
Tapping Together for Emotional Peace and Well-Being

Teen Groups

ETGAR Adventure Club
Roots & Connections (Teen & a parent/grandparent/or any other family member)
Yoga & Mindfulness

20s & 30s

Advancing Your Career Mentorship Group
Jewish Romance Book Club for 20s and 30s

Seniors

B-Fit: Fitness, Friendship & Fun!
Baking with Love for Seniors
Have You Dreamed of Writing Your Story?
Zentangle

For more information about Small Groups, visit bit.ly/small-groups-2026
or contact Yacov Fruchter at YFruchter@beth-tzedec.org.

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