

Enjoy Winter at Beth Tzedec



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SHABBAT SHIRAH WEEKEND

with special guest
Galeet Dardashti



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7 AND SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Beth Tzedec is pleased to welcome artist-in-residence Dr. Galeet Dardashti, vocalist, composer, anthropologist and culture creator, as we celebrate Shabbat Shirah.

With her Iranian-Jewish heritage, Galeet Dardashti has earned a reputation as a trail-blazing performer, educator, and advocate for Middle Eastern and North African Jewish culture. This weekend, we will learn from Galeet, sing together and marvel in the presentation of award-winning concert event, *Monajat*, on Saturday night.

Pre-registration is required for the dinners and for the concert. For registration information, visit <https://bit.ly/shabbat-shirah-with-galeet-dardashti>.

Presented as part of Beth Tzedec Congregation's 70th Anniversary Celebrations

GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY

*The Faye and Joseph Firestone Annual Concert Endowment
The Victor and Renee Topper Annual Cantorial Shabbat Endowment
Beth Tzedec's Arts & Culture Fund
The Cantor Sidney Ezer Discretionary Fund
The Rabbi Steven Wernick Discretionary Fund*

FRIDAY AT 6:00 PM

Shabbat at the Floor led by the Shabbat at the Floor team together with special guest, Galeet Dardashti.

FRIDAY AT 7:15 PM

Two Shabbat dinners with Galeet Dardashti—a Community Shabbat dinner and a 20s and 30s Shabbat dinner. Galeet will speak at each dinner. Dinner by pre-registration only. Deadline: **February 3.**

SATURDAY MORNING AT 9:00 AM

Shabbat morning services with Galeet Dardashti joining Cantor Sidney Ezer, spiritual leader Aviva Chernick and Cantorial Fellow Shira Bodnar. Galeet will speak from the bimah and will join us for an informal conversation after the community kiddush.

SATURDAY NIGHT CONCERT

In *Monajat*, Galeet's award-winning concert event, she sings with remixed samples of her grandfather's legacy recordings together with a soundscape of original music performed by an acclaimed ensemble of Middle Eastern and jazz musicians—accompanied by dynamic video art. Reserve your seats today.



Rabbi Steven Wernick

Building a More Inclusive Community

Reflecting our shared values, the Board has established a new policy that the entire Torah reading will now take place from this stand to honour the dignity of all congregants equally.

This season, as we embarked on a new year together, we have taken an important step to deepen our commitment to inclusivity, access and dignity for all. We are thrilled to announce the installation of a new Torah reading stand with manual hydraulics, placed on the floor in front of the *bimah* in the Sanctuary, allowing people of all abilities to participate fully in the Torah Service. This new stand creates the opportunity for everyone, regardless of physical capacity, to ascend the *bimah*, to have an aliyah and to engage in this sacred experience.

Those who attended our Sanctuary Services for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur may have noticed that we began this new practice of reading the Torah from the floor-level stand. This change is the result of a thoughtful decision by our Board, who spent many months discussing and researching different options for enhancing inclusiveness. After considering various approaches, we concluded that this new stand was the most feasible and effective way to ensure dignity and access for everyone.

Reflecting our shared values, the Board has established a new policy that the entire Torah reading will now take place from this stand to honour the dignity of all congregants equally. This change reinforces our commitment to a community where no one is singled

out or left out, making it possible for every member to participate fully in our services without barriers.

This verse from *Vayikra* (*Leviticus*) served as our inspiration:

לא תקלל חרש,

ולפני עור לא תתן מכשל, ויראת מאלריך, אני ה'

“Do not insult the deaf or place a stumbling block before the blind. You shall fear your God; I am the Lord.”

(*Leviticus* 19:14)

This verse reminds us not only to avoid physical obstacles but also to eliminate any barriers—emotional, spiritual, or otherwise—that could prevent someone from fully engaging in Jewish life. By installing this new, accessible Torah stand, we put these words into action and affirm that inclusivity is a central value for our Congregation.

Designed with an easy-to-operate hydraulic lift, the new Torah stand can be adjusted to a comfortable height, allowing readers and honourees of all ages and abilities to engage with the Torah directly and with ease. This simple yet powerful addition represents our belief that the Torah is not just a physical scroll but a living guide for building a supportive and inclusive community.

We are deeply grateful to Gary and Jan Elman who helped bring this initiative to life and dedicated it to the memory of Gary's father. Through their support and commitment, they have contributed to a meaningful and lasting change for our Beth Tzedec community.

May we continue to embody the spirit of *Vayikra* in our community, creating a space where all members can thrive together.



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**Tzingles
Connections**

Sunday, February 9

**Join The Beth Tzedec Tzingles
for our next event,
A Super Bowl Social!**

Watch for details coming soon.

Tzingles Connections is our group especially for Gen-X and Boomer singles, ages 55 to 74.

Tax Receipts

Tax receipts for those who have contributions to Beth Tzedec during 2024 will be emailed in February 2025.

If we do not have an email address on file, the charitable tax receipt will be mailed to your home address.

Thank you to all who have helped support our community.

If you have any questions, please contact Joven Pinol at jpinol@beth-tzedec.org.

This Year Was Different



Don Smith

I don't know of another religious institution where clergy and staff are so adept at using modern team skills and up-to-date procedures to bring ancient truths like Torah, teach them, expand on them, making them meaningful and give us guiding principles to live by today.

Immediately following the last of the *chagim*, my inclination was to relax as much as possible, watch Netflix, catch up at the office and, of course, travel to Montreal for a week to see my grandchildren. I suspect I'm not alone: it's a busy month with so much energy expended!

This year was different. The days after Simchat Torah had an afterglow. The four weeks preceding it were intense, focused and alert. Then, the *chagim* were overwhelmingly joyous and connecting. That is not entirely different from the previous ten years I have been at Beth Tzedec, but it seemed more focused. As it concluded, I was enormously grateful to be associated with so many decent and moral people coming together. I also wondered if the connection I perceived was the subtle effect of the Jewish people closing ranks in support.

Like many others, I (anonymously) filled out the High Holy Days survey and sent it in. Mine was glowing. Admittedly, I am biased, but I spent time in every service, every room and most of the activities. At the back of the room, I was so happy with what I saw. I don't know of another religious institution where clergy and staff are so adept at using the latest team skills and up-to-date procedures to share ancient

truths of Torah, teach them, expand on them, make them meaningful and give us guiding principles to live by today. Thank you to the Spiritual Leadership Team; thank you to the staff; and most of all, thank you to the dozens of volunteers who made it as close to perfect as it could be.

Of course, there was the major underlying concern with planning and a high level of alertness over the evil rise of antisemitism and the need to keep the community safe. One bright spot in this process was the visit by the Chief of Toronto Police Services, along with directors of the OPP and RCMP Ontario. After they addressed the Congregation and got standing ovations, I walked out with them. As we chatted, it was obvious they understood our concern and wanted to be felt to be partners in our safety. It may not have been widely understood, but the Chief mentioned that what can be perceived as being slow to action belies thoroughness in completing their work to bring individuals to justice.

After the packed month of Tishrei/October, we are back where we were before. From our Director of Education and Program Development, Daniel Silverman's list of activities includes 15 one-time



events and 13 weekly/biweekly programs in December, excluding daily and Shabbat services. This building always has people in it no matter when you are here, and sometimes more of us during the week than on Shabbat. It's happy and it's comforting.

To quote Bob Thiele and George David Weiss who wrote the famous Louis Armstrong song "What A Wonderful World", "I see friends shaking hands saying how do you do? They're really saying I love you. I see babies cry and I watch them grow".

I have heard again and again from young adults or their parents I am in contact with that we are integral as an important home for shows, activities and events. One friend (at the BAYT) told me they saw and loved the Alex Edelman evening and that they loved our building and the majesty of our Sanctuary. I'm sure many others agree.

However, as wonderful as all this is, it is painted against a background canvas of war and antisemitism. There are 170,000 soldiers active in the IDF. The Jewish people are at a

crossroads—again. After the *chagim*, which gave us a sense of normalcy, we went back to waiting for the end of the war and the return of the hostages. There remains that constant uncertainty, that checking of the news and emails that I still do obsessively. The fact that our Beth Tzedec is at one of the high points of energy and community is helping me, and I hope all our Congregation, to support and be supported together.

—Don



BETH TZEDEC ISRAEL EXPERIENCE

with Rabbi Steven Wernick and Corinne Promislow

LAND DATES:

February 26 to March 5, 2025

Itinerary as of October 28, 2024 (Subject to change)

Many community members have reached out to our Spiritual Leadership, searching for opportunities to volunteer and support Israel. We are pleased to announce the *Beth Tzedec Israel Experience* trip in February and March 2025. For those seeking a more active, hands-on way to support Israel, join Rabbi Steven Wernick and Corinne Promislow for this impactful and memorable journey.

To register, please visit
<https://bit.ly/bt-mission-to-israel-2024>.





Phil David

While ritual services, spirituality and lifecycle events are at the core of what we offer, there is so much more.

Innovating for Our Growing Community

Michael Goodbaum, Marketing Manager, sat down with Executive Director Phil David for a Q&A.

You've been with Beth Tzedec since July 2022. What has been your impression thus far?

What impresses me most is that Beth Tzedec is like a city within a city that never sleeps. We truly do have something for everyone—and that is no small feat for a non-profit. There is always something happening here. While ritual services, spirituality and lifecycle events are at the core of what we offer, there is so much more.

The Admin staff is highly professional; the Maintenance group keeps this beautiful, old building working like clockwork and the Spiritual Leadership Team is second to none. I couldn't have been luckier than to walk into a more positive culture of *Menschlichkeit*.

And finally, innovation and adaptation to change is at the heart of any business's sustainability. The launch of the remarkably successful Generations Membership program as well as the Tzingles Connections (55 to 75) and To 120 (75+) clubs demonstrates our shul's commitment to engage members of all ages in ways that are relevant to them.

The Administrative Staff Team plays an important role in the planning for the non-ritual side of the High Holy Days. Can you describe some of the work that happens behind the scenes to get Beth Tzedec ready for the Holy Days?

The Spiritual Leadership Team, led by Rabbi Steve Wernick, is the face of Beth Tzedec. Our job happens behind the scenes to help the SLT thrive.

For example, before I entered the world of synagogue administration in 2018, I would show up for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services, walk by the paid duty police, show

my ticket, find a seat and *daven*. It felt seamless. Now that I'm in the midst of the non-ritual side of High Holy Day (HHD) planning, I'm always amazed at the breadth and complexity of the logistics involved to welcome up to 5,000 people in our building at one time.

In our master planning playbook, our Administrative and Maintenance teams own more than 20 separate categories of tasks specific to HHD planning.

This includes building the choir and arranging flights which was especially challenging this year when outbound Israeli flights were cancelled while seven of our choir members were en route to the airport. We handle training for member service volunteers such as the outdoor greeters, the Welcome Table staff and ushers. The fundraising appeal is an enormous undertaking led by Jonny Ain. Terri Humphries, our 25-year marketing guru, oversees production of the tickets, Yizkor book and High Holy Day reader. We are proud of our state-of-the-art broadcast studio which delivers reliable livestream feeds to thousand of viewers each day; and of course, we invest heavily in shul Security, which took on a new life of its own this year in the first High Holy Days since October 7.

There's so much more but I hope this gives our members and readers a taste of how we prepare for our biggest days of the year. In fact, our staff often defer end-of-summer vacation time leading up to Day 1 to ensure our members' needs are taken care of.

Talk to us about synagogue security. Is this a priority for the synagogue and what are you doing about it?

I have to step back and reflect on our mission first to answer that question.

Our mission is to inspire and enable our community to live meaningful Jewish lives. At the crux of our mission is membership engagement—through prayer, through programs, education and lifecycle events to name a few. But that can't happen unless our members and guests feel safe when visiting 1700 Bathurst.

Since the Pittsburgh Tree of Life tragedy in 2018, enhancing our security infrastructure, planning and personnel has become a bigger priority, arguably moreso than anytime in our 70-year history. Our Executive Committee and Board are in full support and that is why our members will continue to see material changes when they visit.

We have worked extremely closely with Toronto Police Services and UJA's new Jewish Security Network to identify what we're doing well and what we must continue to address. Both conducted independent audits and were consistent in their findings which is now pushing us towards the next level of changes

We apply for provincial and federal grants whenever they become available to help offset the huge security expenses we're now incurring—well **over \$375,000 a year!** In fact, we launched our **second annual security fund campaign** this month. We hope to raise \$25,000. Please visit <https://bt.crowdfunder.ca/91190> to participate.

We can't divulge the most confidential details but we can say that we've taken extensive and expensive steps towards the protection of members and guests who visit our building. This includes 24/7 on-site security presence and third-party monitoring; employing just ONE entrance/exit at the back of the shul; setting up more than 70 cameras within the building and on the outside perimeter so there are no blind spots; installing bullet-



Chief Myron Demkiw is joined by members of Ontario law enforcement at Beth Tzedec during the chagim.

resistant film on all glass; alarming all points of entry; installing a building-wide PA communications system; establishing remote lockdown capabilities with the push of a button in certain gathering spaces; removing shrubbery adjacent to the building which could act as hiding spots for incendiary devices.

We have other plans we can't share but rest assured, when we bring a recommendation to the Board, we do so with an understanding that there is a fine balance between showcasing the beauty of our shul versus the feeling that we've created an unwelcoming fortress. Yes, it's a fine balance and at the forefront of our planning, but we will always err on the side of our members' safety in today's environment.

What is the synagogue's relationship with Toronto Police Services?

Even before October 7, I would have said that I could not begin to express how impressed I was with

Toronto Police Services and their commitment to keep our synagogue (and RHA students) safe. That said, on Monday, October 9, 2023, TPS sprang into action, met with the neighborhood synagogues and day schools and began a year-long consultative collaboration which has been instrumental in helping us feel safe, improve our security protocols and offer a direct line to speak with their senior staff when we need help. TPS 13 Division is at our doorstep daily, Chief Myron Demkiw has visited and spoken to our Congregation on three occasions. We are grateful and strongly encouraged about our current and future relationship with TPS.

From an administrative viewpoint, what are the synagogue's key challenges right now?

When you consider our size and the complexity of the entire operation, we are here first and foremost to ensure our mission comes to life—inspiring and enabling

meaningful Jewish lives. That is what drives our go-forward strategy, planning and daily execution.

Like any business, there are several challenges that have to be addressed at any one time. With an operation this big—it will sound cliché and obvious—it boils down to ensuring our financial sustainability over the long term. We have perpetual expenses to manage like labour and maintaining this building, and we must always balance those expenses against revenue channels such as membership contribution (dues), rentals, lifecycle events and fundraising. The trick is creating

the engagement and relevance so our members feel like they are getting value and, in turn, are willing to invest in their shul.

Beth Tzedec has outstanding lay leadership. Our Board created a new Visioning Committee—led by Vice-President Mitch Max, and past-President Debbie Rothstein—which will be instrumental in helping us plan, strategize and prioritize the next 50 years.

Anything else to add?

In 2025, Beth Tzedec will begin a year-long celebration to mark its 70th anniversary...a chance to reflect on the shul's journey to becoming

the largest Conservative synagogue in North America but also an opportunity to plan for the next 70 years. From one viewpoint, we are a beautiful building with lots of history but one may argue, 1700 Bathurst is just a building...that it's the people who make it Beth Tzedec. As I always preach, encourage and scream from the rooftops, get involved, get as much out of your shul as you can. This is your opportunity to meet like-minded people.

Come to *daven*. Come to learn, to laugh, to pray, to chill. Ritual and spirituality are at the heart of what we do, but we offer so much more.

Because of YOU, we can all **STAY SAFE**

Beth Tzedec Congregation faces a sobering reality: like Jewish communities worldwide, we must protect ourselves from those who wish us harm. Since October 7, 2023, our security budget has grown by \$120,000, now exceeding \$375,000 annually. Protecting our Congregation is a united effort, and now your donation can go even further. Thanks to a generous matching gift from **Irving & Toddy Granovsky and Family**, every dollar you give will be matched up to \$18,000.

Your contribution to the 2024 Beth Tzedec Security Fund will help us cover the costs of vital security measures while allowing us to continue providing a safe and welcoming environment. By standing together, we can meet this moment with strength and resilience.

DONATE at <https://bt.crowdchange.com>





Jonathan Ain

The reality we face is sobering: since October 2023, our security costs have grown by more than \$120,000.

For year-end giving, consider Beth Tzedec's 2024 Security Fund

Over the past 14 months, Beth Tzedec has taken significant steps to protect our community and maintain a safe and welcoming space for all. In the face of rising antisemitism worldwide and the devastating attacks of October 7th, the importance of these measures has never been clearer. The reality we face is sobering: since October 2023, our security costs have grown by more than \$120,000.

Despite these challenges, Beth Tzedec has continued to thrive, thanks to the remarkable strength of our Congregation and the unwavering generosity of our members. Since the start of the pandemic, we have doubled our membership while maintaining a decade-long freeze on dues. Programs like Generations Membership and initiatives for young families are thriving, breathing new life into our community and ensuring a vibrant spiritual home for generations to come.

However, the unanticipated costs of enhanced security measures—now essential—have tested our resources. So far, we've avoided making painful compromises, such as cutting programs, scaling back High Holy Day celebrations, or reducing the personal support we provide to more than 50 congregants each month. This has only been possible because of the generosity of donors like you, who have gone above and beyond to support Beth Tzedec through the Annual High Holy Day Appeal.

We are deeply grateful to have raised an incredible \$600,000 this year. If you've already made your gift, thank you for your essential support. Yet, more than three-quarters of our Congregation has not yet donated.

As the year comes to a close—a time when many make decisions about charitable giving—we urge you to consider making your gift today. Your contribution isn't just about covering costs; it's about standing together as a community.

To amplify your impact, **Irving & Toddy Granovsky and Family** will match all gifts up to \$18,000. Every dollar you give will double in value, helping to ensure Beth Tzedec remains a place of safety, inspiration, and connection for all.

Your support matters now more than ever. Together, we can meet this moment with strength and resilience.

Wishing you and your loved ones a safe and joyful Chanukah season.





Beth Tzedec thanks all of our 2024 Annual High Holy Day Appeal Donors.

Your **SUPPORT** empowers thousands to live meaningful Jewish lives. Your **GENEROSITY** unites us as One People, One Heart. Because of **YOU**, Beth Tzedec thrives. *Todah Rabah.*

Tzaddikim — Righteous Ones (\$54,000+)

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Mary Ellen Herman and family
The Larry & Judy Tanenbaum
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Gedolim — Great Ones (\$18,000 - \$53,999)

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 Caroline Grammer
 Harry & Roslynne Greenberg
 Liane Greenberg
 Nathan Greenberg
 Saul & Bonnie Greenberg
 Lorne Greenspan & Donna Cohen
 William & Eadie Greisman
 Henry Greisman
 Maude Greisman & Geoffrey Gingerich
 Adam Griff & Lesley Sandler-Griff
 David & Lucille Griff
 Ezra & Jenna Grossman
 Jack & Sandra Grossman
 The Grzeda Family
 Irving Gurau
 Mark & Karen Haar
 Reesa Halberstadt
 Corinne Hart
 Gabriel Wolofsky & Tammi Hawa
 Brian Heller & Beverly Kupfert
 Alison Himel
 Irving Himel
 Andrew & Sharon Himel
 James Hirsh & Naomi Eterman
 Ross Hodgins & Monique Bendavid
 Hodgins
 Janet Horansky
 Edna Hussman & Ayal Lesh
 Shaya Izenberg

David & Karen Jackson
 Matthew Jadd
 Rayna Jolley
 Tamar Kagan & Ari Posner
 Lorna Kahn
 Norman & Jackie Kahn
 Mark & Lynne Kalef
 Michael & Phyllis Kaplan
 Ivan Karlin & Sharon Singer
 Sean Karp & Lea Mallett-Karp
 Jessica Katz & Stewart Jackson
 Kylie Katz & Jason Bloom
 Sherry Kaufman
 Jerome & Pearl Kazdan
 Cortney Kideckel & Marshall Rothman
 Julius & Sandra Kirschner
 Marlene Klewans
 Reuben Kochman & Lesley Mann
 Aaron & Melanie Kohn
 Julius Koifman &
 Margaret Maheandiran
 Nira Kolers
 Esther Korn
 Jerry Kreindler & Eve Lerner
 David & Cathrine Krygier-Baum
 Debra Langleben & Derek Beigleman
 Alisse Lee Goldenberg &
 Brian Goldenberg
 Allan & Barbara Leibel
 Stephen & Susan Leifer
 Ellen Levine
 Adrienne Levinter
 Jonah Levitt & Rabbi Lara Rodin
 Wally Levitt & Beth Gamulka
 Jeffrey & Debra Levman
 Samuel Levy & Vera Li
 Jared & Rebecca Lindzon
 Paul & Susan Lindzon
 Russell & Lauren Lindzon
 Brooke Lindzon & Jordan Halberstadt
 Baruch Lipinsky
 Jake & Michelle Lipnik
 Ellis & Vicci Macmull
 Marie Mandel
 Jeffrey Marantz
 Michael & Ariella Marcovitz
 Stephen & Elisha Margles
 Leah Mauer & Joshua Zelikovitz
 Ian McCulloch
 Roslyn Mendelson
 Benny & Sandra Mendlowitz
 Jeffrey & Susan Milne
 Hon. Edwin & Pamela Minden

Eric & Judy Moncik
 Larry & Bonnie Moncik
 Samantha & Richard Morris
 Mayan Murray & Simon Sitwell
 Susan Muskat
 Stephen Nash & Janice Goldberg
 Jeremy Nemers
 Phyllis Nemers
 Hart & Marcia Nemoj
 Eitan Nifco
 Jordan & Barbara Oelbaum
 Michael & Carole Ogus
 Jessiann Opolsky
 Roslyn Oslender
 Eric & Elaine Ostfield
 Lowell Pancer & Dena Pollack
 Gordon & Gail Pape
 Marly Peikes & Jonathan Gottesman
 Aviva & Avshalom Pesachov
 Amy Phillips & Paul Sheldon
 Liane Piltz
 Millie Pollock
 Douglas Polonsky & Meera Ezer
 Gerald & Sherna Posner
 Mark Poznansky & Ilona Feldman
 Morris Presser & Wendy Litwin
 Michael & Dawn Promislow
 Evan Propst & Tali Waksman
 William Prusin
 Theodore & Nancy Rabinovitch
 Marjorie Rasky
 Marlene Rattner
 Mitchell Rattner & Samantha Seaton
 Joel & Marian Ray
 Steven Rayson & Elissa Gamus
 Daniel Rende & Atara Tanen
 Daniel Rethazy & Lauren Greisman
 Danny Richmond & Maia Lichtenstein
 Noah Richmond & Erica Chang
 Maxwell & Rebecca Risen
 Stanley & Peggy Risen
 Ian & Janet Roher
 Daryl Roitman & Rosalie Steinberg
 Alexander Rose
 Shaun McGeough & Melissa Rose
 Gordon & Mona Rosenberg
 Joshua & Fern Rosenberg
 Jay & Laura Rosenfield
 Risa Rosenfield
 Lawrence & Suzanne Ross
 Noah Ross & Cassandra Daley
 Lorraine & Morris Rotbard
 Millard Roth

Ronald & Lynda Roth
 Shaun Rotman & Gillian Lavee
 Andrew & Alisha Rotstein
 Joel & Rachel Rubenstein
 Eve Rubenzahl & John Black
 Bernard & Ferne Rubinstein
 Andre & Rhoda Salama
 Jeffrey & Corinne Samuels
 Robert Sandler & Nyla Ahmad
 Alan & Lorraine Sandler
 Robert & Debi Schacter
 Steven Schwartz
 Harold Shapiro
 Eden Shaul & Noah Ciglen
 Elliott & Risa Shiff
 Ira & Rebecca Shiner
 Aaron Shulman & Catarina Leite
 David Sigal & Suzanne Lilker
 Paul & James Sileika
 Aaron Silver & Alexandria Fanjoy Silver
 Sheldon & Vivian Silverberg
 Daniel Silverman & Rachel Hindel
 Neil & Cheryl Silverstein
 Jason Simon & Ashleigh Hodgins
 Jeroham & Brenda Singer
 Shane & Jessica Slater
 Howard & Emily Snow
 Michael Sosnowicz
 John & Fern Spencer
 Lloyd & Deborah Speyer
 Jack & Jill Spitz
 Allan & Elizabeth Spivak
 Paul & Mary Spring
 Cantor Deborah Staiman
 Mary Martha Starkman
 William & Sylvie Steen
 Joseph & Elaine Steiner
 Leesa Steiner & Adam Jacobson
 Melvin & Ruth Steinhart
 Jack Stern & Beth Merrick
 Bernice Stern
 Daniel Stern & Erin Bobkin
 Ian Mark & Lorraine Leah Stillman
 Lynda Stoneman
 Adam & Sherri Storm
 Gordon & Joyce Strauss
 Richard & Gladys Stren
 Robert Sunderland & Jackie Glazer
 Ruth Swartzman
 Lawrence & Teresa Swern
 Jeremy Syrtash & Megan
 Wexler-Syrtash
 Bernard & Maureen Tanz

Anna-Lynne Taradash
 Lyle & Shari Teichman
 Stanley Teichman & Sharon Yale
 William Teichman
 Gail & Stuart Teperman
 Dorothy Tesis
 John & Jane Trachtenberg
 Lianne Trachtenberg & Paul Oykhman
 Steven & Line Troster
 Shira & Ari Unterman
 Murray & Judith Urowitz
 Sara Urowitz
 Lindsay & Nathan Van Horne
 Samuel & Joan Waldman
 Marvin & Joan Waxman
 Lawrence Weiner

Joanna Weinfeld & Jeremy Abitbol
 Morton Weinfeld
 Jack & Judy Weisdorf
 David Solomon Weiss & Nora Gold
 Cari Weiss
 Janet West
 Joshua Wine
 Shirley Worth
 Leo & Sheila Wynberg
 Samahra Zatzman Morgenthau
 & Ari Morgenthau
 Eli Zeldin & Pamela Forster
 Daniel & Arlyn Zimmerman
 Malli Zworth
 Max Zworth

While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, errors or omissions may still have occurred. We apologize and appreciate your understanding. Information is accurate as of November 19, 2024.



THE BETH TZEDEC SENSORY ROOM

Saturdays, January 11 and February 1 at 10:00 am

Friday evenings, January 24 and February 21 at 5:15 pm

Beth Tzedec is pleased to announce **the continuation of our Sensory Room pop-up**, a space for those aged 4+ (up to and including adults) with neuro-diverse or sensory processing considerations. Our Sensory Room offers controlled sensory experiences to create a soothing and engaging (fragrance-free) environment. It will provide a safe space for individuals to engage with various stimuli, helping to manage sensory overload, increase the sense of calmness, and decrease anxiety.

The Sensory Room, located in the School Wing across from Room 213. To reserve a timeslot, visit <https://bit.ly/sensory-rm> or scan this QR code.



All-Day Arborating Celebrating Tremendous Tree Party

Sunday, February 9

10:30 AM to 2:00 PM

Through crafts, stories, games, taste experiences and more, we'll celebrate the birthday of those unsung heroes of God's world... TREES! The day will be split into three sessions, beginning with programs for our youngest members to our older kids.

Families with children in more than one age group are encouraged, if possible, to attend during the hours designated for their older children.

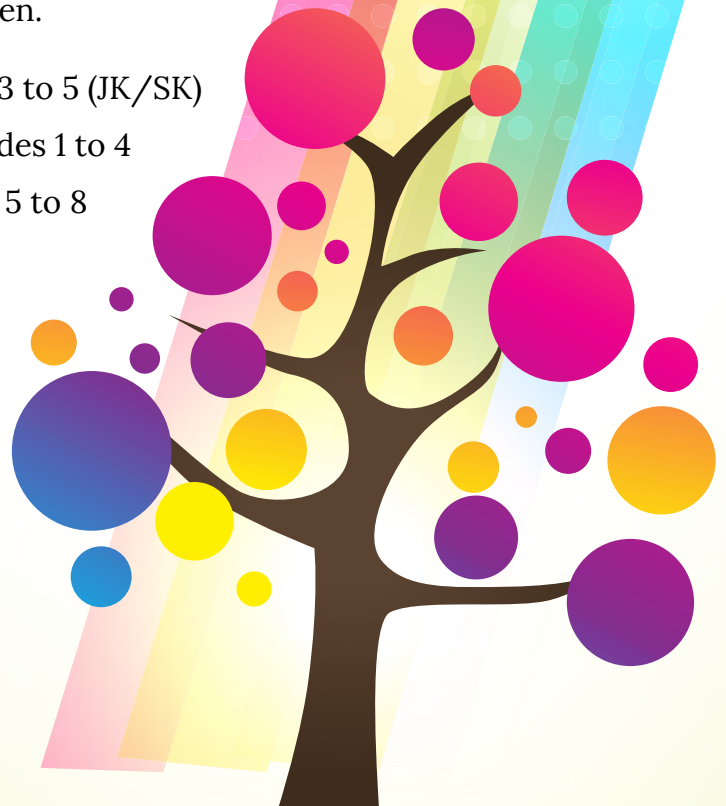
- 10:00 am – Families with children ages 3 to 5 (JK/SK)
- 11:15 am – Families with children in Grades 1 to 4
- 12:30 pm – Families with kids in Grades 5 to 8

For more information, contact
Penina Hoffnung at
phoffnung@beth-tzedec.org.

Cost: \$5 (for materials).

Pre-registration is required via
<https://bit.ly/tremendous-tree-party>

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Milestones and Celebrations

We can't share your good news unless you tell us about it. Send an email to thumphries@beth-tzedec.org or call 416-781-3514, ext. 212. The deadline for the next *Bulletin* covering March 1 through May 31 is February 20.



Births

Avery Penelope, daughter of Jordan & Hailey Yanover, granddaughter of Marilyn Levine, Paul Schnier, Helen Silver and David Yanover, great-granddaughter of Sonia Weinreb, Ruth Silver and Sandra Yanover, **born April 20**.

Isaac Ethan, dson of Rachel & Daniel Aspler, grandson of Netta Zweig & Dan Goldberg and Martha Dove & Carl Aspler, great-grandson of Maya Goldberg and Richard Goldberg, **born June 28**.

Ari Alexander, son of Joshua & Cynthia Teichman, grandson of Lyle & Shari Teichman, **born August 1**.

Clodagh Ann (Leah Carmel), daughter of Jonathan & Mackenzie Rosenbluth, granddaughter of Allan & Ellen Rosenbluth and Mark & Cathy Milne, great-granddaughter of Sara Kachuck, **born August 8**.

Adrian Raine (Avi), son of Dr. Jennifer Teichman & Jason Leopold, grandson of Lyle & Shari Teichman, **born August 15**.

Eden Julian, son of Joseph Weissgold & Daria Lombroso, brother of Asa Samuel, grandson of Rabbi Dr. David Weiss & Dr. Nora Gold and Eytan & Linda Lombroso (of New Rochelle), great-grandson of Lynn Gold (of Montreal), **born August 25**.

Isaac Manley Henry, son of Benjamin & Pauline Walters, grandson of Gary & Debra Walters and George Berkovitz, great-grandson of Barbra Walters and Phyllis Adler, **born August 26**.

Eliana, daughter of Daniel & Brenda Bordiziano, sister of Jordan, granddaughter of Galit, Shlomo, Sony and Chancy, **born September 12**.

Sophie Elizabeth, daughter of Jonathan & Rina Garbe, sister of Lauren, granddaughter of Ruth & Alby Garbe and Shirley & David Shainhouse, great-granddaughter of Irving Matlow, **born September 13**.



Daniel Ray (Hersh), son of Jessica & Alex Gabanna, brother of Jamie, grandson of Mary Whabi and Howard Lustig, **born September 22**.

Myles Cole, son of Risa Reisman & Eric Jacobs, brother of Hayley, grandson of Ron & Gloria Jacobs, Linda Reisman & Zohar Klevan and Howard & Cara Reisman, great-grandson of Danny & Thelma Wiseblott, **born October 11**.

Congratulations

Dr. Mervyn & Frances Deitel, who celebrated their 62nd anniversary on June 18 with their sons, Dr. Kevin Deitel and Dr. Wayne Deitel.

Sydney Beatrice Flatt, daughter of Leslie & Joel Flatt, and **Ansel David Gravelle**, son of Johanna & Dave Gravelle, on their engagement.

Cy Kohn, son of Melanie & Aaron Kohn, who will celebrate his bar mitzvah on February 15.

Jason Kruger, son of Judith & Stephen Kruger, and **Emma Feldman**, daughter of Jeff Silver & Risa Feldman, on their engagement.

Eric Miller, son of Stella & Mitchell Miller, grandson of Sylvia & David Singer^{ztl} and Mildred & Joe Miller^{ztl}, and **Nicole Teplin**, daughter of Carol & David Teplin, granddaughter of Miriam & Howard Joffe and Sam Teplin^{ztl}, on their engagement.

Riva & Jerry Kirsh, who celebrated their 67th anniversary.

Leah Posner, daughter of Ari Posner & Tamar Kagan, who celebrated her bat mitzvah on November 16.

Andrea Schwebel, daughter of Joanne & Earl Schwebel, granddaughter of Rose Schwebel, and **Brandon Levy**, son of Debi & Eddy Levy, grandson of Ruby Levy, on their engagement. Sadly missed at this time grandparents Valerie & Jack Fine, Jack Schwebel, Fella & Jerry Popielnik, Sylvano Levy and Mannie Robbins.

Thomas Schmidt, son of Zavi Lerman-Schmidt & Wayne Schmidt, who will celebrate his bar mitzvah on February 8.

Mary Spring, who celebrated her 80th birthday in September.

Weddings



Brooke Lindzon, daughter of Susan & Paul Lindzon, granddaughter of Phyllis Flatt and Phyllis Lindzon, and **Jordan Halberstadt**, son of Risa Baker & Jeff Halberstadt, grandson of Carole Baker and Allan Baker and Leila Halberstadt, who were married on November 30.

Kyle Brill, son of David & Karen Brill, and **Brooke Hofbauer**, daughter of Howard & Linda Hofbauer, who were married on December 1.

Noah Harrison Flatt, son of Leslie & Joel Flatt, and **Stephanie Beth Erdman**, daughter of Derek & Daryl Erdman, who were married on November 9.

Many Thanks

Rabbi Steve & Jody Wernick, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on September 7 honouring their 32nd anniversary.

Richard Carson and family, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on September 21 honouring **Benjamin Carson & Hailey Forman** on their marriage.

Dr. Thea Weisdorf and family, who sponsored a *Seudah Shlisheet* on October 6 commemorating the *yahrtzeit* of **Isa Elman Ots**.

The Ezer and Arbuck Family, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on October 17 honouring **Cantor Sidney Ezer** on the bar mitzvah anniversary of being Beth Tzedec's cantor.

Gella & Paul Rothstein, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on October 17 commemorating the *yahrtzeit* of **J. Barney Goldhar**.

Joel and Leslie Flatt, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on October 26 honouring **Noah Flatt & Stephanie Erdman** on their marriage.

Rena Levy, Adeena Wisenthal and Ron Huberman, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on October 26 honouring **Joanne Levy & Sean Huberman** on their marriage.

The Goodman Family, who sponsored a *Seudah Shlisheet* on November 9 commemorating the *yahrtzeiten* of **Carl Goodman** and **Mitchell Anker**.

Jordan & Hailey Yanover, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on November 9 honouring the birth of their daughter **Avery Yanover**.

Ari Posner & Tamar Kagan, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on November 16 honouring their daughter **Leah Posner** on her bat mitzvah.

The Brill and Hofbauer Families, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on November 23 honouring **Kyle Brill & Brooke Hofbauer** on their marriage.

The Ezer Family, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on November 23 honouring **Cantor Sidney Ezer** on his 55th birthday.

Lisa Dolovich & Steve Mitchell, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on November 30 honouring their daughter **Hannah Mitchell** on her bat mitzvah.

Fern Small, Barry Wainstein & Anita Small and Norman Rosenblum, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on November 30 honouring the rededication of the Dr. Allen A. Small Lounge.

Daniel & Brenda Bordiziano, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on December 14 honouring the birth of their daughter **Eliana Bordiziano**.

Riva & Jerry Kirsh, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on December 14 honouring their 67th anniversary.

Alan Cohen & Samantha-Leigh Levenson, who will sponsor a Congregational Kiddush on December 21 honouring their son **Cooper Cohen** on his bar mitzvah.

Danielle & Cory Greenspan, who will sponsor a Congregational Kiddush on January 9 honouring their son **Levi Greenspan** on his bar mitzvah.

Zavi Lerman-Schmidt & Wayne Schmidt, who will sponsor a Congregational Kiddush on February 8 honouring their son **Thomas Schmidt** on his bar mitzvah.

Melanie & Aaron Kohn, who will sponsor a Congregational Kiddush on February 15 honouring their son **Cy Kohn** on his bar mitzvah.

Ran Nissan & Keren Shahar-Nissan, who will sponsor a Congregational Kiddush on February 22 honouring their son **Ori Nissan** on his bar mitzvah.

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.

Mazal Tov to our B'nei Mitzvah

WHO HAVE COMPLETED OUR BAR/BAT MITZVAH PROGRAM



December 1
Hannah Liora Mitchell
daughter of Stephen
Mitchell & Lisa Dolovich
חנה ליאורה בת יהודה ועליזה



December 21
Cooper Cohen
son of Alan Cohen &
Samantha-Leigh Levenson
אברהם מלך בן אלחנן הכהן
ובתיה לאה



January 9
Levi Greenspan
son of Cory & Danielle
Greenspan
לוי בן חנניה ואסתר



February 22
Ori Nissan
son of Ran Nissan
& Keren Shahaar-Nissan
אורי ניסן בן רן וקרן

The Kaplan Family Fund for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program



Beth Tzedec Congregation is pleased to be able to offer two financial assistance awards of \$450 each to qualifying students. These awards are made possible thanks to the Kaplan Family in memory of Charles and Pearl Kaplan and Robert and Estherelke Kaplan. Applications will be confidentially reviewed and decisions will be made based on financial need. Questions regarding confidentiality may be discussed with Phil David, Executive Director, prior to submission.

To access the application form, visit <https://bit.ly/kaplan-bbm-assist-award>.

To read Michael Kaplan's message about the his family's connection to Beth Tzedec and the Kaplan Family Fund, visit <https://bit.ly/kaplan-family-fund>



Rabbi Robyn Fryer Bodzin

Here at Beth Tzedec, our Torah cover has us remembering a young man named Stanislav Kostarev.

Remembering Stanislav Kostarev^{z"l}

Dear Friends,

Shemini Azeret, Israel's Simchat Torah 5785, marked the first yahrtzeit of the victims of the October 7 attack. Beth Tzedec knew that we needed to commemorate this difficult day with poignancy and meaning. We were blessed to join hundreds of other communities worldwide to participate in the Simchat Torah Project. All over the world, nearly identical Torah covers were dedicated in memory of precious souls who were murdered, whether on a kibbutz, at the Nova Festival, in the line of duty on October 7 for *Medinat Israel*, those who died in captivity as well as soldiers who lost their lives trying to get our hostages out of Gaza and dismantle Hamas and all of Iran's proxies.

On the front of each of these Torah covers are the words:

עַת סְפוּד וְעַת רִקּוּד

Taken from the biblical book of *Kohelet*, this is loosely translated as there is a time to mourn and a time to dance. On the back of each Torah cover is the specific name of someone who died.

Here at Beth Tzedec, our Torah cover has us remembering a young man named Stanislav Kostarev^{z"l}.

Stanislav did not die on October 7. Like us, he lived with the trauma of that

horrible day on our people, for many months. Unlike us, he was able to go into Gaza to try to get our hostages home and dismantle the terrorists.

On Saturday morning, June 15, Stanislav died when eight Israeli soldiers were killed in a blast in the southern Gaza Strip. At the time, it marked the deadliest incident for the Israel Defense Forces since January. Stanislav died as a soldier, defending the Jewish homeland.

The names of the other slain soldiers killed in that blast were:

- Cpt. Wasseem Mahmoud, 23, from Beit Jann
- Sgt. Eliyahu Moshe Zimbalist, 21, from Beit Shemesh
- Sgt. Itay Amar, 19, from Kochav Yair
- Staff Sgt. Orr Blumovitz, 20, from Pardes Hanna-Karkur
- Staff Sgt. Oz Yeshaya Gruber, 20, from Tal Menashe
- Sgt. Yakir Ya'akov Levi, 21, from Hafetz Haim
- Sgt. Shalom Menachem, 21, from Beit El

The troops all served in the Combat Engineering Corps' 601st Battalion.

According to an initial IDF probe, the troops were killed inside a Namer armored combat engineering vehicle (CEV). There were no survivors. The young IDF soldiers had been driving in a convoy at around 5:00 a.m. following an overnight offensive against Hamas in the northwestern areas of the Tel Sultan neighbourhood. The Namer CEV was the fifth or sixth vehicle in the convoy, and at some point, it was hit by a major explosion. It is not clear if a bomb was planted ahead of time or if Hamas operatives had approached the



vehicle with an explosive device and directly placed it on the CEV. Normally, the mines and other explosives stored on the outside of a CEV would not manage to cause injuries to troops inside if they detonated.

While I have tried to reach out to Stanislav's family, as of this writing, I have not yet made contact. The

Kostarev family is in pain. I was able to find a quote from the principal of the school where Stanislav studied. She remembered him as "quiet and introverted, always respectful of humanity, a wise and humble boy, pleasant and kind-hearted."

There is very little we know about Stanislav except that he was 21 years

old when he died. He was born in Ashdod and buried in Ashdod.

Because of the Simchat Torah Project, Stanislav, the quiet and introverted kid, will never be forgotten. His name will be on a *Sefer Torah* here at Beth Tzedec forever. Simply by using this Torah, we will have a physical reminder of October 7.

If you have an upcoming *simcha* and would specifically like that Torah to be used, please ask one of the Spiritual Leaders, and we will do our best to make it happen for you.

While Stanislav will not know that a community in Toronto will remember him forever, we will know. And that is just one way that we are *am echad im lev echad*; We are one people with one heart.



Stanislav Kostarev^{z"l}



Kostarev family mourns their loss at Stanislav's funeral

GRIEVING TOGETHER BEREAVEMENT GROUP

Led by Rabbi Fryer Bodzin and Yacov Fruchter

For Those Who Have Lost Partners

Wednesdays, January 8, 15, 22 & 29 at 3:00 PM

For Those Who Have Lost Parents

Thursdays, January 30 and February 20 at 7:00 PM

The loss of a loved one is challenging. Judaism has a clear set of mourning rituals that help us relearn to be in the world after our significant loss. We are here to support you at this time, and our belief in the power of coming together as a community. We are here to provide an opportunity for you to meet, support and share—together.

No charge but pre-registration is required. Register via:
<https://bit.ly/grieving-together-winter-2025-partners>
<https://bit.ly/grieving-together-winter-2025-parents>





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Cantor Sidney Ezer

As we will soon begin to mark the 70th anniversary of Beth Tzedec, we connect with the personal memories that shaped our experiences here.

Revitalizing Our Treasures

Many of you know I love the colour green. I have had an unexplained affinity for it since my childhood. I would automatically cheer for all the sports teams with green uniforms and still do. For my bar mitzvah, the *kippot* for the guests were green. The banquet hall at Beth Tzedec was decked out in green linens. I made my own *tallit* with green corners and *Attarah* (the special adornment at the top). For my first year of cantorial school, my friends bought me a green *tallit* that I continue to wear today during the *Shalosh Regalim*—Passover, Shavuot and Sukkot.

As a kid growing up at Beth Tzedec, I always looked forward to these three holidays when the ark would open during the Torah Service and in the centre would stand a Torah with a mantle of lush forest green. It was often flanked by two other Torahs with lighter chartreuse mantles. I liked them too, but I was especially enamoured with the darker, vibrant one in the centre. On Simchat Torah, when people lined up for the *hakafot* processions, I would deliberately hold out just for the chance to carry around the “green” Torah.



Many of our longer-time Beth Tzedec members will recall the late Anne Brown^{z”l}. She attended minyan regularly and was highly active in synagogue life. She knitted individual square cloths for all the girls to use for their *b’not mitzvah* when touching and kissing

the Torah for an *aliyah*. And she was the artist behind the “green” Torah. I distinctly remember that green mantle always on the centre Torah during *Shalosh Regalim* because of the embroidered words:

פסח שבועות סוכות.

It may have been used at other times of the year, but its colour and theme made it most prominent during the three festivals.

One day, I was in the Sanctuary off to the side in the Cantors’ robing room. On a table were Torahs in need of repair covered with *tallitot* in the meantime, and alongside them were various loose-lying mantles. I found the green mantle strewn among them. The years had taken their toll. It was tattered and torn and had been out of circulation for a long time. Suddenly visions of my past youth came back to me, and out of a nostalgic motivation to rekindle old times, I investigated the possibility of having the mantle repaired.

I showed it to Dorion Lieb Gott to get her expert opinion. She determined that it was in too poor a condition to repair, but perhaps some of it could be salvaged. She suggested engaging an artist and colleague of hers, Haya Nativ, who had crafted a few Torah mantles for Beth Tzedec in the past. Haya procured a green fabric, slightly lighter in colour than the original and very comparable in texture. She managed to salvage the embroidery and motifs from the original mantle and incorporate them into a newly crafted pomegranate as a centrepiece.

This project of love was a year in the making, and my family and I dedicated the new mantle this past Sukkot in memory of my late grandparents Sidney and Sonia Arbuck^{z”l}, my late uncle Marvin Arbuck^{z”l} and in honour

of my 13th year at Beth Tzedec. We dedicated it on the first day of the festival.



There is a midrash that asks why it is called the “first day” when it is actually the 15th of the month. After the slate has been wiped clean on Yom Kippur, we begin our relationship with God anew on Sukkot. The verdant restoration of this childhood mantle symbolized a new beginning. But it also marked a connection with the past. In certain years, my late uncle

Marvin would read the *Maftir* and *Haftarah* on the second day of Sukkot. After the service this year, Rayna Jolley showed me the square cloth Anne Brown had knitted for her which she still uses today. It was reaffirming to see how the past lives on.

Rabbi Frydman-Kohl once wrote about the longevity of an etrog. Because of the thickness of the rind, a desiccated etrog does not rot. It simply dries out, becoming small and hard in the process. While dried *etrogim* can no longer fulfill a mitzvah, they can serve other purposes. They can be used with cloves for a spiced etrog for Havdalah. Anne Brown used to prepare and sell etrog jam to raise funds for tzedakah. Sometimes that which is dried up is no longer usable. But an etrog can have an afterlife. This newly restored green mantle now also has an after-life, and it is only fitting that its after-life began on Sukkot.

As we will soon begin to mark the 70th anniversary of Beth Tzedec, we connect with the personal memories that shaped our experiences here. Although we are currently in the bleak mid-winter period and Sukkot is no longer on the radar, at this time of the year we mark Tu B'Shevat, the new year of the trees, and the crossing of the Sea of Reeds on Shabbat Shirah. These occasions also mark a rebirth and rejuvenation.

I fondly remember Anne Brown and her contributions to Beth Tzedec which now can live on. I remember my late grandparents and uncle and their devotion to the shul. I encourage you to rekindle your own memories here at Beth Tzedec and find a way to perpetuate them for future generations.

L'dor vador.

Shabbat 101

JANUARY 18, FEBRUARY 15, MARCH 15 AND MAY 10
10:00 TO 11:15 AM

Shabbat 101 is a once-monthly 75-minute experiential Shabbat morning service for anyone interested in becoming familiar with the structure, choreography and deep meaning of the traditional Shabbat morning service.

This series has been developed for Jewish conversion candidates, past conversion candidates and those lacking literacy and wanting to gain skill in prayer.





Yakov Fruchter

I'm often in awe of what I hear Beth Tzedec members do on a regular basis as a part of their regular spiritual practice (though they might not refer to it as such).

Walking in God's Path

A phrase that I find disturbing is when members describe themselves as a “bad Jew”. This is usually in connection to telling me that they only come to shul on the High Holy Days or because of the food they choose to eat. While I would love to see all of you in shul more often (perhaps as a Chanukah resolution you can commit to coming double the times of a year that you usually come!), the reality is that while I'm not in the practice of deciding who is a bad Jew, I do believe that there are many ways to be a “good Jew”. I'm often in awe of what I hear Beth Tzedec members do on a regular basis as a part of their regular spiritual practice (though they might not refer to it as such).

In the *Gemara (Sota 14a)*, Rabbi Hama bar Hanina, asks: what does it mean when the Torah teaches us “After God you shall walk”? He answers his own question by explaining: “we walk in God's way by emulating God's deeds” and offers four examples of God's kindness in action:

Just as God clothed the naked (*Bereisheet 3:21*),
so we should clothe the naked.

Just as He visited the sick (*Bereisheet 18:1*),
we should visit the sick.

Just as He comforted those in mourning (*Bereisheet 25:11*),
we should comfort those in mourning.

Just as He buried the dead (*Devarim 34:6*),
we should bury the dead.

It is no coincidence that all four of these acts of chesed, loving kindness, are among the activities that Beth Tzedec spiritual leaders and members alike are involved in regularly.

Here are four ways you can join us in “walking the walk” together with God and other members of our community and engage in spiritually meaningful, and needed *mitzvot*.

Join our new **BT Chesed What's App group**. This will be used to share one off and often urgent opportunities to support other members, such as helping to make a shiva minyan, drive a member to a medical appointment, pick up groceries for an isolated elder, or drive someone to shul.

Sign up for a shift at our Out of the Cold program serving meals during the coldest months of the year.

Walk with us at the Coldest Night of the Year, on February 22, and help us raise money for Ve'ahavta as they support the most vulnerable members of our city.

Finally, **book a time** to join me on a Wednesday morning spiritual walk. These walks can be outdoors or inside of Beth Tzedec, and will include mindfulness exercises and an opportunity to talk about what is on your mind.

May the brightness of the Chanukah candles inspire us to see the light in ourselves so that we can share that light with others.



Lishma Jewish Learning Project for 20s and 30s

Lishma: Jewish Learning Project brings together a community of learners in their 20s & 30s who are excited to share their desire for greater Jewish engagement, are willing to ask questions of our tradition and want to explore how it informs our lives today.

The winter semester begins January 29 at the Miles Nadal JCC. For more information, contact Yakov Fruchter at yfruchter@beth-tzedec.org.



Spiritual Walks with Yacov Fruchter

Wednesday mornings from Beth Tzedec

Join Yacov Fruchter on Wednesday mornings for mindfulness exercises and an opportunity to talk about what is on your mind. The Wednesday walks can be outside or inside Beth Tzedec. Book a date/time via the Calendly link [HERE](#).

For more information, email Yacov at yfruchter@beth-tzedec.org



20s & 30s Shabbat Dinners

Fridays, January 10 and February 7
Shabbat at the Floor 6:00 PM | Dinner 7:15 PM

Join us at Beth Tzedec for our monthly Shabbat at the Floor Service followed by a Shabbat dinner catered by Apex Kosher Catering. The February dinner is part of our Shabbat Shirah Weekend celebrations with special guest Galeet Dardashti.

Cost for dinner. Pre-registration required. For information and registration links, visit <https://bit.ly/20s-and-30s-dinners>.



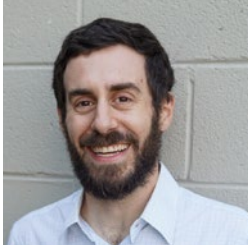
coldest night of the year

Saturday, February 22 7:15 to 9:00 PM
(beginning at Beth Tzedec; ending at Holy Blossom)

After Shabbat, Beth Tzedec partners with Ve'ahavta and Holy Blossom in hosting our annual Coldest Night of the Year walk.

The Coldest Night of the Year is a winterrific family-friendly fundraising walk in support of local charities. Let's change the tune for people experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness... because it's cold out there.

To register to walk as part of Beth Tzedec's team, fundraise for Toronto Forest Hill- Ve'ahavta or support one of our walkers, visit <https://cnoy.org/location/torontoforesthill>.



Daniel Silverman

Why We Continue to Read Torah and Study Jewish Text Year After Year

Re-learning a text reminds us that we do not stay static in our own lives. We are constantly changing, both from the inside out and the outside in, and each time we interact with a text we are not the same person as we were the last time—or will be the next time.

Though I am trained as a teacher, my current role as Director of Education and Program Development at Beth Tzedec offers me little time to actually teach. That is why I so cherish the opportunity I have each Shabbat morning to lead Talking Torah, a weekly Jewish learning roundtable. Having taken over from the late Dr. Arnold Ages^{ztl} around six years ago—with a COVID-era hiatus of almost two years—I’ve had the privilege of studying meaningful texts with wonderful learning partners.

Each year I select a learning theme that is relevant and interesting, and that also pushes me to interact with Jewish text that is new to me. Since the class has resumed post-COVID, we have spent a year studying the weekly Haftarah portion from the Prophets and examined pieces of Tanach (Bible) that appear in our prayerbook as part of our *tefillah* (prayers). This year we are studying all five of the Biblical *Megillot*, learning one chapter each Shabbat.

In choosing these topics and subjects for study, we have interacted with Biblical texts that we encounter year after year. The Haftarah cycle is an annual one. The Biblical texts in our prayerbook are read, in some cases, multiple times per day. Then, the five *Megillot* are each read aloud communally on a particular holiday or fast day on the Jewish calendar. In other words, we are studying texts that we are already familiar with, or at the very least aware are part of the annual cycle of Jewish text recitation.

One of the hallmarks of Jewish study and practice is that we return to the

same texts many times, again and again. We read the Torah anew each year. We recite the same words from our prayerbooks with tremendous regularity. Permit me to share a reflection, informed by the discussions in my weekly Shabbat class, about the benefit of studying the same materials over and over.

Re-learning a text reminds us that we do not stay static in our own lives. We are constantly changing, both from the inside out and the outside in, and each time we interact with a text we are not the same person as we were the last time—or will be the next time. We study Jewish text as an interaction between the words and ourselves. Since we are always changing, the opportunity to take away new learning and relevancies from the text is always present.

For example, learning the text of the *Shema* prayer, itself a quotation from the final book of the Torah, *Devarim* (Deuteronomy), takes on new relevancy once one has become a parent. The instruction to “Teach [these words] again and again to your children” is a theoretical idea until one has children and comes to live the reality of a parent’s influence and responsibility in educating their child and helping to construct their world.

Another example is studying the seven *Haftarot* of consolation that are read in the seven weeks between Tisha B’Av and Rosh Hashanah. All seven come from the last section of the Book of Isaiah and were written in the context of the exiled community living in Babylon after the destruction of the First Temple in 586 BCE. These *Haftarot*

remind us, for seven weeks in a row, that God has two types of covenants with the Jewish people.

One is the Sinai covenant, where God promises rewards in exchange for following God's laws and threatens punishments if God's laws are violated. The Sinai covenant is the reason, as presented by the prophets, for the Temple's destruction, and one can imagine an ancient Israelite believing that God has fully abandoned the people given the level of God's anger.

Then again, there is also a second covenant, the Abraham covenant, that governs the relationship between God and Israel. In this covenant, God has made an everlasting promise not to forget Abraham's chosen descendants regardless of their behaviour. It is this covenant that Isaiah draws on as he shares messages of hope and visions

of return and restoration to the exiles in Babylon. Reading these texts amidst rising antisemitism is profound and meaningful, uplifting and hopeful.

Finally, studying *Megillat Eicha* (Book of Lamentations) in a post-October 7 world was deeply affecting. To read about the destruction of Jerusalem, the carrying away of captives, and the horror experienced by the victims, was extremely relatable to the October 7 massacres. It became more intense to read a 2,500-year-old text and have its descriptions feel accurate to the current moment. It was cathartic to join the prophet in asking *מהיכן? How/Why?* Just as our ancient ancestors had difficulty putting words and explanations to their suffering, so have we found ourselves with similar moments of wordlessness in the past year and a half.

I invite you to join me on Shabbat mornings from 9:30 to 10:15 *am*. Jewish learning is good for our minds. Jewish learning as a community is good for our souls. Jewish learning together on relevant topics is good for our hearts.

As we say in the *Birkat Hatorah* at the start of the day, "May we take pleasure, *A-donay* our God, to have the words of Your Torah in our mouths". May we all continue to be enriched through the study of our sacred texts.

For more information about upcoming Family, Youth and Teen programming, including registration links, visit

<https://bit.ly/family-youth-teens>.

Family Pancake Breakfast

Wednesday, December 25 at 9:30 AM

Spend a relaxing family morning at Beth Tzedec doing all those things you never get to on your busy days—a leisurely pancake breakfast, crafts, games, chatting (remember chatting?)—made even better by doing it with friends!

Dress in your Chanukah wear or to show your Jewish pride or your festive PJs are cool, too!

There is no charge but contributions supporting our Jewish Family Living Fund can be made at the breakfast.

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY THE FLATT FAMILY IN MEMORY OF AB FLATT^{TL}





Cantor Audrey Klein

I once read that between mid-October and mid-January, there are close to 30 distinct holidays and observances across a vast cross-section of religions and cultures, many of which are centered around light.

Luminal Spaces

At the end of October, my family and I took a vacation to San Diego, Palm Springs and Los Angeles. It was my husband's and daughter's first time in Southern California and my first time there in over 15 years, so it was a very special trip for all three of us. Plus, it's always a treat to go somewhere with palm trees and warm temperatures (although apparently Toronto had record highs while we were away).

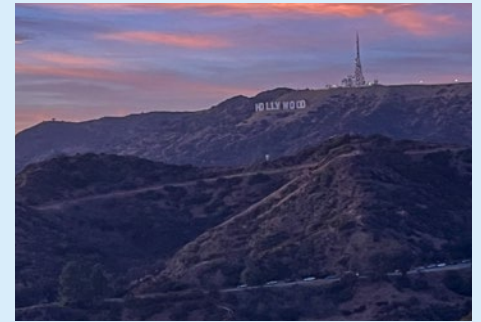
And of course, there was the sun! Our days in the desert started with breathtaking yellow-orange sunrises over the mountains in Palm Springs.

Our days near the water ended with views of pink and purple watercolor sunsets over the Pacific from the beaches in San Diego and the Griffith Observatory in LA (complete with some of the best views of the Hollywood sign). The abundant sunshine was restorative and healing for me and there was something extraordinary about seeing my daughter's amazement as the sky changed colours before her eyes.



We also happened to be in California when we turned back the clocks to Standard Time, gaining that prized extra hour of sleep but losing precious active time when the sun is out. There was a notable difference between the first and second halves of our trip and it was the first time in my life that I experienced summer-like weather and sunset at 4:45 PM.

On our first day in LA, we visited the Getty Center, an art museum famous for its vast collection and research center as well as its incredible views. On display were several exhibitions focusing on light and the intertwining of art and science: part of a larger, multi-year, multi-institution initiative across Southern California called PST ART.



We spent a good portion of our time at the Getty in "Lumen: The Art & Science of Light," which delves into the intersection of art, science, astronomy, astrology and religion during the Middle Ages: shedding a light on how the celestial world influenced artistic and religious expressions. To believers, light symbolized divine illumination, enlightenment and spiritual revelation. Jewish, Christian and Muslim artists of the time sought to capture the ethereal quality of light in their works, whether through stained glass windows, illuminated manuscripts or paintings that portrayed a heavenly radiance.

Towards the end of the exhibition, the following passage was displayed:

Any discussion of sight and light in the Middle Ages engages with the ancient and medieval hierarchies of the senses. According to Plato, Aristotle, and their later interpreters, vision was the primary sense, informing knowledge and belief. Based on learned expectations,

interpretations of sensory experiences were—and still are—culturally and experientially determined, creating what neuroscientists today call “predictive processing.” Within medieval Christian, Muslim, and Jewish religious rituals, which engaged all the senses, light, being necessary for vision, was fundamental to the activation and animation of sacred spaces, where it was used to elicit a range of emotional responses, including surprise, wonder, and awe.

“The Neuroscience of Light.”
Lumen: The Art & Science of Light. 10 Sept. to 8 Dec. 2024,
The Getty Center, Los Angeles.

We are currently experiencing the darkest time of the year, when it feels like the sun sets every day well before

we are ready for it to go down. I once read that between mid-October and mid-January, there are close to 30 distinct holidays and observances across a vast cross-section of religions and cultures, many of which are centered around light. Chanukah, our festival of lights, is a prime example. What is it about this time of year that draws humans to seek out a sense of something bigger than themselves and to be drawn to the awe-inspiring nature of light?

The famed Jewish theoretical physicist Albert Einstein said, “There are two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.” Thinking about the convergence of science and art, of fact and faith, I ask, how will you create luminal spaces, the spaces of

your light, this Chanukah and this winter season? How will you open yourself up to the miracles that are often right in front of you but go unnoticed? Perhaps if you surround yourself with sacred reminders, you may end up rousing the spark inside of you that experiences awe and sheds light on the wonders that do exist in our world.



A SHABBAT SHIRAH CONCERT CELEBRATION

GALEET DARDASHTI

MONAJAT

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8 AT 8:00 PM

We conclude a tremendous Shabbat Shirah with Galeet Dardashti's award-winning concert, **Monajat**, where she sings with remixed samples of her grandfather's legacy recordings together with a soundscape of original music performed by an acclaimed ensemble of Middle Eastern and jazz musicians—accompanied by dynamic video art.

Cost: \$25. Pre-registration is requested via <https://bit.ly/monajat-concert>.

Presented as part of Beth Tzedec Congregation's 70th Anniversary Celebrations
Generously supported by the Faye and Joseph Firestone Annual Concert Endowment, the Victor and Renee Topper Annual Cantorial Shabbat Endowment and Beth Tzedec's Arts & Culture Fund



Aviva Chernick

In meditating, we get quiet and still, stepping out of the striving of daily life and going nowhere fast.

Sit in the Centre of Your Life

“Sit in the centre of your life.”

This is what the teacher said at my very first meditation class. Once he got himself set up on a tower of bolsters, former Buddhist monk, Ed Brown began the session. He pointed out his bolster mountain and made it clear that you should set up however you need to in order to be comfortable to sit in meditation for an extended period. He said setting up in this way would help you to “sit in the centre of your life.”

I had no idea what he meant, but something in me knew that there was a life lesson to be learned, and I was ready for it.

My leg fell asleep and I worried that I had done long-term damage. I shifted around to try and get comfortable but to no avail. “How do people do it?” I wondered, “Why do people meditate?”

As I moved through my 30s, I yearned for an engaging relationship with Judaism, one based on the learning and experiences of my upbringing, yet also on the needs of my adult self. And then a gift arrived. A friend told me about a meditation retreat hosted by Pardes, held at the Pearlstone Retreat Center in Maryland.

“Why not?” I thought. “It might just be the transformative spiritual experience that I have been seeking.”

It was indeed transformational.

Although I slept through the first three days sitting upright in my chair, my attention did kick in part-way through the week. I was moved to tears, to feel delight in the companionship of a Divine—right there in the present moment. My heart opened and I was filled with love. After the retreat, I called my parents from the airport and I was so high from the experience that I must have sounded like I had joined a cult: the “cult” of Jewish spirituality.

After several years of practicing, I completed the Jewish Mindfulness Teacher Training through the Institute for Jewish Spirituality. In the program, we did a deep dive into the why and the how of mindfulness and Judaism, including the study of *Chassidic* texts. We engaged in a dedicated Jewish prayer practice. During that same period, I founded neySHEV, a Jewish mindfulness community, the only one of its kind in Canada.

When meditating, we get quiet and still, stepping out of the striving of daily life and going nowhere fast. Why do we engage in this sometimes difficult, sometimes enlivening, always miraculous process? As my friend and colleague Rabbi Jordan Bendat-Appel says, “We don’t meditate to become better meditators, but to become better partners, parents, spouses, siblings, colleagues, teachers, friends and so on.”



Rabbi Fryer Bodzin and I have been offering mindfulness programming at Beth Tzedec and sharing these teachings with our colleagues on the Spiritual Leadership Team. Last year, a group of colleagues, all trained in Jewish mindfulness and working at a different Toronto Jewish institution, gathered to explore how, together, we might build a sustainable Jewish mindfulness community in Toronto. In fall 2024, we launched a new initiative –Na’aleh: The Toronto Jewish Mindfulness Collective. (Read about Na’aleh [HERE](#)).

I invite you to join us for the second in Na’aleh’s four-part series, “Ohr/Light”, on December 19, in time for

preparation for Chanukah. Register at <https://bit.ly/naaleh-series-2024>.

Some of the spiritual practices I engage in, which might be called mindfulness practices, involve the intention to pay attention in an intentional way in the present moment (e.g., prayer, sitting meditation, walking meditation, chanting, mindful eating). I witness my experience with *chesed*, non-judgemental and loving awareness, knowing there is nothing to fix or change. The task is to bring one’s kindest self, to turn to whatever is here now and be with it, just like we would turn to and be with a loved one.

Sometimes my leg still falls asleep. Often, as I sit, I fall asleep, but then I wake up, if only for a moment. And when I wake up, there I am, sitting in the centre of my life.

I’d love for you to join Rabbi Fryer Bodzin and myself for Torah and Tree Pose, Na’aleh programs, Torah Through a Mindfulness Lens and Song Circles (yes, singing can also be a mindfulness practice).

You are welcome to come just as you are, beginners and advanced practitioners alike.

Try it. It could be the gift you have been waiting for.

Torah Through a Mindfulness Lens

with Aviva Chernick

Sundays, January 19 & 26 and February 2

3:00 to 4:15 PM

Join Aviva Chernick for this meditation series engaging with the weekly Torah portion as a source of inspiration. We will approach the Torah portions through a mindfulness lens, discovering how Torah can be a teacher for us, guiding us towards open hearted and awakened living. This is an introductory meditation course and all levels of experience in both meditation and Torah are welcome. Pre-registration is required.

To register, visit <https://bit.ly/torah-mindfulness-lens-2025>

Presented as part of Beth Tzedec Centre for Spiritual Well-Being



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



SPINAGOGUE for 20s and 30s

Spin, Smoothies and Schmoozing

Sunday, December 29 at 11:15 AM (at Rocket Cycle)

Join the Beth Tzedec 20s & 30s community for a private Chanukah-themed spin class at Rocket Cycle. Ticket price includes a spot on a spin bike, spin shoes, a branded reusable water bottle, and a post-ride Chanukah treat.

Few spaces remaining. Pre-registration is required via <https://bit.ly/spinagogue-chanukah>.



Our Inaugural Spinagogue Session

On September 29, a group of Beth Tzedec's 20s and 30s met at Rocket Cycle for a pre-High Holy Day spin class, followed by smoothies and a chance to schmooze.





Rabbi Lara Rodin

The process of coming toward Judaism, whether for the first time or not, naturally invites big questions.

Coming Toward Judaism

The process of coming toward Judaism, whether for the first time or not, naturally invites big questions. “How do I make space for Jewish practice in my life?” “What does it mean to connect with a tradition so ancient and vast?” “Where do I belong?”

Part of my role at Beth Tzedec has been re-imagining and instructing the Rabbinical Assembly of Ontario’s “Intro to Judaism” course. Each week, participants in the cohort discover that coming toward Judaism isn’t about seeking answers to their questions—it’s about being curious, building community, and finding meaning in our ritual and textual tradition.

Ten weeks into our course, it’s been inspiring to witness the growth of this group as we dive into the beauty and complexity of Jewish life.

Our exploration of the High Holy Days sparked meaningful discussions early on in our learning about Jewish values and ritual practices, as students connected deeply with themes of *teshuvah* (repentance), renewal, and community.

It has been incredible to witness students gain confidence in Hebrew and begin to unlock the language of Jewish prayer and texts as we learn the Aleph-Bet with Beth Tzedec’s creative educator and Family Engagement Specialist, Penina Hoffnung.

Generations member and Onetable educator Simon Hart brought Shabbat to life with a “Shabbat Ritual Lab”, empowering students to consider how to integrate Shabbat practice into their own lives and engage with tradition on a personal level.

Our learning with Beth Tzedec Generations member Noah Lew, director of the Raoul Wallenberg

Centre for Human Rights, was a powerful exploration of antisemitism and Jewish resilience. Together we learned about Noah’s work in creating the Canadian Handbook on the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of Antisemitism. In that session, candidates engaged deeply with the complexities of combating hate while embracing a proud and enduring Jewish identity, sparking meaningful conversations about solidarity and the strength of our people.

One of the most rewarding aspects of this course has been the relationships formed across our local Conservative synagogues. This program helps connect and strengthen our communities through shared learning.

As I look around the room each week, I am reminded of the privilege of teaching a group of students from different backgrounds and with different life stories, excited about their shared project of learning and living Jewishly. This cohort is vibrant, thoughtful, and deeply committed—not just to learning about Judaism, but to weaving Jewish practice and text into their lives in meaningful and enduring ways.

To learn more about the course, visit www.introtojudaism.ca.

Beth Tzedec provides a welcoming environment for all. We are an accessible (with elevators, ramps, accessible washrooms, hearing assistive devices, etc.) and inclusive space for all. We are also a fragrance-free facility and encourage everyone to refrain from wearing scented products (perfumes, detergents, lotions, etc.) when visiting our spaces.

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



Grieving Together Bereavement Groups

Wednesdays, January 8, 15, 22 & 29
at 3:00 PM

(for those who have lost partners)

Thursdays, January 30 and February 6 & 20 at 7:00 PM

(for those who have lost parents)

The loss of a loved one is challenging. Judaism has a clear set of mourning rituals that help us relearn to be in the world after our significant loss. We are here to provide an opportunity for you to meet, support and share—together.

Pre-registration is required. To register for the session for those who have lost partners, visit <https://bit.ly/grieving-together-winter-2025-partners>.

To register for the sessions for those who have lost parents, visit <https://bit.ly/grieving-together-winter-2025-parents>.

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



Beth Tzedec/Beth Sholom Out of the Cold Volunteers

Tuesday evenings, January 13
through March 31, 2025

The 24th season of the Beth Sholom/Beth Tzedec Out of the Cold Shelter will operate on Monday nights from January 13 through March 31, 2025, providing hot meals, clothing, entertainment, an art program and BINGO for 150 of Toronto's homeless and needy people in our community. We also offer a bagged lunch and a one-time TTC pass.

For information about remaining volunteering opportunities, contact the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511 and leave a message for Maureen Tanz.



Out of the Cold Clothing Drive

OOTC is in need of **adult-size** new or gently-used clothing winter boots/hiking boots, running shoes, thermal socks, sweatpants, sweatshirts, t-shirts, scarves, winter hats, gloves and ski jackets. Clothing donations can be dropped off at Beth Sholom (1445 Eglinton Ave. W) Mondays to Thursdays from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.



Coldest Night of the Year

Saturday, February 22

7:15 to 9:00 PM

(beginning at Beth Tzedec;
ending at Holy Blossom)

After Shabbat, Beth Tzedec partners with Ve'ahavta and Holy Blossom in hosting our annual Coldest Night of the Year walk.

CNOY is a winterrific, family-friendly fundraising walk in support of local charities. Let's change the tune for people experiencing hurt, hunger and homelessness.

To register to walk as part of Beth Tzedec's team, to fundraise for Toronto Forest Hill-Ve'ahavta or to support one of our walkers, visit <https://cnoy.org/location/torontoforesthill>



Making a Minyan Sunday and Weekday Services

We need your help to make a minyan for morning and evening services. *Daveners* can use our WhatsApp reservation system to see which services require additional attendance to form a minyan.

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

Connect



Thursday Games Afternoons

Thursday afternoons

12:30 to 3:30 PM

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

Mahjong and Canasta lessons are now available. To arrange for lessons, please contact the Synagogue Office at 416-781-3511 or email info@beth-tzedec.org.

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



Shabbat Afternoon Games Café and Open Gym

Saturday afternoons

12:30 to 3:30 PM

Join us after the Kiddush for Shabbat-compliant board games for every age and level of interest, open gym time and Mah Jong with Jody Wernick. Fun for all, from pre-schoolers to serious Euro-game players.

For those looking for a more active time, the Kimel Family Gym will also be open.



YESH: Youth. Energy. Shabbat. Happiness.

(For Grades 5 to 8)

Saturday, January 18 and February 8

10:30 AM to 12:00 NOON

Hang out with your friends, meet other tweens, get a head start on *b'nei mitzvah* prep (optional opportunity to start learning how to read Torah), and have plenty of time for snacks and schmoozing!

- 10:30 am – Trope Club/Hebrew Basics (optional)
- 10:50 am – Icebreakers and Tefilizace
- 11:20 am – YESH Yum: Adventures with Food
- 11:40 am to 12:15 pm – Nosh and Schmooze (*new time*)

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY THE FLATT FAMILY IN MEMORY OF AB FLATT ^{ZTL}



Family Shabbat Experience and Dinner

Fridays, December 20, January 24 and February 21 at 5:15 PM

Join us for our fabulous Family Shabbat experience and dinner each month. Our December program will feature a special Chanukah theme!

Cost for dinner, dependent on membership status and number of people in your party. To register for the December program, visit <https://bit.ly/family-shabbat-dec-2024>.

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY THE GERTNER FAMILY



Spinagogue for 20s & 30s

Sunday, December 29 at 11:15 AM

Join the Beth Tzedec 20s & 30s community for a private Chanukah-themed spin class at Rocket Cycle. Ticket includes a spot on a spin bike, spin shoes, a branded reusable water bottle, and a post-ride Chanukah treat.

Cost: \$25 for Beth Tzedec members; \$30 for the community. Pre-registration is required via <https://bit.ly/spinagogue-CHANUKAH>



Babies, Blessings and Shabbat Fun

Fridays, January 10, 17, 24 & 31, February 7, 14, 21 & 28 and March 7

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

Session 2: 12:30 to 1:15 PM

Welcome Shabbat with a 45-minute music class featuring Shabbat songs and blessings, *challah* and lots of fun. We have partnered with L'Dance Classes for this weekly experience for children up to 18 months old, accompanied by an adult caregiver.

Cost: \$120 for Beth Tzedec members; \$180 for the community.

To register for the 11:45 AM session, visit <https://bit.ly/babies-blessings-winter-session-1>.

To register for the 12:30 PM session, visit <https://bit.ly/babies-blessings-winter-session-2>.



Family Pancake Breakfast

Wednesday, December 25 9:30 AM

Spend a relaxing family morning at Beth Tzedec doing all those things you never get to on your busy days—a leisurely pancake breakfast, crafts, games, chatting (remember chatting?)—made even better by doing it with friends!

No charge.

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY THE FLATT FAMILY IN MEMORY OF AB FLATT^{ZL}



Song Circle with Aviva Chernick

Sundays, January 16, 23 & 30

7:00 to 8:15 PM

The Song Circle returns ... for three weeks in January leading up to Shabbat Shirah—the Sabbath of Song. Join Aviva Chernick to explore what it is to sing and join in healing and uplifting song in the lead up to the celebration of the Song of the Sea.

Come in out of the cold and let the singing and community warm you. No prior singing experience is necessary to participate. Every voice is welcome!

Registration required via <https://bit.ly/song-circle-2025>.

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



Periphery Exhibit Closing Program

Thursday, February 27 7:30 PM

Join Beth Tzedec and No Silence on Race for the closing night of the Periphery exhibit at Beth Tzedec. The closing night will feature a panel of Jewish Black participants in the Periphery Exhibit, a film screening and live music.

To register for the Closing Event, visit <https://bit.ly/periphery-exhibit-closing>.

The Periphery Exhibit is an evocative photographic and film project that celebrates ethnic diversity in the Jewish community. Sharing courageous, honest, and deeply personal narratives from individuals of multiracial and multiethnic backgrounds, this project, a partnership between No Silence on Race and Ontario Jewish Archives, centres Jewish voices not historically included in dialogue of who Jewish people are, globally.

Periphery creates space to look, listen, and learn from our narrators as they share their lived realities. Included are testimonies of straddling multiple ethnic identities, exploring sexual identity, navigating converting to Judaism, and the discomfort of invisibility in the very spaces one seeks to call home. It also draws our attention inwards and invites us to examine our own biases that inform our views of who is a Jew. Together, these call us to act upon our shared values and consider how we can create community spaces that foster and support a richer view of communal life community.

To book a group tour of the exhibit, contact the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511 or info@beth-tzedec.org.

PRESENTED BY BETH TZEDEC, UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO, ONTARIO JEWISH ARCHIVES—BLANKENSTEIN FAMILY HERITAGE CENTRE, NO SILENCE ON RACE

Learn



Learn Talmud with Rabbi Steve Wernick

Mondays at 7:30 PM (via Zoom)

December 23, January 6 & 20, February 10 & 17, March 10, 17 & 24, April 7, 21 & 28, May 5 & 12 and June 9, 16, 23

Join Rabbi Wernick as we continue an exploration of *Tractate Megillah* that focuses on the rituals and reading of Megillat Esther and on the public reading of Torah and other sacred texts. No previous experience is required.

No charge. Pre-registration is required via <https://bit.ly/learn-talmud-2025>.



Learn to Read Hebrew with Lorne Hanick

Monday evenings 7:45 PM

Join Lorne Hanick to learn how you can discover your family history and start building your Jewish family tree.

Registration is closed. For information, email Lorne Hanick at lhnick@beth-tzedec.org.

PRESENTED AS PART OF THE INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH LEARNING, IN MEMORY OF ANNE AND MAX TANENBAUM



Who's Afraid of AI and Other New Tech with Yuri Vitovsky-Remi

Tuesdays, December 3, 10 & 17

1:30 to 2:30 PM

Yuri Vitovsky-Remi takes the fear factor out of Artificial Intelligence and shows how you really can use it to help you get things done faster. Yuri will tame your fears in clear, understandable ways. (Really!)

No charge. Pre-registration is required via <https://bit.ly/tech-with-Yuri>.

PRESENTED BY THE BETH TZEDEC "TO-120 CLUB"



Hereditary Cancer: Know Your Risks

Sunday, January 12

10:00 AM to 12:00 NOON

Did you know: Ashkenazi Jews are ten times more likely than the general population to carry mutations in the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes that increase their risk for breast, ovarian, prostate and pancreatic cancers.

If you know: Understanding your genetic testing options can help you and your family make important decisions about how to manage any cancer risk.

Join us at Beth Tzedec for a panel discussion with experts on genetic mutations to learn more.

No charge. Pre-registration is requested via <https://bit.ly/hereditary-cancer-bt>

Pray



Weekday Shacharit Services

*Sunday mornings at 8:45 AM

Weekday mornings at 7:30 AM

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

Sundays: <https://zoom.us/j/894447868>

Weekdays: <https://zoom.us/j/733141765>

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

Note that Shacharit Services begin at 8:45 am on non-Jewish holidays, including Christmas, Boxing Day and New Years Day.



Weekday Mincha-Ma'ariv Services

Sunday to Thursday evenings, [check website for times](#)

At the end of the day, join us in person in the Hendeles Chapel or on Zoom for our evening services via <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.



Kabbalat Shabbat and Ma'ariv

Every Friday evening 6:00 PM

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 and livestreamed via <https://bethtzedec.tv>.



Shabbat at the Floor Services

Fridays, January 13, February 7 and March 7 6:00 PM

Shabbat at the Floor is a welcoming, inclusive, musical, connected, caring and relevant monthly Kabbalat Shabbat experience. It's not just another service, we choose music intentionally to represent diverse Jewish voices, identities and life stories—some familiar, others new.

Prepare to be moved and inspired. The Shabbat at the Floor services are offered in person and livestreamed via <https://bethtzedec.tv>.

For a taste of our Shabbat at the Floor services, please visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ux-jyabh4Q>.



Shabbat at the Floor with artist-in-residence Galeet Dardashti

Friday, February 7 6:00 PM

Join us for a musical Friday night service led by the Shabbat at the Floor team together with special guest Galeet Dardashti, vocalist, composer, anthropologist and culture creator, as we celebrate Shabbat Shirah.

Following the Service, you are invited to register for one of our two Shabbat dinners celebrating Shabbat Shirah. We are pleased to offer a community Shabbat dinner as well as a 20s and 30s Shabbat dinner for our Generations members. Galeet will speak at both dinners during the evening.

Cost for dinners. For information and registration links, visit <https://bit.ly/shabbat-shirah-with-galeet-dardashti>



Shabbat Sanctuary Services

Saturday mornings 9:00 AM

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

Come to be a part of our special musical and spiritual davening. Lift your soul in prayer as you sing with us or close your eyes in meditation and be carried away by the magnificent harmonic sounds of the service.

Services are offered for in person daveners and are livestreamed via <https://www.bethtzedec.tv>.



Little Minyan Learning and Service

Saturdays, December 21, January 4, 18 & 25 and February 8 & 22

Learning 9:00 AM | Service 9:30 AM

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

Prior to each Service, Rabbi Fryer Bodzin leads “Little Minyan Learning”. Engage your mind before we engage our souls with *tefillah*.



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Short and Sweet Multi-Generational Family Service

Saturdays, January 11, February 1 and March 1 10:30 AM

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



Musical Participatory Services

Saturdays, January 11 & 25, February 8 and March 1 9:00 AM

Just us for this Musical Participatory Service led by Cantor Sidney Ezer and the HarmonEzers, our a capella choir, conducted by Asher Farber. We will explore many classic and familiar melodies as well as new and modern ones. With inspiring arrangements and innovative harmonies, we welcome you to sign along with us.

Services are offered for in person *daveners* and are livestreamed via <https://www.bethzedec.tv>.



Shabbat Morning Fun

(For children ages 0 to 12)

Saturday mornings 9:30 AM

Join us for a children's Shabbat experience that builds Jewish knowledge and community.

- 9:30 am—Free Shabbat play
- 10:30 am—Age appropriate *Tefillah*/prayer experiences, participation permitting. With special guests like our *shinshinim* to tell us about life in Israel, and other guests as well.
- 11:30 am—Blessings and snacks

Children ages 3 and younger require adult accompaniment; those ages 4 and up can be dropped off.



Talking Torah with Daniel Silverman

Saturday mornings 9:30 AM

Join Daniel Silverman, Director of Education, for a weekly examination of the Five Megillot. These short Biblical works, each read on a different holiday, continue to offer tremendous insight for how to live and conduct our lives today.

- *Megillat Kohelet* (Ecclesiastes): October 12 to January 18
- *Megillat Esther* (Esther): January 25 to March 29



Shabbat 101 with Rabbi Lara Rodin

Saturdays, January 18 and February 15 10:00 AM

Shabbat 101 is a once-monthly 75-minute experiential Shabbat morning service for anyone interested in becoming familiar with the structure, choreography and deep meaning of the traditional Shabbat morning service. Join us for one session or for all 6!

This series has been developed for Jewish conversion candidates, past conversion candidates and those lacking literacy and wanting to gain skill in prayer.



Torah Through the Ages with Rabbi Fryer Bodzin

Thursdays, December 19, January 9, 16, 23 & 30 and February 6, 20 & 27

10: to 11:00 AM

Rabbi Fryer Bodzin leads an in-depth look at the book of Deuteronomy/*Sefer Devarim* with traditional and modern commentaries. Having an *Etz Chaim chumash* on hand will be beneficial.

No charge. Pre-registration is required via <https://bit.ly/torah-through-ages-2024>.

PRESENTED AS PART OF THE INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH LEARNING, IN MEMORY OF ANNE AND MAX TANENBAUM



Torah and Tree Pose with Marcee Bar Isaac and Rabbi Fryer Bodzin

Wednesdays, December 18, January 29 and February 26 8:00 PM

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

No charge. Pre-registration is requested via <https://bit.ly/torah-tree-pose-2024>.

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



Torah Through a Mindfulness Lens with Aviva Chernick

Sundays, January 19 & 26 and February 2 3:00 PM

A meditation series engaging with the weekly Torah portion as a source of inspiration. We approach the Torah portions through a mindfulness lens, discovering how Torah can be a teacher for us, guiding us towards open-hearted and awakened living.

Cost: \$x. Pre-registration is required via <https://bit.ly/torah-mindfulness-lens-2025>.

PRESENTED AS PART OF THE BETH TZEDEC CENTRE FOR SPIRIT



Na-aleh: Ohr/Light

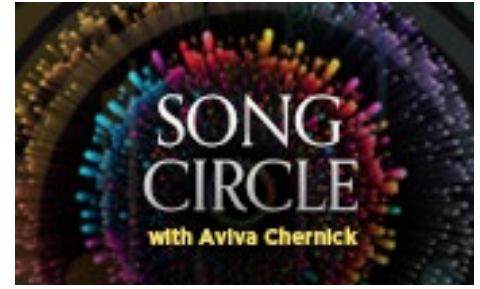
Thursday, December 19 7:00 PM

Let's sit together exploring the light and darkness of Chanukah. Join us at Miles Nadal JCC (750 Spadina Ave.) for the second session of the Na'aleh series.

Na'aleh offers opportunities for the Toronto Jewish community to engage in and deepen practice and to be part of building, nurturing and sustaining a thriving Jewish mindfulness community.

Cost for participation. Pre-registration is requested via <https://bit.ly/naaleh-series-2024>.

PRESENTED BY NA'ALEH TORONTO JEWISH MINDFULNESS COLLECTIVE— THE BETH TZEDEC CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING, THE INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH SPIRITUALITY, MILES NADAL JCC, ANNEX SHUL, NEYSHEV AND BETH DAVID SYNAGOGUE



Song Circle with Aviva Chernick

Thursdays, January 16, 23 & 30 7:00 to 8:15 PM

The Song Circle returns ... for three weeks in January leading up to Shabbat Shirah—the Sabbath of Song.

Join Aviva Chernick to explore what it is to sing and join in healing and uplifting song in the lead up to the celebration of the Song of the Sea. Come in out of the cold and let the singing and community warm you up.

Ages 12 and up are welcome. No prior singing experience is necessary to participate. Every voice is welcome!

No charge. Pre-registration is required via <https://bit.ly/song-circle-2025>.

PRESENTED AS PART OF THE BETH TZEDEC CENTRE FOR SPIRIT

An Evening of Song and Healing



On October 9, Beth Tzedec was pleased to present "Rise Again: One Heart, One People", a very special musical evening of commemoration and healing, led by Maestro Meir Briskman and Cantor Moshe Fishel and the Lishmoa El Harina Choir.

Celebrate



Shabbat Shirah Weekend with artist-in-residence Galeet Dardashti

Friday and Saturday, February 7 & 8

Beth Tzedec is pleased to welcome artist-in-residence Dr. Galeet Dardashti, vocalist, composer, anthropologist and culture creator, as we celebrate Shabbat Shirah.

- **Friday at 6:00 pm:** Join us for a musical Friday night service led by the Shabbat at the Floor team together with special guest Galeet Dardashti, vocalist, composer, anthropologist and culture creator, as we celebrate Shabbat Shirah.

Following the Service, join us at our Community dinner or our 20s & 30s Shabbat dinner. Galeet will speak at each dinner.

- **Saturday morning at 9:00 am:** Galeet Dardashti joins Cantor Sidney Ezer, spiritual leader Aviva Chernick and Cantorial Fellow Shira Bodnar. She will speak from the *bimah* and will join us for an informal conversation after the community kiddush.
- **Saturday night:** Galeet Dardashti presents award-winning concert, *Monajat*, in which she sings with remixed samples of her grandfather's legacy recordings together with a soundscape of original music performed by an acclaimed ensemble of Middle Eastern and jazz musicians—accompanied by dynamic video art.

Cost for Friday night dinners and Saturday night concert. For information and registration links, visit <https://bit.ly/shabbat-shirah-with-galeet-dardashti>



All-Day Arborating Celebrating Tremendous Tree Party

Sunday, February 9

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Through crafts, stories, games, taste experiences and more, we'll celebrate the birthday of those unsung heroes of God's world ... TREES!

The day will be split into three sessions, beginning with programs for our youngest members to our older kids. Families with children in more than one age group are encouraged to attend, if possible, during the hours designated for their older children.

- **10:00 am** – Families with children ages 3 to 5 (JK/SK)
- **11:15 am** – Families with children in Grades 1 to 4
- **12:30 pm** – Families with kids in Grades 5 to 8

Cost: \$5 (for materials). Pre-registration is required via <https://bit.ly/tremendous-tree-party>.

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY THE FLATT FAMILY IN MEMORY OF AB FLATT^{ZL}



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

Give & Get



Nadav Teen Volunteers

(For teens in Grades 9 to 12)

Continues Sundays, January 19, February 23, March 23, April 27, May 18 and June 15

7:00 to 9:00 PM

Join Hannah Wohl monthly as we gather to learn about different causes in our community, and participate in a hands-on activity. We'll spend the first half hour discussing the organization, their impact, and the work they do, and the remaining time working on the project.

This event is a series, and registering for it indicates a commitment to attend for the duration of the year (September 2024 to June 2025). At the end of the year, participants will receive 20 community service hours.

For ore information about this program and the possibility of joining the group, email Hannah Wohl at hwohl@beth-tzedec.org.

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY THE FLATT FAMILY IN MEMORY OF AB FLATT^{ZL}



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



Michael Goodbaum

Onion Flakes Are Your Friend: A Latke Making Shortcut

In Canada and the United States, latkes are considered the quintessential Chanukah food. While culinary traditions for the holiday are different all over the world, and potato latkes are a fairly recent addition to the holiday, they are nonetheless ubiquitous.

There is no 'one right way' to make a latke: recipes vary in numerous add-ins and substitutes for potatoes like zucchinis, sweet potatoes, beets and more. There are a few ingredients which are usually constants though: matzoh meal to help dry out the wet grated potatoes, eggs to help bind the batter, and onions to lend a savoury flavour. Anyone who has ever prepared latkes knows that grating onions can be a sweat and tears inducing process! What if I told you there is another way?

Few people keep dried onion flakes in their pantry. Many of us probably walk by them in the spice aisle at our grocery store and wonder what they can be used for. Onion flakes can play a useful role in lots of recipes. Ground up, they add an amazing savoury umami element to seasonings for everything from BBQ to fried foods. My favourite use for them by far is in latkes. Since they are dried, they will absorb excess liquid from the potatoes and you will end up with a better texture and flavour. No one will ever know from tasting them that your latkes had a shortcut in the preparation. For years, I've been making latkes this way and getting excellent reviews!

Ingredients:

- 3 pounds potatoes (3 to 4 potatoes) *
- 3 tbsp dried onion flakes (sometimes sold as dried chopped onions)
- 2 large eggs
- 2 tbsp matzoh meal**
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt***
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black or white pepper
- Enough oil or shmaltz to fill pan to a depth of 1/2 inch (approximately 1/2 to 1 cup)****

*Preferably use Russet potatoes

**For gluten free, substitute corn meal or gluten-free breadcrumbs.

***If substituting with Sea Salt or Himalayan Salt you can use the same amount. If substituting with table salt, use 1.5 teaspoons.

**** For my pan, it took 3/4 cup of oil to reach the right depth. Peanut oil is a great oil for frying latkes. It's the oil that's traditionally used for French fries because of its good flavour and high smoking point. Or do what European Jews traditionally did and fry in chicken shmaltz. Frying in extra-light olive oil is possible, but don't try to fry in regular olive oil: it will smoke!

Directions:

Either wash and scrub well or peel the potatoes. Grate using the medium size grating disc on a food processor or large size grating holes in a box grater. Once the potatoes are grated, bundle them up in a clean towel or cheesecloth, place a strainer over a large bowl, and squeeze, squeeze, squeeze! You want to squeeze as much juices out of the potatoes as you can. Set aside the potato juices for two minutes, letting the starch separate and settle to the bottom of the bowl. Pour off the brown water which is sitting on top, reserving the light coloured starch on the bottom. Add all of the rest of the ingredients to the bowl, mix well, and cover the top



with plastic wrap, where the batter will rest for five minutes.

Start preheating a 12 or 14 inch pan over low to medium heat. When the pan is warm, add your cooking fat of choice. Non stick works well for this but whatever pan you use, you want it to provide good steady heat. Prepare a cooling rack over a sheet pan for draining the latkes after cooking, or if you don't have one, use paper towels.

Before frying, test the heat of the oil by sticking in a bamboo skewer or chopstick, or drop a small amount of the batter. You want to see small bubbles, but if the oil is bubbling

aggressively or if the batter turns instantly brown, it is too hot – adjust accordingly.

Scoop batter into the pan—an ice-cream scoop can make this easier. Aim to leave some space around each latke by frying 5 to 6 latkes at a time. Once the batter is in the pan, use a spoon to flatten them to the right size, around 4 inches diameter. If you have a helper, one of you can scoop and the other can flatten. Fry on the first side for three to four minutes, then using two spatulas to avoid splashing the oil, flip when the latkes have turned brown up the sides. The second side will cook quicker than the first so check after two minutes.

When fully brown, lift with a slotted spatula, allowing the oil to drain into the pan, and place on your cooling rack or paper towel. Latkes can be transferred to an oven and kept warm at 250°F until serving or fried in advance and reheated at 300°F for five to ten minutes until sizzling.

Serve hot with your favourite condiments, like apple sauce, cranberry sauce, sour cream, vegan cashew sour cream or any other of your favourite toppings.

THE
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FOR WOMEN'S
CANCERS



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Beth Tzedec Congregation

Presented by the Peter Gilgan Centre for Women's Cancers at Women's College Hospital in partnership with the Beth Tzedec Congregation.

HEREDITARY CANCER: KNOW YOUR RISK

JOIN US FOR A PANEL DISCUSSION WITH EXPERTS
ON GENETIC MUTATIONS TO LEARN MORE!

Sunday, January 12, 2025 | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

The Orenstein Mezzanine Hall, Beth Tzedec Congregation, 1700 Bathurst St, Toronto, ON, M5P 3K3



1 in 40

ASHKENAZI JEWS
CARRY A BRCA
GENE MUTATION



Tamara Katz

Community member and panelist who will share how the discovery of hereditary cancer has impacted her family.

"Genetic testing is easy. It's the easiest thing I've ever done. Watching my pregnant sister go through chemo is one of the hardest."

Pre-registration is required at <https://bit.ly/hereditary-cancer-bt>



Maureen Tanz

The Chesed Report

Out of the Cold Program 2025

I am very excited to let you know that Shari Fremeth-Tepper, a 13 year volunteer of Out of the Cold has agreed to become my Beth Tzedec co-chair of OOTC. From the start, Shari has been an integral part of the program and since 2018 she has taken on the enormous role of volunteer coordinator. She has such a presence with our guests and has helped to improve the quality of Out of the Cold. Out of the Cold Beth Tzedec/Beth Sholom will run on Monday nights, from January 13 until March 31. Volunteer registration has concluded though we may have a few spaces remaining. Please contact the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511 and leave me a message if you are interested in volunteering.

There are other ways you can help the community. You can initiate a clothing drive at your school or place of business or in the community. If this is of interest to you, please leave a message for Shari and I, at volunteer.ootcbsbt@gmail.com and we will provide you with all of the necessary information. It is an excellent way for teens to earn community service hours.

We depleted most of last year's clothing inventory and we are desperate for ADULT-SIZED ONLY new or gently used winter boots/hiking boots, running shoes, thermal socks, sweatpants, sweatshirts, t-shirts, scarves, winter hats, gloves and ski jackets. New underwear is also a staple that we need badly. Corporate or private donations of clothing, footwear

and other winter wear essentials, as well as plates, cups, bowls, cutlery, napkins etc. are always welcome. It would be most appreciated if donations are dropped off at Beth Sholom (1445 Eglinton Avenue West) from Monday to Thursday, between 9:00-4:00 PM. You can contact us at the above-noted email address if you have any questions.

Games Afternoon

Mahjong and Canasta Games are held every Thursday afternoon from 12:30 to 3:30 PM. It is wonderful to see so many of our past players, along with several new players chatting, mingling, and enjoying the afternoon. This program is open to both members and non-members alike and players of all levels are most welcome. The cost is a \$2 weekly contribution which helps support our many *chesed* initiatives.

Mahj and Canasta lessons are being offered by Judi Rosen, who has taught so many of our weekly players and is an expert at both games. For more information on the dates, times, and cost of lessons, please leave a message with Avital at 416-781-3511 or email her at info@beth-tzedec.org and Judi will contact you directly.

Chesed Fund Cards

Chesed tribute cards are available for purchase through the Synagogue office for all of your family occasions, whether to honour or memorialize someone special. Please consider supporting Out of the Cold by directing the funds to our program.

—Maureen Tanz,
Beth Tzedec Chesed Committee

Men's Club Makes a Difference



Men's Club Scholarship Program

The Beth Tzedec Men's Club is pleased to sponsor their longstanding scholarship program to assist young adults who are pursuing programs of higher Jewish learning.

The criteria used to judge each application is based on the following and should be given consideration when applying:

- The career goals of the candidate and how the program of study relates to it and the benefit that may be brought to the Jewish community by the candidate.
- The program of study for which the funds will be used.
- The financial needs of the candidate.
- The overall quality of the submitted application. Please print or type as illegible handwriting will negatively impact the application.
- Special needs or consideration should be explained in full.

A copy of your most recent school transcripts must be included. The deadline for applications is April 11, 2025. To view the criteria or to access the scholarship application, please visit <https://bit.ly/scholarships-2025>.

Community Service Hours

The Men's Club will require volunteers to assist with the Yom Hashoah candle project. Teens can earn community service/volunteer hours by participating.

For more information or to add your name to the volunteers list, please contact Adam Rachlin at arachlin@sympatico.ca.



Men's Club Baseball Night— Mark Your Calendars

The Blue Jays bus rides again!

The Beth Tzedec Men's Club is arranging for tickets to attend the Blue Jays' game on Tuesday, August 12 when they host the Chicago Cubs. Watch for more information coming soon.

BETH TZEDEC בית צדק SISTERHOOD

The Beth Tzedec Sisterhood wishes everyone a memorable Chanukah filled with light, laughter and happiness. We look forward to having many times in the coming months to connect, learn and celebrate together.

Tributes

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

Arts and Culture Fund

The Balsky and Gould Families, honouring **Yacov Fruchter**.

Rosalee Berlin, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Rose Greenberg**.

Barbara Brown, honouring **Aviva Chernick**.

Perry and Shirley Cooper, honouring **Dorion Liebgott** on being this year's *Kallat Bereisheet*.

Adam and Yonit Rapkowski, honouring **Aviva Chernick**.

David and Carol Grossman, honouring **Aviva Chernick**.

Rayna Jolley, wishing **Howard and Joyce Simmons** Shanah Tovah.

Harold and Ruth Margles, honouring **Dorion Liebgott** on being this year's *Kallat Bereisheet*.

Harold and Ruth Margles, honouring **Blake Teichman** on being this year's *Chattan Torah*.

Debbie Rothstein and Michael Friedman, acknowledging **Bobby Green** in memory of **Lorraine Green**.

Gella and Paul Rothstein, honouring **Dorion Liebgott** on being this year's *Kallat Bereisheet*.

Beth Tzedec Reuben and Helene Dennis Museum

Susan and Abraham Born, honouring **Dorion Liebgott** on being this year's *Kallat Bereisheet*.

Camp Ramah Fund

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

Phyllis Flatt, honouring **Beverley Black** on her 95th birthday.

Cantor Sidney Ezer Discretionary Fund

Deborah Staiman, wishing **Nancy Ezer** Shanah Tovah.

Chesed Fund

Frances Ackerman, honouring **Karen and David Cohen** for their hospitality.

Phyllis Flatt, acknowledging **Marilyn Finkelstein** in memory of **Eve Finkelstein**.

Shep and Lorraine Gangbar, acknowledging **Michael Givens** in memory of **Min Givens**.

Diane Grafstein, acknowledging **Marilyn Finkelstein** in memory of **Eve Finkelstein**.

Pauline Konviser, honouring **Rabbi Lara Rodin** on her marriage.

Howard and Emily Snow, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Maureen Snow**.

Helene Kerr, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Max Rosenthal**.

Dorothy Tassis, acknowledging the **Verny Family** in memory of **Roslyn Verny**.

Oscar Zimmerman and Anna Day, honouring **Blake Teichman** on being this year's *Chattan Torah*.

Anna Day and Oscar Zimmerman, honouring **Leora Branfield Day and Justin Merson** on the birth of their son **Chaim Moshe**.

Daily Minyan Breakfast Fund

The Babbin and Lustig Families, commemorating the first yahrtzeit of **Ernie Lustig**.

The Babbin and Lustig Families, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Sharon Lustig**.

Morley Brown and Glennie Lindenberg, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **David Brown**.

Bob Cohen, commemorating the 30th yahrtzeit of **Dr. Sheila Cohen**.

The Elman Family, commemorating the first yahrtzeit **David Elman**.

Ilene Flatt and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **P. Theodore Magram**.

Jeffrey and Jane Gertner, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Samuel Gertner**.

The Glatt Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Henry Glatt**.

Jerry Grammer, commemorating the yahrtzeiten of **Milton Grammer** and **Sarah Grammer**.

Nathan Greenberg and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Allan Greene**.

The Gurau Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Susan Gurau**.

Sheri Hirschberg and family, marking the conclusion of Kaddish for **Martin Hirschberg**.

The Nemoy and Leibel Families, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Max B. Nemoy**.

Ruthann and Lawrie Lubin and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Ernest Cutler**.

Ruthann and Lawrie Lubin and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Lillian Cutler**.

Limor Markovzki and Segal Adler, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Tova Markovzki**.

Leanne Matlow and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Jack Singer**.

The Nemoy and Leibel Families, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Helen Nemoy**.

Patti and Gary Pollock and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Edith Pollock**.

The Pollock and Tratner Families, honouring **David Pollock and Alexa Tratner** on their marriage.

The Promislow Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Reva Gandler**.

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

Sara Wunch Glick, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Moses Kamelgarn**,

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

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

The Teichman and Leopold Families, honouring the naming of their grandson **Adrian Raine**.

John and Cynthia Warren, honouring their grandson **Ryder Malmed** on his *tefillin* bar mitzvah.

Jack Weisdorf, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Ruth Leider**.

Sharon Yale and Blake Teichman, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Bernard Louis Yale**.

Emergency Security Fund

Claude and Esther Abrams, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Irving Abrams**.

Beverly Black, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Aaron Black**.

Cheryl and Maury Cepler and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Belle Ida Abramson**.

Gene and Peter Chodos, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Margaret Chodos**.

Gene and Peter Chodos, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Sara Granat**.

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

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

Toddy Granovsky, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Joe Hillman**.

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

Rivi Joel, honouring **Cantor Sidney Ezer** on his 13 years at Beth Tzedec.

Rivi Joel, honouring **Lorne Hanick** for his 25 years of service at Beth Tzedec.

Steven G. Kelman, honouring **Dorion Liebgott** on her expertise and years of service as curator of the Beth Tzedec Reuben and Helene Dennis Museum.

Honey Milstein and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Irving Milstein**.

The Oelbaum Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Ronald Oelbaum**.

Philip Olin, honouring the **Beth Tzedec Spiritual Leadership**.

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

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

Millie Pollock, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Muriel Gorsky**.

The Roth Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Dolly Roth**.

Debbie Rothstein and Michael Friedman, acknowledging **Phil David** in memory of **Faye David**.

Debbie Rothstein and Michael Friedman, honouring **Brian Dias** on his promotion to Director, Property Services.

Patti and Sheldon Rotman, honouring **Roslyn and Brian Segal** on their 50th anniversary.

Patti and Sheldon Rotman and family, acknowledging **Sherry Rogenstein** in memory of **Brian Zinman**.

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

Lola Snidman, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Helena Snidman**.

Dot Whitehouse, honouring the 100th birthday of the late **Louis Whitehouse**^{z"l}.

Dot Whitehouse, honouring the dedicated, professional and compassionate **staff of Beth Tzedec**, and wishing them a sweet, healthy and joyous new year.

Food Insecurity Fund

Annette Bot and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **William Bot**.

Ruth and Alby, Sarah and Daniel, Jonathan, Rina and Lauren Garbe, honouring **Irving Marlow** on his 97th birthday.

Nathan Greenberg and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Carole Greenberg**.

Brian Heller, Beverley Kupfert and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Dr. Leon Heller**.

Marilyn Herbert, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Fanny Hochman**.

Stephen and Harriet Segal and Peter and Nancy Segal, honouring **Brian Segal and Roslyn Levine** on their 50th anniversary.

General Fund

Dani Cohen, honouring the memories of **Clement and Jasmine Cohen**.

Gail Siskind, acknowledging **Bernie Katchen** in memory of **Joseph Katchen**.

Gertrude Diamond Memorial Fund

Judy and Arnie Diamond, acknowledging the **Diamond Family** in memory of **Gertrude Diamond**.

Melanie Freedman, acknowledging the **Appleby Family** in memory of **Gertrude Diamond**.

From all of us at Apex Kosher Catering,

APEX
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Chag Sameach!

High Holy Day Appeal

Brandon Beck and Jordana Kimel, honouring the memory of Alana Beck.

Simon and Marsha Colla, honouring the memories of **Dr. and Mrs. N. Levinne and Mr. and Mrs. Israel Colla.**

Diane Ennis

Michael Kaplan

Sam Levy and Vera Li, honouring the birth of their daughter **Raya Li Levy.**

Howard (Hy) Cooper Trust Fund

David and Carol Grossman, honouring **Lorne Hanick.**

David and Carol Grossman and family, acknowledging the **Gerskup Family** in memory of **Allen Gerskup.**

Adrienne Levinter, honouring **Adam Rachlin** on receiving the Man of the Year Award.

Jewish Family Living Fund

Jessica Katz and Stewart Jackson, honouring **Cantor Audrey Klein.**

Petra Newton and family, honouring **Rabbi Lara Rodin.**

Kosher Food Bank

Phyllis Flatt, wishing **Avital and Richard Narvey and family** Shanah Tovah.

Phyllis Flatt, wishing **Beverley Black** Shanah Tovah.

Phyllis Flatt, wishing **Cantor Audrey Klein and Joshua Albert** Shanah Tovah.

Phyllis Flatt, wishing **Cantor Sidney Ezer** Shanah Tovah.

Phyllis Flatt, wishing **Marvin and Estelle Kates** Shanah Tovah.

Phyllis Flatt, wishing **Phil David** Shanah Tovah.

Phyllis Flatt, wishing **Rabbi Baruch and Josette Frydman-Kohl and family** Shanah Tovah.

Phyllis Flatt, wishing **Rabbi Lara Rodin and Jonah Levitt** Shanah Tovah.

Phyllis Flatt, wishing **Rabbi Robyn Fryer Bodzin, Aaron Bodzin and Ariella** Shanah Tovah.

Phyllis Flatt, wishing **Rabbi Steve and Jody Wernick and family** Shanah Tovah.

Debbie Rothstein and Michael Friedman, acknowledging **Larry Ross** in memory of **Gail Rosenberg.**

Little Minyan Fund

Dr. Sheldon Lazier, honouring **Beth Tzedec** for receiving an aliyah and for the warm greeting at Services.

Debbie Rothstein and Michael Friedman, acknowledging **Liza Stern** in memory of **Barry Stern.**

Out-of-the-Cold Fund

Nate, Paul and Liane Greenberg, acknowledging the memory of **Barry Kirshin.**

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

Dot Whitehouse, honouring **Josette and Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl,** and wishing them a sweet new year of great health and joyful abundance.

Prayer Book Dedications: Siddur

Beth Tzedec Sisterhood, acknowledging the **family of Minnie Ross**^{z1} in her memory.

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

Rabbi Robyn Fryer Bodzin Discretionary Fund

Dr. Gerald Arbus and Joy Wagner Arbus, honouring **Rabbi Fryer Bodzin.**

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

Debbie and Jeff Levman and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Irving Milstein.**

Sandy Miller and family, honouring **Rabbi Fryer Bodzin.**

Joy Wagner and Dr. Gerald Arbus, honouring **Rabbi Fryer Bodzin.**

Rabbi Steven Wernick Discretionary Fund

David and Carol Grossman, honouring **Rabbi Steven Wernick.**

Rayna Jolley, honouring **Jody Wernick.**

Rayna Jolley, honouring **Rabbi Steve and Jody Wernick,** and wishing them Shanah Tovah.

Rochelle Linden, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Bette Risen.**

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

Kenneth and Susan Melvin, honouring **Blake Teichman** on being this year's *Chattan Torah.*

The Muskat Family, honouring **Rabbi Steve Wernick.**

Adam and Yonit Rapkowski, honouring **Rabbi Steven Wernick.**

Harvey Rotstein, honouring **Rabbi Steve Wernick.**

Joanne and Earl Schwebel, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Valerie Fine.**

Deborah Staiman, honouring **Rabbi Steve and Jody Wernick.**

Jason Stein, honouring **Rabbi Steve and Jody Wernick,** and thanking them for their hospitality on Rosh Hashanah.

The Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl Endowment Fund

Adrienne Levinter and family, wishing **Rabbi Baruch and Josette Frydman-Kohl** Shanah Tovah.

Petra Newton and family, honouring **Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl.**

Victims of Terror Fund

Art and Carole Andrews, acknowledging the **Albaum Family** in memory of **Jeffrey Albaum.**

Art and Carole Andrews, honouring **Blake Teichman** on being this year's *Chattan Torah.*

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

Brenda and Moshe Bessin, honouring **Jordan and Esther Klimitz** on the bar mitzvah of their son **Liam Klimitz.**

Donald Carr^{z1} and Judy Feld Carr, acknowledging **Marilyn Finkelstein** in memory of **Eve Finkelstein.**

Judy Feld Carr and Donald Carr^{z1}, honouring **Dorion Liebgott** on being this year's *Kallat Bereisheet.*

Sandy Cohen, honouring **Blake Teichman** on being this year's *Chattan Torah.*

Sandy Cohen, honouring **Dorion Liebgott** on being this year's *Kallat Bereisheet.*

Maxine Gallander Wintre, acknowledging **Michael Soberman and family** in memory of **Marilyn Soberman.**

Lana Kerzner, wishing **Brenda and Moshe Bessin** *Gmar Hatima Tovah* and *todah rabbah.*

Lana Kerzner, wishing **Cathy, Todd, Mitchell and Adam Beallor** Shanah Tovah.

Lana Kerzner, wishing **Rabbi Baruch and Josette Frydman-Kohl** Shanah Tovah.

Lana Kerzner, wishing **Rabbi Lara Rodin** Shanah Tovah.

Jan and Mark Lapedus, wishing **Rabbi Steve and Jody Wernick** Shanah Tovah.

Mark and Jan Lapedus, wishing **Dr. Nowell and Andrea Solish and family** Shanah Tovah.

Mark and Jan Lapedus, wishing **Rafi and Samantha Yablonsky and family** Shanah Tovah.

Marcie and Gary Mansfield, honouring **Blake Teichman** on being this year's *Chattan Torah*.

Marcie and Gary Mansfield, honouring **Dorion Liebgott** on being this year's *Kallat Bereisheet*.

Paul Sheldon and Amy Phillips, acknowledging **Jennifer Levy and family** in memory of **Hymie Levy**.

Paul Sheldon and Amy Phillips, acknowledging **Maida Gerskup** in memory of **Allen Gerskup**.

Laura Graiewski, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Isaac Graiewski**.

Morris and Lorraine Rotbard, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Sara Rotbard**.

Rabbi Shalom Schachter and Marcia Gilbert, honouring **Rabbi Steven and Jody Wernick**.

Jordan and Dayna Waltman, and Melanie and Ari Cuperfain, honouring **Norman and Jackie Kahn**.

Deborah Staiman, honouring **Blake Teichman** on being this year's *Chattan Torah*.

Deborah Staiman, honouring **Dorion Liebgott** on being this year's *Kallat Bereisheet*.

Dorothy Tessis, acknowledging **Bernie and Karen Katchen** in memory of **Joseph Katchen**.

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

Irv Tessler and family, honouring **Ari Posner and Tamar Kagan** on the bat mitzvah of their daughter **Leila Posner**.

Dot Whitehouse, honouring **Janna Walters** for her brilliant creative spirit with an even more brilliant heart.

Dot Whitehouse, honouring the dedicated, professional, and compassionate **Spiritual Leadership Team**, and wishing them and those they hold dear a sweet, healthy and joyous new year.

Dot Whitehouse, wishing her **Shul Sisters and honorary Shul Sisters** and those they hold dear a healthy and joyous new year.

Dot Whitehouse, wishing **Nancy Ezer and family** and all those you hold dear a healthy and joyous new year.

Arlyn and Danny Zimmerman, Matthew, Jaime, Otis, Penn and Maude, Josh and Ariel, Cobi, Emily and Blake, and Adam, Ben and Cale, wishing **Sara Zimmerman** Shanah Tovah.

Arlyn and Danny Zimmerman, wishing **Matthew, Jaime, Otis, Penn and Maude** Shanah Tovah.

Arlyn and Danny Zimmerman, wishing **Cobi, Emily and Blake** Shanah Tovah.

Arlyn and Danny Zimmerman, Matthew, Jaime, Otis, Penn and Maude, Josh and Ariel, Cobi, Emily and Blake, and Adam, Ben and Cale, wishing **Dr. and Mrs. Bernard Farber** Shanah Tovah.

Arlyn and Danny Zimmerman, Matthew, Jaime, Otis, Penn and Maude, Josh and Ariel, Cobi, Emily and Blake, and Adam, Ben and Cale, wishing **Jack and Marsha Urowitz** Shanah Tovah.

Arlyn and Danny Zimmerman, Matthew, Jaime, Otis, Penn and Maude, Josh and Ariel, Cobi, Emily and Blake, and Adam, Ben and Cale, wishing **Mr. and Mrs. Brian Antman** Shanah Tovah.

Arlyn and Danny Zimmerman, Matthew, Jaime, Otis, Penn and Maude, Josh and Ariel, Cobi, Emily and Blake, and Adam, Ben and Cale, wishing **Dr. Sheldon and Patti Rotman** Shanah Tovah.

Arlyn and Danny Zimmerman, Matthew, Jaime, Otis, Penn and Maude, Josh and Ariel, Cobi, Emily and Blake, and Adam, Ben and Cale, wishing **Lance Levy and Susan Hennick** Shanah Tovah.

Arlyn and Danny Zimmerman, Matthew, Jaime, Otis, Penn and Maude, Josh and Ariel, Cobi, Emily and Blake, and Adam, Ben and Cale, wishing **Rabbi Shalom Schachter and Marcie Gilbert** Shanah Tovah.

Arlyn and Danny Zimmerman, Matthew, Jaime, Otis, Penn and Maude, Josh and Ariel, Cobi, Emily and Blake, and Adam, Ben and Cale, wishing **Mr. and Mrs. Gary Polan** Shanah Tovah.

Arlyn and Danny Zimmerman, Matthew, Jaime, Otis, Penn and Maude, Josh and Ariel, Cobi, Emily and Blake, and Adam, Ben and Cale, wishing **Larry and Nina Wallach** Shanah Tovah.

Arlyn and Danny Zimmerman, Matthew, Jaime, Otis, Penn and Maude, Josh and Ariel, Cobi, Emily and Blake, and Adam, Ben and Cale, wishing **Rabbi Steve and Jody Wernick** Shanah Tovah.

Young Professionals Fund

The Ashley Children, honouring **Yacov Fruchter** for officiating at the unveiling for **Harold Ashley**^{z"l}.

Youth Initiatives Fund in memory of Adam Kruger

The Ashley Children, honouring **Yacov Fruchter** for officiating at the unveiling for **Harold Ashley**^{z"l}.

Beth Tzedec Men's Club, acknowledging **Michael Givens** in memory of **Min Givens**.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
DONATE TODAY.

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

Games Afternoons

Thursday afternoons

12:30 to 3:30 PM

Join us for a social afternoon of Mahjong, Bridge and Canasta. For beginners and seasoned veterans alike.

Mahjong and Canasta lessons will be available soon. To arrange for lessons, please contact the Synagogue Office at 416-781-3511 or email info@beth-tzedec.org.



Cost: \$2 donation supporting our *Chesed* initiatives.

Mahzor Lev Shalem

Several years ago, Beth Tzedec introduced *Mahzor Lev Shalem*, a completely updated prayer book for the High Holy Days.

You can inscribe a volume of *Mahzor Lev Shalem* in honour or in memory of a loved one, or to mark a special occasion. Each *mahzor* will bear a personalized bookplate in acknowledgement.

To inscribe a *mahzor*, contact the Synagogue Office at 416-781-3511



Condolences

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

Adam Adler	Brenda Pollock
Jeffrey Albaum	Morton Rapp
James Bleiweis	Gail Rosenberg
Lawrence Cappe	Ronda Roth
Donald Carr	Toby Rotstein
Rachel Ferman	Dr. Sam Rubenzahl
Eve Finkelstein	Dr. Gerald Schneiderman
Maxine Fish	Dr. David Lloyd Shaul
Min Givens	Laurence Norman Smith
Dr. Herbert Leonard Goldberg	Barry Michael Stern
Lorraine Green	Marvin Temes
Earl Hurwitz	Roslyn Merle Verny
Basia Jesin	Ron Weiss
Helen Nightingale	Martin Eric Zatzman

“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 *suddur* on a *yahrtzeit*. For a complete list of Synagogue funds, 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, **Phil David** at 416-781-3514 ext. 211 to discuss these opportunities in confidence.

