

Our Services

We're bringing your favourite High Holy Days services for you and your family to enjoy! Beth Tzedec members can participate either in-person or via our virtual hub to access those experiences most meaningful to you.

This High Holy Days Guide will be updated with direct links to access the services as we move closer to Rosh Hashanah. Check your emails, and weekly eblasts for updated information and virtual/Zoom links.

(Note: The shofar will not be blown on Saturday, first day of Rosh Hashanah as it is Shabbat.)



Sanctuary Services

Join Rabbi Steve Wernick, Hazzan Moshe Fishel and Maestro Meir Briskman, Lishmoa El Harina and Lara Rodin for our spectacular and inspiring High Holy Day services with excellent Hazzanut, choral singing and teaching. Congregational Torah and Haftarah readers participate in the Torah Service.

The Shofar Service and initial blasts begin around 10:25 AM on Sunday only. Hazzan Fishel and the choir will commence when the Torah is returned to the Ark.

The Sanctuary Services will be livestreamed via https://bethtzedec.tv.

Rosh Hashanah

September 16 & 17 at 8:45 AM

Kol Nidrei

September 24 at 6:55 PM

Yom Kippur

September 25 at 9:00 AM



Mezzanine Services

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

Rosh Hashanah

September 16 & 17 at 8:30 AM

Kol Nidrei

September 24 at 6:55 PM

Yom Kippur

September 25 at 9:00 AM



Return Again and Again: Meditation

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

Rosh Hashanah

September 16 & 17 at 9:30 AM

Yom Kippur

September 25 at 12:45 PM



Short & Sweet Outdoor Services

Join Yacov Fruchter, Director of Community Building and Spiritual Engagement, and Spiritual Leader Aviva Chernick for this spirited and welcoming 90-minute Service highlighting essential elements of the liturgy (Mahzor), and combining familiar melodies and meaningful takeaways in an approachable way. These Services will be livestreamed via https://bethtzedec.tv.

Rosh Hashanah

September 16 & 17 at 10:30 AM

Kol Nidrei

September 24 at 6:55 PM

Yom Kippur

September 25 at 10:30 AM



Family Services

This 90-minute service is intimate, lively and lots of fun. Join Daniel Silverman, Director of Education & Program Development, Cantor **Audrey Klein**, Director of Family & Young Adult Engagement for stories and songs to delight the whole family.

Rosh Hashanah

September 16 & 17 at 10:30 AM

Kol Nidrei

September 24 at 6:55 PM

Yom Kippur

September 25 at 10:30 AM



Festival Minḥah-Ma'ariv

Everyone is invited to join us at the end of each day for evening services in the Hendeles Chapel or on our livestream via https://bethtzedec.tv.

Erev Rosh Hashanah

September 15 at 6:00 PM

Rosh Hashanah

September 16 at 6:55 PM and September 17 at 7:10 PM

Kol Nidrei: Early Minhah September 24 at 2:00 PM



A Shemini Atzeret Musical Participatory Service with the HarmonEzers

Join us for a musical service led by Cantor Sidney Ezer, Asher Farber, and **The HarmonEzers**, our 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.

This Service is presented as part of the Shemini Atzeret Sanctuary Service and will also be livestreamed via https://bethtzedec.tv.

Shemini Atzeret

October 7 at 9:30 AM



Yom Kippur Minhah Service

Join us in the Hendeles Chapel for our Minhah Service with a Torah reading and a reading of the Book of Jonah. It will also be livestreamed via https://bethtzedec.tv.

Yom Kippur

September 25 at 4:45 PM



Neilah, Ma'ariv and Shofar Blowing

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

Neilah will be followed by Ma'ariv, the final shofar blowing and Havdalah.

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

This service will also be livestreamed via https://bethtzedec.tv.

Yom Kippur Evening

September 25 at 6:25 PM (Minhah Services begin at 4:45 PM)

Our High Holy Days Programs



Va'ani Tefilati: Community Selihot Service

Saturday evening, September 9 beginning at 10:30 PM

Join us for an inspiring musical Selihot service focusing on the theme of Va'ani Tefilati. Featuring Cantor Sidney Ezer, Cantor David Edwards, and Cantor Jeremy Burko, accompanied on piano by Asher Farber, with insightful readings and kavanot by Rabbi Steven Wernick and Rabbi Louis Sachs. A dessert reception follows. Then at midnight, the Gates open!

No charge. For those attending in person, register via https://bit.ly/communityselihot-2023. This program will also be

PRESENTED BY BETH TZEDEC, BETH TORAH AND BETH RADOM CONGREGATIONS



Downtown Shofar Blowing with Yacov Fruchter

Sunday, September 17 4:30 PM

Join Yacov Fruchter for shofar blowing in the labyrinth at 700 Markham Street, the corner of London and Markham. All are welcome.



Camp HiHo: High Holy Days Children's Care Experience

Welcome to Camp HiHo; our new high holiday children's care experience at Beth Tzedec! While parents are in services, campers (children) will be participating in developmentally appropriate explorations around the themes and messages of the holidays.

Games, singing, acting, escape room challenges, physical play, guided mindfulness exercises, snacks and more await at Camp Hi Ho!

CAMP UNITS:

Shofar Babies: Birth to age two with professional childcare staff

Tekiah Tots: Ages 3 and 4— Nursery and JK

Shevet Shevarim: Ages 5 and 6— SK and Grade One

Troop Teruah: Ages 7 to 10— Grades 2 to 5

The Tekiah Gedolah Gang: Ages 11 to 14-Grades 6 to 8

Pre-registration is requested for all participants in Camp HiHo. To register, please visit https://bit.ly/3QOZp5i.

Rosh Hashanah

September 16 & 17 from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Kol Nidrei

September 24 from 6:30 to 9:00 PM (Babysitting, childcare and programs for children up to Grade 3 only)

Yom Kippur

September 25 from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM



Songs and Stories for Young Children and Families

Rosh Hashanah September 16 & 17 from 10:30 AM to 12:15 PM

Yom Kippur September 25 from 11:00 to 11:30 AM

Rosh Hashanah Day 1

Join Cantor Audrey and her friend Billy-the-Kiddish Cup as they learn all about the Jewish New Year and the High Holy Days.

Rosh Hashanah Day 2

A Rollicking Rosh Hashanah Seder! What? You've never heard of a SEDER for Rosh Hashanah? Join us as we turn this ancient Jewish holiday ritual into a funny, punny, food-based fun time for all! There will be no tree nuts served but do tell us in advance if your child has any other food sensitivities.

Yom Kippur

Have you ever seen a Ziz? What's a Ziz? Why, it's only the biggest, klutziest bird ever mentioned in the Torah! Join the Ziz on his journey to find "The Hardest Word".



Our program and event opportunities continue to expand each week. Be sure to check our website regularly for updated information.



Outdoor Family Experience: Shofar Blowing and Tashlikh with Daniel Silverman

Sunday, September 17 from 3:30 to 4:30 PM

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

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



Outdoor Shofar Blowing and Tashlikh with Rabbi Steve Wernick

Sunday, September 17 from 4:30 to 5:30 PM

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

Pre-registration is required via email to nleybman@beth-tzedec.org.



A Pre-Rosh Hashanah Celebration: Kabbalat Shabbat Service and **Community Dinner**

Friday, September 8 6:00 PM

Join us at Beth Tzedec as we gather to celebrate the coming High Holy Days with an inspiring and meaningful Kabbalat Shabbat Service followed by a delicious catered dinner with special guests, Cantor Moshe Fishel, Meir Briskman and the Lishmoa El Harina ensemble. Let's enjoy this time together as a community and reconnect with our Beth Tzedec friends and family.

Cost: \$48 for adults; \$28 for children. Reservations are required by Monday, September 1 at 12:00 NOON. To reserve, visit https://bit.ly/rosh-hashanah-communitydinner or call 416-781-3511.



20s and 30s Apple Picking at Applewood Farm Winery

Sunday, September 10 1:00 PM

Let's celebrate the coming Rosh Hashanah at Applewood Farm Winery (12416 McCowan Rd., Whitchurch-Stouffville) for a light lunch and apple picking. We will meet at the Winery.

If you need a lift or can provide one, please indicate when registering.

Cost: \$10 (includes admission and lunch). Pick-your-own apples can be purchased at the orchard. Pre-registration is required by September 5 via https://bit.ly/applepicking-20s-and-30s.



Selihot via a Boat on a Moat for Families with kids 12 and under

Sunday, September 10 10:00 AM

Selihot is a service traditionally held on the Saturday night before Rosh Hashanah, ushering in the most intense phase of pre-High Holy Days reflection. We're adapting the tradition to a more family-friendly format with our pre-High Holy Days experience—and we're holding it on Toronto Island! We've got our own picnic shelter for our pre-High Holy Days activities, including a Short & Sweet-style service. Lunch will be kosher submarine sandwiches. The rest of the day is up to you—using our shelter as your base, feel explore all of the great offerings at the park.

Cost: \$22 adults; \$12 kids; Maximum \$68 per family. Register at

https://bit.ly/boat-on-moat-2023.



A High Holy Day Hike to Cedarvale

Sunday, September 17 from 10:30 AM to 12:00 NOON

Join rabbinic intern Lara Rodin on the second day of Rosh Hashanah for a morning hike. We'll gather in the Beth Tzedec parking lot and walk as a group to Cedarvale Ravine.

Pre-registration is requested via email to info@beth-tzedec.org.



Cinema Spectacular: Sounds of the Golden Age of Cinema with Meir Briskman and Lishmoa El Harina

Wednesday, September 20 7:30 PM

Join us for this night of classic songs from the likes of Bernstein and the Gershwins. Enjoy familiar songs that came out of this incredible period from the '20s to the '60s, featuring special guests including Cantor Moshe Fishel, Cantor Sidney Ezer and accompanist Asher Farber.

This concert will be presented for both in-person and online audiences.

No charge but pre-registration is required via https://bit.ly/cinema-spectacular-concert.



Scotch & Steak in the Sukkah

Tuesday, October 3 at 7:30 PM

We're breaking out the Scotch, grilling up the steak and celebrating Sukkot in the Sukkah! Join us at Beth Tzedec for this evening with good friends, great drinks and delicious food.

Spaces are limited. Watch for registration information coming soon.

High Holy Days Hot Topics!

Our "Hot Topics!" are always a highlight of the High Holy Day experience. Join us in person as we open conversations of personal, social and cultural importance.



Prayers from the Pits

Rosh Hashanah Day 1 Saturday, September 16 from 11:00 to 11:45 AM

Join Sam Rosenthal, Artistic Director, Co-Writer and Producer of The Christie Pits Riot, and **Lara Rodin**, the Resnick Rabbinic Intern, as they discuss what we can still learn from the Christie Pits riot 90 years later—how to combat antisemitism and how our desire for protection, peace and hope are reflected in our prayers.



Yehi Razon: If It Be Your Will

Rosh Hashanah Day 2 Sunday, September 17 from 11:00 to 11:45 AM

Join a multigenerational discussion on what we pray for, how we pray and how our prayer has shifted throughout our lives.



Praying with Our Feet

Yom Kippur—Session 1 Monday, September 25 from 12:45 to 1:30 PM

Join **Don Smith**. Chair of the Board. and **Yacov Fruchter**, Director, of Community Building and Spiritual Engagement, for a discussion on how prayer and social justice work come together to repair our world.



The Yom Kippur War at 50: Reflections on Its Ongoing **Impact**

Yom Kippur—Session 2 Monday, September 25 from 3:15 to 4:30 PM

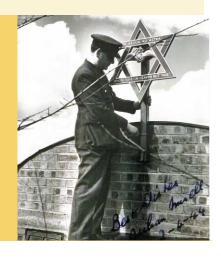
The Yom Kippur War was a significant conflict in 1973 between Israel and a coalition of Arab states led by Egypt and Syria. It had a profound impact on Israelis' sense of vulnerability, unity and national resiliency, geopolitics and more, both in the short term and in the long term.

Needless to say, it also profoundly changed the way in which Jews in Israel and the Diaspora approach Yom Kippur itself, especially musically. In this session we will reflect on the impact of the Yom Kippur War, then and now.

PANELISTS: Rabbi Steven Wernick, David Barr (a Beth Tzedec member and Yom Kippur Air Force veteran), Maestro Meir Briskman and members of Lishmoa El Harina.

Hidden Treasures of Jewish Canadian Military Veterans. From September 15 to Remembrance Day, November 11

Hidden Treasures shows the significant role played by Canada's Jewish Military Veterans during WW1 and WWII. This exhibit presents a collection of captivating displays featuring historical photographs and previously unseen military and Judaic artifacts. Importantly, it highlights the contributions of Jewish Military Chaplains (Rabbis) and sheds light on the experiences of prisoners of war. It provides a unique chance to delve into the diverse and lesser-known accounts of Jewish Canadian Military Veterans, allowing us to pay tribute to their bravery. This has been made possible through the generous participation of veteran families who have graciously loaned their collections for this showcase.



Sukkot and Simhat Torah

We are happy to be able to extend our Holy Days celebrations with programs and events highlighting Sukkot and Simhat Torah.



The Making of a Super Sukkah!

Thursday, September 28 7:00 to 8:30 PM

Let's make decorations for the Beth Tzedec Sukkah before the holiday of Sukkot begins!

No charge. Pre-registration is requested via https://bit.ly/super-sukkah-2023.



Short & Sweet Family Service and Sukkah Hop

Saturday, September 30 at 10:30 AM

It's a double blessing to celebrate together: Our first Short and Sweet Family Service AND Sukkot! After services, instead of a luncheon at the synagogue*, we'll be visiting neighborhood sukkot and having our meal in stages there-along with some other surprises along the way!



Sukkot Song Circle with Aviva Chernick

Sunday, October 1 6:00 PM

Have you ever sung in the Sukkah? If you have, you know how wonderful it can be and, if you haven't, just wait til you hear all of our voices together.

Join Aviva Chernick for this post-haq gathering in song. We will begin with Havdalah to end the festival and continue with wordless melodies and songs for the season, accompanied by tea and nosh to keep us warm.

You do not need Hebrew or how to sing in order to participate; all lyrics will be translated and transliterated. This program is for participants from B'nei mitzvah age and up.

No charge. Pre-registration is requested via https://bit.ly/sukkot-song-circle-2023.



BTUSY Lounge: Teens Volunteering in the Sukkah for Grades 9 to 12

Wednesday, October 4 7:30 PM

Join BTUSY teens for a pizza dinner and volunteering in the Beth Tzedec Sukkah! Come shake the lulav and etrog and celebrate the holiday with a special hesed project together!

No charge. Pre-registration is required via https://bit.ly/44RXsto.



LGBTQ+ Mindfulness Gathering: Sukkot Edition with Aviva Chernick

Thursday, October 5 7:30 PM

Join Aviva Chernick for an LGBTQ+ community mindfulness gathering, in silence, in reflection, in song and ... in the Sukkah, with soup and tea to keep us warm. No previous meditation experience required. Any text shared will be translated and transliterated. Please dress warmly.

We are grateful to all allies but ask that this event be for the LGBTQ+ community only.

Watch for registration information



20s and 30s Shabbat Dinner: **Confronting Homelessness**

Friday, October 6 6:00 PM

Join Beth Tzedec 20s and 30s for a musical Shabbat at the Floor service followed by a Shevat Minim/Seven Species catered Shabbat dinner.

As the sukkah reminds us of our vulnerability and creates the space for expressing gratitude for comforts, we will meet in the Sukkah to build community, celebrate Shemini Atzeret, explore the housing crisis and learn about actions we can take.

Cost: \$21 for Beth Tzedec members; \$25 for the community. Pre-registration is required by Monday, October 2 at 11:00 AM via https://bit.ly/44RXsto.



Teddy Bears Simhat Torah for Families

Saturday evening, October 7 6:00 to 7:30 PM

At Beth Tzedec, we believe strongly that you shouldn't miss the fun because of bedtime, and we don't discriminate against the stuffed!

Join us for dinner and let's celebrate with Torah lovers ages five and under, with their favourite stuffed buddies ... and the grown-ups who love them, too.

Watch for registration information coming soon.



Simhat Torah Hakafot and Dancing Saturday night, October 7

Come Hug A Torah!

Let's celebrate Simhat Torah with Hakafot and dancing at Beth Tzedec.

- Candy Bar
- Drinks Bar
- Dessert spread
- For all ages
- Dress code: Torah dancing casual

Everyone is welcome. Pre-registration is not required!





Torah Luncheon honouring Jeffrey Gertner and Gella Rothstein

Sunday, October 8

Join us as we gather for Simhat Torah Services honouring our Hattan Torah **Jeffrey Gertner** and our Kallat Bereisheet Gella Rothstein.

Following an uplifting Service, we'll gather in our beautiful Orenstein Mezzanine Hall for a delicious catered luncheon where we can reconnect with friends, neighbours and fellow congregants while celebrating with the Gertner and Rothstein families.

Cost for lunch: \$48 for adults; \$28 children (ages 13 and under). Pre-registration is required by Monday, October 2. To reserve, visit https://bit.ly/simhat-torah-lunch-2023.



Simhat Torah: You Get an Aliyah!

Sunday, October 8 10:00 AM during the Sanctuary Service

And you get an aliyah! And you get an aliyah, too! That's right, everyoneand we do mean everyone—gets the chance to be honoured with an aliyah. Even the kids!

(Psst, we've got a special secret project for them-and a special place of honour at the end you won't want to miss!) Plus all the Simhat Torah special parts that make this the most unique service of the year!

For information or to register, email Penina at phoffnung@beth-tzedec.org.



The Beth Tzedec Sukkah has been donated in memory of Sam & Minnie Sitzer.

Many of the decorations were provided by the Greenspan Family.

Celebrating Our Simhat Torah Honourees

On Sunday, October 8, join us at Beth Tzedec as we celebrate our Simhat Torah honourees Jeffrey Gertner and Gella Rothstein who have demonstrated an outstanding dedication to our Congregation and the community.

Jeffrey Gertner



Jeffrey Gertner has been a member of Beth Tzedec since 1956 and attended the Beth Tzedec Congregational School.

Jeffrey attended Bentley University in Waltham Mass., where he met his wife Jane. They married in 1975 and raised two wonderful daughters Erin and Amanda.

Upon graduation, Jeffrey worked in the mortgage business for many years before joining his father in the family apparel business. In 2000 Je rey moved on to the liquidation business until retiring in 2014.

A longtime Beth Tzedec member, it was while mourning the passing of his father in 2005 that his bond with the synagogue grew. The warmth of fellow members and clergy led Jeffrey to attended services regularly and search for ways to contribute to the shul he had called home for so long.

Jeffrey joined the Finance Committee in 2009, where he spent the next 13 years working with a dedicated group of experienced

Congregation members, helping to provide guidance and expertise to the leadership to help set priorities for the shul.

In 2018, he realized he preferred attending shul on Saturday mornings rather than a regular round of golf, sealing that commitment by joining the Ushering Committee. Jeffrey worked with the shul leadership and Spiritual Leadership to create the Family Shabbat Dinners program, engaging directly with the shul's young families.

Jeffrey became chair of the Ushering Committee in 2022 and also joined the Ritual Committee. Every Shabbat, he welcomes congregants and guests to our Beth Tzedec community alongside members of the Ushering and the Ritual Committees as well as senior staff and leadership, with the hope that the warm welcome he received in the past from other led him to become more involved in our shul lights a similar flame in others.

Gella Rothstein



Gella's roots at Beth Tzedec go back to 1953 when she was part of the first group of Bar/Bat Mitzvah students (and the only female at that time) to study with

Cantor Akiva Bernstein in the newly opened school building.

As the Sanctuary was not completed and dedicated until December 1955, her Bat Mitzvah took place at Goel Tzedec, one of the two founding synagogues.

An early graduate of the Beth Tzedec Religious School, Gella's personal life continued to be intimately involved with the shul. Her marriage to Paul in 1960 took place at Beth Tzedec. All four of their children attended USDS (now Robbins Hebrew Academy) and they, as well, were all married at the synagogue. Her father, J. Barney Goldhar, was a member of the founding Board and the Chair at one time. Paul was President in 1980 to 1982 and, more recently, their eldest daughter Debbie was also President.

In the mid-1970s with all four children in school, it was opportune to volunteer in the adjacent Beth Tzedec Museum where Gella assisted in the organization and cataloguing of the recently acquired Cecil Roth Collection. Along with Elaine Glassman, she was responsible for the displays in the wall cases and special exhibits.

By the 1980s, Gella's volunteering expanded into the broader Jewish community. In 1983, she was the Women's Campaign Chair for the United Jewish Appeal of Toronto and in 1987 to 1989, the National Chair of the United Israel Appeal, Women's Division. In 1984 she co-chaired the Toronto Host Committee for the North American General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations which brought together 3,000 delegates and 1,200 volunteers. She was an officer of the Jewish Federation of Toronto as well as chair of the Endowment Fund Women's Financial Seminars. Gella also co-chaired the development and launch of the popular "Book of Life" program for Federation.

By the 1990s, professional life called and Gella became the Director of the Baycrest Centre Women's Auxiliary and a member of the Foundation's management team from 1991 to 1995. A chance shopping excursion with Debbie led to Gella's purchase in 1996 of Dover Imports, a wholesale company servicing the interior design trade with imported furniture and accessories from the Far East. Gella's interest in China was rooted in her three years of Chinese Studies classes for her Bachelor of Arts degree from U of T. The business trips proved memorable and enlightening beyond the commerce in which she expected to be engaged.

In 2008, the business closed and retirement began. A return to

volunteering was natural for someone who enjoys being engaged and contributing. In 2012, Gella resumed working in the Beth Tzedec Reuben and Helene Dennis Museum and has been the Chair and Co-chair since 2016, responsible for all the displays and exhibits in the Museum and around the shul. She was instrumental in researching and coordinating two well received exhibits—"From Latkes to Laffas", celebrating the history of Toronto's Jewish restaurants, and a "Zap!Pow!Oy Jews and the Comic Book Industry". In 2015, she was a member of the Congregation's 60th Anniversary Committee, responsible for exhibits, and she assisted in the production of the commemorative book The

History of Beth Tzedec Congregation, sourcing all the images.

With the pending renovations to the Museum space, Gella continues to sit on the Building Committee. She and Ilona Feldman have been responsible for overseeing the design and production of the shul's new huppah and the new moveable Aron Kodesh, the refurbishment of the Bridal Room as well as the current rejuvenation of the Chapel.

In September, Gella and Paul will be married 63 good years. They are blessed with a close and loving family of four awesome children with spouses as equally cherished and nine terrific grandchildren.

Beth Tzedec's Annual Simhat Torah Luncheon





Join us in the stunning Mezzanine Banquet Hall as we honour our Hattan Torah Jeffrey Gertner and our Kallat Bereisheet Gella Rothstein.

Sunday, October 8 **following Services**

Adults: \$45; Youth (ages 13 and under): \$28; Children under 4: Free

Reserve online at https://bit.ly/simhat-torah-lunch-2023 or call 416-781-3511 by Monday, October 2. Limited space. Reserve Now!