



Enjoy a
**Musical
Winter**

Special Events

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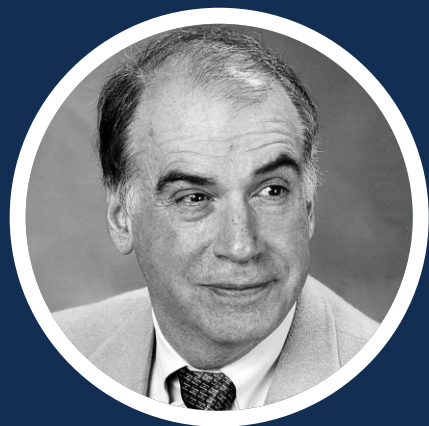
Eit Zamir

An Evening of Healing
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THE SAM & SARAH KERZNER AND JOSEPH
KERZNER MEMORIAL HOLOCAUST INSTITUTE

SCHOLAR SERIES 2021-2022

Professor Stephen Berk



75 Years Later: The Nuremberg Trials

Wednesday, December 15 at 7:00 PM

In the first of his three-part lecture series, Prof. Stephen Berk will revisit the Nuremberg Trials of 1946 and share what we can still learn from them 75 years later.

To register for this session, visit:

<https://bethzedecoronto.shulcloud.com/form/berk-lecture-december-15.html>.

The Rebirth of Jewish Life in Eastern Europe

Wednesday, February 23 at 7:00 PM

In the second lecture in the 2021-2022 series, Prof. Berk will explore how Jewish life is reviving in a number of Central and Eastern European cities and countries.

Why is this happening and what can it tell us about the Jewish and secular societies of these places only 75 years after the Holocaust?

To register for this session, visit:

<https://bethzedecoronto.shulcloud.com/form/berk-lecture-december-15.html>.

These programs will be offered via Zoom. Pre-registration required at the links above.



Rabbi Steven Wernick

The science of climate change and its urgency is widely accepted. The political will and the best means to address it, well, that remains in dispute.

“The Lorax”, Tu B’Shevat and Shmita

One of my favourite Dr. Seuss books is *The Lorax*. Written in 1972, Dr. Suess was clearly a prophet, “I speak for the trees, for the trees have no tongue.”

Using his famous rhymes and clear, unambiguous language, he put forth a succinct message that if we use up all our natural resources, if we are incapable of acting on global warming and climate change, if we do not protect our environment, we risk destroying our ecosystem, our Earth. And then what?

The Lorax was a favourite as a child and as an adult. At least once a year, on Tu B’Shevat, Jewish Arbor Day (this year celebrated on Monday, January 17), I would read it to my kids. In addition to holy day rituals—a seder tasting different juices and fruits of trees grown in Israel—Tu B’Shevat and *The Lorax* were excellent ways to teach Jewish values that have universal implications.

On the second day of Rosh Hashanah, I spoke about the Jewish environmental ethic which, simply put, is that God creates the world and we are responsible for protecting it. We learn through biblical and rabbinic text that this ethic is nothing less than an expectation of creation itself.

Furthermore, I reminded us that this year in our Jewish calendar is a *shmita* year. Every seven years in the land of Israel, farmers were to let their fields

lay dormant, debts were to be forgiven and a year of mindfulness, religious introspection and spiritual awakening was to occur.

As I write this *Bulletin* article, the world gathers in Glasgow for COP26 (the 26th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Climate Change).

The science of climate change and its urgency is widely accepted. The political will and the best means to address it, well, that remains in dispute. Nevertheless, that world leaders gather like this, that there is wide agreement on the issues and a willingness to discuss, gives me hope.

Alok Sharma, a British member of Parliament and President of COP26, says that the goals are:

- To keep the goal of global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius relevant,
- to put an end date on the use of “unabated” coal,
- to provide \$100 billion of annual climate financing to poorer nations which will not be able to meet global targets without such help,
- to make all new car sales zero emissions within 14 to 19 years,
- to end deforestation by the end of the decade, and
- to reduce emissions from methane.

For Canada, some of these targets are clearly difficult economic and political choices. And as individuals, they can be daunting. That’s why Hazon: The Jewish Lab for Sustainability, the largest Jewish environmental organization in



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To contribute your news, congratulations, member updates or other listings, send an email to thumphries@beth-tzedec.org, call 416-781-3514, ext. 212 or fax 416-781-0150.

the world, suggests a more achievable *brit*, covenant, of sustainability. It contains six commitments:

- To transition to more plant-based foods,
- to reduce food waste,
- to reduce household waste,
- to reduce energy use,
- to buy local, and
- to buy less.

Change is hard, so Hazon suggests we start small and with what we can control on our lives and our habits.

I signed onto the *Brit Hazon* as part of my *shmita* year celebration and commitments. Join me and let me know you've done so. And if we get a minyan, we'll make it communal at Beth Tzedec.



Pray
Morning Minyan Is Returning, for Both In-Person and Zoom

Beginning Monday, November 29 at 7:30 AM

We are excited to announce that beginning Hanukkah, Monday, November 29, Beth Tzedec's morning Minyan will meet both in-person in the Hendeles Chapel and via Zoom.

Hanukkah is the celebration of the dedication of the Temple for use after our ancestors were prohibited from gathering there. Unlike the Maccabees, our enemy was not a foreign oppressor, though the COVID-19 virus certainly was oppressive. Now that so many Ontarians are vaccinated and the regulations for public gathering are lifting, what better way to celebrate our Minyan than to begin the process of regathering on Hanukkah?!

Join us the week of Hanukkah in-person or on Zoom as we celebrate with *Hallel* and Torah reading. If you have *yahrtzeit*, come to the Torah for a blessing! And what a blessing it will be!

Once Hanukkah concludes, our in-person morning Minyan option will be offered every Sunday, Monday and Thursday morning.

Registration is not necessary! Proof of double vaccination and ID is required, though. (To view our COVID protocols and requirements, visit our [website](#).)

We look forward to seeing you!



Debbie Rothstein

While Zoom has been a lifesaver for all of us over the last 18 months, it simply does not replace human interaction.



Returning to Normal

It was so good being back in our building over the High Holy Days. While we were certainly not at full capacity given the COVID protocols at that time, for those of us who attended in person, there was a real sense of connection and celebration in being able to be together to *daven*.

After 18 months of being apart, it was good to be *panim el panim*—face to face.

As life slowly returns to normal and we are able to attend services without pre-registering or social distancing, albeit in masks, it's hard not to miss the people we have lost over the last 20 months. For me, there are three regular shul goers for whom I feel a heightened sense of loss.

Ab Flatt^{z"l} was a fixture at Beth Tzedec services for as long as I can remember. My relationship with the Flatt family spans four generations, from my grandparents, J.B. & Pauline Goldhar, and Phyllis's parents, Max & Beatrice Wolfe, to my kids' friendships with Ab & Phyllis's grandchildren.

At Ab's funeral, his son Joel said that his dad had three pillars in his life—family, faith and community. Beth Tzedec was where Ab practiced his faith and we were his community.

From the moment I joined the Board, Ab greeted me every Shabbat with questions (and advice). But what I will always remember about Ab was how good he was to my grandfather. As J.B. got older, Ab took him to visit Camp Ramah every summer, one of the great

loves of both of their lives.

When I became Chair of the Board, Ab told me that one year after visiting camp, as they were driving home, J.B. told him that he no longer needed to take him to camp. He said it was time to let “new blood” take over.

Ab said that it was a lesson in leadership that he never forgot and that he wanted to share with me. I truly treasure that he did and I will miss his warm smile and gentle ribbing over not sending my kids to Ramah.

Bobby Cherniak^{z"l} was the first person I met at my very first Board meeting. While I casually knew Bobby and his wife Sharon from The Little Minyan Service, it was around the Board table that he became my friend.

Bobby immediately took me under his wing, whispering explanations to me until I learned the ropes, and he encouraged me to find my voice and speak up at meetings. We sat next to each other at every meeting until he left the Board, but even afterwards, his support never wavered.

When Bobby spoke with you, there was an intensity in his focus, as if there was no one else in the room and no one to whom he would rather be speaking. He came to shul every week with his ever-present book bag, pulled out reading material throughout the Service, constantly learning and imparting any pearls of wisdom he may have picked up along the way. There was many a Shabbat when he offered me an article by Rabbi Sacks or

Sharing the Light:

A Hanukkah Shabbat Dinner for 20s & 30s

Friday, December 3 at 7:15 PM
(Shabbat at the Floor service begins at 6:00 PM)

Join Yacov Fruchter for a 20s & 30s Shabbat dinner as we celebrate Hanukkah together. We will begin with our Shabbat at the Floor monthly service followed by a catered Shabbat dinner by Apex Kosher Catering. Proof of vaccination is required.

Cost for dinner: \$18 per person. To pre-register for the dinner, visit <https://bethzedec.toronto.shulcloud.com/form/Hanukah-Shabbat-Dinner-Dec3-2021.html>.

(Vaccine verification or proof of a negative COVID test is required. To view our COVID protocols and access or vaccine verification link, visit <https://www.beth-tzedec.org/page/articles/a/display/s/1/item/protecting-beth-tzedec-members-from-covid-19-2>.)

For a taste of our Shabbat at the Floor services, view this short video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fn5XjCr0V54>



Teen Hessed Fellowship

Beth Tzedec is excited to present the Beth Tzedec Teen Hessed Fellowship, an exciting new initiative for teens who are interested in meaningful volunteering and social action projects in our local Jewish and greater Toronto community. This fellowship is for teens in Grades 9 to 12 and will meet twice a month from January until May. Participants will learn about and volunteer for different organizations each month, culminating in a self-driven service project that they will plan and execute, with assistance from Beth Tzedec. Registration information coming soon.

Contact Sylvie Moscovitz at smoscovitz@beth-tzedec.org for more information.

other notable Jewish thinkers, encouraging me to read it over Shabbat. Bobby's absence will be felt deeply when the Little Minyan begins to reconvene for Shabbat services.

Gabi Weisfeld^z was a force of nature. I've had the great honour of knowing Gabi ever since she was my Grade 3 teacher at U.S.D.S. (now Robbins Hebrew Academy) 50 years ago. From that time on, I was "her" Debbie. We spoke every Shabbat at shul and she always asked after Michael, Emma and Zach. When I was elected President, she made a point of telling me how proud my grandfather would have been.

Gabi was incredibly generous to so many Jewish organizations, but most

especially to Beth Tzedec. Among her many gifts, Gabi donated the daily *Sim Shalom siddurim* in memory of her beloved husband, Louis^z. Upon returning to Beth Tzedec, you will see Gabi's final gift—new chairs for the Hendeles Chapel which will enable us to change the layout of the space so that we can pray, learn, connect and celebrate in a multitude of ways.

I have personally felt the loss of these three special people but I know that there are many of you who have dealt with the loss of loved ones over these past 20 months. The pandemic has required us to experience and come to terms with death in ways in which we were unaccustomed—without the "in-

person" support of our extended family and community. I take great comfort in knowing that our Spiritual Leadership Team and our *kehillah* have cared for all of us throughout this exceptional time.

As we return to a more "normal" way of life and are increasing able to gather *panim el panim*, I know that there are many losses that will continue to be profoundly felt. I look forward to the day when we will once again celebrate coming together, bolstered by the memories of those that meant so much to us.

Protecting Beth Tzedec Members from COVID-19

Beth Tzedec has updated its safety protocols and requirements for attending in-person services. We continue to adhere to provincial guidelines to facilitate safe participation in our services and programs while protecting our members against COVID-19 and its variants. We no longer require pre-registration to attend services but vaccine verification must be confirmed. To view our COVID-19 protocols and requirements, visit our [website](#).

Board of Directors Meetings

In adherence to Toronto Public Health guidelines and Beth Tzedec's safety protocols regarding COVID-19, the Board of Directors meetings will be conducted virtually via Zoom. Members are welcome to participate, but must pre-register for link information.

Upcoming meeting dates:
Wednesday, December 15 and
Tuesday, February 1
at **7:00 PM**.

For information or to pre-register for a Board meeting, contact Karen Goldstein at 416-781-3514 ext. 213 or email kgoldstein@beth-tzedec.org.

Tax Receipts

Tax receipts for contributions made to Beth Tzedec during 2020 have been emailed to all those who have contributed over this trying year. If we do not have an email address on file, the charitable tax receipt has been mailed to your home address.

Thank you to all who helped support our community.

If you have any questions, email [Aida Adel](mailto:AidaAdel).

The Rav Roy Tanenbaum Israel Scholarship

Students enrolled in degree programs in accredited colleges or universities in Israel are encouraged to apply for The Rav Roy Tanenbaum Israel Scholarship. For information, contact **Randy E. Spiegel** at rspiegel@beth-tzedec.org.



Randy Spiegel

There were so many ways that we connected and engaged during this sha'at dehak, this time of great crisis.

Seeing the Other Side

Every morning as we rise from slumber to face a new day, we step into a future that finally appears to offer hope and promise and a return to what we used to call “normal life”. Huddled in our apartments or homes—or the homes of our parents or children—we wait for our “winter” (the pandemic) to pass like bears in hibernation.

It is an incredible scientific achievement that a vaccine was developed and distributed ahead of all predictions. It is a testament to the dedication of scientists the world over and I truly believe an affirmation of the presence of God in our lives.

It was God who created humankind with the potential to use all their abilities and talents to work within the boundaries of science and nature to keep the world moving forward. From harnessing fire, to spaceflight to treatments against disease and the development of vaccines, I believe that “when God and the doctors hold hands, miracles can happen”.

In a world where we take so much for granted, we should embrace this life-saving discovery as a true miracle. Many of our front-line health care workers have experienced the passing



of life due to COVID. For all of 2020 and most of 2021, we have been living a science fiction horror movie. Our experience and the data that comes will be knowledge for future generations.

Last spring, I shared the story of our visit to Silver Spring, MD to visit our kids and grandkids and in September we returned for ten days. On September 23, we walked Washington—from the White House to the Lincoln Memorial, along The Mall and around the Reflecting Pool with stops at several of the memorials to those who died in service to their country.





The sky was brilliantly clear and the temperature perfect as we approached the Washington Monument. Before us was a sea of small white flags, each one representing someone who died due to this pandemic. This stark and living “memorial” grows daily as families and volunteers ‘plant’ new flags.

Then, the US death toll was over 690,000 and the number of flags that could stretch for four miles. As I write this article—five weeks later—another 73,000 people succumbed to the virus. And the numbers worldwide continue to grow.

Our *kehillah*, Reopening Taskforce and leadership have been very cautious and forward-thinking as we reopen our BT home to the community. We were early adopters of the requirement for full vaccination as a precondition to entry and we must, in the words of Dr. Lisa Berger, “do our part to help ensure we can preserve what we have”. Today, as more become vaccinated, our new cases are falling, restrictions are easing and we are emerging to enjoy each other in person as well as on screen.

During the long period of isolation, the BT team was called upon to run virtually two shuls—one in-person and one online. Our dedicated staff and volunteer teams held our *kehillah* together. We found ways to celebrate and ways to be comforted. We laughed and we cried and so many of us gave time and money to keep our people strong.

There were so many ways that we connected and engaged during this *sha’at dehak*, this time of great crisis. With our Zoom presence alone, we were able to cope and thrive. And with the addition of social media, we provided a lifeline for people of all ages.

Looking back, from July 2020 to June 2021, with our Zoom programs alone:

- We ran 269 programs for adults, engaging over 7,400 people
- We ran 94 youth and family programs, engaging over 1,700 people
- We ran 756 different *tefillah* and prayer services, engaging over 58,000 people

Additionally,

- Many have been engaged through special projects such as the weekly Friday afternoon *L’Chaim* gatherings,
- More than 1,000 members accessed the support of our Spiritual Leadership Team,
- Wellness and check-in calls were made three to four times over the year to more than 600 households where one member was over the age of 70
- Over 350 participants joined our Small Groups Initiative, and
- Thousands were fed through our revamped Out of the Cold program and our new Food Insecurity Fund.

As each day passes, we are slowly coming back to 1700 Bathurst Street.

We say thank you to the many who have made financial contributions to support programs through our Membership Relief Fund and our *Hanukkat Habayit* campaigns. And we say thank you in advance to those who will give before the end of 2021.

With your support, our online services and programs and in-person events on the horizon, the future is very bright. You may make your contribution [here](#) and [now](#) and help keep us on strong financial footing.

The human spirit is powerful. While we mourn our losses and hold on to the past, we celebrate and look forward to once again singing, praying and being together.

Hazak, hazak; let us go forward with strength!



To make a gift that will strengthen our *kehillah* or assist those in our community, please contact me directly at 416-781-3514 ext. 211 or rspiegel@beth-tzedec.org



Lishma Jewish Learning Project

A community of learners in our 20s and 30s

Whether you're a seasoned scholar or brand new to Jewish learning, we value the perspectives and experience you bring to the class. Join us for Semester 2 of Lishma, running for six weeks beginning **Wednesday, February 2**.

For information or to register, visit: <http://www.lishma.ca>

MUSICAL MACCABEES FOR FAMILIES

WITH CANTOR SIDNEY EZER
AND THE FAMILY PROGRAMMING TEAM

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30 AT 6:00 PM

Join Cantor Sidney Ezer and Beth Tzedec's Family Programming team for a family friendly Hanukkah experience, where we will re-tell the story of Hanukkah through song, movement, games and more! This program will be offered both in person and simultaneously online.



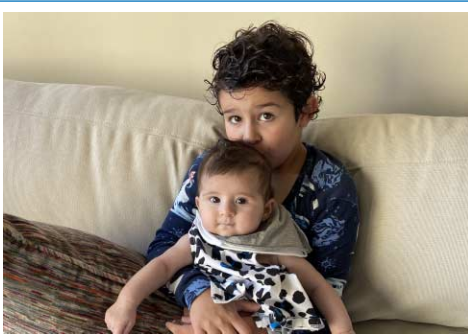
Milestones and Celebrations

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. Deadline for announcements for the next *Bulletin* is February 1.



Births

Beau Jackson, son of Ben & Courtney Geist, grandson of Marvin & the late Terry Geist and Neil & Eileen Dick, great-grandson of Sylvia Dick, born **July 19**.



Gia Harper, daughter of Jillian Lapedus & Dr. Andrew Bier, granddaughter of Jan & Mark Lapedus and Elaine & Colin Bier, born **July 21**.



Big brother Eli welcomes baby sister Eden to their family.

Eden Beth, daughter of Leah Walters & Daniel Feuer, granddaughter of Gary & Debra Walters, great-granddaughter of Manley & Barbra Walters, born **July 28**.

Levi Joseph, son of Josephine Gal Buchman & Cory Rosenfield, grandson of Gwen & Alan Rosenfield and Ilana & Ron Buchman, great-grandson of Claude & Esther Abrams, born **September 19**.



Natalie Eleanor, daughter of Megan Degelman-Smith & Meir Vatagsky, granddaughter of Deborah Degelman & Ian Smith and Leib & Ella Vatagsky, born **October 22**.

Weddings

Daniella Sara Feld, daughter of Alan Feld & Dr. Leeona Fisher Feld (of Israel), granddaughter of Donald Carr & Judy Feld Carr and the late Dr. Ronald Feld, and **Raniel Asis**, son of Esther & Ori Asis (of Israel), who were married August 25 in Israel.

Congratulations to.

Judy Feld Carr, who was honoured by the Sousa Mendes Foundation as "an exceptional woman of courage and valour" at their virtual gala on Hanukkah for having brought to freedom more than 3,000 Jews from Syria. The Sousa Mendes Foundation in New York is named in memory of Aristides de Sousa Mendes, who, as Portuguese Consul, granted visas to thousands of Jews in France during the Holocaust.

Dr. Devorah Pullan, who celebrated her 90th birthday on August 28.

Dr. Lauren Rotman, daughter of Patti & Dr. Sheldon Rotman, and **AJ (Adam Jackson) Goldberg**, son of Daphne & Leslie Goldberg, on their engagement.

Zachary Schendel, son of Susan & Jerry Schendel, grandson of the late Fred & Klare Schiendel and the late Nandy & Edith Milder, and **Leah Pearl**, daughter of Mark & Elissa Pearl, granddaughter of Nellie Pearl and the late Meyer Pearl, and the late Max & Perle Powell, on their engagement.

Lindsay Snow, daughter of Dr. Howard & Emily Snow, granddaughter of Bernard (Bob) & Shirley Zarnett^{z1} and Milton (Mickey)^{z1} & Frimette Snow and **Adi Elman**, son of Shlomo & Shoshana Elman, grandson of Leah & Avraham Peltzman^{z1} and Chana & Menachem Elman^{z1}, on their engagement.

Mazal Tov to our B'nei Mitzvah

WHO HAVE COMPLETED OUR BAR/BAT MITZVAH PROGRAM



December 5
Jeremy Walden
son of Amir Walden &
Dara Schwartz
יהודה ישראל בן אמיר
ודבורה צפורה



December 9
Jacob Weinstock
son of Dr. David &
Laura Weinstock
יעקב אברהם בן דוד יעקב
וביילה שינה



December 11 (Minhah)
Ely Cohen
son of Allan Cohen &
Samantha Levenson
אליהו ראובן בן אלחנן
יצחק הכהן ולאה



January 15
Theodore Grad
son of David Grad &
Tamara Katz
טוביה בנימין בן דוד מיכאל
ותמרה



January 29
Elle Waksman-Propst
daughter of Dr. Evan Propst
& Dr. Tali Waksman
שני חיה בת גדעון וטלי



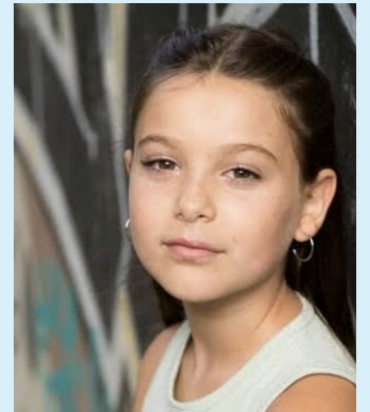
February 5 (Minhah)
Ben Tepperman
son of Alisa Chaplick &
Elliott Tepperman
בנימין בן אליהו הלוי
וחנה בלימה



February 5 (Minhah)
Jennifer Tepperman
daughter of Alisa Chaplick
& Elliott Tepperman
יעל בת אליהו הלוי
וחנה בלימה



February 23 (Minhah)
Cara Sherman
daughter of Derek &
Allison Sherman
חיה בת אפרים ועליזה



February 26 (Minhah)
Chloe Rapoport
daughter of Adam & Mia
Rapoport
שרה בת אדם ומאירה



Sushi in the Sukkah
BTUSY members gathered in the BT parking lot for “Sushi in the Sukkah”, an annual tradition for our teens. From the photographic evidence, a delicious time was had by all!



BT Visits Camp Ramah!

This summer, Camp Ramah was finally able to reopen its gate to overnight campers. And in a continuing tradition, Beth Tzedec staff visited to connect with members’ children. Sylvie Moscovitz, our Teen Engagement Associate, made the trek up Hwy 400 to check out all the fun!



Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program

BT families with kids in Grade 5 participated in our first Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program in October, held in the parking lot in family ‘bubbles’.





Rabbi Robyn Fryer Bodzin

While a rabbinic day includes many tasks, teaching Torah, Jewish texts and laws underlies it all.

Our Tradition of Teaching

Dear friends,

When she was smaller, had you asked my daughter what rabbis do, she would have told you, “Goes to meetings”. Over time, we were able to rectify that response so that she will now say, “Teaches Torah”. While a rabbinic day includes many tasks, teaching Torah, Jewish texts and laws underlies it all.

Some days, my ‘rabbinic duty’ is a five-minute teachable moment between *Minhah* and *Ma’ariv*. Other times, it may be an explanation of the laws of bereavement. And still others, it is teaching Torah from a *bimah* while preaching or answering questions about holidays. And if I had to choose, without a doubt, my most preferred way to teach Torah is with a hand-created source sheet, full of Jewish texts and spanning thousands of years. Put me in front of people with texts to teach and it is as if I am a child in a candy store!

In the first chapter of the Book of Joshua, we read:

Let not this Book of the Teaching cease from your lips, but recite it day and night, so that you may observe faithfully all that is written in it.

That is what I am blessed to be able to do every day. As rabbi at Beth Tzedec, I am blessed to impart Torah all day long.

This year, with humility, gratitude and awe, I have been offered the gift of a lifetime—to follow in the footsteps of Dr. Arnold Ages²¹ and teach *Torah Through the Ages* Thursday mornings.

Maimonides taught:

Every person in Israel is obliged to study the Torah, whether he be poor or rich, whether he be physically healthy or ailing, whether he be in full vigor of youth or of great age and weakened vitality; even if he be dependent upon alms for his livelihood, or going around from door to door begging his daily bread,

yea, even he who has a family to support is obliged to have an appointed time for the study of the Torah.

We learn from this text not only the importance of Torah study but that everyone can do it.

The participants in *Torah Through the Ages* are a wonderful group. So many backgrounds and abilities meld together for an hour that seems to fly by. I often catch myself looking at the clock five minutes before class ends, wondering how we got there so fast.

According to the continuation of his text, Maimonides believes that we should make Torah study a daily practice. That might be a bit much for those of us living in the 2020s. But what if we aspired to study Torah once a week? It could be passive, like listening to a lecture online (I’d love to share recommendations), hearing a sermon on Shabbat, watching the Beth Tzedec *Daily Tanakh* Facebook video or reading commentary on the weekly Torah portion. Or it could be active, like studying for half an hour each week, taking Reb Steve’s *Talmud Through the Ages* class or joining *Torah Through the Ages*.

Make the study of Torah *keva*, permanent, write Shammai in *Pirkei Avot*. Whether it is reading about the weekly Torah portion through the eyes of an ancient commentator or a modern rabbi or studying the *Mishnah*, a page of *Talmud* or the laws of whatever is on your mind, create time to do it.

Every morning in the paragraph before *Shema*, we ask God to open our eyes to God’s Torah. If you are not doing it yet, today is a great day to begin. If you don’t know how or what to study, please reach out to me directly. I would love to start that conversation with you.



Eit Zamir

AN EVENING OF HEALING AND RENEWAL



RABBI GEORGE
MORDECAI



ACHINOAM
NINI

GIL
DOR



BATYA
LEVINE



CANTOR
SIDNEY EZER



KOACH BARUCH
FRAZIER.



AVIVA
CHERNICK

Sunday, January 16 at 7:00 PM

It is the time for song. We have travelled quite a journey through the pandemic. On the weekend of Shabbat Shirah and the beginning of Tu B'Shevat, together with an all-star collection of musical guests, join us as we acknowledge the healing that is necessary and celebrate the renewal that is possible.

Artist-in-residence, Aviva Chernick, hosts this special evening of song together with our very own *Hazzan* Sidney Ezer, and a host of special guests including Israeli superstar Achinoam Nini.



Cantor Sidney Ezer

Sing a New Song

The importance of singing songs to God is unfathomable; singing can open your heart and invoke blessings and prayers that are deep within your heart.

In the Psalmist liturgy, we encounter the phrase “*Shiru L’adonai, Shir Hadash*”—“sing to the Lord a new song.” Some Hassidic courts would insist upon singing a brand-new melody for every Shabbat. In fact, the poem *Lekha Dodi* which we sing on Friday night has the most musical settings of all Jewish liturgical repertoire as Cantors were expected to present a new melody for *Lekha Dodi* every Friday night.

In the classical age of *hazzanut*, congregants would fill the shuls to hear the latest and newest touted composition. However, in his commentary to Psalm 33, medieval Rabbi David Kimhi proposes that to sing a new song means to refresh the melody to the divine, always. In other words, it is a spiritual imperative that we must reinvent our old notes as new.

It is no coincidence that Shabbat Shirah and Tu B’Shevat fall remarkably close to each other on the Jewish calendar. They both embody the idea of renewal and growth. Tu B’Shevat is the new year for the trees and celebrates spring in Israel. In medieval times, mystics gave Tu B’Shevat greater spiritual significance, imbuing it with elaborate symbolic rituals. According to *Lurianic Kabbalah*, all physical forms—including human beings—hide within them a spark of the Divine Presence. This is like some fruits or nuts that hide within them the seeds of new life and potential growth. In Jewish mysticism, human actions can release these sparks and help increase God’s presence in the world. On Tu B’Shevat, Kabbalists would eat certain fruits associated with the land of Israel as a symbolic way of releasing these Divine sparks. Comparably, some have the custom on Shabbat Shirah to feed the birds, commemorating the *Midrash* which states that Jewish children fed seeds from the trees of

the Sea of Reeds to birds and these birds joined in Israel’s song of praise to God. The importance of singing songs to God is unfathomable; singing opens your heart and invokes blessings that are deep within you.

The act of feeding birds in the winter for Shabbat Shirah is a practice of *Hakarot HaTov*, recognizing the good. These thoughts are reflected in a *piyyut* I learned to sing entitled “*Az Y’ranen*”. Written by Baghdadi Rabbi and master kabbalist Yosef Haim (1832-1909), this liturgical poem sources Psalm 96 which states: “*Az y’ran’nu kol atzei ya’ar*”—“so the trees of the forest will rejoice” before God. There is a notion that the renewal of nature gives birth to new song. Each verse ends with the phrase “*Ashir Shir Hadash*”—“I will sing a new song.”

Over the course of the past two years, I have been fortunate to have our musical Artist in Residence Aviva Chernick as a colleague and mentor on many musical projects. In the spirit of the verses from the Psalms above, I am thrilled to collaborate with her for a Shabbat Shirah weekend (January 14 to 16) on the theme of renewal. For Friday evening and Shabbat morning, Asher Farber and I will lead a small vocal ensemble for which you are invited to join in singing. On the Sunday evening, in conjunction with Tu B’Shevat, Aviva will curate an online musical presentation with guest artists. Details for this memorable and meaningful weekend will be available soon.

The Babylonian *Talmud* relates that at the end of every day the ministering angels jumped into the River of Fire where they were incinerated and then completely reformed and renewed for their job of singing praises to their Creator the following day. At the end of the day, may we be able to refresh our songs and ourselves.





Yacov Fruchter

Curated for Yacov Fruchter, That He Might Heal as Quickly as Possible

Gratitude for me has very much been connected to the way I was treated by this community. I am blessed to be in a career where I know that my work matters.

Bubbie Esther is pushing her infant grandson along the street in his stroller. Her friend Sirl comes up and admires the baby. Esther says, "You think that's adorable? You should see the pictures!"

As many of you know by now, I had a serious bike accident on the second day of Rosh Hashanah on my way home from shul, resulting in a broken clavicle which led to surgery one day after Yom Kippur. This was my first serious accident and in the minutes after flipping over the handlebars, while my body was in shock, my fear heightened as I waited to learn how severe the injury was. Many thoughts crept through my mind. "Will I be able to walk again? If so, how many months of rehab? How would my kids handle this? How can I let my wife Ryla know what happened to me? This is going to be hard on Ryla! What exactly happened?"

I was also filled with gratitude, especially once I was able to wiggle my fingers and toes and began to believe that I would indeed walk again. This feeling of gratitude became more intense over the following six weeks as I became the recipient of *bikkur holim*—the mitzvah of caring for the sick. For the first time that I remember, as the injured person, I was in the position of being cared for, and my community—congregants, colleagues, friends and family—stepped up bigger than I could have hoped for.

Gratitude for me has very much been connected to the way I was treated by this community. I am blessed to be in a career where I know that my work matters. The outpouring of love reminded me that it was not just me in

my role, but me as Yacov and the five of us as a family. I never doubted the connection we have, but also never felt it so acutely. What I experienced in those six weeks is what I hope we all feel when we are in *tzures*, that we matter, that we are loved and that people will care for us.

On October 23, I gave the sermon on Shabbat morning which afforded me the opportunity to teach about the mitzvah itself of *bikkur holim*, my learnings from my experience and to thank you, my community. To view the video of this sermon, [click here](#).

I ended highlighting the acts of *hesed* of one person in particular, which I will do here as well. For three weeks following my injury, Jeffrey Miller sent me a curated Jewish joke of the day and began his email with the words. "Curated for Yacov Fruchter, that he might heal as quickly as possible". This act didn't cost any money but required his time, desire for connection and his sense of humour. He also checked in from time to time to ensure that I was enjoying the jokes and that reading them was not causing unnecessary burden on me. The joke at the start of this article was one of them.

I want to invite you to join me and the Spiritual Leadership Team in finding meaningful ways to care for our community. We all have talents, and skills. Let's work together to use them to continue to build our holy community.

Thank you again for your care and love.



Daniel Silverman

If we take the time to stop for a moment and contemplate how incredible it is, to escape from our expectations and knowledge and to observe each spring as if it is a new experience, we no doubt will be awed and humbled

Against the Odds

Like many people, I have become enamored with podcasts. They have, for the time being, replaced reading as a leisure and learning activity for me, partly because I can take them on the go with me anywhere. I subscribe to dozens of them, ranging from Jewish affairs to sports, politics to history, economics to comedy.

A recent addition to my podcast feed is a series called *Against The Odds*, which tells the stories of real-life acts of heroism and perseverance. Now in its seventh season, the podcast has told the stories of the Thai cave rescue of 2018, Sen. John McCain's imprisonment in the Hanoi Hilton, Sir Ernest Shackleton's escape from the Antarctic in 1916, and most recently, the heroic survival for 72 days of 16 Uruguayans after a plane crash in the Andes mountains in 1972.

One reason why I think I am drawn to these stories is that they cause me to ask myself whether I would be able to persevere and survive if faced with similar circumstances. Most of us have no idea of our capacity to endure suffering, pain and push ourselves to the edge of our psychological strength. But as Jews, our history and holidays

give us a taste of what our ancestors endured and overcame.

Chanukkah is one example. A small army of brave and committed Hasmoneans overcame the odds and defeated a much mightier foe, the Syrian-Greeks. They re-established Jewish sovereignty over Jerusalem, rededicated the Temple and preserved Jewish life in the face of assimilation.

Another example is the story of survival and rebuilding of Holocaust survivors. On January 27, we commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day, recalling not only the six million Jewish and millions of others murdered, but also the strength of the survivors who, against the odds, were able to start anew, have children, help establish the State of Israel and contribute to Jewish communities around the world.

A third example is the story of Purim in *Megillat Esther*. By summoning her strength, Queen Esther exhibited immense bravery to inform King Ahashverosh about Haman's plot to kill the Jews of Persia and, through her actions, ensured that she, her cousin Mordechai and the Jewish communities of the land would not be erased.



It is true that within each of these stories from our history, we are highlighting the narratives of perseverance, bravery and hope while knowing that there were certainly others who either did not exhibit these emotions and actions or who tried to but were not successful in reaching their goals. We know that those who perished in the Shoah did not go willingly to their deaths. We know that countless people struggled to survive but were unable. We know that most Jews in the time of the Hasmoneans were willing, if not eager, to accept the Hellenization being imposed by Antiochus.

This is similar to other stories of perseverance and survival, where immense bravery and heroism were just not enough for people to overcome their circumstances. Take the Franklin expedition in the Canadian Arctic of 1845-1848, for example, where dozens of men survived three winters in the north, saw their ships succumb to the ice

and attempted to walk hundreds of kilometers overland to find help. Had even one of them survived, then there is no doubt that *Against The Odds* would be telling their story. That the expedition ended in complete tragedy affects how we view the heroic actions of those who ultimately died.

A final example of hope and perseverance that falls in this calendar period is Tu B'Shevat, the new year for trees and a celebration of the annual renewal of our natural world. You are right to wonder how this fits with the other holidays and commemorations already mentioned. Tu B'Shevat has no historical narrative, no heroes or heroines, no one overcoming long odds. What it does have, though, is belief and awe. Each year we believe that the seasonal cycle of winter giving way to spring will continue. Each year we—hopefully—take a moment to be in awe of the trees, plants and flowers in our environment, that these living objects without any

cognitive power know when it is time to restart their growth out of the ground or from their branches.

If we take the time to stop for a moment and contemplate how incredible it is, to escape from our expectations and knowledge and to observe each spring as if it is a new experience, we no doubt will be awed and humbled.

To our eyes, winter for the natural world seems like death. Most greenery and signs of life disappear. Animals hibernate, the nights are long, dark and cold. Like clockwork, each spring, life rebirths and resumes. Against the odds of cold, dark and winter, the plant and animal world survives the winter and greets spring with greenery and new life.

May our winter months be filled with hope and strength and may our celebrations and commemorations give us strength to persevere to the spring.

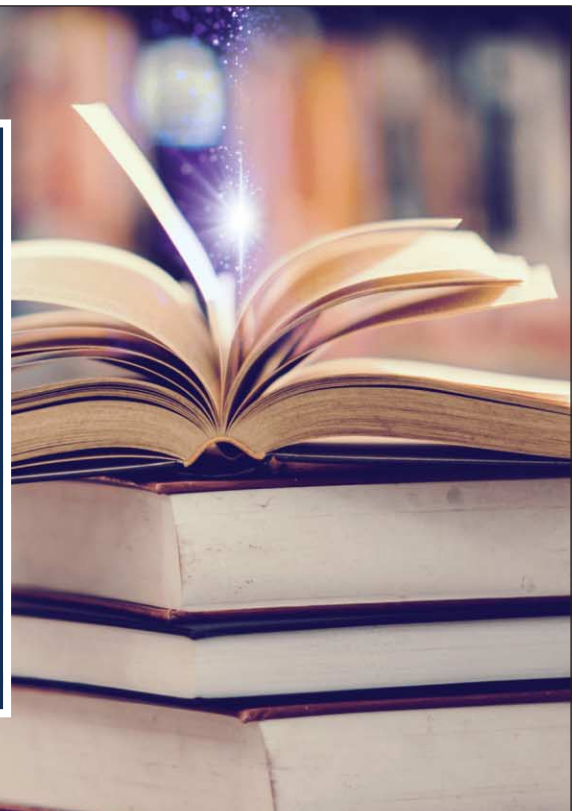
L'Dor Va Dor Pirkei Avot

**Wednesdays, March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30
and April 6 & 13 at 11:00 AM**

During this seven-week series, delve in and examine how the Rabbis of *Pirkei Avot* shared wisdom with each other.

Pre-registration required.

*Presented as part of the Institute of Jewish Learning
in memory of Anne and Max Tanenbaum*



Care • Connect • Learn • Pray • Celebrate • Give & Get

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



Chanukkah Party

(For teens in Grades 7 to 12)

Sunday, December 5 at 4:00 PM

The BTUSY Teen Board has been spending lots of time raising funds to purchase items for Ve'ahavta. Join them and other teens at Beth Tzedec as we celebrate Chanukkah packing winter items and baking cookies.

Pre-registration required via Shulcloud.



Ess Gezunterheit! (Eat in Good Health): BT Hazak Tea Time for Seniors with Judy Libman

Thursday afternoons at 4:00 PM

Get together with other seniors on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86029230745> to meet and chat about Very Important Things with other seniors: What's new? What's cooking? What did your Bubby teach you about chicken soup? Why did bialys never make it to Canada? We usually watch a short cooking lesson in Yiddish (with subtitles!) and other videos sometimes pop up too.



Shabbat Teen Lounge

(For teens in Grades 7 to 12)

Saturdays, December 4, January 22 and February 26 at 10:30 AM

Come hang out with Sylvie and other teens for games, snacks and some interesting discussions about Jewish topics of your choice!

Registration is required to Sylvie Moscovitz. Those attending must provide proof of identity and vaccination status.



BT Riders Small Group

Sundays, December 12, January 9, February 6 and March 6 at 8:30 AM

The BT Riders brings together people interested in cycling to build community and connection. With Reb Steve and Alan Sless as team captains, participants will 'gather' via Zwift or Discord to connect while using a stationary bike, treadmill, etc. As the weather gets warmer, we will move to outdoor rides.

This group is open to all, regardless of cycling expertise. Contact **Reb Steve** with any questions, including those about Zwift or Discord.

Pre-registration required via Shulcloud.

Connect



L'Chaim!

Friday evenings at 4:00 PM

Join us Friday afternoons on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82957760474> for an opportunity to share a l'chaim and kick off Shabbat with a few minutes of connection with the Beth Tzedec community.



Shabbat Morning Fun!

(For children ages 3 to 8 and their families)

Saturday mornings at 10:30 AM

Families are invited to Beth Tzedec for our program for a short tefillah, time with our *shinshiniyot* Liel and Aya and fun activities. While the little ones are playing, parents can schmooze.

Registration is requested to Daniel Silverman. Those attending must provide proof of identity and vaccination status.



The PJ Library Presents Program
(For toddlers ages 1 to 5 with a parent or caregiver)
Sundays from 10:30 to 11:30 AM

Meet some new friends while enjoying Jewish story-time and free play.

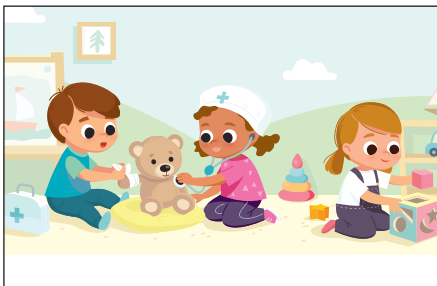
December 12—Welcome Winter!
Winter is here so let's spend some time with our families, friends and neighbours reading a special PJ Library book in our comfy pajamas!

January 16—Happy Birthday, Tree!
Let's celebrate nature with crafts, games, story time and lots of fun planting trees for Tu B'Shevat!

February 6—Family!
There's no better way to celebrate Family Day than with a fun PJ Library book and a special gift for your family!

Pre-registration required via email to Anat Kriger. To view our COVID-19 protocols and requirements, [click here](#)>>

PRESENTED BY BETH TZEDEC, PJ LIBRARY AND UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO



Winter Games and Fun
(For kids in Grades 1 to 5)
Sunday, December 12 at 2:00 PM

It's cold outside but warm and dry inside Beth Tzedec. Let's meet and play fun games that will keep us warm during the chilly weather.

Pre-registration required via email to Anat Kriger. To view our COVID-19 protocols and requirements, [click here](#)>>



Minyan Meet Up
Sunday, December 19 at 9:30 AM

Come together for a social time on Zoom following Minyan. We will start with a hello, then break into small groups for engaging discussions

Pre-registration is required to [Marni Turner-Serbin](#).



“Building with Love”: USY International Convention in Washington, DC
(For teens in Grades 9 to 12)

December 26 to 30, 2021

IC is USY's unparalleled yearly flagship event, where hundreds of Jewish teens from across North America come together to take part in innovative leadership workshops, impact the local community through social action, make new friends and reunite with old ones, and celebrate Jewish community together.

All USYers in Grades 9 to 12 are invited to attend IC, regardless of previous participation or experience with USY.

Pre-registration required. For information, fees and registration link, email [Sylvie Moscovitz](#).



Shabbat as a Mindfulness Teaching: The Noon Hour Meditation Series with Aviva Chernick

Fridays, January 7, 14, 21 & 28 at 12:00 NOON

Join artist in residence Aviva Chernick for this new opportunity to discover meditation and prepare to welcome Shabbat. Together we will explore ways that Shabbat can be a teacher for us, learning about pausing for rest but also for awareness. This is an intro to meditation course and all levels of experience are welcome.

Pre-registration is required to access the [Zoom link information](#). Details coming soon.

PRESENTED BY THE BETH TZEDEC CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING



BT Minecraft Club
(For kids in Grades 4 to 8)

Sundays, January 9, 16, 23 & 30 and February 13 & 27 at 4:00 PM

Beth Tzedec is thrilled to announce the return of BT Minecraft Club, presented together with LostTribe Esports. Participants will play Minecraft together, facilitated by a trained LostTribe Esports counsellor along with a Beth Tzedec CIT.

There is no cost to participate, but all participants must have Minecraft Java Edition on their computer (not via iPad, phone, xbox, etc). Check our website [here](#) for details. Spaces are



Trees and Tu B'Shevat

(For kids in Grades 1 to 5)

Sunday, January 16 at 2:00 PM

Let's celebrate the trees' birthdays by making creative birthday cards!

Pre-registration required via email to [Anat Kriger](#). To view our COVID-19 protocols and requirements, [click here](#)>>



Israeli Dinner and Movie Night with Our Shinshiniyot

(For teens in Grades 6 to 12)

Saturday, January 29 at 7:30 PM

Come hang out with your friends and the Beth Tzedec *shinshiniyot* Aya and Liel for a fun Israeli falafel dinner and movie night. Movie title will be confirmed soon.

Cost: \$5 (includes dinner, snacks and movie). Pre-registration required via email to [Sylvie Moscovitz](#). To view our COVID-19 protocols and requirements, [click here](#)>>



ECRUSY Kadima Shabbaton

(For teens in Grades 6 to 8)

February 4 to 6, 2022

Join Middle School friends from across Eastern Canada to spend an exciting Shabbat together! This program is running in conjunction with the Beth Tzedec Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program, and is taking place in Ottawa, ON. Contact Sylvie at smoscovitz@uscj.org for more information.



We Are Family!

(For kids in Grades 1 to 5)

Sunday, February 6 at 2:00 PM

Let's make an unforgettable family card together. Bring a picture of your family and let your creativity take over!

Pre-registration required via email to [Anat Kriger](#). To view our COVID-19 protocols and requirements, [click here](#)>>

Learn



Daily Tanakh Study

Weekday afternoons at 3:00 PM

We continue our 929-day project studying each chapter from the Tanakh on our Facebook group—<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1442160352615555>.



Conversations Over Coffee with Rabbi Steven Wernick

Monday afternoons at 12:30 PM

Reb Steve gathers a cadre of community personalities for conversations on politics, culture, social existence and Jewish life. Grab a coffee and join us. Sessions will be streamed to [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

UPCOMING SESSIONS:

December 13: Jerry Silverman

December 20: Asante Haughton

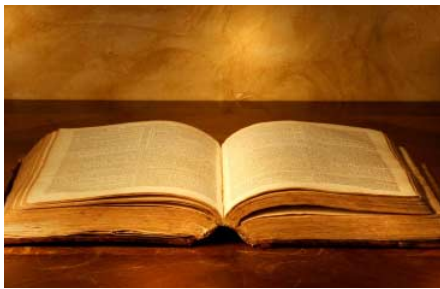
January 10: Dani Dayan

January 17: Sabrina Malach



Mark Your Calendar

Join Jewish teens from all over Canada for a special nationwide March Break overnight convention with from March 11-15! This five-day experience features volunteer trips around Toronto, exploring the city's Jewish history, team building and leadership opportunities, and much more! Contact Sylvie at smoscovitz@uscj.org for information



Learn Talmud at Your Own Pace with *Rabbi Steven Wernick*

Monday evenings at 7:30 PM

The study of *Talmud* can seem overwhelming. In this Zoom series, learn at a slow and deliberate pace by studying a single page of *Talmud* each week with Shabbat designated for personal review.

No previous experience is necessary and students are invited to participate in to our *shiur* as they are available.

Pre-registration required via [Shulcloud](#).

THE INSTITUTE OF JEWISH LEARNING,
IN MEMORY OF ANNE AND MAX TANENBAUM



Learn to Read Hebrew with *Lorne Hanick*

Monday evenings at 7:45 PM

Lorne Hanick leads this Zoom course in Hebrew reading for beginners and near-beginners who want to learn to read with fluency. Upon completion, students will be comfortable reading Hebrew at synagogue services and following the Torah reading. Registration is now closed.

THE INSTITUTE OF JEWISH LEARNING,
IN MEMORY OF ANNE AND MAX TANENBAUM



Prayer: What, Why, When and How Tuesdays, December 7 & 21 and January 4 at 8:30 AM

Join this in-depth exploration of the meaning of our prayers and how we can personalize them, making them more meaningful. Streamed via Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/733141765>.



Mizmor Monthly

Tuesdays, December 7, January 4, February 1 and March 1 at 7:30 PM

Join Cantor Ezer and Asher Farber to explore Jewish musical themes and genres around Rosh Hodesh. This series will be streamed via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).



Torah Through the Ages

Thursday mornings at 10:00 AM

Rabbi Fryer Bodzin leads an in-depth look at the weekly Torah portion with traditional and modern commentaries.

Pre-registration required via [Shulcloud](#).

THE INSTITUTE OF JEWISH LEARNING,
IN MEMORY OF ANNE AND MAX TANENBAUM



Virtue Ethics and the Good Life in Jewish Thought with *Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl*

Continues Wednesdays, December 1 & 8 at 7:30 PM

From the Bible through modern thinkers, Judaism has been concerned with more than obedience to the commandments. Building upon Biblical and rabbinic ideas, Jewish philosophers explored the cultivation of good character as an important Torah ideal. Aristotle's conception of virtue ethics was adopted and adapted by Jewish thinkers who sought to explain how the cultivation of virtue and the pursuit of a good life are central to the Torah tradition.

Pre-registration required via [Shulcloud](#).

THE INSTITUTE OF JEWISH LEARNING,
IN MEMORY OF ANNE AND MAX TANENBAUM



Tax Effective Charitable Giving with *Jamie Golombek*

Monday, December 6 at 7:30 PM

Join Jamie Golombek, weekly *National Post* "tax expert" columnist, managing director at CIBC and a Beth Tzedec Board member, as he shares various tax effective strategies for charitable giving.

Pre-registration required via [Shulcloud](#).



ScholarStream Series: The Roots of Conservative Judaism

Tuesdays, December 7, 14 & 21 at 8:00 PM

Conservative Judaism provides a compelling vision for a Judaism—traditional in orientation and embracing evolutionary change—that captured the hearts and minds of so many 20th century American Jews. What were its origins? Why/how did JTS serve as its incubator and disseminator? And why am I convinced that Conservative Judaism is well poised to meet the religious needs of North American Jews in the current moment?

No charge for Beth Tzedec members. Registration required [here](#)>>

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED FOR BETH TZEDEC MEMBERS BY THE BETH TZEDEC MEN'S CLUB



Notable Speakers: Today's New Jewish Family with Rabbi Shalom Schachter and Marcia Gilbert

Tuesday, December 14 at 8:00 PM

Grandparents discuss the important role Jewish grandparents play in the lives of their grandchildren. Engage in important interactive teachings and experiences that can enhance your role as a Jewish grandparent.

Pre-registration required via [Shulcloud](#).

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE JEWISH GRANDPARENTS NETWORK



Reb Steve's Salon with Rabbi Steven Wernick

Thursdays, December 9, January 13 and February 10 at 7:30 PM

Difficult conversations should not be ignored but laid on the table and tossed and turned, understood and respected, unity without unanimity.

In *The Zionist Ideas*, author Gil Troy explores backstories, dreams and legacies of more than 170 Jewish visionaries. Referencing Troy's text, Rabbi Wernick will lead a discussion focusing on the different elements within the Zionist conversation. Ultimately, our project will emphasize two seemingly contradictory notions:

- **Zionism is a big tent.** Within our diverse communities, from across the ideological and religious spectrum, Jews find elements of Zionism that appeal, allowing us to contribute in our unique way to the greatest Jewish project of our time.
- **This tent has both red lines and blue & white lines.** Red lines are those we agree not to abrogate, such as negating Jewish peoplehood or statehood; Blue & white lines are the fundamentals which we can agree, starting with the basic definition of Zionism as the movement of Jewish national liberation.

No charge, but participants must purchase *The Zionist Ideas*, available from [Amazon](#). If financial assistance is needed to purchase the book, contact [Rabbi Wernick](#) at 416-781-3514, ext. 218.

Pre-registration required via [Shulcloud](#).

THE INSTITUTE OF JEWISH LEARNING, IN MEMORY OF ANNE AND MAX TANENBAUM



Professor Stephen Berk: 75 Years Later—The Nuremberg Trials

Wednesday, December 15 at 7:00 PM

In the first of his three-part 2021-2022 lecture series, Professor Stephen Berk revisits the Nuremberg Trials of 1946 and shares what we can still learn from them 75 years later. Presented via Zoom.

Pre-registration required via [Shulcloud](#).

THE SAM & SARAH KERZNER AND JOSEPH KERZNER HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL INSTITUTE

PRESENTED BY BETH EMETH BAIS YEHUDA AND BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATIONS



Professor Stephen Berk: The Rebirth of Jewish Life in Eastern Europe

Wednesday, February 23 at 7:00 PM

In his second lecture, Professor Berk explores how Jewish life is reviving in a number of Central and Eastern European cities and countries. Why is this happening? and What can it tell us about the Jewish and secular societies of these places only 75 years after the Holocaust?

Pre-registration required via [Shulcloud](#).

THE SAM & SARAH KERZNER AND JOSEPH KERZNER HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL INSTITUTE

PRESENTED BY BETH EMETH BAIS YEHUDA AND BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATIONS

Pray



Weekday Shāharit Services

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

Begin your day with our morning minyan Sundays through Thursdays. Our morning Shāharit services are streamed via Zoom Sundays and weekdays. In addition, we are happy to announce that you can attend in-person throughout the week of Hanukkah and then every Sunday, Monday and Thursday morning.

Those attending in-person services must provide proof of identity and vaccination status. To view our COVID-19 protocols and requirements, [click here](#)>>



Minḥah-Ma'ariv Services

Every Sunday to Thursday evening;
Check website for times

At the end of the day, join us on Zoom for our evening services. Our evening services will be streamed via <https://zoom.us/j/668598809>. You can also join by phone only by calling 647-374-4685 and inputting the meeting ID 668-598-809.



Friday Early Minḥah Services

Every Friday afternoon;
Check website for times

During the winter months, when Shabbat begins prior to our Kabbalat Shabbat services, join our *Minḥah*-only services offered via Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/668598809>.



Shabbat at the Floor Services

Friday evenings, December 3, January x and February x at 6:00 PM

Once a month, join us in-person in the Hendeles Chapel or on our **BT All-Access** livestream hub for a musically-infused Kabbalat Shabbat and *Ma'ariv* experience. Led by **Yacov Fruchter**, **Cantor Sidney Ezer**, artist-in-residence **Aviva Chernick** and our Rabbis, this intimate service will help prepare your spirit for Shabbat with song, comfort and community.

Those attending in-person services must provide proof of identity and vaccination status. To view our COVID-19 protocols and requirements, [click here](#)>>



Kabbalat Shabbat and Ma'ariv

Every Friday evening;
check website for times

Prepare your spirit for Shabbat with song, comfort and community at our Kabbalat Shabbat and *Ma'ariv* services either in person in the Hendeles Chapel or streamed to the **BT All-Access** livestream hub.

Those attending in-person services must provide proof of identity and vaccination status. To view our COVID-19 protocols and requirements, [click here](#)>>



Sanctuary Services

Every Saturday morning at 9:30 AM

Our Shabbat service offers the energy and inspiration of a liturgical and spiritual Shabbat experience as you sing along with **Cantor Sidney Ezer**. **Rabbis Steven Wernick** and **Robyn Fryer Bodzin** offer insights into our Torah reading. Join us in-person or at the **BT All-Access** livestream hub for our musical and spiritual *davening* experience.

Those attending in-person services must provide proof of identity and vaccination status. To view our COVID-19 protocols and requirements, [click here](#)>>



Little Minyans Services

Saturdays, December 4 & 18, January 8 & 22 and February 5 & 19 at 9:30 AM

Looking to be more actively involved in the worship experience? The Little Minyan offers a traditional service in a relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere full of song, spirit and warmth.

Participants leads portions of the service and Torah readers, *daveners* and those wishing to deliver a *D'var Torah* are always welcome. Contact **Rabbi Fryer Bodzin** to arrange to lead portions or for an *aliyah*.

Those attending in-person services must provide proof of identity and vaccination status. To view our COVID-19 protocols and requirements, [click here](#)>>



Musical Participatory Shabbats

Saturday mornings, December 4, January 15 and February 26 at 9:30 AM

Join us for a musically engaging Shabbat service that welcomes and encourages participation! Led by **Cantor Sidney Ezer** and a small vocal ensemble, we will introduce new melodies and revive some older and familiar ones in a way that will be sure to get our toes tapping and our voices singing in harmony.

Those attending in-person services must provide proof of identity and vaccination status. To view our COVID-19 protocols and requirements, [click here](#)>>



Family Shabbat Experience

Saturday, January 22 at 10:30 AM

Join us as we resume our in-person Shabbat morning programming for families at Beth Tzedec. This interactive program will include prayers, singing, learning and community-building.

Those attending in-person services must provide proof of identity and vaccination status. To view our COVID-19 protocols and requirements, [click here](#)>>



Outdoor Family Havdalah

Saturday evenings, December 4, January 15 and February 5; Check website for times

End Shabbat together with an outdoor Havdalah in the Parking Lot. After Havdalah we will play some games and enjoy snacks together. Vaccine verification is required for all vaccine-eligible participants.

Those attending in-person services must provide proof of identity and vaccination status. To view our COVID-19 protocols and requirements, [click here](#)>>



Havdalah, Torah Study and Kaddish

Every Saturday evening; Check website for times

Join us on **Facebook** or **Zoom** for a Havdalah experience and some Torah to begin a new week followed by Mourner's Kaddish. Together we can create spiritual nearness in the midst of our physical distancing.

Celebrate



Hanukkah Modul8 with Cantor Sidney Ezer

Continues through December 5

We will celebr8 as we modul8 and integr8 Hanukkah songs of various sources, genres and styles. For every night of Hanukkah, videos will be posted on the **website** and **Facebook** at 4:00 PM each day.

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
DONATE TODAY.**

By contributing to Beth Tzedec's many funds, scholarships, and initiatives, you heal and build our community. Click [here](#) for a list of Beth Tzedec Funds.



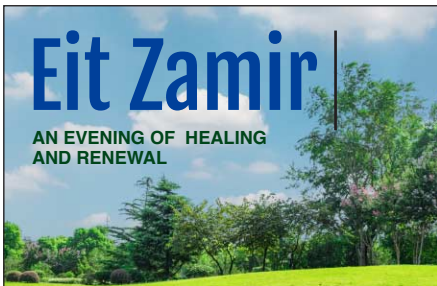
Sharing the Light: A Hanukkah Shabbat Dinner for 20s and 30s

Friday, December 3 at 7:15 PM

Yacov Fruchter hosts a Shabbat dinner to celebrate Hanukkah for 20s and 30s. We will begin with our monthly Shabbat at the Floor service followed by a delicious, catered dinner by Apex Kosher Catering.

Cost: \$18 per person. Pre-registration required by November 30 via [Shulecloud](#).

All participants must provide proof of identity and vaccination status. To view our COVID-19 protocols, [click here](#)>>



Eit Zamir: An Evening of Healing and Renewal

Sunday, January 16 at 7:00 PM

It is the time for song. We have travelled quite a journey through the pandemic. On the weekend of Shabbat Shirah and the beginning of Tu B'Shevat, together with an all-star collection of musical guests, join us as we acknowledge the healing that is necessary and celebrate the renewal that is possible.

Artist-in-residence, Aviva Chernick, hosts this special evening of song together with our very own Hazzan Sidney Ezer, and a host of special guests including Israeli superstar Achinoam Nini.



Mother-Daughter Rosh Hodesh

Sunday, January 30 at 5:30 PM

Join Rabbi Fryer Bodzin and Sylvie Moscovitz for a special Rosh Hodesh celebration for mothers and their pre-teen and teen daughters (ages 10 to 18). We will enjoy a dinner, exploring the meaning of Rosh Hodesh and our relationships with each other.

Give & Get



Teen Hessed Fellowship

Beth Tzedec is excited to present the Beth Tzedec Teen Hessed Fellowship, an exciting new initiative for teens who are interested in meaningful volunteering and social action projects in our local Jewish and greater Toronto community. This fellowship is for teens in Grades 9 to 12 and will meet twice a month from January until May. Participants will learn about and volunteer for different organizations each month, culminating in a self-driven service project that they will plan and execute, with assistance from Beth Tzedec. Registration information coming soon.

Contact Sylvie Moscovitz at smoscovitz@beth-tzedec.org for more information.



BTUSY and Ve'ahavta Hanukkah Project for the Homeless

Fundraising list now open; Packaging date: Sunday, December 5 at 4:00 PM

Roughly 10,000 Torontonians are currently facing homelessness. Ve'ahavta's mobile van program provides nutritious meals, essential clothing and hygiene supplies—along with referrals to vital supports and resources—to those living on or near the streets, seven days a week.

Beth Tzedec's BTUSY teen group is partnering with Ve'ahavta to purchase items to help support these initiatives. BTUSY will then package the items into Hanukkah gifts for distribution. Community service/volunteer hours available to all participants.

To view and purchase items for this social action project, [click here](#)>>

All participants must provide proof of identity and vaccination status. To view our COVID-19 protocols, [click here](#)>>



Our program and event opportunities continue to expand each week.

Be sure to check our website regularly for updated information.



“My parents instilled the values of hard work and it has been something that has stayed with me for the rest of my life.”

Marvels and Revelations



He is a man of many talents.

A superb swimmer in the competitive pool, an advocate for good health care, an award winner, respected by his peers and the community, and one who always finds time to put a smile on the face of others.

That’s just a small glimpse of a classy and inspiring Todd Phillips, who is also good for sharing some challenging and gut-wrenching stories about his career and an inspiring life.

With the approaching festive holiday of Hanukkah, a word that has several meanings including dedication, it’s a

time of celebration and recalling the memories of a miracle. There are marvels and revelations that also fit with Phillips, too. I’ll save that for later.

For many people who attend Toronto’s Beth Tzedec Congregation for religious services and an array of programs and events, it’s accurate to say

they have likely never met Phillips. That may be because he does not seek attention, is quite modest and focuses on reading the prayers when seated with his family during the High Holy Days.

He’s also one very busy, and often overloaded, person.

Phillips is the go-to individual relied on by thousands. Each one, be they seniors, paediatrics or special needs adults, are very thankful for his fortuitous attention in keeping them vigorous, robust, strong and healthy.

Practicing Pharmacy for three decades, Phillips has his own business in Richmond Hill, just north of Toronto. He also does more than just fill prescriptions.

From the youngster who always cradled a stuffed cheetah toy at bedtime, to the curious one who loved to climb trees and once dreamed of becoming a firefighter, there is something about Phillips that reveals his desire to help other—and especially when guidance and comfort are needed.

Physically fit, likely moreso than people younger than him, Phillips and water would compare to people and air. One can’t exist without the other. His initiation to swimming may have come during lessons or what some may recall, the days of throwing the kid in the water and hoping for the best.

It wasn’t long before Phillips was captain of the swim and water polo teams at York Mills Collegiate—one of the top educational institutions for both sports in the Toronto District School Board.

With fond memories of his young years of summer, day camp at Robin Hood and overnight at Camp Winnebago, it was after his Bar Mitzvah at Beth Tzedec that the aquatic credentials piled up. The bronze medallion, then life-saving skills and swim instructor—at age 16.

“That was the pivotal stage of my life, with summer camps and working for the City of Toronto, teaching swimming,” said Phillips, who got hooked on the water sport and won numerous medals in his school years.





“Looking back, it’s where I learned about development and communication —two key items that are critical, these days, in my career.” In his final year of high school, just before graduating and moving on to the University of Toronto, Phillips was sidelined from the pool with mononucleosis. It was something that affected his endurance to the point that it knocked him out of the sport.

It would be some 15 years later that Phillips would return to the pool. The smell of chlorine and the booming voice of a coach triggered his endorphins, boosted pleasure and resulted in a feeling of well-being.

This time, it would be in the Masters category—a special class of competitive swimming for those 25 years and older—and Phillips, very capable and accomplished, would compete provincially and nationally. At one time, he was one of the top five in Canada in several events for his age class.

There is so much more to highlight about Phillips and swimming, be it from the numerous medals at the Maccabiah Games in Israel to those at the Pan Am Maccabiah Games in Argentina.

“My parents instilled the values of hard work and it has been something that

has stayed with me for the rest of my life,” said Phillips, the middle of three children of Barry and Susan Phillips. “I am so blessed by a rock solid foundation and the great support by my wife, Linda, my kids David and Laura, and my extended family.”

Phillips has made a big splash outside the competitive pool.

It’s called pharmaceutical care.

“I’ve learned that it’s all about honesty and being good to people and those in need,” he said. “The emergency response and helping people makes me feel good. Being the calm voice for those who are not well, scared in these pandemic days, or in a stressful situation.”

In being there, Phillips fulfills a commandment through his efforts and ability to deliver good deeds. There have been lots of them. He’s always fascinated with Isaiah 6:8, “Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me.”

“I used to think there were things (in the Bible) that were way past fairy tales, but then I kept reading, understanding and I saw real examples of human nature in the Bible that fits these days,” said Phillips.

“It stuck with me. Even when there was an opportunity to help during the pandemic, I put my hand up to say, I’m in. What can I do? Now, I’ve put almost 3,000 vaccines in the arms of people.”

Power and strength. The salvation to flourish and help people deal with deep feelings has brought joy, gladness and love to Phillips—who is the 2021 winner of the York Region Business Leader of Character award, a prestigious acknowledgement given for community service.

“There is tremendous value to a person, whether it’s having a community for support, being in the family shul that I grew up in, or sitting beside my father at Beth Tzedec, just like his father did with him,” said Phillips. “I’m doing it and it means so much to both of us. I’m proud of our Jewish history, being a strong Zionist and supportive of Israel, and there is that comfortable feeling about going to Beth Tzedec.”

While Phillips finds it incredibly rewarding helping many vulnerable people feel comfortable, he constantly feels the driving force to get things done the right way.

Just one more thing, lighting candles at Hanukkah and thinking of miracles.

In 2001, after his Pharmaceutical Studies at the University of Toronto, Phillips would one day cross the road on a green light, at St. Clair and Yonge. That’s when a vehicle, with an intoxicated driver, ran into him. The wheel of the vehicle sitting on his Phillips’ back. Fortunately for a friend and other bystanders, who lifted the car enough for Phillips to be pulled, the miracle occurred of him avoiding death.

—David Grossman

David Grossman is a multi award-winning communicator and story-teller with a distinguished career in Broadcasting, Journalism and Public Relations in Sport and Government Relations. He, and his family, are long-standing members of Beth Tzedec.

וְאֶשְׁמַע אֶת-קוֹל ה' אֹמֵר אֶת-מִי אֶשְׁלַח וּמִי יִלְדֶנּוּ וְאֹמֵר הִנְנִי שְׁלָחָנִי:

For Toddlers with a Parent, Grandparent or Caregiver



"Welcome, Winter!"

December 12 10:30 AM

Winter is here so let's spend some time with our family, friends and neighbours reading a special PJ Library book in our comfy pajamas!

"Happy Birthday, Tree"

January 16 10:30 AM

Celebrate and honour nature with crafts, games, story time and lots of fun planting trees, just in time for Tu B'Shevat!

"Family"

February 6 10:30 AM

There's no better way to celebrate the upcoming Family Day than with a fun, PJ Library book and a special gift for your family!

To register, email Anat at akrigger@beth-tzedec.org

Saturday Night Teen Lounge

In the inaugural Saturday Night Teen Lounge held in the Wernick Family's backyard, Beth Tzedec's teens enjoyed a night of connection with peers around a campfire (with marshmallow roasting) while creating greeting cards for residents of a local retirement home.



From the Ritual Committee

The High Holy Days are now well behind us with Hanukkah fast approaching! And as our *Shanah Tovah* greetings to each other become *Hag Sameah* Hanukkah, I am happy to present the findings from the recent survey many members completed, and to share thoughts as to how we are evolving our Shabbat services as we move towards a more 'normal' mode.

This year's High Holy Days were our second (and hopefully last) to be experienced during the pandemic. Over 3,500 people joined us at some point over the High Holy Days, either in person or virtually. Of this group, almost 300 responded to the survey.

High Holy Day Survey Responses

Of the group that replied to our survey, 44 percent indicated that they experienced some part of the High Holy Days in person, either in the Sanctuary, Orenstein Mezzanine Hall, in the tent or at one of our outdoor family events. Overall, 88 percent of respondents indicated they were either "Very Satisfied" or "Satisfied" with our Services.

This year, we made changes to improve the quality of our livestream experience, allowing for more up close and personal views of our Spiritual Leadership. This allowed those joining online to feel more engaged and welcome to *daven* in an environment that was comfortable to them [over 75 percent]. Still, in-person

attendees felt even more engaged [over 90 percent], demonstrating that no matter how well we create a remote environment, nothing can compare to physically *being* at shul.

From the comments, we learned that for some, Services were too short but for others, they were too long. Some like English portions and tohers prefer Hebrew only. With such a wide variety of members across ages and levels of observance or understanding, not everything will appeal to everyone. Nevertheless, the vast majority of comments were overwhelmingly positive and appreciative. Many shared ideas on things that could be improved and we have noted them for the future.

Our Evolving Services

During COVID, we abbreviated our Services in acknowledgement that online participants preferred shorter service times. As we return to in-person prayer experiences, our focus will shift to building greater engagement and spirituality. Our Zoom and livestream offerings will continue as a way to extend our reach to those who are still not comfortable coming into the building, and for others who may not be able to attend in-person because of travel, work commitments or distance from the shul.

The Ritual Committee has been working to study the origins and customs for the Shabbat Services to

make adjustments that create more authentic, engaging and uplifting experiences. *Musaf* will return to our Services and Cantor Ezer will be joined by a small vocal ensemble to bring a greater *ruah*, energy.

Rabbi Wernick will move from giving a traditional sermon to instead teaching between the Torah *aliyot*. Our Torah services, therefore, will begin earlier, at approximately 10:00 AM.

We will continue to encourage private recitation of the opening prayers—*Birkat haShakhar* and *Pesukei Dezimra*—before our Services begin at 9:30 AM. We will seek feedback from the membership over the coming months as these changes are made.

We are delighted that people are returning to shul for the clergy-led services (in the Hendeles Chapel or the Sanctuary), the Shabbat at the Floor Services (in the Hendeles Chapel), the Little Minyan (in the Orenstein Mezzanine Hall on alternate weeks) or to the other services and experiences as they resume. Please join us, either at Beth Tzedec or online, so that your *kavanah*, prayer intention, joins with us together as a *kehillah*, community.

B'Shalom.

—Mitch Max,
on behalf of the Ritual Committee



Musical Participatory Shabbat Services

Shabbat mornings December 4, January 15, and February 26

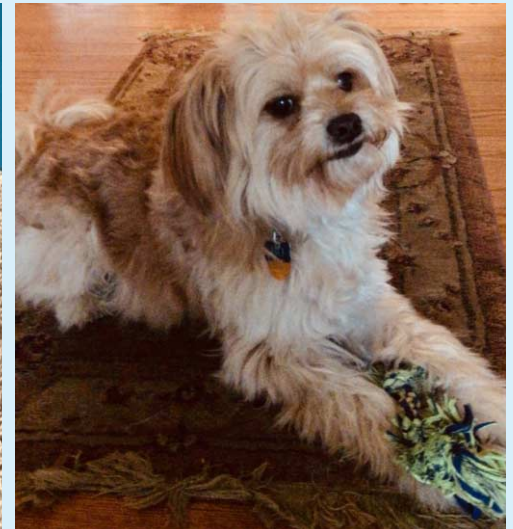
Join us for a musically engaging Shacharit service that welcomes and encourages participation! Led by Cantor Sidney Ezer and a small vocal ensemble, we will introduce new melodies and revive some older and familiar ones in a way that will be sure to get our toes tapping and our voices singing in harmony.



Blessed are You, God, maker of all living creatures.”

“If a man aspires towards a righteous life, his first act of abstinence is from injury to animals.”

—Albert Einstein



For many, they are known as friends. To others, just a member of the family.

Your pets.

The cat. The dog. The goldfish. The bird. The horse. The hamster. And there are more.

They are part of people’s lives, bringing comfort, enjoyment and happiness. Be it at happy times or during the days involving many challenges.

And so, when Nina Wallach shared her personal story about how a pet brought a sense of amenity and contentment during a challenging time in her life, she thought the time was overdue for something different at Beth Tzedec Congregation.

Wallach came up with the idea, something that has been shared by synagogues around the world. A time to say a prayer for animals. While research claims the first documented Jewish blessing of animals and a remembrance for pets, apparently occurred in 1997, in Elkins Park,

Pennsylvania, that may be challenged.

In the Bible, there are several references to those who care for animals as being heroes. Jacob, Moses and King David were shepherds—and responsible care givers for their animals. In today’s world, special blessings are offered three times during the Jewish year.

At Rosh Hashanah, when we celebrate creation and the birthday of the world. During the Shabbat when the Torah portion, Noah, refers to the flood, the Ark and the animals and, again, reference is made in the winter during Tu B’Shevat.

With the effort and commitment by Wallach, Beth Tzedec’s inaugural **“Bark Tzedec Congregation: Blessing of the Animals”** the **new promo video** was launched on the last day of October. Lots of preparation was accomplished in a short span of time.

A 30-minute presentation was more than a realization of success, it was an experience that brought celebration and tears.



Beth Tzedec members answered the call for information with many untold stories and pictures. A program put together by Nina and her husband Larry involved music, benediction, and devotion. The Zoom presentation was repeated in a broadcast video at the weekly *L'Chaim* virtual gathering a later that week.

Dozens of people watched the presentation as recognition was given to the memories of many special friends. Tributes also were bestowed, to the animals that bring daily thrills and pleasure.

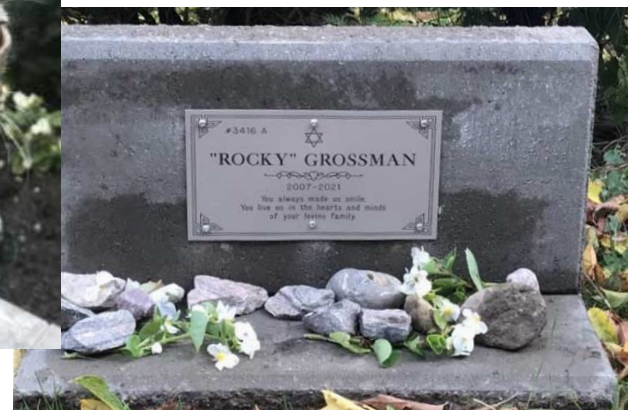
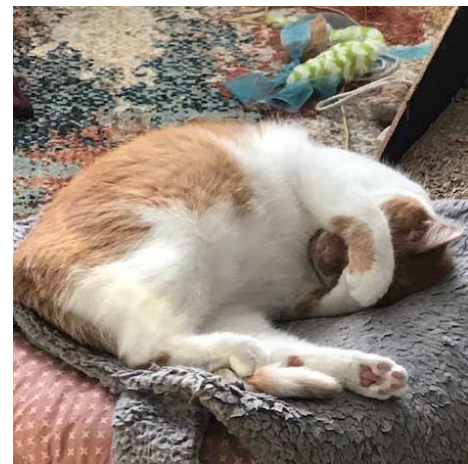
Rabbi Steve Wernick and Cantor Sidney Ezer had special prayers,

readings and well wishes. David Grossman contributed with a prayer for the caregivers of animals and the formal presentation ended with dialogue that involved members taking in the virtual event.

The work and devotion, from those who have cared and comforted animals—the veterinarians and technicians, specialists and service workers—was also highlighted in a prayer for those who care for the scared, the lonely, the abandoned, the hungry, the ill and the injured.

The care and love of animals is embedded in Jewish tradition.

—David Grossman



Hesed Committee Report

Out of the Cold Program

The Beth Tzedec/Beth Sholom Out of the Cold program has been an integral part of our synagogue for almost 25 years. We were forced to suspend our program in March 2020 because of COVID-19 public health restrictions. Now, more than ever, those experiencing homelessness in Toronto need our help.

COVID-19 has exacerbated what can only be described as a humanitarian crisis. Our primary goal has always been to bring our guests in from “out of the cold”, if only for a short time, to offer a warm and nutritious meal, clean washrooms and a place to charge electrical devices. COVID-19 prevented most front-line organizations from permitting people to enter their buildings, necessitating meals be distributed at the door, a significant concern during the harsh winter months.

Again this year, our OOTC program will operate out of Saint Luke’s United Church in the downtown east end where many of our clients reside. Numerous faith institutions have joined our partnership to form the “Out of the Cold Meal Program”, allowing us to pool our resources in solidarity to help those in need in our community. Health and safety protocols are maintained for the protection of this vulnerable population and the volunteers.

This year’s program is operating on Wednesday and Sunday nights for 24 weeks, through April 24. The communal meal will be similar to what was served at our OOTC meal at Beth Sholom, although the number of guests that can be served at any one time will be very limited, determined by provincial and public health restrictions. Those not wishing to eat indoors will be provided the same meal in a take-away bag.

The program will be staffed by both front line and harm reduction workers who are well-versed in dealing with the myriad need of this population.

There may be a limited number of volunteer ‘opportunities’ available for the coming season.

Opportunity 1:

Volunteers (two per night) are needed on Sundays and Wednesdays from 3:00 to 5:00 PM to help with setup for the meal program. The volunteers work under the supervision of the Meal Program Manager. Tasks include preparing bags with cutlery and dessert, heating meals and placing them in containers, cleaning utensils, unloading ordered meals when they arrive, arranging things needed for the outreach teams for delivery to those sleeping outside and loading meals and supplies into outreach vehicles.

Opportunity 2:

Volunteers are needed on Sundays and Wednesdays from 5:00 to 7:00 PM for meal distribution within the church. The volunteers would work under the supervision of the Meal Program Manager and duties include directing guests outside or inside the building to the tables and washrooms, doing intake screening, bagging and handing meals to guests, serving dine-in guests, unloading meals and supplies from outreach vehicles when they return and working in the storage room.

For each of these opportunities, volunteers should commit to volunteering at least twice a month. Volunteers must show proof that they double vaccinated against COVID-19 and have not been in contact with people who are **not** vaccinated, including children. Volunteers must acknowledge that the Meal Program

Manager and the two Program Co-ordinators are in contact with people experiencing homelessness who may not have been vaccinated. Unfortunately, we will **not** be able to accommodate any teenage volunteers this year.

If you are interested in these volunteer opportunities, please register on our **website**; you will be notified by the OOTC program staff of volunteer times as they become available.

An equally important part of our Out of the Cold Program is the warm winter clothing, boots and shoes provided to the homeless. We are in the process of planning the logistics of accepting clothing donations. Please check our “Week Ahead” newsletter for information how you can help.

We are always in critical need of **new or gently used** sweatpants, warm winter jackets, winter boots and running shoes for men and women. **New** underwear is also needed, along PPE supplies—specifically disposable gloves, masks and face shields. If anyone is in the business of supplying any of these items and can donate products, please **email the Synagogue office** at your earliest opportunity.

You can also support our *hesed* initiatives by contributing to the Out of the Cold Fund via our **website** or by purchasing tribute cards through the Synagogue office.

Canasta and Mahjong Lessons

If public health recommendations allow, we are planning to resume our Mahj and Canasta lessons in the new year. Please contact the **Synagogue office** at 416-781-3511 for information or to reserve a space.

Men's Club Makes a Difference



Men's Club Scholarship Program

The Beth Tzedec Men's Club is pleased to sponsor our long-standing scholarship program to assist adults who are pursuing programs of higher Jewish education. Applicants need not be a member of Beth Tzedec.

The criteria used to judge each applicant is based on the following and should be given careful consideration when applying;

- The benefit that may be brought to the Jewish community by the candidate.
- 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 overall quality of the submitted application.
- Special needs or considerations.

The information provided with your application is the sole source upon which the Scholarship Committee makes decisions.

Applications are available via email from hershr@rogers.com.

Supporting Learning for Beth Tzedec Members

The restrictions imposed by COVID-19 on group gatherings have interfered with many learning opportunities usually offered by our shul and supported by the Men's Club.

"ScholarStream" is a learning program offered from October 2021 to June 2022 and presented by the Rabbinical Seminary and

The Conservative Movement. The program, in its second year, offers eight series of numerous topics, each consisting of four online lectures or discussions. Sessions are led by teachers from the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary. Your Beth Tzedec Men's Club purchased a ScholarStream membership on behalf of our shul which allows Beth Tzedec members to access any or all of the classes at no cost to the registrants.

We hope that many of you have or will take advantage of this opportunity to enhance your Jewish knowledge.

Ansh-eh Zafon Region of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs



MERCAZ-Canada/FJMC Retreat

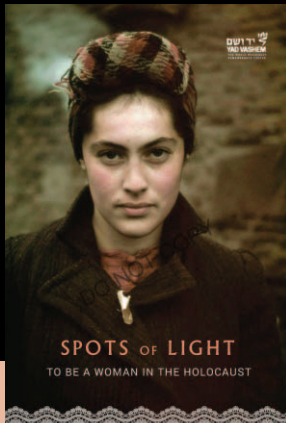
Ansh-eh Zafon Region of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs is pleased to partner with MERCAZ-Canada for their second retreat at the Isaiah Tubbs Resort and Conference Centre near Picton, Ontario.

This year's retreat will be held from December 3 to 5 and will feature guest speakers **Dr. Yizhar Hess**, Vice Chair of the World Zionist Organization, **Rabbi**

Mauricio Balter, Executive Director of Masorti Olami and MERCAZ Olami, and **Alan Budman**, FJMC International First Vice President.

Kashrut and COVID-19 protocols will be observed; vaccine passports are required for all participants.

For more information, visit <https://site.eventium.net/mercaz-canada-cfmj-fjmc-ansheh-zafon-2021-retreat/registration>.



SPOTS OF LIGHT: WOMEN IN THE HOLOCAUST

In the spring of 2020, a new exhibit had been planned to open spotlighting women during the Holocaust in partnership with Yad Vashem. With the evolving COVID pandemic and public health restrictions, though, it had to be delayed.

As restrictions have relaxed, we are happy to encourage those coming to Beth Tzedec to take a few minutes to explore the display in the hallway galleries.

In the "Spots of Light" exhibition, Yad Vashem attempted to reveal the human story that lurks behind the historical account of what happened during the Holocaust. They chose to talk about the Jewish victims and create space for the unique voice of the women among them.

More than two million women were murdered in the Holocaust. Femininity among women was a basic component of personality. The idea of womanhood, though, was considered an indulgence. The Nazi ideology viewed females as agents of fertility. Accordingly, the Nazi regime determined Jewish women were an element that must be exterminated to thwart the rise of future generations. Despite this, Jewish women marshalled their inner strengths to persevere and survive.

This exhibition is divided into sections: Partisans, Everyday Life, Friendship, Motherhood, Arts, Faith and Love. In each section individual stories are told. It will remain on exhibit through the winter.



Are you interested in learning to play Canasta or Mahj?

If Public Health protocols allow, we are planning to resume offering lessons in the new year. For information, contact the **Synagogue Office** at 416-781-3511

BTUSY Baking for Ve'ahavta

Teens at Beth Tzedec have been gathering at Beth Tzedec each month to bake in support of Ve'ahavta. They 'Give' a little effort making cookies and 'Get' a sense of satisfaction for helping those in need in the community. (They also 'get' community service hours!)



Teens On Zoom!

Public health restrictions may have prevented teens from getting together over the summer, but BTUSY still connected in several social action projects over Zoom! On phones, laptops or tablets, BT's teens found a way to stay in touch.



Tax Effective Charitable Giving

WITH JAMIE GOLOMBEK

Monday, December 6 at 7:30 PM

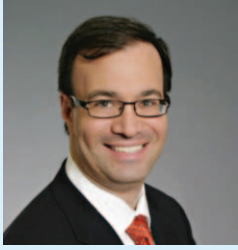
Join Jamie Golombek, weekly National Post “tax expert” columnist, managing director at CIBC and a board member of Beth Tzedec, as he shares various tax effective strategies for charitable giving... including making your annual membership contribution! This program will be offered via Zoom. Pre-registration required.



Minute to Win It!

Sylvie, Aya and Liel (our shinshinyot) led grade 5 and 6 members in an evening of exciting competition with games, snacks and a campfire in Reb Steve's backyard. (Reb Steve even got into the games, challenging kids in the Oreo competition!)





Tax Effective Charitable Giving

With year-end upon us, what better time to consider making sure your charitable donations (including your Beth Tzedec membership contribution) as tax-effective as possible! And, if you've already made your 2021 contribution – did you simply write a cheque or put it on your credit card so you could collect points or air miles?

For 2022, why not take a new approach to charitable giving and strategically plan your donations for the year ahead. Rather than just focusing on how much to give to which causes in 2022, let's also focus on ways to give that can be more tax-effective.

Donors have a variety of ways they can choose to donate to charity, from writing that cheque, to using a credit card, to donating appreciated marketable securities to avoid paying capital gains tax on the accrued gain or even making a donation from RRSP or RRIF withdrawals. Let's review some tax basics surrounding charitable giving review a couple tax-effective charitable strategies.

The Basics

Charitable donations to registered charities, such as Beth Tzedec, attract both federal and provincial non-refundable tax credits. On the federal side, you get a credit of 15 per cent for the first \$200 of annual charitable donations. The federal credit rate jumps to 29 per cent for cumulative donations above \$200 (and 33% of high-income earners). Parallel provincial credits work similarly, with Ontario's credit at 5.05% on the first \$200 of annual gifts, rising to 11.16% on amounts greater than \$200. With Ontario's two-level surtax, the value of the credits can be even higher.

What's interesting, however, is that once you donate more than \$200 in total in a calendar year, your effective combined federal/Ontario donation tax credit rate is likely higher than your marginal tax rate, unless you're in the highest Ontario bracket.

Gifts of appreciated securities or employee stock options

For the past decade, donations of publicly traded shares, mutual funds or segregated funds to a

registered charity not only gives you a tax receipt equal to the fair market value of the securities or funds being donated, but you also avoid paying capital gains tax on any accrued gain on the shares or funds donated. Similarly, if you're an employee who has received employee stock options, you can avoid paying tax on the stock option benefit by choosing to donate the proceeds received upon option exercise to charity within 30 days of exercise.

Gifts of RRSP/RRIF

Gifts of RRSP and RRIF funds can also be tax-effective. Each dollar withdrawn from an RRSP or RRIF is taxable in the year of withdrawal at your marginal tax rate. Let's say Baruch, a resident of Ontario, is retired, and his income for 2021 was \$46,000. He wishes to donate \$1,000 from his RRIF to charity.

His donation credit on the first \$200 would be 15% federally or \$30 and 5.05% in Ontario or \$10.10. On the next \$800, Baruch would get a federal credit at 29%, worth \$232, and an Ontario credit at 11.16%, worth \$89.28. In total, his donation tax credits equal \$361.38.

But on Baruch's \$1,000 RRIF withdrawal used to fund his charitable gift, he would only pay 24.15% combined federal/Ontario tax or \$241.50. That means he would have an excess tax credit of \$119.88 which he could use to offset taxes on his other income, including his Canada Pension Plan benefits.

As with all tax planning, be sure to check with your accountant or tax adviser to ensure the above strategies make sense for you!

—Jamie Golombek

Jamie@jamielogolombek.com

Jamie Golombek, CA, CPA, CFP, CLU, TEP is the Managing Director, Tax & Estate Planning with CIBC Private Wealth and is the current Treasurer and a Board member of Beth Tzedec Congregation.

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 & Culture Fund

An anonymous contribution, honouring Aviva Chernick and the amazing Arts and Prayer Lab.

Ruth and Harold Margles, honouring the **Spiritual Leadership Team and Beth Tzedec staff** for organizing and leading the Book and Film Club.

Dot Whitehouse, honouring **Aviva Cherniak**.

Camp Ramah Fund

Phyllis Flatt and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Moses Flatt**.

Phyllis Flatt, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Nettie Albert**.

Zina Glassman and family, wishing **Carole and Harold Wolfe** a Shanah Tovah.

Norman and Jackie Kahn, acknowledging **Fred Fishman** in memory of **Rose Fishman**.

Cantor Sidney Ezer Discretionary Fund

Donnie Friedman, honouring **Howard Black**.

Tania Nardandrea-Isakovic and Adi Isakovic, honouring **Cantor Sidney Ezer**.

Rosette Rutman and family, honouring **Cantor Sidney Ezer**.

Cantor Deborah Staiman, wishing **Cantor Sidney Ezer** a Shanah Tovah.

Cantor Deborah Staiman, honouring **Cantor Sidney Ezer**.

Food Insecurity Fund

Frances Bacal, honouring **Esther Westelman** on her birthday.

Yacov Fruchter, honouring **Rabbi Rachel 'Bluth' Rosenbluth** for her leadership in *davening* during the High Holy Days.

Rayna Jolley, honouring **Patti and Sheldon Rotman**.

Amy Phillips and Paul Sheldon, honouring the memory of **Frances Phillips**.

Elca Taras, honouring the memory of **Tom Taras**.

Arnie and Roberta Ursaner, wishing **Larry and Nina Wallach** a Shanah Tovah.

General Fund

An anonymous contribution, acknowledging **Brian Dias** in memory of **Clementina Dias**.

Sharon and Norm Bacal, acknowledging **Jeff Brockman** in memory of **Sophie Brockman**.

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

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

Dr. Mervin and Frances Deitel, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Alexander Deitel**.

Sara Wunch Glick and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Moses Kamelgarn**.

Sheila Goldenberg and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Dr. Gerald Goldenberg**.

Sheila Goldenberg and family, commemorating the *yahrtzeiten* of **Henry and Florence Melmed**.

Sheila Goldenberg and family, commemorating the *yahrtzeiten* of **Jacob Goldenberg and Fanny Goldenberg**.

Lou Hoffer, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Sam Hoffer**.

Mildred Kriezman, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Morris Kriezman**.

Karen and Larry Leiter, honouring the memory of **Abraham Engelbaum**.

Susan and Norman Mogil, honouring **Mickey Heller** on his 100th birthday.

The Nemoj and Leibel Families, commemorating the *yahrtzeiten* of **Max and Helen Nemoj**.

Ruth Nichols, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Anne Weisman**.

Adam and Karen Pivnick, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Charlotte Pivnick**.

Loren and Mark Roth, acknowledging **Sharon Cherniak** in memory of **Bob Cherniak**.

Stuart Sanders, honouring **Daniel Silverman and the Daily Minyan**.

Jerry Schendel, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Klara Scheindel**.

Susan Schendel, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Edith Milder**.

Susan Schendel, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Ferdinand Milder**.

Richard Seligman, honouring the memory of **Lawrie Seligman**.

Marvin and Carole Sherkin, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Louis Sherkin**.

Carol Silver, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Beverley Levman**.

Robert and Renee Spiegel and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Murray Spiegel**.

Murray and Marjorie Collis, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Max Collis**.

Hesed Fund

Beverley Applebaum, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Sydney Applebaum**.

Rosalee Berlin and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Kate Lee Moss**.

Gloria Chaim and Mark Selick, honouring **Harriet Train**.

Brian, Kathy and Bobby Feldman, honouring the memories of **Rita and Gilbert Newman**.

Brian, Kathy and Bobby Feldman, honouring the memory of **Charles Feldman**.

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

Lou Hoffer, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Garry Hoffer**.

Helene Kerr, honouring the memory of **Shirley Rosenthal**.

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

Alan and Lorraine Sandler, acknowledging **Cathy Weinberg** in memory of **Michael Weinberg**.

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

Gloria Shan, honouring **Chelsea Wolfe** for the *Hallah for Hessed* program.

Rose Sobel, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Anne Grimson**.

Rose Sobel, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Harry Sobel**.

Rose Sobel and Duke Segel, acknowledging **Gloria Houser** in memory of **Al Pearlstein**.

Rose Sobel and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Benjamin Chelin**.

Rose Sobel and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Bertha Chelin**.

Rose Sobel and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **George Sobel**.

Rose Sobel and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Harry Chelin**.

Rose Sobel and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Lillian Kaplan**.

Rose Sobel and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Verne Chelin**.

Cantor Deborah Staiman, acknowledging **Cantor Sidney Ezer** in memory of **Paulina Vivian Ezer**.

Cantor Deborah Staiman, commemorating the *yahrtzeiten* of **Alexander Staiman** and **Shirley Jane Staiman**.

Dorothy Tessis and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Joseph Tessis**.

Dorothy Tonchin, honouring **Lyon Wexler** on his birthday.

Rabbi Steven and Jody Wernick, honouring the **Beth Tzedec staff team**.

Shelley Wexler-Friedman and Neil Friedman, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Saul Wexler**.

Hon. Jerry and Carole Grafstein, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Harry Arthur Sniderman**.

Howard (Hy) Cooper Trust Fund

Art and Carole Andrews, acknowledging the **Kalpin Family** in memory of **Spencer Kalpin**.

Art and Carole Andrews, acknowledging **Leonard Dezenhouse** in memory of **Annette Needleman**.

Art and Carole Andrews, wishing **Larry Rachlin** a *refuah sheleimah*.

Elaine and Robbie Goldberg, honouring **Art Andrews** on his 80th birthday.

David, Carol, Ari, Marissa, Yonit and Adam Grossman, honouring the **Hon. Jack Grossman** on the publication of his book.

David, Carol, Ari, Marissa and Yonit Grossman, honouring **Mel Petersiel** on his special birthday.

Elie Haim Malka, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Matitahu Malka**.

Jonathan Kahn Memorial Fund

Norman and Jackie Kahn, acknowledging **Lorraine Gangbar** in memory of Beryl Libin.

Norman and Jackie Kahn and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Jonathan Kahn**.

Kaddish Fund

Ellie Goldenberg, acknowledging **Sheila Goldenberg** in memory of **Gerald J. Goldenberg**.

Kosher Food Bank

Marion and Anthony Alberga, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Clarisse Goldberg**.

Liddy Beck and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Mary Beck**.

Joseph and Helene Casse, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Harry Casse**.

Denise Chriqui, wishing **Nancy Ezer** and family a Shanah Tovah.

Denise Chriqui, wishing **Phyllis Flatt** a Shanah Tovah.

Don Smith, honouring **Lianne Eklove**.
Phyllis Flatt, honouring **Sheldon and Patti Rotman** on their 40th anniversary.

Shep and Lorraine Gangbar, acknowledging **Brian Dias** in memory of **Clementina Dias**.

Shep and Lorraine Gangbar, acknowledging **Jack and Elaine Barkin** in memory of **Jennifer Barkin**.

Shep and Lorraine Gangbar, honouring **Patti and Sheldon Rotman** on their anniversary.

Fran Giddens and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Ben Rozenperl**.

Zina Glassman and family, wishing **Phyllis Flatt** a Shanah Tovah.

Rosemary and Morty Goldhar, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Ben Winbaum**.

Bonnie and Saul Greenberg, acknowledging **Lorraine Gangbar** in memory of **Beryl Libin**.

Liane and Paul Greenberg, honouring **Nathan Greenberg** on his 85th birthday.



Monday afternoons 12:30 PM

Rabbi Steven Wernick gathers a cadre of community personalities for conversations on politics, culture, social existence and Jewish life. Grab a cup of coffee and log on to join us. Sessions will be streamed to **Facebook** and **YouTube**. Comment with questions for our guests on either platform.

New guests are added to the series regularly. Check our **website** frequently for updates.

December 13: Jerry Silverman

January 10: Dani Dayan

December 20: Asante Haughton

January 17: Sabrina Malach

Nathan Greenberg
Paul and Sharon Haberman,
commemorating the yahrtzeit of
Anne Haberman.
Claire and Newton Markus,
commemorating the yahrtzeiten of
Dr. Raymond Markus, Lewis Markus
and **Joel Markus**.
Claire and Newton Markus, wishing
Yacov Fruchter a *refuah sheleimah* and
a sweet and healthy new year.
Ruth Nichols, commemorating the
yahrtzeit of **Hilda Nichols**.
Linda Pessah, commemorating the
yahrtzeit of **Alegria Abitbol**.
Linda Reitapple and family,
commemorating the yahrtzeit of
Esther Reitapple.
Patti and Sheldon Rotman,
acknowledging **Ricky Kirshenblatt**
and family in memory of **Esther**
Kirshenblatt.
Patti and Sheldon Rotman, honouring
Arthur Andrews on his 80th birthday!
Rhonda Rován and family,
commemorating the yahrtzeit of
Reba Rován.
Rhoda and Andre Salama,
commemorating the yahrtzeit of
Murray A. Kurtz.
Cantor Deborah Staiman, wishing
Lorne Hanick a Shanah Tovah.
Ryan Stone and Arlene Travis,
commemorating the yahrtzeit of
Louis Stone.

Membership Relief Fund

Albina Backman and family,
commemorating the yahrtzeit of
Mariana Rozenchwajg.
Adam and Marla Brown, commemorating
the yahrtzeit of **Gina Brown**.
Paul and Tammy Brown, honouring
Sheldon and Judy Godfrey on their
60th anniversary.

Murray and Cheryl Cepler and family,
commemorating the yahrtzeit of
Belle Abramson.
Leo and Bayla Chaikof, commemorating
the yahrtzeit of **Harry Chaikof**.
The Cummings Family, commemorating
the yahrtzeit of **George Cummings**.
Sam Damiani and Marnie Burke,
commemorating the yahrtzeit of
Judith Wolfond.
Phyllis Flatt, commemorating the
yahrtzeit of **Samuel Abraham Albert**.
Sandra Gertner commemorating the
yahrtzeit of **Eva Reich**.
Elaine and Morton Goldbach,
commemorating the 20th yahrtzeit of
Ben Willer.
Jerry and Carole Grafstein,
commemorating the yahrtzeit of
Helen Grafstein.
Toddy and Irving Granovsky,
commemorating the yahrtzeit of
Joe Hillman.
Brian Heller, Beverley Kupfert and
family, commemorating the yahrtzeit
of **Dr. Leon Heller**.
Melanie, Aaron, Cy and Lily Kohn,
commemorating the yahrtzeit of
Martin Kazman.
Nancy Kraft and family, commemorating
the yahrtzeiten of **Anne Shore** and
William Shore.
Susan Laufer and Barry Greenberg,
commemorating the yahrtzeit of
Solomon Yachain.
Susan Laufer and Barry Greenberg,
commemorating the yahrtzeit of
William Laufer.
Judy, Cliff, Lily, Max and Sylvie Librach,
commemorating the yahrtzeit of
Lillian Helen Sibling.
Nathan and Glennie Lindenberg,
commemorating the yahrtzeit of
Miriam Lindenberg.

Glennie Lindenberg and Morland
Brown, commemorating the yahrtzeit
of **David Brown**.
Pauline Menkes, commemorating the
yahrtzeit of **Jack Weintraub**.
Honey Milstein and family,
commemorating the yahrtzeit of
Irv Milstein.
Liane Piltz and family, commemorating
the yahrtzeit of **Robert Piltz**.
Joanna Prager and family,
commemorating the yahrtzeit of
Irvin Teitel.
Rosalynd and Allan Pyzer,
commemorating the yahrtzeit of
Shirley Lefler.
Charles Radzinski and family,
commemorating the yahrtzeit of
Thomas Radzinski.
Susan and John Rose and family,
commemorating the yahrtzeit of
Joseph Skolnik.
Debbie Rothstein, acknowledging
Jeffrey Brockman in memory of
Sophie Brockman.
Debbie Rothstein, wishing **Larry**
Rachlin a *refuah sheleimah*.
Gella and Paul Rothstein,
commemorating the yahrtzeit of
J. Barney Goldhar.
Debbie Rothstein and Michael Friedman,
acknowledging **Lorraine Gangbar** in
memory of **Beryl Libin**.
Debbie Rothstein and Michael Friedman,
honouring **Blake Teichman and**
Sharon Yale on the birth of their
granddaughter **Madison Falyñ Zworth**.
Patti and Sheldon Rotman,
acknowledging **Dr. Ronnie Peck** in
memory of **Rachelle Switzman**.
Sheldon and Patti Rotman,
acknowledging **Nanci Soicher** in
memory of **Estelle Perlmutter**.
Sheldon and Patti Rotman, acknowledging
Sharon Cherniak and family in
memory of **Robert (Bobby) Cherniak**.



Mizmor Monthly

Tuesdays, December 7, January 4,
February 1 and March 1 at 7:30 PM

Join Cantor Ezer and Asher Farber to explore
Jewish musical themes and genres around
Rosh Hodesh. This series will be streamed
via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

Patti and Sheldon Rotman and family, wishing **Yacov Fruchter** a *refuah sheleimah*.

Sheldon and Patti Rotman and family, acknowledging **Lorriane Gangbar** in memory of **Beryl Libin**.

Irving Salit, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Benjamin Salit**.

Eric Sobel and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Ben Sobel**.

Sidney and Lola Solnik, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Manny Solnik**.

Debbie and Randy Spiegel, honouring **Sheldon and Patti Rotman** on the engagement of their daughter **Lauren Rotman**.

Randy and Debbie Spiegel, honouring **Phyllis Flatt**.

Randy and Debbie Spiegel and family, honouring **Anne and Mitch Max** on the birth of their grandson **Sam Cohen Chisholm**.

Randy and Debbie Spiegel and family, honouring **Teddy and Bari Zittell** on the birth of their granddaughter **Amelia Barbara**.

Martha Sud and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Lillian Rose**.

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

Steven and Jody Wernick, wishing **Patti and Sheldon Rotman** a Shanah Tovah.

Steven and Jody Wernick, wishing **Debbie Rothstein and Michael Friedman** a Shanah Tovah.

Sara Zimmerman and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Zoltan Zimmerman**.

Men's Club Scholarships Fund

The Beth Tzedec Men's Club, acknowledging **Mary Ann Hitzig** in memory of **William (Billy) Hitzig**.

Music Fund

Noah Kochman and Brendan Donovan, honouring **Howard Black**.

Albert Weinstein, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Harry Weinstein**.

Out-of-the-Cold Fund

Miriam and Lana Kerzner, acknowledging **Cathy Weinberg** in memory of **Michael Weinberg**.

Jeffrey and Jill Levine, acknowledging **Gloria Houser** in memory of **Al Pearlstein**.

Patti and Gary Pollock, acknowledging **Ken Gertner** in memory of **Sandra Gertner**.

Cantor Deborah Staiman, acknowledging **Lorraine and Shep Gangbar** in memory of **Beryl Libin**.

Cantor Deborah Staiman, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Bernard Emanuel Staiman**.

Prayer Book Dedications

Claire Friedlich Markus and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Fanny Steinberg**.

David Promislow and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Sam Promislow**.

Shirley Promislow and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of | **Reva Gandler**.

Millard Roth and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Dolly Roth**.

Debbie Shecter, honouring **Lorne Hanick**.

Rabbi Robyn Fryer Bodzin Discretionary Fund

Norman Bacal, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Michael Bacal**.

The Citron Family, honouring **Rabbi Robyn Fryer Bodzin**.

Elaana Fields, Justine Silver and Eileen Jadd, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Judy Fields**.

Sam and Melissa Glazer, commemorating the first yahrtzeit of **Helen Glazer**.

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

Tania Nardandrea-Isakovic and Adi Isakovic, honouring **Rabbi Robyn Fryer Bodzin**.

Rabbi Steven Wernick Discretionary Fund

Eudice Goldberg, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Tillie Goldberg**.

Rayna Jolley, honouring **Rabbi Steven and Jody Wernick**.

Ruth and Harold Margles, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Rose Kaplan**.

Tania Nardandrea-Isakovic and Adi Isakovic, honouring **Rabbi Steven Wernick**.

Mark Pasternak, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Susan Pasternak**.

Millie Pollock, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Faye Tobenstein**.

Millie Pollock, commemorating the yahrtzeiten of **Muriel Gorsky** and **Harry Tobenstein**.

Sheldon and Patti Rotman, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Joseph Rotman**.

Phyllis Sheinberg, honouring **Rabbi Steven Wernick**.

Cantor Deborah Staiman, wishing **Rabbi Steven and Jody Wernick** a Shanah Tovah.

Dr. Harold Weizel, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Pinchas Weizel**.

Rabbi Steven Wernick, acknowledging **Jack and Elaine Barkin** in memory of **Jennifer Barkin**.

Refugee Program

Yacov Fruchter, honouring **Dr. Stephen Halman** and wishing him a Shanah Tovah.

Saul and Bonnie Greenberg, wishing **Yacov Fruchter** a *refuah sheleimah*.

Beverly Kupfert, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Morris Kupfert**.

Millie Pollock, wishing **Yacov Fruchter** a *refuah sheleimah*.

The Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl Endowment Fund

Phyllis Flatt, acknowledging **Fred Fishman** in memory of **Rose Fishman**.

Joy and David Kohn, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Anne Greenberg**.

David and Evelyn Pollock, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Daniel Stephen Pollock**.

Susan and Allen Schacht, acknowledging **Jack and Elaine Barkin** in memory of **Jennifer Barkin**.

Mindy Simon-Galper, honouring the memory of **Zelda Simon**.

Yom Hashoah Candle Fund in memory of Jules and Pearl Surdin

Gayle and Morty Eisenberg and family, wishing **Elaine and Joel Abrams and family** a healthy and happy New Year.

Gayle and Morty Eisenberg and family, wishing **Abraham and Susan Born and family** a healthy and happy New Year.

Gayle and Morty Eisenberg and family, wishing **Gary and Gail Brown and family** a healthy and happy New Year.

Gayle and Morty Eisenberg and family, wishing **Howard and Sheila Einstoss and family** a healthy and happy New Year.

Gayle and Morty Eisenberg and family, wishing **Jack and Sandi Grossman and family** a healthy and happy New Year.

Gayle and Morty Eisenberg and family, wishing **Alex and Patty Guttman and family** a healthy and happy New Year.

Gayle and Morty Eisenberg and family, wishing **David and Eva Hoffman and family** a healthy and happy New Year.

Gayle and Morty Eisenberg and family, wishing **Robbie and Katy Krofchick and family** a healthy and happy New Year.

Gayle and Morty Eisenberg and family, wishing **Eric and Fraida Lakien and family** a healthy and happy New Year.

Gayle and Morty Eisenberg and family, wishing **Sharon and Alan Lerman and family** a healthy and happy New Year.

Gayle and Morty Eisenberg and family, wishing **Ralph and Enid Orvitz and family** a healthy and happy New Year.

Gayle and Morty Eisenberg and family, wishing **Arnie and Barb Rabin and family** a healthy and happy New Year.

Gayle and Morty Eisenberg and family, wishing **Howard and Elaine Risen and family** a healthy and happy New Year.

Gayle and Morty Eisenberg and family, wishing **Andrea and Perry Rush and family** a healthy and happy New Year.

Gayle and Morty Eisenberg and family, wishing **Francine Sherkin and family** a healthy and happy New Year.

Gayle and Morty Eisenberg and family, wishing **Judy Sherman and family** a healthy and happy New Year.

Gayle and Morty Eisenberg and family, wishing **Elaine Spears and Sheldon Goldberg and family** a healthy and happy New Year.

Gayle and Morty Eisenberg and family, wishing **Steven Spears and Rochelle Ness and family** a healthy and happy New Year.

Gayle and Morty Eisenberg and family, wishing **Oron and Janis Sternhill and family** a healthy and happy New Year.

Gayle and Morty Eisenberg and family, wishing **Cathy Surdin, Lawrence Schiff and Brooke Schiff** a healthy and happy New Year.

Gayle and Morty Eisenberg and family, wishing **Morris and Heather Tushinsky and family** a healthy and happy New Year.

Lawrence Schiff, Cathy Surdin and Brooke Schiff, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Victor Schiff**.

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

Young Emissaries Fund

Gary and Marcie Mansfield and family, acknowledging **Cathy Weinberg and Todd Beallor** in memory of **Michael Weinberg**.

Young Professionals Fund

Rosalee Berlin, wishing **Yacov Fruchter** a *refuah sheleimah*.

Gella and Paul Rothstein, wishing **Yacov Fruchter** a *refuah sheleimah*.

Harriet Lilker and family, wishing **Yacov Fruchter** a *refuah sheleimah*.

Dot Whitehouse, honouring **Yacov Fruchter**.

Youth Initiatives Fund in memory of Adam Kruger

Stephen Abrams and Rosette Rutman, acknowledging the **Reine Family** in memory of **Bertha Reine**.

Elaine Atlin, acknowledging **Judy Kruger, Neil Reine, Lori Goldhar and Sharon Reine** in memory of **Bertha Reine**.

Ruthie and Murray Freedman, acknowledging **Judith Kruger** in memory of **Bertha Reine**.

Stephen and Vicky Haber, acknowledging **Lori Goldhar** in memory of **Berthe Reine**.

Donna and Brian Klein, acknowledging **Lori Goldhar** in memory of **Berthe Reine**.

Michael Konikoff and Bonnie Dale and family, acknowledging **Judith and Stephen Kruger** in memory of **Bertha Reine**.

Sam and Susan Kruger, acknowledging **Judith and Stephen Kruger** in memory of **Bertha Reine**.

Susan and Loren Kruger, acknowledging **Judith and Stephen Kruger** in memory of **Bertha Reine**.

The Kruger Family and the Goldhar Family, acknowledging the **Palter Family** in memory of **Betty Palter**.

The Mahj Ladies—Tammy, Debbie, Gayle, Lorna, Teresa, Sarah, Lori and Stephanie—acknowledging **Lori Goldhar and family** in memory of **Bertha Reine**.

Marsha (Pomerantz) and Fred Marcus, acknowledging **Judith Kruger** in memory of **Bertha Reine**.

Bernice and Sol Robins, acknowledging **Lori Goldhar** in memory of **Bertha Reine**.

Debbie Rothstein, acknowledging **Lori Goldhar** in memory of **Bertha Reine**.

Brenda Saltzman, acknowledging **Judith Kruger** in memory of **Bertha Reine**.

Helen, John, Sharon, Stella and Esther Singer and families, acknowledging **Judith Kruger** in memory of **Bertha Reine**.

Dorothy Tassis, acknowledging **Judith Kruger** in memory of **Bertha Reine**.

Shelly and Lindsey Wasserman, acknowledging **Lori Goldhar** in memory of **Berthe Reine**.



This year, when you CELEBRATE • HONOUR • COMMEMORATE Choose 'Treasures of Beth Tzedec' Tribute Cards

Our 'Treasures of Beth Tzedec' series, by local photographer Darren Levant, beautifully captures signature architectural details, noteworthy art and precious artifacts—timeless treasures of our Congregation. The Tribute cards featuring general, lifestyle and holiday themes, with space to add your own personal message, are available as a set of 6, or as individual cards sent from the Synagogue office.

- Purchase a package of 6 cards for \$50, or \$10 for an individual card, and personalize and send them out yourself; or
- Call us to order cards at a cost of \$18 each and we'll inscribe and send them out for you.

All 'Tribute card' contributions are fully tax receiptable. For information or to purchase, contact the Synagogue Office at 416-781-3511 or info@beth-tzedec.org.

Shabbat as a Mindfulness Teaching

Meditation Series with Aviva Chernick

Fridays, January 7, 14, 21 & 28
at 12:00 NOON

Discover meditation and prepare to welcome Shabbat as we explore ways that Shabbat can be a teacher for us, learning about pausing for rest and also for awareness. Pre-registration required via the **Synagogue office.**

Inscribe our Siddurim!

Inscribe one or more of our *siddurim*, to mark a celebration, special occasion or achievement, or to honour the memory of a loved one. Each *siddur* will bear an elegant, personalized bookplate to acknowledge the *mitzvah* of your gift to Beth Tzedec.



To inscribe a siddur, click [here](#) or call 416-781-3511

Condolences

The Congregation extends our heartfelt condolences to the families of the late:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Neil Abbott | Estelle Perlmutter |
| Jack Bloomberg | Toby Reichert |
| Robert (Bobby) Cherniak | Ruth Ellen Schwartz |
| Peter Donath | Sylvia Seligman |
| Beatrice Fischer | Jennie Shendelman |
| Rose Fishman | Ann Shienfield |
| Henryk Flakierski | Saul Singer |
| Dr. Bernard Fogel | Annette Swartz |
| Sherman Hans | Grace Taylor |
| William (Billy) Hitzig | Thomas Ungar |
| Henny Kestenbaum | Manley Walters |
| Beryl Libin | Michael Weinberg |
| Roslyn Nathanson | Gabi Weisfeld |
| Susan Pasternak | Libby Zlotnik |

“May the God of mercy sustain and strengthen them in their sorrow.”

Memorial Plaques

If you wish to honour the memory of a dear one, a fitting, traditional and dignified remembrance is through a memorial plaque and lamp. Each plaque, bearing the name and yahrtzeit date, is mounted on a bronze tablet in the Sanctuary. The lamp is lit on the Shabbat of the week of the yahrtzeit, on the day of the yahrtzeit, and on the four festivals during the year when Yizkor is recited. To order a memorial plaque, call 416-781-3511.

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, [click here](#) or call 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, **Randy Spiegel** at 416-781-3514 ext. 211 to discuss these opportunities in confidence.

Reb Steve's Salon

**Thursday, December 9, January 13, February 10,
March 10, April 7, May 12 and June 9 at 7:30 PM**

Salon, meaning relational

Difficult conversations should not be ignored but laid on the table and tossed and turned, understood and respected, unity without unanimity.

In *The Zionist Ideas*, author Gil Troy explores backstories, dreams and legacies of more than 170 Jewish visionaries. Referencing Troy's text, Rabbi Steven Wernick will lead a discussion focusing on the different elements within the Zionist conversation.

Ultimately, our project will emphasize two seemingly contradictory notions:

- **Zionism is a big tent.** Within our diverse communities, from across the ideological and religious spectrum, Jews can find elements of Zionism that appeal to us, allowing us to contribute in our own unique way to the greatest Jewish project of our time.
- **This tent has both red lines and blue & white lines.** Red lines are those we agree not to abrogate, such as negating Jewish peoplehood or statehood) Blue & white lines are the fundamentals upon which we all can agree, starting with the most basic definition of Zionism as the movement of Jewish national liberation.

No charge, but participants must purchase Gil Troy's book *The Zionist Ideas*, available from Amazon. Please note that if someone needs financial assistance to purchase the book, please have them contact Reb Steve at 416-781-3514 ext. 218 or rebsteve@beth-tzedec.org.

This series is offered via Zoom only. Pre-registration is required to access the Zoom link. To register, visit <https://bethzedec.toronto.shulcloud.com/form/rebstevevessalon.html>.