

# bulletin



60 Years of Tradition—Building for the Future

Beth Tzedec Bulletin

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Shabbat Shirah  
Weekend

January 22 to 24  
p. 2

Blue Jeans  
Shabbat Dinner

February 5  
p. 10

Purim Beatles  
Sing-Along

March 20  
p. 12

Purim Carnival and  
Family Megillah  
Reading

March 23  
p. 23

# SHABBAT SHIRAH Weekend



with Sam Glaser



## Friday, January 22 to Sunday, January 24

Celebrate these four exciting music events with Cantor Simon Spiro and our special musical guest, one of America's favourite Jewish recording artists, Sam Glaser—direct from California

### Musical Friday Night Live Shabbat Service

Friday, January 22 at 6:00 PM

- ❖ A lively and *frayleikh* Carlebach-style service led by Sam Glaser with explanations throughout
- ❖ Delicious Shabbat dinner and the opportunity to schmooze and sing along with Sam

Cost for dinner: \$25 adults; \$18 youth (ages 5-14); \$6 children (ages 1-4). Dinner by advance reservation only by Monday, January 18.

### Special Shabbat Shirah Morning Service

Shabbat, January 23—Services at 8:45 AM

- ❖ Sermon-in-song by Sam Glaser on *The Power of Music in Prayer: Preserving Nusah in a Folk-Song World*
- ❖ Special appearance by the *Voices of Tomorrow* Children's Choir
- ❖ Special Kiddush following Services

### Shabbat Shirah Community Concert

Saturday evening, January 23 at 8:00 PM

Join Sam Glaser and friends together with Cantor Simon Spiro for a fabulous evening with a musical Havdalah.

- ❖ A concert of hits from around the world featuring Toronto's finest vocalists and musicians
- ❖ Encore appearance by the *Voices of Tomorrow*
- ❖ Dessert reception following

Tickets: \$25 in advance; \$36 at the door

### "Rockin' with Sam Glaser" Youth Concert

Sunday, January 24 at 4:00 PM

Join hundreds of young people from around Toronto for an exciting, rockin' event. Great music and fun for the whole family. Free admission but reservations required.

For information, reservations or tickets, contact the  
Synagogue office at 416-781-3511 or [info@beth-tzedec.org](mailto:info@beth-tzedec.org).

# Jewish Challenges

The highest level of tzedakah is helping people to become self-sufficient.



## AS JEWS AND CANADIANS, WE FACE MANY CHALLENGES.

We are called to broaden access to Jewish education, creatively continue our tradition, attend to our elderly, support Israel, and defend democratic and free societies. In addition, we must care for poor Jews and provide humanitarian assistance to those who are outside the borders of our community.

Having grown up in poverty, I am sensitive to its presence in the Toronto Jewish community: The children who go to school hungry in the morning. The Holocaust survivors who count their pennies when shopping. The former Russian Jews who came for freedom but lack food. The woman who places kiddush crumbs into her purse after services. The families who depend on kosher packages for their Shabbat tables and spring deliveries for Pesah. The single parent holding onto a low-paying job while caring for a child. The homeless we feed at Out of the Cold and the hungry who draw upon our food banks. The unseen Jews who live in the cracks and crevices of our city.

The 13 percent of Toronto Jews who live in poverty are doubly invisible: unrecognized by the general public who believe that “all Jews are rich” and unnoticed by Jews who don’t deal with the displaced and downtrodden on a daily basis. As individuals and a community, we have an obligation to see the faces of the poor and to recognize in them (their faces) the image of God.

The *Talmud* teaches that poverty “drives a person crazy” by eroding the human being and negatively shaping a person’s life experiences (TB Eruvin 41b). The ethical challenge confronts us: what will we do? While none of us may be able to single-handedly end poverty, we can play a role.

To fight poverty, we must be aware of the problem and what contributes to poverty, including low wages, unemployment, limited access to education, discrimination, lack of affordable housing and more. Given the complicated nature of poverty, we can work in concert with UJA Federation and its agencies, federal and provincial governments, other social service providers and generous individuals to address complex causes and make a dent in the symptoms.

Directed by the well-known teaching of Maimonides detailing eight levels of *tzedakah*, we know that the highest level is helping people to become self-sufficient.

In addition, we should ask how to create a society in which full-time workers can earn enough money to support a family. We are pushed forward by the mandate of our sacred tradition: When your kin falls, do not turn away; uphold that person. When you reap your harvest, leave a portion for the stranger, the orphan and the widow. Then the Eternal will bless you.

Concern for and about refugees has spread from Africa to Italy, from Syria to Jordan, from the Middle East to Europe. It has become a major political issue in the United States and Canada. I hear about it from Uber drivers and congregants, from those who see resettlement as a *mitzvah* and those wary of opening our doors.

Those who are anxious often reflect words articulated by the President of the United States: “The refugee has got to be checked because, unfortunately, among the refugees there are some spies, as has been found in other countries.” This was said by Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1940, referring to Jewish refugees.

In Canada, the research of Irving Abella and Harold Troper in the Canadian National Archives revealed similar resistance. This letter was addressed to the Immigration Department in 1939:

In great need and distress, [we] address you for help and rescue. Our distress, particularly that of our children ... increases daily and there is nothing left for us but suicide. ... We appeal to you for a permit to enter your country. Surely there are people left in this world, people who will have pity on us, people who will save us. My wife will refuse no work. We will farm, we will keep house, we will do anything in order to enter your country. Please do not let our cry for help go unheeded. Please save us before it is too late.

*Jacob and Cecilia Stein*

And to the cream of European Jewish society, the Stein family and many others, the same response was issued from the Department of Immigration:

Unfortunately, though we greatly sympathise with your circumstances, at present the Canadian government is not admitting Jews. Please try another country.

Of course, as Professors Abella and Troper note, “there was no other country.”

In spite of resistance to refugee resettlement, we Jews must remember that we too have been migrants and

refugees. We have learned to care for the stranger, not only from the 36 verses in the Torah where we are so commanded, but also from our own recent trauma. We know the heart of the stranger.

Rabbi Emanuel Rackman says Judaism teaches an “empathic justice,” which “seeks to make people identify themselves with [the] needs [of others], with each other’s hopes and aspirations, with each other’s defeats and frustrations. Because Jews have known the distress of slaves and the loneliness of strangers, we are to project ourselves into their souls and make their plight our own.”

Following World War II, more than six million wartime refugees, displaced persons, were repatriated, but between 1.5 million and two million displaced persons refused to return to eastern Europe. Most Jewish survivors were unwilling because of postwar antisemitism and the destruction of their communities during the Holocaust.

At its peak in 1947, the Jewish displaced person population reached approximately 250,000. Jews pressed for greater immigration opportunities and the creation of a Jewish homeland in Palestine. My in-laws were smuggled into France. There was “illegal” immigration to British Palestine. France, Britain, Canada and the United States reluctantly agreed to accept refugees.

Our ancestor Abraham went out of his way to aid migrants. According to a midrash, he set up shelter on the roads so that the poor and the wayfarer would have access to food and drink when in need.

Through the Jewish Coalition for Disaster Relief (JCDR), convened by the Joint Distribution Committee, Jewish organizations have been quietly funding relief efforts for Syrian refugees for the past two years. This consortium of nearly 50 organizations pools resources and provides a coordinated response in keeping with the long tradition of Jewish humanitarianism. Assistance has been delivered in Jordan, which has seen more than 625,000 registered refugees since the start of the fighting in Syria. Recently, the mandate of aid has been expanded to include refugees and migrants in Europe and the Middle East.

Currently, the City of Toronto is planning to accept about 40 percent of all Syrian refugees to Canada: 900 are being processed by Canadian authorities every day. Our government will do proper screenings for security and health concerns. Through JIAS, the Jewish community has 30 groups working with ten to 15 families, a number proportionate to our population. Our congregation is honoured to be among them. You may read more about this on page 41.

In this song, Uruguayan folk-rock musician Jorge Drexler offered tribute to the policies that saved his refugee grandparents, fleeing Nazi Germany:

Everyone said no, and Bolivia said yes ...  
The pendulum comes and goes ...  
those who today have it all  
tomorrow implore for it all.  
The water wheel turns  
destinies around ...  
all history is a revolving door.

The *Talmud* teaches that each person has a *mitzvah* that comes at a particular time and place: “Every person has a distinctive hour; everything has its distinctive place.” (Avot 4.3) Refugee resettlement is our *mitzvah*. This is our time. This is our place. Let’s do it.

A version of this essay was delivered at the annual general meeting of JIAS Toronto on December 1, 2015.

Visit [www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2015/11/22/456694405/refugees-that-time-everyone-said-no-and-bolivia-said-yes](http://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2015/11/22/456694405/refugees-that-time-everyone-said-no-and-bolivia-said-yes)

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TO CONTRIBUTE YOUR news, congratulations,  
member updates or other listings, send an email  
to [thumphries@beth-tzedec.org](mailto:thumphries@beth-tzedec.org), call  
416-781-3514, ext. 212 or fax 416-781-0150.

# Look What You Missed

A synagogue should be proud of its history, but must have a passionately held vision about the meaning and future of Jewish life.



I HAVE DEVOTED MOST OF MY BULLETIN COLUMNS AS President of Beth Tzedec to delivering messages of which the dominant theme has been transformation. I have described the selection of Hariri Pontarini as the architects of our building renovation, the forthcoming changes in the shul building and personnel, our re-affiliation with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, and our array of programming that seeks to target every possible demographic in the community. In this column, however, I want to be retrospective. I want to tell you what many of you missed. Two recent events at Beth Tzedec deserve this treatment: our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala held November 1, and the Remembrance Day Shabbat Service held November 7.

We wanted to conclude the celebration of our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year with a joyous and memorable event where we could come together for a night of dining, dancing and reminiscing. Sixtieth Anniversary Committee co-chairs Paul Rothstein and Marvin Miller exceeded an evening no one wanted to end. And Patti Rotman, our Catering Committee chair extraordinaire, made sure everyone's *smahot* hereafter will be measured against her soaring standards. We began the fête with drinks and hors d'oeuvres in the foyer adorned with 1955 décor. There we ate our chopped liver, pigs-in-a-blanket, latkes, deviled eggs, shepherd's pie, knishes, brisket sandwiches and barbequed salami (yes, these were just the appetizers) and quaffed our choice of *gansa* gimlets, *meshiginah* martinis, *shtikele* Singapore slings, *ver vaist* whisky sours and 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary sea breezes.

When the doors to the Banquet Hall were opened, nearly 300 celebrants in attendance (many men in tuxedos and women in ball gowns) were ushered into the beautifully decorated hall with the partition wall up, displaying the Sanctuary and its impressive *bimah* in the distance. Our Chair of the Board, Sheldon Rotman, announced that everyone was being given *The History of Beth Tzedec Congregation*, our just-published book dedicated in loving memory of Irwin (Bob) Cohen<sup>z"l</sup>. In my brief remarks, I referred to the lesson we learned a week earlier from Prof. Yehuda Kurtzer, the North American Director of the Hartman Institute, that the Jewish People's key to vibrancy and success has been to be forever undergoing change while maintaining a veneer

that we are adhering to tradition. Rabbi Frydman-Kohl delivered a passionate reflection and blessing to the congregation, and Cantor Spiro treated us to a medley of hits from our 1955 creation to the present. Our beloved ritual director, Lorne Hanick, guided us hilariously through his video presentation, making the point that the exhausting climb up 14 stairs from the street to the front doors of Goel Tzedec was replicated in the climb up from our floor to the *aron hakodesh* in the Sanctuary. What were they thinking? (As an aside, as I reported on Kol Nidrei and in a previous *Bulletin*, we plan to alleviate that ascent soon.) Larry Wallach entertained us with his touching video history of Beth Tzedec. Once the dining began, we were treated to a five-course feast superbly presented by Applause Catering. We danced the night away to the *frayleikh* music of the Zemer Orchestra. We are grateful to the Beth Tzedec Men's Club and Sisterhood plus an anonymous donor for their sponsorship of the evening. We rejoiced! What a party!

Moving forward six days later, our *Hazzanim* delivered a most moving Remembrance Day Shabbat service which I hope we can someday make available online. Cantor Sidney Ezer explained before he began *Musaf* that a few years ago, he had an idea to sing *Oseh Shalom* in the *Kaddish Shalem* to the tune of *The Last Post*. From there he conceived the idea of having a special *Musaf* service on Remembrance Day Shabbat incorporating hymns typically sung at Remembrance Day ceremonies, as well as famous songs from the First and Second World Wars. Foremost on Cantor Ezer's mind was recreating the mood of the Remembrance Day ceremony at the National War Memorial in Ottawa. Cantor Ezer included the *Voices of Tomorrow* children's choir, since "children need to learn about the horrors of the past and have the power to shape the future".

We prayed *Kaddish Shalem* accompanied by the Beth Tzedec Singers singing *The Lament* as droning bagpipes, thereby creating a sombre sense of mourning. The *Voices of Tomorrow* led us in *L'Dor Vador* to the tune of Pete Seeger's *Where Have All the Flowers Gone*. Cantor Ezer explained that the prayer speaks to declaring God's greatness from generation to generation, while Pete Seeger's song ironically bemoans the fact that from generation to generation, we never learn and continue to

perpetuate hatred and violence. Cantor Simon Spiro moved us with his arrangement of the poem *For the Fallen*.

Other tunes to which we *davened* were *I Vow to Thee My Country, It's a Long Way to Tipperary, O Valiant Hearts, The White Cliffs of Dover, Reveille, We'll Meet Again* and *O God Our Help in Ages Past*. We were utterly awed.

My apologies to those who contributed to these magnificent events whose names I have neglected to mention. We seek challenges, improve continuously and expand our members' expectations to levels other shuls cannot meet. I wish you had been there with us.



PICTURED: Gary Mansfield, Blake Teichman, Norman Kahn, the Hon. Jack Grossman and Sheldon Rotman celebrate at the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala.

## Strategic Planning Update: Survey Says?

**THE STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE IS ABOUT TO** launch the congregational survey which may be completed online or on paper (for those who do not have access to a computer). We strongly encourage all members (and your families, including family members who are no longer members themselves) to take the time to provide your input and feedback which is critical to us.

Your participation in the survey is essential to assisting in the creation of Beth Tzedec's Strategic Plan. It is anonymous and should take about 20 minutes to complete. We want and need to hear from you. Please don't miss this opportunity to share your thoughts to help shape the future of our congregation.

Once the survey is closed and its results analyzed, our committee will review that data, along with the feedback we have gathered from town hall meetings, focus groups, interviews with community leaders, clergy and staff, and we will proceed to draft a Strategic Plan for submission to the Board of Governors.

Please watch for an email in early January providing details on how to access the survey. We look forward to hearing from you.

As always, please let us know if you have any questions; you can reach us at [strategicplanning@beth-tzedec.org](mailto:strategicplanning@beth-tzedec.org).

*Carolyn Kolers and Larry Wallach*  
Co-chairs, Strategic Planning Committee

**SAVE THE DATE**

**The Senator Jerahmiel S. and Carol S. Grastein Lecture**  
Professor Michael Morgan gives a presentation on *The Necessity and Impossibility of Being a Jewish Philosopher* on **Tuesday, March 29** at 7:30 pm.

# Milestones and celebrations



We can't share your good news unless you tell us about it. Send an email to [thumphries@beth-zedec.org](mailto:thumphries@beth-zedec.org), or call us at 416-781-3514 ext. 212. **Deadline for the next Bulletin covering March to May is February 15.**

## Births

**Zoey Morgan**, daughter of WENDY & JONATHAN JACOBS, born October 22.

**Charley Eden**, daughter of DR. PAULA FISHMAN & MICHAEL OSTFIELD, granddaughter of ELAINE & ERIC OSTFIELD and HELEN & ALLAN FISHMAN of Calgary, great-granddaughter of HANNAH KATZ, born October 27.

**Daniel Spencer**, son of BAILEY & ROBBIE KAUFMAN, grandson of CATHY & THE HON. RON KAUFMAN and JULIE & MARK GUTKIN, great-grandson of REBECCA WALL and SHEILA & JACK GUTKIN, born November 2.

**Harper Skye**, daughter of ALLISON & ELLIOT GOODMAN, granddaughter of RANDY & HOWARD ROSEN and SANDRA & KERRY GOODMAN, great-granddaughter of DR. SIDNEY & GINA BROWN and HINDA KORN, born November 13.

**Myles Dylan**, son of BARRY & TALI ROSENTHAL, grandson of CHERYL & HERSH ROSENTHAL and RIMA & YURI BURITINSKY, born November 18.

## Weddings

**Michael Geist**, son of MARVIN & THE LATE TERRY GEIST, and **Carrie Bregman**, daughter of BARBARA BREGMAN and MICHAEL BREGMAN, granddaughter of YETTA BREGMAN, who were married October 11.

**Aaron Saks**, son of RANDI & TOM SAKS, grandson of RENEE TOPPER and ROBERT SAKS, and **Allie Diamond**, daughter of CRAIG & CARRIE DIAMOND, granddaughter of CHARLES & ISABEL DIAMOND, who were married October 11 in Vancouver.

**Marion Hershoran**, daughter of RHODELLE & THE LATE JACK HERSHORAN, and **Richard Cassel**, son of THE LATE HENRY & RETA CASSEL, who were married November 2.

**Meryl Zisman Gary**, daughter of THE HON. JUSTICE ROSELYN ZISMAN & MICHAEL GARY, and **Steven Devor**, son of SUSAN DEVOR AND LOUIS DEVOR, who were married December 20.

**Jodi Arielle Rotman**, daughter of DR. SHELDON & PATTI ROTMAN, and **Ryan David Tkatch**, son of MURRAY & JANICE TKATCH, who will be married February 6.

**Daniel Olyan**, son of MARLENE OLYAN AND JEFFREY OLYAN, and **Jenn Green**, daughter of RONDA & CARY GREEN, who will be married February 27.

**Ira Shiner**, son of ALAN & FAYE SHINER, and **Rebecca Golt**, daughter of FRED & BENITA GOLT, who will be married March 27 in Montreal.

## Congratulations to

**Faygie & Dr. Murray Buchman**, who celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary on October 31.

**Dr. Ronald Landsberg**, who celebrated his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 13.

**Joy Wagner-Arbus**, who celebrated her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday on November 22.

**Raquel Walman**, daughter of TERRY & NADINE WALMAN, and **Joshua Friedlich**, son of JOSEPH & LINDA FRIEDLICH, on their engagement.

## Many thanks

**Ydessa Hendeles and family**, who sponsored a *Seudah Shlisheet* on October 31 to commemorate the yahrtzeit of **Dorothy Hendeles**.

**Dr. Eudice Goldberg**, who sponsored a *Seudah Shlisheet* on November 7 to mark the conclusion of *shloshim* for **Tillie Goldberg**.

**Elaine Marcus and family**, who sponsored a *Seudah Shlisheet* on November 14 to commemorate the first yahrtzeit of **Stanley Axmith**.

**Sidney, Lola and Dr. Jonathan Solnik**, who sponsored a *Seudah Shlisheet* on November 14 to commemorate the yahrtzeiten of **Morris Bloom** and **Irving Albert Solnik**.

**The Ackerman Family**, who sponsored a *Seudah Shlisheet* on November 28 to commemorate the yahrtzeit of **Dr. John Ackerman**.

**Jeremy & Jo-anne Cole**, who sponsored a *Seudah Shlisheet* on November 28 to commemorate the yahrtzeit of **Sharon Cole**, and in honour of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter **Sara Cole**.

**Harry Enchin & Susan Friedrich**, who sponsored a *Seudah Shlisheet* on November 28 to commemorate the yahrtzeiten of **Lidia Friedrich** and **Jonathan Enchin**.

**Irving Matlow**, who sponsored a *Seudah Shlisheet* on November 28 to commemorate the yahrtzeit of **Esther Matlow**.

**Dr. Sidney & Gina Brown and Howard & Randy Rosen**, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on December 5 in honour of the birth of their great-granddaughter and granddaughter.

**Paul Rothstein**, who sponsored a *Seudah Shlisheet* on December 5 in memory of **Isaac Ronnie Rothstein**.

**Michael Gary & the Hon. Roselyn Zisman**, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on December 12 in honour of the marriage of **Meryl Zisman Gary** & **Steven Devor**.

**Bob Starkman**, who will sponsor a Congregational Kiddush on January 23 in honour of **Rachel Starkman** receiving an aliyah.

**Jonathan Cole & Laurie Sheff**, who will sponsor a Congregational Kiddush on February 20 in honour of the Bar Mitzvah of their son **Ezra Cole**.

**Steven & Elisha Margles**, who will sponsor a Congregational Kiddush on February 27 in honour of the Bar Mitzvah of their son **Jeremy Margles**.

# Beth Tzedec 60+ Singles Friendship Group

## Sunday Meet & Greet

Sunday, January 31 at 2:00 PM

### *Eat, drink and socialize!*

You are cordially invited to our inaugural program, a musical meet and greet. Enjoy the opportunity to socialize while you nosh to the sounds of the Klez Konnection, Toronto's premier community Klezmer band.

Cost: \$18. Advance reservation required to the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511 or [info@beth-tzedec.org](mailto:info@beth-tzedec.org) by **Monday, January 25.**



## BETH TZEDEC MAX & BEATRICE WOLFE LIBRARY Book and Film Club Selections 2015-2016

Mondays—Lunch 1:00 PM; Reviews 1:30 PM

All six sessions: \$90 for members of Beth Tzedec Congregation, \$110 for non-members \$25 per session at the door.



**MARCH 21**

### Lacombe Lucien

Harriet Morris reviews Patrick Modiano's book and references the film.

This 1974 work by Nobel Prize winner Patrick Modiano relates the story of a troubled teenage boy during the German occupation in France. One of the first French films to address the issue of collaboration, the screenplay written by Modiano and filmmaker Louis Malle portrays a brave and controversial young peasant's journey from potential Resistance member to Gestapo recruit. A disquieting portrait of lost innocence and guilt.

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**Kensington Retirement Residence**



**APRIL 4**

### Norwegian by Night

Cynthia Good explores Derek B. Miller's mystery novel.

82 year old Sheldon Horowitz, troubled by the memories of his earlier life and coping with the frustrations of growing old, finds himself on the run from the police with a small boy accompanying him.

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# Where Tomorrow Begins Today



Our members have followed in the footsteps of their parents and grandparents, dedicating both time and finances necessary to keep our congregation strong.

## THEY SAY THAT ALL GOOD STORIES START WITH

Once upon a time”, so here is my short story for today: Once upon a time two downtown synagogues, part of a budding Jewish community bursting with potential, decided it was time to come together and grow up—moving north. It was time to expand their vision and create a future filled with promise and potential as an integral part of the fabric of Toronto and Canadian life. Sixty years ago, Beth Tzedec Congregation was born at 1700 Bathurst Street, and every day we restate our commitment as a leading voice of Conservative Judaism, providing opportunities for Judaic growth and exploration. Pioneers in their own right, volunteers and contributors from those original congregations and Beth Tzedec today fulfill our mandate and chart new pathways for the future of the Jewish people. Our leaders, like those of yesteryear, reflect, assess and build a congregation for tomorrow. To paraphrase from the *Talmud* (Sotah 49a), as our mothers and fathers have done before us, so do we do for those who will come after us.

For all of our 60 years, our members have followed in the footsteps of their parents and grandparents, dedicating both the time and finances necessary to keep our congregation strong. They planted the seeds to see a shul grow and flourish. Now it is our turn. Each of us can do our part to build the *Beth Tzedec of Tomorrow* by making a gift to your synagogue today.

There are many ways you can help support this vision for you, your family and your community. On a yahrtzeit, consider making a memorial contribution in the name of your loved one to one of the synagogue’s many funds—or start a fund of your own. Recognize a *simbah* or good fortune by making a gift to our Capital Fund and help speed along the renovation program to make your home better fit the needs of a new generation. Become a “Friend of Beth Tzedec” and help sustain our more than 200 programs, bringing top educators and lecturers to our community. Join the many leaders who have invested in Beth Tzedec and launch an Endowment Fund that will provide for a special project in perpetuity.

The future for our Congregation—our youth, 20s and 30s, families and older adults—is very promising. Beth Tzedec leads the way in providing for the spiritual and cultural needs for our members with our rabbis and cantors always here to help. Our professional “family” is standing by to help you plan a *simbah*, meeting or special event. You can count on us to help you join the great leaders of the Toronto community by investing in Beth Tzedec as we work today and build for tomorrow.

For information on how you can join the winning team and make a contribution to Beth Tzedec, please contact me at 416-781-3514 ext. 211 or by email at [rspiegel@beth-tzedec.org](mailto:rspiegel@beth-tzedec.org).



## Board of Governors Meetings

Members are welcome to attend all regularly scheduled meetings of the Board of Governors. To accommodate the need for sensitive items to be discussed in private, each meeting will include an *in camera* portion, allowing the Board to deliberate confidentially without any guests.

Upcoming meeting dates:\*

**Thursdays, January 14, February 25 and March 22 at 7:30 PM**

\* Meeting dates are subject to change. Please check with the office to confirm dates before attending.



Family-Centric Kabbalat Shabbat  
at 6:00 PM, Dinner at 6:45 PM

Dress down and enjoy a  
casual evening with friends  
and great food, kids' activities,  
and best of all, no shopping  
cooking or cleaning!

Cost: \$36 adults; \$18 youth (ages 5 to 14);  
\$6 children (ages 1 to 4). Dinner by advance  
reservation only by Monday, February 1.

For information or to reserve, contact the  
Synagogue office at 416-781-3511 or  
[info@beth-tzedec.org](mailto:info@beth-tzedec.org).

## In the spirit of Purim gift giving and *Tzedakah* send 'Treasures of Beth Tzedec' Tribute Cards

Our Purim cards feature a greggar (pictured) from the *Beth Tzedec Reuben & Helene Dennis Museum* collection, and are available in two ways:

1. **Pick up cards from the Synagogue office for you to personalize and send** at a cost of \$54 for a package of 12 cards or \$5 per card.
2. **We inscribe and mail them for you** at a cost of \$10 per card (minimum order of 12 cards)—just provide us with an address list and your personal message, and we'll do the rest!



All contributions are fully tax receiptable. For more information or to order, contact Avital at 416-781-3511 or [info@beth-tzedec.org](mailto:info@beth-tzedec.org).

# Mazal Tov to our B'nei Mitzvah

WHO HAVE COMPLETED OUR  
BAR/BAT MITZVAH PROGRAM



February 20  
Ezra Benjamin Cole  
son of Jonathon Cole  
& Laurie Sheff

עזרא בנימין בן יונתן  
הלל ואהבה



At Minḥah February 27  
Jeremy Margles  
son of Stephen &  
Elisha Margles

אליעזר משולם בן שלמה  
פינחס ואלטא בילא

## *Eighth Annual Mother's Day Chai Tea*

### *The Way We Were*

**Sunday, May 8 beginning at 2:30 PM**

Take a step back in time and celebrate Mother's Day with a retro vibe. Experience a vintage décor and menu that will be enjoyable for women of ALL ages plus a wonderful fashion show, games and swag bags for all!

#### **MODELS WANTED:**

The 2016 Chai Tea & Fashion Show Committee is looking for enthusiastic models for the May 8 event. If you are a female member of Beth Tzedec and would love to strut your stuff along our runway with your mother, daughter, aunt, grandmother, etc., please contact the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511 by February 29.



IT'S THE BRITISH INVASION... TO PERSIA!

# A PURIM BEATLES SING-ALONG

IT'S PURIM AGAIN AT BETH TZEDEC, FEATURING ONTARIO'S PREMIER BEATLES TRIBUTE BAND, THE CAVERNERS, AND OUR OWN BRITISH IMPORT, CANTOR SIMON SPIRO!

**SUNDAY, MARCH 20 AT 7:00 PM**

Welcome to this **Magical Mystery Tour** through the Megillah. **Come Together** for a traditional English supper and a sing-along with Canada's *Fab Four*. With lyrics on a big screen and the thrill of a live band, sing along to your favourite Beatles songs to tell the story of Purim.

Reservations: \$36\*—Limited seating; reserve early. Call 416-781-3511 by **Monday, March 14.**

Come in your favourite Beatles-related costume to win fabulous prizes.

**Twist & Shout** and have a great night out!

*\*Cash bar available*



# Celebrate Family

Being able to spend time with family, to celebrate big events as well as commonplace day-to-day happenings, is a wonderful thing.



**WORKING AS A CANTOR AND SINGER HAS** resulted in my living in many different cities around the world. From London to Singapore, Boca to Montreal, each community has been unique, exposing me to a myriad of ways to live, and offering me a glimpse into the contrasting values within each community.

Toronto, of course, has much that sets it apart from other communities, but something that I think is truly singular to this city and its Jewish community is the geographic proximity of family members. Many people tell me that the horizon is changing, that children are now leaving home to go to university outside of their hometown of Toronto. However, I still see these students returning after graduation to be near their parents as they begin the next chapter in their Toronto lives as adults.

When I first arrived in Toronto and paid one of my first shiva calls, I was surprised to learn that the grandchildren of the deceased not only hadn't needed to fly in, but rather, they all lived within one mile of their parents. Today, almost everyone I know in Toronto has most, if not all of their family members nearby, and I don't have to tell you that "Friday night Shabbat dinner at Bubby's" is a standard, almost expected, custom in this city regardless of the family's level of religious observance. I have friends whose grown children all live within two blocks of their home and stop by for breakfast every single morning on

their way to work. In cities throughout the U.S.A., these things are unheard of.

Here in Toronto, grandparents regularly attend their grandchildren's school events, and many new grandmothers have specific mornings each week they spend with the baby or toddler. People my age are close enough to, thankfully, give care to their parents in need and to visit them regularly at Baycrest or other senior residences. Being able to spend time with family, to celebrate big events as well as commonplace, day-to-day happenings, is indeed a wonderful thing, and something which I hope Torontonians don't take for granted.

So why am I telling you all this? Because I have planned the next two big music programs at Beth Tzedec with this special Toronto family closeness in mind.

Our Shabbat Shirah weekend at the end of January is a family affair. We dedicate the weekend to the memory of Beth Tzedec's past president, Irwin "Bob" Cohen<sup>21</sup>, a true family man who passed away exactly one year ago, just a few hours after the 2015 Shabbat Shirah Community Concert. In tribute to our music-loving Bob, this year's musical artist-in-residence is Sam Glaser, an American recording star equally famous for his great Jewish pop music and his events for youth. In addition to our yearly Friday Night musical service, our Shabbat morning "Sermon-in-Song", and our Saturday night community concert (which is a must-see!), this year we have added a

Sunday afternoon Youth Concert, "Rockin' Out with Sam Glaser!" Plan to join your kids and grandkids at this free event. I know that Bob would have been in the front row for all of this year's Shabbat Shirah events. We honour his memory by celebrating family.

The next exciting Beth Tzedec music event after Shabbat Shirah is the *Purim Beatles Sing-Along*, when we'll tell the story of the Megillah using our favourite Beatles songs along the way. Joining us will be Ontario's premier Beatles tribute band, The Caverners, and the lyrics will be projected on a giant screen so that everyone can sing along! This is the kind of event that you can, and should, attend with your parents or your grown kids. Whether you were a Beatlemaniac when you were young or born after the Beatles broke up, you will love singing these classic songs and seeing how they work to enhance our Purim tale! As it's a Beatles evening, the supper will be traditional British fish 'n' chips (and other English fare from my own childhood in London), and prizes will be given for the best and most creative Beatles-related costumes. I hope to see you at this rollicking evening, with your family around you!

We are indeed fortunate to live in a community that so easily celebrates the Jewish value of family, and I thank you for letting my musical programming be part of your family memories.

*B'shalom.*

Don't  
MISS!

**Megillah Reading** Wednesday evening, March 23 at 7:15 PM  
Thursday morning, March 24 following services at 7:00 AM

“ואהבתם את הגר” *You shall love the stranger*”

# SYRIAN REFUGEE RESPONSE

**OUR CONCERNS AND OUR IMPERATIVE** | *for 20s & 30s*

**Friday, February 19**

**Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 PM; Dinner 7:00 PM**

The Syrian refugee crisis has received a tremendous amount of attention worldwide. The current Canadian government has taken a clear stance on the issue, and many Jewish organizations have taken on the responsibility of sponsoring refugee families. However, the support for these initiatives within our community has not been unanimous. Join us for a panel discussion and dinner where we will explore the potentially competing Canadian and Jewish values and concerns in play, and the various opportunities to get involved.

Cost: \$25. To reserve, call 416-781-3511  
by Monday, February 15.

*Presented in partnership with Annex Shul,  
Holy Blossom, Temple Sinai and Ve'ahavta*



## YOUNG RABBIS SPEAK

**Wednesday, February 17**

*Judaism, Gender and Sexuality*

Danforth Jewish Circle (310 Danforth Avenue,  
Eastminster United Church, basement)

**Event begins at 7:30 PM**

Sponsored by the Wexner Graduate Fellowship Alumni Collaboration Grant



SHAAREI SHOMAYIM



Annex Shul



Miles Nodet JCC

# Feeling at Home in Israel



**AFTER GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL, I SPENT A YEAR** studying at Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan, Israel, situated just outside of Tel-Aviv. Gap years were not yet *de rigueur*, and it took a little bit of convincing before my parents sanctioned the trip. Cost was of course a concern, as was academic recognition by a Canadian university upon my return. Ultimately, the school accepted Canadian dollars on par with the Greenback (this when it was 67 cents to the dollar) and I earned a year and a half of academic credit in one year of study.

Safety never came up in our conversations pre-trip. Yet, when the second *intifada* began three weeks after my arrival and grew from stone throwing to shootings to high casualty bombings, their concern for my safety legitimately grew by the day.

I had only been in Israel once before, as a 17 year-old participant in a highly structured United Synagogue Youth summer program. Soon thereafter, I was a high school graduate living in Israel with the sole safety instruction from the program's administrators of "if you leave the country, we'd appreciate you telling us". We were free to go where we wanted, when we wanted.

It was a transformative experience. Of course, there was the personal growth towards adulthood and responsible independence (we had to cook our own meals), but more importantly, I was able to see the length and breadth of Israel on my terms. I volunteered on a kibbutz (mostly working in a factory that bred and exported bees internationally). I solicited and received invitations to Shabbat and holiday dinners in the homes of the frum and famous. I conversed with bus drivers (and a bartender or two). I learned the hard way while grocery shopping for chicken in the ultra-Orthodox community of

B'nei Brak that *בשר לבן* (literally "white meat") does not mean in Israel what it means here (hint: it oinks). It was during that year that Israel felt like home.

This year, three Beth Tzedec members are spending gap years in Israel. Maxwell Charlat is learning at Yeshivat Lev Hatorah in Ramat Beit Shemesh; Emma Friedman is studying at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem; and Max Librach is participating in the Conservative Movement's Nativ program combining study and volunteer work. Other members will be learning at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies and other medium- to long-term programs in Israel. There are scores of exciting opportunities for students in high school, university and graduate schools, as well as adults, to learn, volunteer and intern in Israel. They range from secular to Orthodox (including a few wonderful Conservative movement-affiliated programs). Many can be discovered at [www.masaisrael.org](http://www.masaisrael.org).

When I travel to Israel at the end of January as part of the Rabbinic Leadership Initiative of the Shalom Hartman Institute, I hope to get together with Beth Tzedec members and hear about their experiences. Rav Baruch and our Director of Education and Family Programming Daniel Silverman will also be in Israel this winter and spring for personal and professional purposes.

As I write this article, it continues to be a very difficult time in Israel. I know that the violence of the second *intifada* that I lived through continues to inform my thoughts on Israel. I know that that violence made my gap year a difficult one for my parents. May there be peace speedily in ours, and in the meantime, may its absence not impinge upon the learning and love that our members seek to find during their time in Israel.

**COMING TO ISRAEL!**

## Rav Adam will be heading to Israel!

If you or someone in your family will be in Israel when Rav Adam visits from January 27 to February 3, please contact him at 416-781-3514 ext. 219 or [ravadam@beth-tzedec.org](mailto:ravadam@beth-tzedec.org). He would love to take you out to dinner.



**PURIM**  
**CARNIVAL**  
*& Family Megillah Reading*

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23**

**4:00 PM**

Put on your costume and join the fun of the Beth Tzedec Purim Carnival! Kids of all ages will enjoy carnival booths, prizes, bouncy castles and a costume contest with amazing prizes. Prizes will be awarded for best Family costume, best Baby/Toddler costume, best Kid's costume, best Teen costume and best Adult costume.

No charge for activities;  
kids' food available for purchase.

The carnival will be followed by a  
child-friendly Megillah reading at 6:00 PM





# Closing the Jewish Education Gap



Let's work together and give more Jewish children the opportunity to embrace our past and inform our future.

**IN MY THREE AND A HALF YEARS SO FAR AT BETH TZEDEC,** I have been fortunate to participate in a number of professional development gatherings with other synagogue educators, both locally and from across North America. Regardless of the purpose of our gathering, be it improving teacher supervision, exploring new ideas in experiential education, or learning how to be better recruiters and marketers of our school and programming, the conversations always come back to questions about the size, function and operation of each synagogue in which we work.

I have been looking at very important figures: among the children of our members from Grades 1 to 8, what percentage are not enrolled in either Jewish Day School, our Synagogue's supplementary school or another supplementary Jewish learning program? The answers I get from my American colleagues are less than five percent. Put another way, in these congregations almost every child is engaged in formal Jewish education.

At Beth Tzedec, we estimate the figure to be 25 percent. We work hard to gather as much data as we can from families about where their kids go to school, and it seems that from Grades 1 to 8, around 50 percent of our kids attend a Jewish Day School, while another 20 percent are learning either in the CSIX @ BT (Congregational School Experience at Beth Tzedec) or at another supplementary program in the city. About five percent report that they make arrangements on their own with a tutor.

One quarter of our children are not receiving a formal Jewish education. Why might this be, and what can we do about it?

For many parents whose children are now in Grades 1 to 8 and who themselves participated in the supplementary school system, their experiences may have been less than positive. A recent study in the United States found that Jewish adults who experienced no formal Jewish education as children now have a more positive relationship with Judaism than adults who

received a one-day per week Hebrew school education as children. The field of supplementary Jewish learning was, frankly, a mess for far too long. We recognize that many parents carry their experiences with them and are hesitant to expose their own children to anything that resembles what they went through.

Today, for many parents, they feel there simply isn't enough time. Children are more programmed than ever before, with many of the most popular extra-curricular activities imposing strict attendance guidelines and multi-day per week obligations. Our challenge is to figure out how to get the same family buy in! Between activities, homework and time with friends and family, the hours are just not there, especially for an experience that may not be as highly valued or be of as high in terms of quality and relevance as hockey or dance.

But we are making changes. Over the last three years at Beth Tzedec, we have reshaped our school to focus on learning that is meaningful and relevant to the lives of our kids. We teach not as in the past; very little work is done at desks, and we use as few textbooks as possible. Instead, our faculty engage their students in activities and experiences that form real connections and meaning with the subject matter.

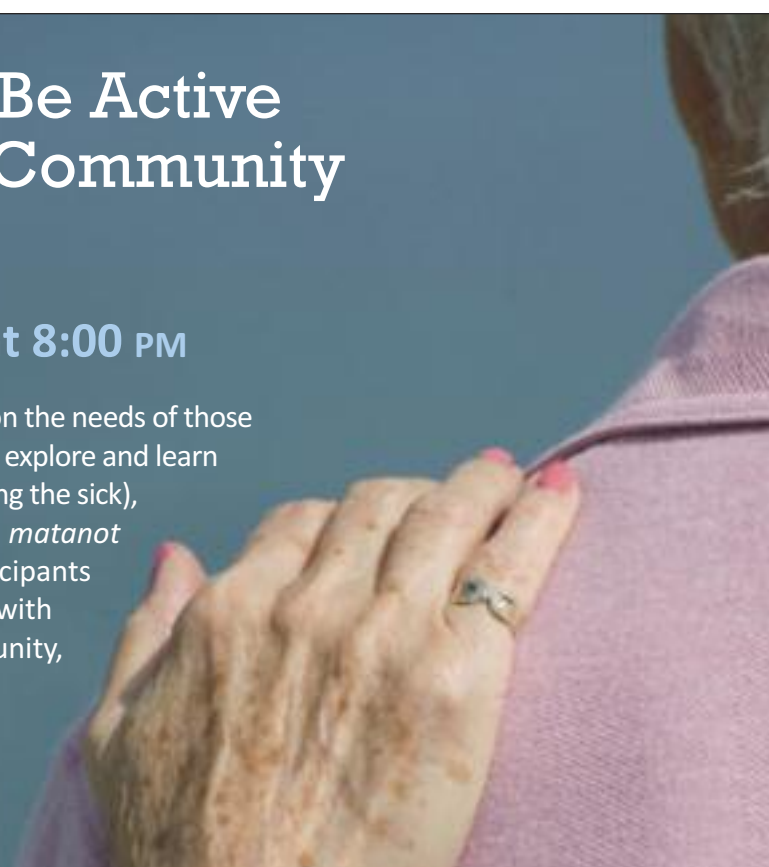
Our school does meet at a fixed time on Sunday mornings and our mid-week learning has some flexibility, both in terms of time and location. We recognize that today's world of after school programming and horrendous traffic makes it difficult for every student to be at Beth Tzedec on a weekday afternoon, and we do our best to accommodate this reality without losing sight of how we want to teach.

Come see our new CSIX (Congregational School Experience). Email me or call to learn more, or book a tour to see our school in action. If your children or grandchildren are part of the 25 percent, let's work together and give more Jewish children the opportunity to embrace our past and inform our future.

# Hesed 101: How to Be Active in a Caring Jewish Community with Yacov Fruchter

Tuesdays, March 1, 8 & 29 at 8:00 PM

Leading up to Purim, a time in which we focus on the needs of those around us, this workshop offers a framework to explore and learn practical skills connected to *bikkur holim* (visiting the sick), *menaḥem avelim* (comforting mourners) and *matanot la'evyonim* (offering gifts to the needy). Participants will explore their own fears and discomforts with caring for vulnerable members of our community, and will have the opportunity to put their learning into practice.



For information, contact Yacov Fruchter at [yfruchter@beth-tzedec.org](mailto:yfruchter@beth-tzedec.org) or 416-781-3511

## Yorkville Lunch 'n' Learn for 20s & 30s

with Yacov Fruchter

Thursdays from 12:15 to 1:30 PM

January 21, February 4 & 18, March 3, 17 & 31, April 14 and May 5 & 19

Rive Gauche Media Board Room  
(920 Yonge St., Suite 610)

Take a break from your busy day for some Jewish learning. You bring your lunch and we'll bring some Torah to dig into. For more information, contact Yacov Fruchter at 416 781-3514 ext. 279 or [yfruchter@beth-tzedec.org](mailto:yfruchter@beth-tzedec.org)



# Doing for Ourselves

Don't do for others what we can accomplish together.



**“DON'T DO FOR OTHERS WHAT THEY CAN DO FOR themselves”**—this is the iron rule of community organizing.

What do you think about this statement?

Some believe that embracing this statement is at the core of a successful engagement strategy that is focused on empowering active participants.

What does a thriving Beth Tzedec look like to you?

Most of us would likely answer that a successful Beth Tzedec is one in which hundreds of people actively participate on a regular basis.

I agree that seeing lots of people walk through the halls of Beth Tzedec every week (which does currently happen) is a sign of success, and I believe that in order to inspire and energize younger members, we need to expect more from them than membership. We need to help them understand that their active participation will be seen as valuable to us and life-enriching for them.

Currently, many of the younger members and potential members focus on the question “what do I get?” They want to be part of the Beth Tzedec community, but the language around belonging has shifted from a model of ownership and relationship, to a model based on transactions and consumerism.

When I meet new people, which happens daily at this point, I try to learn three things from them:

1. What are their self-interests? We shouldn't mistake this for selfishness. Everyone has their own needs that require fulfilment and we all need to be able to articulate these.

2. What are they passionate about? I want to know what keeps them up at night and what motivates them to get up in the morning.
3. What is their appetite for leadership? What are they capable of and willing to do to make an impact in the realm in which they are passionate about?

My job is to listen and to understand why, so that we can help them find or create together the experiences and opportunities within the Beth Tzedec community that match their dreams and needs.

I believe that a thriving Beth Tzedec is one in which all involved have a clear understanding of what their needs are and how they can use their passions and skills to help the collective. It is our job as the staff and lay leadership of a *kehillah kedoshah*, holy community, like Beth Tzedec to ensure that the appetite of each member for involvement and ownership is both nurtured and cherished.

So with that in mind, I would tweak the original statement to: “Don't do for others what we can accomplish together.”

## MY “100 CUPS OF COFFEE” CHALLENGE

From January 17 through April 25, I have set a personal goal to go out for coffee with 100 unique Beth Tzedec people, couples or families so that I can get to know them. Help me meet this goal. Call me at 647-267-8752 or email me at [yfruchter@beth-tzedec.org](mailto:yfruchter@beth-tzedec.org) to book your coffee date today.

*Yacov actually drinks tea, not coffee, but appreciates a good alliteration.*



## A New Face Around the Shul

We welcome Chloe Korenblum as our Social Work Student. A student at Humber College's Social Service Worker Program, Chloe will be here for several months serving in a variety of capacities including senior outreach, conversion support, *hesed* and organizational administration.

Chloe grew up in Toronto before moving to Paris to pursue an undergraduate degree in Economics from the Sorbonne. After 4½ years in France and a brief four-month stint in Geneva interning at a human rights NGO at the United Nations, she returned to Toronto in 2009. After initially working at two of the Canadian big banks, Chloe realized that these types of roles were not meaningful to her and she began to focus on social work. Chloe has worked at CJ/PAC and Kulanu Toronto as an executive committee and board member.



# An Evening to Remember

Sunday, November 1 marked the culmination of our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary festivities with an elegant gala celebration, *Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*. The evening was hosted by past presidents and 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee co-chairs, Marvin Miller and Paul Rothstein, and included a humorous introduction by Lorne Hanick to the outstanding video retrospective directed by Larry Wallach and the presentation of *The History of Beth Tzedec Congregation* books to the attendees.

Led by Gala Celebration Committee chair Patti Rotman, many hands and talents were required to help make this a wonderful success. The Congregation extends its heart-felt thanks to all those who made it all possible.

## 60TH ANNIVERSARY STEERING COMMITTEE

Marvin Miller and Paul Rothstein—*Co-Chairs*  
Lisa Aaron  
Norman Bacal  
Sandy Cohen  
Rose Cooper  
Eleanor Dover  
Vera Finkelstein  
Shep Gangbar  
Wendy Givens  
The Hon. Jack Grossman  
Ruth Hyman  
Allan Kanee  
Mark Lapedus  
Jill Levine  
Dorion Liebgott

Lawrie Lubin  
Ruthann Lubin  
Newton Markus  
Shirley Promislow  
Debbie Rothstein  
Gella Rothstein  
Patti Rotman  
Sheldon Rotman  
Alan Sandler  
Lorraine Sandler  
Daniel Silverman  
Bill Sklar  
Randy Spiegel  
Elaine Steiner  
Blake Teichman  
Howard Winston  
Harold Wolfe

## GALA CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

Patti Rotman—*Chair*  
Carole Andrews  
Sandy Cohen  
Eleanor Dover  
Vera Finkelstein  
Shep Gangbar  
Wendy Givens  
Lawrie Lubin  
Ruthann Lubin  
Vicci Macmull  
Debbie Rothstein  
Paul Rothstein  
Sheldon Rotman  
Elaine Steiner  
Blake Teichman  
Sara Wunch

Our family and youth events celebrating Beth Tzedec's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary—Beth Tzedec Art Attack with Sharon Binder, Back to the Future I family murals and Back to the Future II techno scavenger race.



TEENS IN GRADES 8 TO 12 AND YOUNG ADULTS AGES 18 TO 25

# WE CAN PICKLE THAT!

## A PICKLING WORKSHOP TO BENEFIT SECOND HARVEST

**Sunday, January 31 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM**

Celebrate Tu B'Shevat by learning to pickle and jar your favourite local and exotic produce! Discover creative new ways of eating healthy in the winter months, and make a meaningful difference in people's lives this winter.

Cost: \$15 (includes light dinner and refreshments).  
Community service hours available for high school students.

Advance reservation required to Lily Chapnik at [lchapnik@beth-tzedec.org](mailto:lchapnik@beth-tzedec.org) by **Tuesday, January 26.**



### Shabbat @ Beth Tzedec

#### Li'l Minyans

(children up to age 5 with a parent)  
10:15 AM to 12:00 NOON

Are you looking for an opportunity to spend a fun and educational Shabbat morning with your children? Drop off your children for our nursery program, then come back at 10:45 AM for a 45-minute interactive service with age-appropriate *davening*, singing, storytelling, healthy snacks and guided play.

#### Junior Congregation

(ages 6 to 9 and 10 to 12)  
10:30 AM to 12:00 NOON  
Every Shabbat and Yom Tov (except when there is a Family Service).

A dynamic drop-off program with activities, games, engaging and creative prayer, and quality time with our *Shinshinim*.

#### Teen Shabbat Lunch

Following Services on January 16 and February 20 (new date)  
12:00 NOON to 1:00 PM

See your friends, eat some lunch, debate, argue, discuss and learn together. A great way to connect and catch up.

#### Young Shamashim

Following Services on January 16 & 30, February 20 & 27 and March 12 & 19  
12:00 NOON to 1:00 PM

An intensive two-year program for B'nei Mitzvah candidates interested in improving their *davening* skills. Meet for a nosh, *zemirot* and learning. This year focuses on learning to lead Shabbat services.

#### Shabbat Sports & Games

(children in Grades 1 to 5)  
2:30 to 4:00 PM

Program alternates weekly between games with our *Shinshinim* Avishag and Yarin, and hockey organized by high school students Aaron, Judy and Sam. There is no better way to spend a Shabbat afternoon.

#### For Kids 0 to 5 and their Families

#### PJ Library Story Time

Sundays, January 24 and March 6  
11:00 AM to 12:00 NOON

Come out for a cozy morning of stories, songs, games and other activities around the PJ Library book of the month.

#### For Children in SK to Grade 5

#### Cook & Shook for Nitzanim

(for SK to Grade 2)  
Tuesdays, January 19 and February 16

#### Cook & Shook for Kokhavim

(for Grades 3 to 5)  
Tuesdays, January 26 and February 23  
4:00 to 5:30 PM

Go shopping for your ingredients in the Israeli *shook* (market), cook tasty Israeli food and have a blast learning about Israeli culture with Yarin and Avishag. Cost: \$5 per session. RSVPs required by Friday of the week before the program.

#### Tikkun Olam Project: The Mitzvah Series

Sundays, January 24 & 31, February 7, 21 & 28 and March 6  
12:00 NOON to 2:00 PM

Every act of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) starts as a spark that will light the path for the future. Each week, we will give our hearts and time to a worthy cause and provide a helping hand by partnering with local non-profit organizations. Cost: \$10 per session (includes lunch).

**For Kids in Grades 6 to 8 (Kadima)**

**Trampoline Party**

Sunday, January 31  
3:00 to 5:00 PM

Grab a few friends and meet the gang at Sky Zone Toronto (45 Esander Dr.) for an afternoon of jumping freedom. Cost: \$20 (snacks will be served). Advance reservation required by Monday, January 25.

**Through the Lens Photo Series**

Thursdays, January 14, 21 & 28 and  
February 4, 11 & 18  
4:30 to 5:45 PM

*Through the Lens* is an exciting six-week program that uses photography as a tool to create social change and to celebrate youth voices. Through interactive arts-based activities, participants explore gender expectations, societal pressures and their relationships to their bodies to promote self-love and acceptance. See page 33 for more details.

Cost: \$220 members; \$250 non-members

**Movie Night for Grades 6 to 8**

Saturday, February 20  
7:00 to 9:00 PM

Grab some popcorn, candy and a drink, and catch a flick on the big screen with friends and our *Shinshinim!* Cost: \$5

**For Teens in Grades 9 to 12 (BTTeens)**

**Hadashot for BTTeens**

Wednesdays, January 27, February 17 and  
March 16  
7:30 to 9:30 PM

Want the latest news (*hadashot*) from Israel? Want to hang out with our *Shinshinim*? Join Avishag and Yarin at Aroma Café to catch up on what's happening in the homeland.

**BTTeens @ the Raptors**

Tuesday, March 8 at Air Canada Centre  
7:30 PM

Come cheer on the Toronto Raptors as they challenge the Brooklyn Nets. Cost: \$30 per person. Registration and payment required in advance; only 20 tickets available.

**For Grades 1 to 5 and Grades 9 to 12**

**Student Mentorship Program**

(for *Students*—Grades 1 to 5 and  
*Mentors*—Grades 9 to 12)  
Series One: Thursdays, January 14, 21 & 28  
and February 4, 11 & 18  
5:00 to 6:15 PM

This program partners Elementary School children with High School teens in a positive, Jewish environment, based on social compatibility, subject matter and activity preference. Children will be partnered with a teen mentor who will help them with their homework on various academic subjects. The final session will feature unique Jewish activities, crafts and sports supported and directed by the teen mentors. No charge.

**For Kids in Grades 6 to 12**

**Beth Tzedec @ Out of the Cold**

(for Grades 6 to 8—*Kadima*\* and  
Grades 9 to 12—*BTTeens*)  
Tuesdays, January 19, February 16 and  
March 15

*Kadima*: 5:00 to 7:00 PM  
*BTTeens*: 7:00 to 9:00 PM

Be part of a great *mitzvah* by participating in the Beth Tzedec/Beth Sholom Out of the Cold program, which helps feed and shelter homeless people in Toronto. While the program runs every Tuesday, we will be coordinating a youth group of volunteers for these dates. \**Kadima* participants must be accompanied by a parent.

**For Families**

**Havdalah and Skating**

(for Everyone)  
Saturday, January 16  
6:15 to 8:00 PM

Grab your skates and helmets and come to a great night of family skating fun at Phil White Arena (443 Arlington Ave.). Mark Havdalah on the ice and then skate the night away. Snacks served after skating. No charge, but RSVPs required by Tuesday, January 12.

**Blue Jeans Shabbat**

Friday, February 5 5:30 PM

Our most popular Shabbat dinner is back! Dress down and enjoy a casual evening with friends and great food, kids' activities and, best of all, no shopping, cooking or cleaning! Cost for dinner: \$36 for adults; \$18 for youth (ages 5 to 14); \$6 for children (ages 1 to 4). Dinner by advance reservation only by Monday, February 1.

**Tot Shabbat Dinner**

Friday, February 26 5:00 PM

Welcome Shabbat with music and crafts, enjoy a delicious dinner with a child-friendly menu and delight in entertainment geared to our tots. Cost for dinner: \$36 for adults; \$18 for youth (ages 5 to 14); \$6 for children (ages 1 to 4). Dinner by advance reservation only by Monday, February 22.

**Grandparent & Grandchild Sunday Morning Hangout**

(for ages 1 to 4 with a grandparent)  
Sundays, January 17 and February 21  
11:00 AM to 12:00 NOON

Join us for a late-morning program where grandparents and their grandchildren can engage in music, arts & crafts and other activities that encourage *Yiddishkeit* to be passed from one generation to the next.

**ECRUSY Programs**

**Specialty Kinnus with Central Region USY**

(for Grades 9 to 12)  
February 25 to 28 in Detroit, MI

Jewish teens from Eastern Canada and the Midwest will participate in volunteer projects around the city, interactive Israel activities and games, and a fantastic Saturday night program with dancing, gaming and more.

For information about ECRUSY programs, contact Lily Chapnik at 416-781-3514 ext. 229 or [lchapnik@beth-tzedec.org](mailto:lchapnik@beth-tzedec.org) or Max Marmer at 416-667-1717 or [ecrusy@uscj.org](mailto:ecrusy@uscj.org).

To register or for more information about any of our Youth and Family Programs, contact Simmi Toby, Director of Youth Engagement, at 416-781-3514 ext. 239 or [stoby@beth-tzedec.org](mailto:stoby@beth-tzedec.org).

# ADULT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

**WEDNESDAY EVENINGS — 7:30 TO 8:30 PM**

**January 6 & 20 and February 3**

## **The Bible Stories They Never Taught You in Hebrew School with Larry Wallach**

Did Moses have anger management issues? Did Abraham actually sacrifice Isaac? Why is Megillat Esther in the Bible but the Book of Maccabees isn't? This course is an adults-only take on the controversial issues present in our Torah. Cost: \$25 for Beth Tzedec members; \$40 for non-members

**March 2, 16 & 30**

## **The Wild World of Israeli Politics with Daniel Silverman**

Israeli politics can be confusing, messy and downright dirty. This course explains the basics of the political system, how it has changed over time, the main political parties and their platforms, and the implications for the average Israeli and Diaspora community. Cost: \$25 for members; \$40 for non-members

**For information or to register, contact Marlene Laba at 416-781-3514 ext 234.**

## **FOR EVERY SEASON:** *for Seniors*

with Yacov Fruchter



**Mondays, January 25, February 8 & 22,  
March 7 & 28, April 11, May 2 & 16 and June 6 & 20**

**1:30 to 3:00 PM**

Join us for rich discussion and a nosh as we create a warm space for learning with and from each other about the topics that are pertinent to the lives of seniors.

**Contact Yacov Fruchter at 416-781-3514 ext. 279 or [yfruchter@beth-tzedec.org](mailto:yfruchter@beth-tzedec.org)**



# Our Shabbat Opportunities

**Kabbalat Shabbat Services** every Friday night. Check our weekly e-newsletter, The Week Ahead, our website and monthly calendars for service and candle lighting times.

**Sanctuary Services** 8:45 AM, every Shabbat. Our musical Sanctuary Service offers a complete spiritual and liturgical Shabbat experience with Rabbis Baruch Frydman-Kohl and Adam Cutler, Cantor Sidney Ezer and Lorne Hanick. Cantor Simon Spiro leads *Shaharit* and *Musaf* with varied music each week. Lift your soul in prayer as you sing along, or close your eyes in meditation and be carried away by the magnificent harmonic sounds of our inspirational Shabbat morning service.

**Little Minyan Services** 9:30 AM, every Shabbat. Looking to be more actively involved in the worship experience? The Little Minyan offers a traditional service in a relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere full of song, spirit and warmth. Participants lead portions of the service, and Little Minyan tunes are available on request. Contact Cantor Sidney Ezer or Lorne Hanick to arrange to learn and lead parts of the service. Torah readers, *daveners* and those wishing to prepare or give a *D'var Torah* are always welcome.

**Monthly Family Services** 10:00 AM, Shabbat mornings, February 6 and March 5. This participatory service is a perfect way for children, parents and grandparents to experience Shabbat morning together, learn the structure of the service and take leadership roles. The service features the highlights of a Shabbat morning service and is led by children, teens and our Director of Education and Family Programming, Daniel Silverman. It also includes programming with our *Shinshinim* (Israeli Young Emissaries), and a group aliyah and blessing for everyone whose birthday is that month. The service is followed by a complimentary dairy community lunch.

For information on **Shabbat Youth Programs**, see page 20.

## Can't Get Enough Torah? Here's more!



### Weekly Torah Study

with Professor Arnold Ages

9:30 to 10:30 AM every Shabbat

Traditional and modern interpretations of the weekly Torah reading.

### Jewish Meditation

with Michelle Katz

10:00 to 11:15 AM on February 6, March 5, April 2 and May 7

For men and women, centred on texts from our tradition, eliciting response and deep listening—a doorway to enhanced prayer. See page 26 for details.

### Lively Learning

with Cantor Simon Spiro

Following Services on February 6, March 5, April 2, May 7 and June 4

Enjoy your Kiddush and study the weekly *parashah* with our Cantor. Explore fascinating commentaries of Rashi and other great sages, all presented with passion and knowledge by our amusing *Hazzan*.

### Torah Next Dor

with Rabbi Adam Cutler, Yacov Fruchter and Friends

11:00 AM on February 20, March 19, April 16, May 21 and June 18

Join our 20s & 30s in Rabbi Frydman-Kohl's study as we eat, drink and examine pressing topics from sources both ancient and modern.

Don't  
MISS!

**Megillah Reading** Wednesday evening, March 23 at 7:15 PM  
Thursday morning, March 24 following services at 7:00 AM

# And We're Off ...

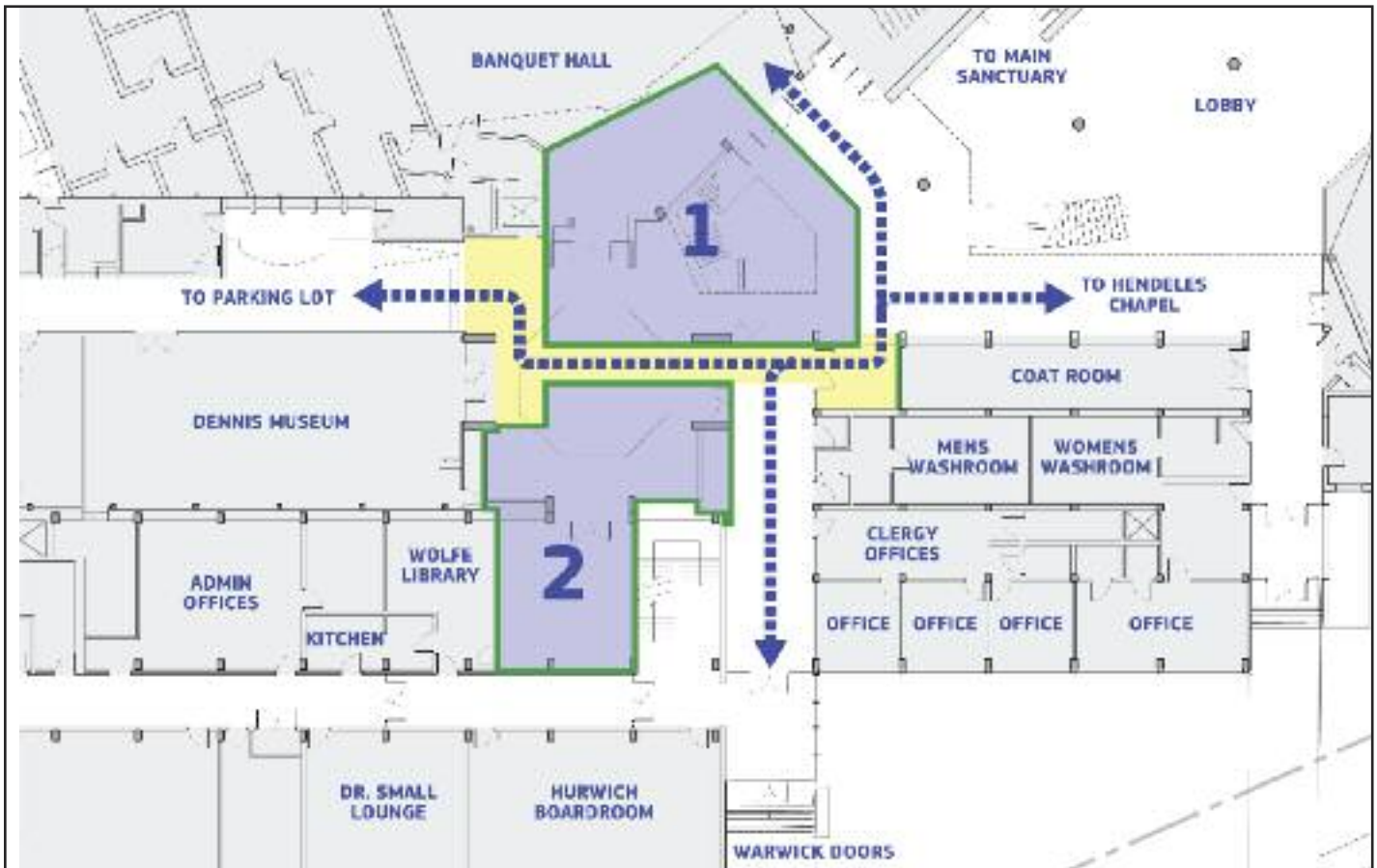
**AS THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN TO SHUL** recently can attest, the first phase of our ambitious renovation project is well underway.

As you may have seen on the display boards installed in the east and west lobbies, substantial work to modernize our shul and make it more accessible has now begun:

1. The room currently known as the Paul & Ted Orenstein Mezzanine Hall is being remade into a stunning new Banquet Hall and will connect to an

- extended foyer area on the second floor.
2. A new kitchen servery will be built on the second floor to better accommodate the catering needs of guests in the new Banquet Hall.
3. The westerly staircase to the second floor nearest the main floor Banquet Hall doors will be removed, opening up the area for a spacious extended main lobby.

4. A new staircase will be built on the south side of the Bet Alpha floor, near the library.
5. A new, larger elevator serving the basement/L'Chaim Lower Hall and the first and second floors will be installed.
6. The four main banks of windows at the front of our Sanctuary will be replaced.
7. In addition to the immediately visible areas, related improvements to the building infrastructure serving these areas will be undertaken.



During the initial renovation phase, there will be full access from the parking lot to the Hendeles Chapel; however, there will be a narrowing of the corridor between the accessible ramp and Banquet Hall entrance. Entrance to the Max & Beatrice Wolfe Library from the Bet Alpha Floor and the west doors of the Banquet Hall will be blocked. The Banquet Hall will remain in use with access through the east doors only, and access to the Library will remain open via the doors opposite the Hurwich Board Room. For safety and security purposes, only construction personnel will be allowed access through the Warwick Avenue doors.

# ... and Running!

Over the next few months, Beth Tzedec staff and contractors will be taking precautions to secure active construction areas and keep the majority of our common spaces open and presentable. Access to the building will be monitored, and all areas with equipment and related activity will be secured.

To allow construction personnel adequate access to the areas of the synagogue under renovation, special “hoarding” walkways have been installed. As you can see in the diagrams on the opposite page, portions of the corridors between the parking lot and the Bathurst Street entrances and outside the clergy offices have been allocated to the construction zone.

During the renovation period, the

Warwick Avenue doors near the Hurwich Board Room will be accessible by construction personnel only. For safety reasons, all visitors, staff, faculty and students are directed to enter and exit through the parking lot doors only. (The Bathurst Street doors will be in open for Shabbat services.)

We are committed to ensuring that we remain “open for business as usual” and that disruptions to programs and events are minimized. While access to certain areas will be limited, we do not anticipate the need to postpone or cancel any previously scheduled events. We have also contacted everyone who has advised us they are planning a *simḥah* in the coming months to discuss issues and answer questions.

While renovations are being carried out in the Paul & Ted Orenstein Mezzanine Hall, we are making other halls in our building available. To inquire about our room availability and bookings, please contact Events Coordinator Florence Bendelac at 416-781-3514 ext. 213 or fbendelac@beth-tzedec.org.

These major capital improvements are the first in a series of improvements that Beth Tzedec intends to undertake over the next few years, all of which respond to our need for more intimate, welcoming and accessible spaces.

It is intended that this portion of the renovation project will be completed well in advance of the High Holy Days in 2016.





**Thursday, May 26**  
**King's Riding Golf Club**  
 14700 Bathurst St., King City, Ontario

**\$350 Golfer / \$1,400 Foursome**

12:00 PM Registration & Barbecue Lunch

1:30 PM Shotgun Start

6:00 PM Barbecue Dinner & Awards Reception

Sponsorship Opportunities Available

**Call 416-781-3511 to register or learn more**

With your support, the Beth Tzedec Men's Club provides seed and sustaining funding for more than 22 programs and projects every year.



## *Havurat HaSefer*

### Contemporary Jewish Philosophy Reading Group

**Thursdays—January 28,  
February 18 and March 10 & 31**

**7:30 to 9:00 PM**

*Havurat HaSefer*, our Jewish philosophy reading group, explores modern accessible works of Jewish thought. This engaging group is for anyone interested in thinking deeply about the meaning and purpose of Judaism today. No charge, but limited spaces available.

For information or to register, contact the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511 or [info@beth-tzedec.org](mailto:info@beth-tzedec.org)

## *Jewish Meditation*

*with Michelle Katz*



**Shabbat, February 6, March 5,  
April 2 and May 7**

**10:00 to 11:15 AM**

For men and women, centred on texts from our tradition, eliciting response and deep listening—a doorway to enhanced prayer.

*Michelle Katz is an educator in English and Special Education. She provides workshops, retreats, and group classes in Jewish Meditation, Jewish Spiritual Direction and Torah yoga.*

**SPONSORED BY BETH TZEDEC MEN'S CLUB**

# Men's Club Makes a Difference

## **Jewish War Veterans at Sunnybrook Hospital**

As part of the ongoing support of programs for the Jewish War Veterans and permanent residents of Sunnybrook Hospital, the Men's Club recently provided latkes for Sunnybrook's annual Hanukkah party. More than 40 residents and their families enjoyed the festivities.

## **World Wide Wrap—SuperBowl Sunday, February 7**

Join the annual World Wide Wrap, a program of Conservative Men's Clubs held annually on Superbowl Sunday, observing the *mitzvah* of putting on *tefillin*. Members of the

clergy and Men's Club will be available from 8:30 AM to assist with putting on *tefillin*. Following the service, enjoy an enhanced breakfast and presentation by a guest speaker. Watch for details.

## **Jews Who Changed How We Look at Everything**

Sunday, March 13 at 9:30 AM, Larry Rachlin gives an encore presentation of this highly acclaimed, fast-paced documentary which begins by offering a credible reason why Jews disproportionately outperform all other groups. The greatest discoveries and innovations of our time, many that impact our daily

lives as well as those that challenge our core beliefs, are looked at from secular and religious perspectives. No charge, but reservations are requested to the Synagogue office.

## **2016 Scholarship Awards**

The application deadline for the Scholarship Program is April 15. Men's Club awards provide financial assistance to candidates pursuing degrees in higher Jewish education or cantorial studies, teaching students with disabilities and studying the arts. For information or an application, email Hersh Rosenthal at [hershr@rogers.com](mailto:hershr@rogers.com).



## **Jews Who Changed How We Look at Everything** *Babies, Rocks & Stars? Yes, Everything!*

Produced by Larry Rachlin

# **Sunday, March 13**

## **9:30 AM—No charge**

Reservations recommended to the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511 by **Wednesday, March 9.**

**BETH TZEDEC'S SUMMER 2016**

# *Musical Journey to Spain*

**with Cantor Simon & Aliza Spiro**

**July 3 to 14, 2016**

**(optional add-on trip to Portugal follows)**

Don't delay in signing up to join Cantor Simon and Aliza Spiro on the Beth Tzedec/Cantor's Assembly Mission to Spain, with an optional add-on to Portugal—Barcelona, Madrid, Toledo, Seville and more—this exciting trip celebrates Jewish culture, history and music, music, music!

Cantor Simon and Aliza have led groups to Poland, Israel, Budapest, Prague, Germany, England and Normandy. These trips have been once-in-a-lifetime experiences. Once again, with laughter and music as the backdrop to inspirational locations and with Professor Stephen Berk along, this will be a different Spain from what you think you know. And you will never be the same.

Information session

**Tuesday, January 26 at 7:30 PM**

**For information, contact Aliza Spiro at [alizasara@aol.com](mailto:alizasara@aol.com)**

**Do you like to sing in the shower? Do you stand in front of the mirror with a hair brush as a microphone? Then this group is for you!**

## *The Vinyl Chorus*

has just begun its new season! We sing EVERYTHING – Broadway, pop, Hebrew, Yiddish, Jazz standards and much more! In early summer, we perform with a professional live band, and under Cantor Simon's direction, it's hard to know who's having more fun, the audience or the singers onstage.

Come join us! No experience necessary, but you must enjoy singing and laughing!

For information, contact Marlene Laba at  
416-781-3514 ext. 234 or [mlaba@beth-tzedec.org](mailto:mlaba@beth-tzedec.org)



## Out of the Cold

Out of the Cold is now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year of operation, run jointly by Beth Tzedec and Beth Sholom. Sadly, the number of homeless in our community continues to increase. For the past few years, we have been serving dinner to 200 people each week, with 60 who sleep over and receive a hearty breakfast. We provide everyone with warm winter clothing donated by our members and community-minded companies. A bagged lunch and subway tokens are also provided. We have an incredible group of over 100 loyal volunteers who make sure that the needs of our 'guests' are always met.

Out of the Cold is self-funded and we rely on donations to sustain the program. We are extremely grateful for the incredible annual contribution we receive from the proceeds of the Mother's Day Chai Tea & Fashion Show. To date, this event has raised over \$53,000 for the program.

Mark Sunday, May 9 on your calendar for the eighth annual *Mother's Day Chai Tea—The Way We Were*, a retro trip to the 1950s. It promises to be a wonderful afternoon of munching and mingling while supporting Out of the Cold.

## Out of the Cold Art Exhibit

The seventh annual Art Circle Art Exhibition will be held at

the end of March at Beth Sholom Synagogue. This exhibition and sale will showcase works created by the very talented guests of the Out of the Cold program. Proceeds from the sale will benefit both OOTC and the individual artists. Please check the weekly eblast in February for more details.

## Visiting the Elderly

Volunteers are needed for home visits or telephone chats with our elderly congregants. If you would like to participate, contact the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511.

## Thursday Games Afternoon

Our Games Afternoon program continues to be a huge success. We have close to 40 participants each week who play Mahjong, Bridge and Canasta. We always welcome new players with any level of experience.

Mahj lessons are now available. Canasta lessons will resume in April. If you are interested in learning to play either game, please leave me a message at the Synagogue office.

Happy Purim!

—Maureen Tanz  
Co-Chair, Hesed Committee



## Friday, February 26 at 5:00 PM

This special Shabbat dinner is for young children (up to age 7) and their families. We will welcome Shabbat with music and crafts, enjoy a delicious dinner with a kid-friendly menu, and have special entertainment for our tots.

Cost: \$36 adults; \$18 youth (ages 5 to 14); \$6 children (ages 1 to 4). Dinner by advance reservation only by Monday, February 22.

For information or reservations, contact the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511 or [info@beth-tzedec.org](mailto:info@beth-tzedec.org)

**FOR CHILDREN IN GRADES 1 TO 5  
AND TEENS IN GRADES 9 TO 12**

# **STUDENT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM**

The Beth Tzedec Student Mentorship Program partners Elementary School children with High School teens in a positive Jewish environment. Teens will be 'mentors' to younger children, helping them with homework in a variety of subjects and planning activities, crafts and sports activities for all to enjoy. No charge.

**THURSDAYS FROM 5:00 TO 6:15 PM**

**SERIES ONE:**

January 14, 21 & 28  
and February 4, 11 & 18

**SERIES TWO:**

March 3, 10, 24 & 31  
and April 7 & 14



For information or to reserve, contact Simmi Toby at 416-781-3514 ext. 239 or [stoby@beth-tzedec.org](mailto:stoby@beth-tzedec.org).

**TIKKUN OLAM PROJECT:**

## ***The Mitzvah Series***

for *Nitzanim* (SK to Grade 2) and *Kokhavim* (Grades 3 to 5)

**Sundays, January 24 & 31, February 7, 21 & 28 and March 6  
12:00 NOON to 2:00 PM**

Every act of *tikkun olam*—repairing the world—starts as a spark that lights the way for the future. No child is ever too young to impact positive social change. We believe that young people are at the forefront of service and leadership, and that their actions will truly create the change we wish to see in our world.

Partnering with non-profit organizations, the *Tikkun Olam* Project will educate and reach out to needy and vulnerable populations. We will give our hearts and time to a worthy cause and provide a helping hand.

Cost: \$10 per session (includes lunch)

For information or to reserve, contact Simmi Toby at 416-781-3514 ext. 239 or [stoby@beth-tzedec.org](mailto:stoby@beth-tzedec.org)





# Through the Lens—Photo Series Program for Teens

Self-Expression  
Photography  
*Tikkun Olam*

**THESE THREE VITAL CONCEPTS MAKE** up the innovative new program for middle school students called *Through the Lens*.

At the heart of *Through the Lens* is a dedication to providing youth with the opportunity to develop confidence, knowledge and artistic skills to be creators of social change.


In a supportive and empowering environment, middle school students explore important issues relevant to this exciting and pivotal time in their lives. Participants learn and share ideas about identity related to their

gender, body image, abilities, interests, relationships and Jewish heritage. By using the arts to openly address these topics, we ensure that youth are able to voice their own experiences, access accurate information, and gain confidence in their unique identity.

Art is interwoven into all of these crucial discussions. With art, these topics come to life! Youth develop their artistic skills by learning the fundamentals of DSLR photography, digital editing techniques and written and visual storytelling. The group will use art to engage in the topics and design creative photos that represent their own personal stories.

Underpinning the program is a commitment to *tikkun olam*. *Through the Lens* carves a path from explorations of identity to our responsibility to improve society. Sharing the diversity of stories within the group and celebrating the unique identities of each participant is our first step towards social change. We instill a sense of acceptance and love both in our group and the wider community.

*Through the Lens* is run by CANVAS Arts Action Programs, a youth-led, non-profit organization co-founded by two members of Beth Tzedec, Ayla Lefkowitz, MSc and Miriam Selick, BEd, MA.



**THROUGH THE LENS**  
PHOTO SERIES

**An exciting six-week program using photography as a tool to create social change and celebrate youth voices.**

**Thursdays, January 14, 21 & 28 and February 4, 11 & 18  
4:30 to 5:45 PM**

Through interactive arts-based activities, participants explore gender expectations, societal pressures and their relationships to their bodies. They will gain expertise in using DSLR cameras and digital editing techniques, while taking innovative photos that represent their experiences. Participants' work will be exhibited on the online photography platform, *Through the Lens of Our Bodies*. Cost: \$220 for Beth Tzedec members; \$250 for non-members

**January 14—Introduction and Community Building**  
**January 21—Gender Expectations**  
**January 28—Body Image**  
**February 4—Writing Our Story**  
**February 11—Photo Adventure**  
**February 18—Editing and Conclusion**

For information or to reserve, contact Simmi Toby at 416-781-3514 ext. 239 or [stoby@beth-tzedec.org](mailto:stoby@beth-tzedec.org)



### Holocaust Education Week

On November 5, Beth Tzedec hosted a community Holocaust Education Week program titled *From Perpetrators of Genocide to Ordinary Citizens: The Reintegration of Nazi War Criminals into German Society*. **PICTURED:** Yacov Fruchter, Howard Driman (Sarah & Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Centre), Dr. Hilary Earl (Scholar-in-Residence) and Marlene Laba.



### Muslim/Jewish Dialogue

On November 8, Yossi Klein HaLevi of the Muslim Leadership Initiative and Azim Shamshiev of the Intercultural Dialogue Institute of Toronto explored the contemporary significance of a Muslim-Jewish dialogue in a free-wheeling conversation. **PICTURED:** Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl, Gary Elman, Yossi Klein HaLevi, Azim Shamshiev and Rabbi Adam Cutler.



### USCJ Conference

In November, Beth Tzedec sent a strong contingent to the 2015 USCJ Convention in Chicago. This year's conference focused on securing the future of Conservative Judaism, giving participants the opportunity to engage, inspire and transform Jewish communities. **BACK ROW:** Norman Kahn, Rabbi Adam Cutler, Randy Spiegel, Yacov Fruchter, Sheldon Rotman; **FRONT ROW:** Carolyn Kolers, Kayla Kwinter and Jackie Kahn.



### Sukkot Family Celebration

Families got in the Sukkot spirit with a the fantastic *Pizza in the Hut* Sukkah Party featuring crafts, games, bouncy rides and an old-fashioned, horse-drawn wagon ride.



### Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program

On October 14, Bar/Bat Mitzvah candidates gave up an evening of cheering on the post-season Blue Jays to take part in the BBMP orientation session, which included a *tikkun olam* project of making soup.



### Shier Lecture/Ken Wald

On December 2, a small but engaged crowd heard Professor Ken Wald share his family's experience from the *Holocaust in Revenge, Responsibility and Reconciliation*, presented as the Shoshana Shier Annual Memorial Lecture. **PICTURED:** Allan Kanee, Prof. Ken Wald and Joseph Shier

# What's Nu

Our rabbis, cantors and educators are often called upon to represent Jewish life or our Congregation in the general community. Here is a quick round-up of some of their activities.

**RABBI BARUCH FRYDMAN-KOHL** was the featured speaker at the annual meeting of JIAS Toronto. He attended the Cardinal's Dinner on behalf of the Jewish community and addressed the recent gathering of Catholic Bishops in Ottawa to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vatican II Declaration on the Jews. He led *birkat hamazon* at the JNF Negev Dinner in honour of our member, Joseph Frieberg. Rav Baruch also represented the Canadian Jewish Caucus and addressed a special meeting about minority religions in the Middle East convened by the Ambassador for Religious Freedom, Andrew Bennett. The Rabbi was honoured at special Hanukkah celebrations convened by Mayor John Tory and Premier Kathleen Wynne. He presented two *teshuvot* (Jewish legal opinions) at the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards, and completed two academic essays for publication. Next, Rav Baruch will be participating in a special Israel Bonds Rabbinic Mission to Israel.

**RABBI ADAM CUTLER** participated in the United Synagogue Convention as a partner in the Ruderman Inclusion Initiative. He was the lead applicant on a successful grant submission to fund the *Young Rabbis Speak* series in which four rabbis—Conservative (represented by Rav Adam), Orthodox, Reconstructionist and Reform—engage in conversation about contemporary topics. Most recently, they discussed “Fractured Light—Jewish Identity in a Hyphenated World” at the Miles Nadal JCC. Rav Adam is now President of the Ontario Region of the Rabbinical Assembly, serves on the Executive of the Toronto Board of Rabbis and involved in the Canadian Rabbinic Caucus. He attended a special evening to initiate *Faith in Canada 150*, an initiative to raise awareness of the role of religion over the 150 years of Canadian history. Rav Adam recently attended a meeting with Mayor John Tory concerning Syrian refugee resettlement and has participated in special conferences to vision the future of the Rabbinical Assembly. Early next year, he will be in Israel for a week for the Shalom Hartman Institute Rabbinic Leadership Initiative, and he will continue to write a monthly dialogue in the *CJN*.

**RABBI SHALOM SCHACHTER** was interviewed on Winnipeg radio about his father, Rabbi Zalman Schachter Shalomi<sup>z”l</sup>, and the impact he had on religious life in

Winnipeg. He made a submission to the Ontario Government on behalf of the Interfaith Social Action Reform Coalition (of which the Toronto Board of Rabbis is a participating organization) on ways the province could improve labour legislation to help the working poor. Rabbi Schachter also helped organize an interfaith rally on climate change following the release of the Papal Encyclical on this subject. He was also honoured on a Shabbat morning before concluding his service to our Congregation.

**CANTOR SIMON SPIRO** conducted the Hanukkah candle lighting ceremony at Queen's Park in December, and will be singing at the Chai Lifeline children's event in March. Cantor Simon is also completing the first CD featuring favourite selections from our Shabbat Services.

**CANTOR SIDNEY EZER** was featured in a Hanukkah concert at Beth Radom along with Cantors Jeremy Burko, Ben Maissner and David Edwards.

**REV. LORNE HANICK** attended the annual conferences of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) in Salt Lake City (2014) and Jerusalem (2015). He will also be doing volunteer work for Jewish Records Indexing – Poland in the coming year.

**YACOV FRUCHTER**, Director of Community Development and Spiritual Engagement, led a session for Millennials at the recent convention of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. He continues to contribute a monthly D'var Torah to the *Canadian Jewish News*. Yacov also led a prayer at the Emmanuel College Remembrance Day Ceremony where he is studying chaplaincy and counselling. He is participating in the Hartman Senior Educators Study Forum. Together with our Youth Worker, Lily Chapnik, he organizes a bi-weekly Beit Midrash program for Grade 6 and 7 students at Robbins Hebrew Academy. Yacov was recently honoured by Annex Shul with a tribute concert featuring Neshama Carlebach and Josh Nelson.

**DANIEL SILVERMAN**, Director of Education and Family Programming, was one of the educators selected to participate in the Mandel Teacher Educator Institute in Skokie, Illinois. He is also participating in the Hartman Senior Educators Study Forum.



The Klimitz family shares in the *mitzvah* of lighting the *Ḥanukkah* candles on the third day of the Festival of Light.



Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl had the honour of participating in the lighting of the *Ḥanukkah* candles at Toronto's City Hall with Mayor John Tory.



Max Pervin proudly lights the *ḥanukkiyah* on the first night of *Ḥanukkah*.



Students in Grades 4 to 7 in the CS|X—Congregational School Experience program, along with teachers Nechama Rubinstein and Naomi Burger and Principal Daniel Silverman, performed the *mitzvah* of lighting the *Ḥanukkah* candles at the evening *Minhah-Ma'ariv* service.



Rabbi J. Benjamin Friedberg and Mark Lapedus, president of the Beth Tzedec Men's Club, light the *ḥanukkiyah* at the December Men's Club dinner meeting.



Families enjoyed the all the festivities at our Havdalah and Hanukkah Party with Greeks vs. Maccabees archery tag, chocolate making, crafts and a stuff-your-own sufganiot station.

# 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, contact Avital at 416-781-3511.

## Camp Ramah Scholarship Fund

Rochelle and Michael Kerzner and family, honouring **Lisa and Les Aaron** on the Bar Mitzvah of their son **Jonah**.

Rochelle and Michael Kerzner and family, honouring **Carole and Harold Wolfe** on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson **Jonah Aaron**.

Loren and Mark Roth, honouring **Lisa and Les Aaron** on the Bar Mitzvah of their son **Jonah**.

Risa Levine and David Weisdorf, acknowledging **Phyllis and Ab Flatt** in memory of **Honey Shrott**.

## Daily Minyan Fund

Lyon Wexler, honouring **Eric Sobel** on his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## Daily Minyan Breakfast Fund

Earl and Robin Altman and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Sonny Altman**.

Marla Brown, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Irving Louis Gold**.

Dr. Leo and Bayla Chaikof, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Harry Chaikof**.

Donna Cohen and Heshy Altbaum, marking the conclusion of *shloshim* for **Susie Zacks**.

Helen Glazer, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Lillian White**.

Irving Granovsky, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Philip Granovsky**.

Roslynne and Harry Greenberg and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Belle Korzen**.

Dr. Helene Griesman and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Jack Westreich**.

Sheldon Hildebrand, commemorating the *yahrtzeiten* of **Rae and David Hildebrand**.

Martin and Marion Hirschberg, honouring the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson **Samuel Evan Hirschberg-Schon**.

Norman and Jackie Kahn, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Rose Kahn**.

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

Risa Levine, David Weisdorf and Harrison Levine, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Toby Levenson**.

Nathan Lindenberg and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Philip Lindenberg**.

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

Ruthe Mann and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Dr. John Mann**.

Irving Matlow, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Esther Matlow**.

Saul Mimran, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Elie Mimran**.

Irene Reingold and family, commemorating the *yahrtzeiten* of **Sali and Irwin Gilbert** and **Dr. Albert Reingold**.

Alan and Faye Shiner and John and Cindy Freeman, honouring the birth of their granddaughter **Shayna Hannah**.

Dr. Howard and Emily Snow and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **S. Milton (Mickey) Snow**.

Eric Sobel, honouring his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Dr. John and Fern Spencer, honouring the marriage of **Matthew Spencer and Stefanie Greenspan**.

Talia Speyer and family, marking the conclusion of kaddish for **Shoshana Mizrahi**.

The Spitz Family, honouring the memory of **Inge Spitz**.

Robin and Bill Stone, honouring the Bar Mitzvah of their son **Harrison Michael Stone**.

Cynthia and John Warren, commemorating the *yahrtzeiten* of **Samuel H. and Renee Borovoy**.

Carole and Harold Wolfe and Ruth and Irving Aaron, honouring the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson **Jonah Aaron**.

## General Fund

Fran Giddens, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Harry Giddens**.

Florence Kimel, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Lily Rosen**.

Dr. Lawrence and Karen Leiter, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Jack S. Leiter**.

Norman and Susan Mogil, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Ruth Mogil**.

Rachel Neuberger, honouring **Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl, Cantor Sidney Ezer** and the staff of **Beth Tzedec Congregation**.

Lorraine and Morris Rotbard, commemorating the *yahrtzeiten* of **Ann and Morris Koffman**.

The Valo Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Sidney Valo**.

Felicia Valo, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **William Travis**.

Lynda White, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Louis Swartz**.

Teddy and Bari Zittell, acknowledging **Laura Orzy** in memory of **Aubrey (Butch) Behrman**.

## Hesed Fund

Dr. Seymour and Rosalee Berlin and family, wishing **Helen Glazer** a *refuah sheleimah*.

Helen Glazer, acknowledging **Laura Orzy and family** in memory of **Aubrey (Butch) Behrman**.

Helen Glazer, wishing **Norman Rogul** a *refuah sheleimah*.

Nathan Greenberg, commemorating the *yahrtzeiten* of **Harry Greenberg** and **Allan Greene**.

Marsha Joseph, honouring **Alan and Lorraine Sandler** on the B'nei Mitzvah of their grandsons.

Jeffrey Perlmutter, honouring **Rabbi Shalom Schachter** for his service to Beth Tzedec Congregation as the Rabbinic *Hesed* Associate.

John and Molly Pollock, acknowledging **Prof. Arnold Ages** in memory of **Samuel Ages**.

Eric Sobel, wishing **Helen Glazer** a *refuah sheleimah*.

Rose Sobel and Duke Segel, wishing **Helen Glazer** a *refuah sheleimah*.

Steven Troster and Allan Troster, commemorating the *yahrtzeiten* of **Betty Troster** and **David Troster**.

Steven and Line Troster and family, commemorating the *yahrtzeiten* of **David Benjamin Troster** and **Madeleine Veillant**.

Manley and Barbra Walters, acknowledging **Alan Banks and family** in memory of **Sandra Banks**.

Manley and Barbra Walters, acknowledging the **Freudmann Family** in memory of **David Freudmann**.

Lyon Wexler, acknowledging **Arnold Gosewich** in memory of **Herb Gosewich**.

#### **Howard (Hy) Cooper Trust Fund**

Cheryl Cooper Rosenthal, acknowledging **Judy and Rhoda Taft and family** in memory of **Belle Taft**.

David, Carol, Ari, Marissa and Yonit Grossman, acknowledging the **family of the late Mary Matyas**.

David, Carol, Ari, Marissa and Yonit Grossman, honouring **Cheryl and Hersh Rosenthal** on the birth of their grandson **Myles Dylan Rosenthal**.

Mark and Jan Lapedus, honouring **Cheryl and Hersh Rosenthal** on the birth of their grandson **Myles Dylan Rosenthal**.

The Rosenthal Family, Cheryl and Hersh, Ashleigh and Howie, Tali and Barry, and grandchildren, acknowledging the **Matyas Family** in memory of **Malca Mary Matyas**.

Cheryl and Hersh Rosenthal, acknowledging **Peter Spitz and family** in memory of **Inge Spitz**.

Cheryl and Hersh Rosenthal, honouring **Noreen Shelson** on her special birthday.

#### **Israel Sydney and Pearl Wolfe Fund**

Caryl and Bernie Schwartz and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Israel Sydney Wolfe**.

#### **Kosher Food Bank**

Irving Matlow, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Esther Matlow**.

#### **Library Books**

Eleanor Dover, honouring **Phyllis and Ab Flatt** on their anniversary.

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

Ab and Phyllis Flatt, honouring **Stephen and Ilene Flatt** on their anniversary.

#### **Little Minyan Fund**

Jeffrey and Joanne Perlmutter, honouring **Barbara Cohen and Alan Sless**.

Lyon Wexler, honouring **Lisa and Les Aaron** on the Bar Mitzvah of their son **Jonah**.

#### **Max and Beatrice Wolfe Library Fund**

Barbara Firestone, honouring **Carole and Harold Wolfe** on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson **Jonah Aaron**.

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

Doris Laskin, honouring **Gilbert and Helene Chapnick** on their 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

#### **Men's Club Scholarships Fund**

Elaine Marcus, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Stanley Axmith**.

#### **Music Fund**

Sandy Cohen, acknowledging **Valerie Rackow and family** in memory of **Phyllis Rackow**.

Shirley Krem, acknowledging the **family of the late Joel Howard Starkman**.

Barry and Susan Phillips, acknowledging the **Bockner Family** in memory of **Barton (Bunny) Bockner**.

Lorraine Simpson, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Charles Simpson**.

Lyon Wexler, honouring **Max Pervin** on his Bar Mitzvah.

Harold and Carole Wolfe, honouring **Eleanor Dover** on her special birthday.

#### **Out-of-the-Cold Fund**

Carole Greenberg, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Arthur Warren**.

Harvey and Carole Kerbel, honouring **Sigmund Soudack** on his special birthday.

Irving Matlow, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Esther Matlow**.

Irving and Honey Milstein, honouring **Judy Eisen** on her special birthday.

Phyllis Pepper, honouring **Ronald Landsberg** on his special birthday.

Paul and Gella Rothstein, honouring **Eleanor Dover** on her birthday.

Sheldon and Patti Rotman, acknowledging **Rochelle Freedland** in memory of **Sam Wishen**.

Sheldon and Patti Rotman, acknowledging **Dr. Carole Gruson** in memory of **Dr. Hilary Gruson**.

Sheldon and Patti Rotman, acknowledging **Cara Tkatch** in memory of **Sam Wishen**.

Sheldon and Patti Rotman and family, acknowledging **Florence Magram** in memory of **Bernard Shapiro**.

Sheldon and Patti Rotman and family, honouring **Eleanor Dover** on her special birthday.

Ralph and Judy Shiff, wishing **Helen Glazer** a *refuah sheleimah*.

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

Lynda Stoneman, honouring **Elyse and Jeff Wieskopf** on the birth of their great-grandson **Kasey Benjamin**.

#### **Prayer Book (Mahzor) Dedications**

Wendy Litwin and Morris Presser, honouring **Louis Litwin** on his birthday.

Robert and Simmy Shnier and family, honouring the memories of **Irving and Eleanor Shnier**.

#### **Prayer Book (Siddur) Dedications—Daily or Shabbat**

Brad and Heni Ashley, honouring **Dr. Harold Ashley** on his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday.

Susan and Abraham Born, honouring the memories of **Ann and Sam Salcman**.

Regina Delovitch, honouring **Terry Delovitch** on his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Rina Fishbein, honouring **Dr. Ronald Landsberg** on his special birthday.

Risa Levine and family, honouring the memory of **Toby Levenson**.

Susan and Saul Muskat and family, honouring the memory of **Isaac Berneman**.

Susan and Saul Muskat and family, honouring the memory of **Icek Muskat**.

Shirley Promislow, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Corinne Gandler Koslovsky**.

Shirley and Dr. David Promislow and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Israel Gandler**.

Stephen Abrams, Rosette Rutman and Tamara Abrams, honouring the memories of **Eva and Israel Spivak**.

Stephen Abrams, Rosette Rutman and Tamara Abrams, honouring the memory of **Sid Valo**.

Stephen Abrams, Rosette Rutman and Tamara Abrams, honouring the memory of **Tom Valo**.

Jeanne and Irving Salit, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Ethel Cooke**.

Paul and Mary Spring, honouring the memories of **Fay and Sol Spring**.

Dr. Melvin and Ruth Steinhart, honouring the memory of **Harry Steinhart**.

# Jewish Leadership of Prayer Services

**THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE DECEMBER 4** edition of *The Week Ahead* eNewsletter regarding the Choir has led to some questions about the process leading up to that announcement, and I'd like to share some additional background with the Congregation.

The Rabbi meets regularly with Synagogue leadership to discuss a wide range of issues affecting Beth Tzedec. Some issues are mundane (e.g., should we serve bread at Shabbat Kiddush if we are not reciting *Birkat Hamazon*?) and some are potentially controversial (e.g., should women be counted in a minyan?). Depending on the issue, the Rabbi may choose to affirm or adapt an existing policy, or, he may decide to study an issue and write a *Teshuvah* (a formal analysis and religious ruling).

In those regular discussions between the Rabbi and Synagogue leadership over the last several years, concerns were expressed about whether the composition of our Choir complied with Beth Tzedec's long-standing ritual policy that those leading the Congregation in prayer must be Jewish. In the interest of providing clarity and transparency about this area of our ritual practice, the Rabbi agreed to revisit this policy and to set out his position in a formal *Teshuvah*.

Last April, the Rabbi submitted his ruling to the Board and shared it with all members of the Synagogue's ritual staff. The ruling reaffirmed the Synagogue's existing policy: those who lead the Congregation in the singing of sacred music in our prayer services (including members of the Choir) must be Jewish.

This matter has also arisen at other Conservative synagogues and the Rabbinic Assembly's Committee on Jewish Law and Standards has reviewed it on four separate occasions. Each time, they reached the same conclusion as our Rabbi. The Rabbi's ruling can be accessed at the following link: [www.bethzedec.org/page/writings-from-the-rabbis](http://www.bethzedec.org/page/writings-from-the-rabbis). As there was no change to the existing ritual policy, the *Teshuvah* was not formally circulated.

The only change related to the ruling was to request a simple self-declaration of Jewish identity for members of the Choir singing at our prayer services, bringing this process in line with what is already required for marriage, membership and funeral privileges at Beth Tzedec. The Choir was notified of the administrative change during the summer, and in cooperation with their representatives, the implementation deadline was extended to December 31, 2015.

As *Mara D'Atra* of the Congregation, Rabbi Frydman-Kohl is the senior authority on all matters of *Halakhah* (Jewish religious law). The Board of Governors supports our Rabbi and accepts his ruling and re-affirmation of our shul's long-standing policy on this issue. And the Board hopes and trusts that the high standards of musical excellence that we have enjoyed, valued and appreciated will continue to enrich our prayer under the direction of Cantor Simon Spiro.

—*S. Blake Teichman, President*

## IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!

Security remains a top priority for our community. Sadly, we cannot take anything for granted, especially security. We look to each member and guest to always be aware of what's going on in and around our home. It is imperative that we all keep our eyes and ears open to what is going on around us at all times.

If our security or a member of our staff asks you to open your purse or talit bag, please do so willingly. If someone is anxious to enter through a side door and attempts to bypass security, please do your part: don't open the door and make this known to our security and house staff.

While we are always reviewing our protocols and procedures, we invite you to offer your comments and to volunteer to join our ushers and greeters.

Remember, if you see something that seems unusual, or out of place, please SAY SOMETHING—to anyone of the staff at Beth Tzedec. Let's all work together to keep our community safe.

Dorothy Tessis and family, honouring the memory of **Stanley Tessis**.

David Weisdorf, Risa Levine and Harrison Levine, honouring **Jeremy Springer** on his graduation from medical school.

**Reuben and Helene Dennis Museum Fund**

Faye Firestone, honouring **Paul and Gella Rothstein**.

**Syrian Refugee Program**

Dr. Seymour and Rosalee Berlin.

Allan and Barbara Leibel.

Roz Mendelson, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Fay Bigman**.

The Minden Family, honouring **Gary Elman** for his assistance during Elijah's Bar Mitzvah service.

The Minden Family, honouring **Jeffrey Perlmutter** for *davening* during Elijah's Bar Mitzvah service.

The Minden Family, honouring **Lyon Wexler** for *davening* during Elijah's Bar Mitzvah service.

The Minden Family, honouring **Jennifer Wyman** for being gabbai for Elijah's Bar Mitzvah service.

Hart and Marcia Nemoy.

Allan and Rosalynd Pyzer.

Paul and Gella Rothstein.

Irving and Jeanne Salit.

Beverley Stern.

**Victims of Terror Fund**

Sally Gallinger, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Harry Gallinger**.

Gloria Houser, acknowledging **Laura Orzy** in memory of **Aubrey (Butch) Behrman**.

Jeffrey Jacobs, marking the conclusion of kaddish for **Emanuel Jacobs**.

Donna Kotzer Jacobs, marking the conclusion of kaddish for **Morris Kotzer**.

**Youth Initiatives Fund in memory of Adam Kruger**

Daniel Silverman and Rachel Hindel, honouring the **Pape Family**.

## SENDING PURIM CHEER TO OUR UNIVERSITY & COLLEGE STUDENTS



We will be sending our annual holiday package filled with Purim treats to our university/college student members. Provide a 'snailmail' (mailing) address to Sheri Federman at [sfederman@bethzedec.org](mailto:sfederman@bethzedec.org) or call 416-781-3514 ext. 220. If the address is a dormitory, be sure to give the proper address to receive a package. All requests must be received by **Friday, March 4**.

## Planning a Party?

Applause Catering is the exclusive caterer at Beth Tzedec Congregation.

We provide our clients with customized, creative and delectable menu selections, in addition to assisting with theme, décor, rentals, staffing and entertainment.

For your next simcha, our extraordinary team will deliver a flawless event and create lasting memories for you and your guests.

Under the supervision of



Cary Silber • [cary@applausecatering.ca](mailto:cary@applausecatering.ca)  
David Silber • [david@applausecatering.ca](mailto:david@applausecatering.ca)  
Mauricio Pozos • [mauricio@applausecatering.ca](mailto:mauricio@applausecatering.ca)  
416.628.9198 • [www.applausecatering.ca](http://www.applausecatering.ca)





# Syrian Refugee Sponsorship



**MEET THANAA AND AMYN AND THEIR CHILDREN. SHORTLY** after marrying in 1994, Thanaa arrived in Canada, and recently was able to bring Aryn and their two children home to Canada.

Thanaa and Aryn are Ismaili Muslims. In the Muslim world, Ismailis are considered a modern sect and face significant risk and discrimination from many other groups. As a result, it is not safe for them to remain in Syria, or even the refugee camps in Turkey.

Thanaa is one of nine siblings who, until recently, all resided in Syria. With the ongoing Civil War and the emergence of ISIS in their homeland, Thanaa's sister and her family (a husband and three daughters) fled to Turkey.

Thanaa and Aryn have been working to bring them to Canada.

Beth Tzedec is now working with JIAS (Jewish Immigration Aid Services) to sponsor Thanaa's sister and her family so that they can be reunited in safety here in Canada. We are accepting donations to our Syrian Refugee Program, the funds of which will be used to provide food, shelter and support for the family as they settle into a new life in Toronto.

To donate to the Syrian Refugee Program fund, contact the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511 or visit [www.beth-tzedec.org](http://www.beth-tzedec.org) to donate online. Tax receipts will be issued for the full donation amount.

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## Beth Tzedec Welcomes IDF Soldiers in May

**THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL** *Peace of Mind* program, Beth Tzedec will host a unit of IDF soldiers from May 15 to 22 as part of our Israel Action Committee initiatives.

POM is a unique program developed by the Israel Centre for the Treatment of Psycho-Trauma. It focuses on young men and women who served in high-risk combat units and who have undergone severe combat experiences. Their visit to Toronto is a small part of a full year program providing the treatment needed to allow them to live their civilian lives with greater emotional strength and resilience.

The soldiers will be hosted by Beth Tzedec families and will participate in a week-long program, including a Kabbalat Shabbat dinner and a special Shabbat service.

The cost of this program is approximately \$70,000, which covers therapists' salaries for the year, the therapy the soldiers receive in Israel, airline tickets for the group, as well as food and attraction costs while the group is here for the week.

In order to bring this vital program to Beth Tzedec, we need your financial support. The cost of sponsoring a soldier is \$3,600. A

contribution toward all or part of this cost would be an important step for our synagogue community to show its support for Israel's soldiers and their recovery from trauma.

For more information about POM or to make a tax-deductible donation, please visit [www.pomcanada.com](http://www.pomcanada.com) or contact Rhonda Charlat at [charlatfamily@sympatico.ca](mailto:charlatfamily@sympatico.ca).

Watch for more exciting details about this meaningful program in the spring!

—Marnie Burke  
*Co-Chair, Israel Action Committee*



**IT'S A NEW JK-SK PROGRAM DESIGNED FOR TOMORROW'S ORIGINAL THINKERS.**

The research is in: Creativity, curiosity and perseverance are the best predictors of lifelong success.

Welcome to RHA's new JK-SK program, modeled on a world-leading approach to early childhood education that encourages discovery, self-expression and social collaboration. A love of learning is inspired right from the very start.

Enroll now in JK-SK at RHA. For a personal tour, please contact Michael Ferman at 416-224-8737 ext. 137 or [mferman@rhacademy.ca](mailto:mferman@rhacademy.ca).

**ROBBINS HEBREW ACADEMY**  
WHERE EXTRAORDINARY THINGS HAPPEN.

CAIS | HAS Education | Shalom

### Condolences

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

- |                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Aubrey Behrman         | Arthur Richman   |
| Barton (Bunny) Bockner | Norman Rogul     |
| Janet Deitcher         | Saul Schwartz    |
| Ari Firestone          | Inge Spitz       |
| Dr. Arthur Fisch       | Albert L. Stal   |
| Dr. Max Glassman       | Lori Tanzer Chad |
| Marilyn Goody          | Shirley Warner   |
| Myron Elliot Katz      | Lou Whitehouse   |
| Queenie Leibel         | Phil Young       |

*"May the God of mercy sustain and strengthen them in their sorrow."*

### Memorial Plaques

Plaques in honour of the following individuals will be installed in the Sanctuary:

- |           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| Eli Adler | Max Moneta |
|-----------|------------|

To honour the memory of a dear one, a dignified remembrance is a memorial plaque and lamp. Each memorial 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 yahrtzeit, the day of yahrtzeit and the four festivals when Yizkor is recited. To order, contact Maya at 416-781-3514 ext. 216.









**Torah Through Female Eyes**  
with Loretta Tanenbaum

**Understanding Identity: Land, Kinship, Covenant—Who Are We?**





**Tuesdays, March 22 to April 12**  
10:00 to 11:15 am

A four-part series of Torah selections in Hebrew and English from a woman's perspective. Everyone welcome. Cost: \$45 members; \$60 non-members.

For information or to register, contact Marlene Laba at 416-781-3514 ext. 234 or [mlaba@beth-tzedec.org](mailto:mlaba@beth-tzedec.org)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 ADAR I 8:45am Shaharit 5:40pm Minhah-Ma'ariv	6 ADAR I <b>FAMILY DAY</b> 8:45am Shaharit 5:40pm Minhah-Ma'ariv	7 ADAR I 7:30am Shaharit 4:00pm Cook & Snook for <i>Nitzanin</i> 5:00pm Beth Tzedec Youth @ Out of the Cold 5:40pm Minhah-Ma'ariv	8 ADAR I 7:30am Shaharit 5:40pm Minhah-Ma'ariv 7:30pm <i>Hadsot</i> for <i>BTTeens</i> 7:30pm Young Rabbis Speak: Judaism, Gender and Sexuality (at Danforth Jewish Circle) 8:30pm Torah Reading	9 ADAR I 7:30am Shaharit 12:15pm Lunch n' Learn 1:30pm Games Afternoon 4:30pm <i>Kadima</i> : Through the Lens Photo Series 5:00pm Student Mentorship Program 5:40pm Minhah-Ma'ariv 7:30pm Havurat HaSefer	10 ADAR I 7:30am Shaharit 5:35pm Candle Lighting 5:40pm Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00pm Syrian Refugee Response Dinner and Program	11 ADAR I  <b>Tetzaveh</b> 8:45am Shaharit 10:15am L'l Minyanim 10:30am Junior Congregation 11:00am Torah Next Dor 12:00pm Teen Shabbat Lunch 5:20pm Minhah/SS/Ma'ariv 6:38pm Havdalah 7:00pm Movie Night for Grades 6 to 8
<b>This page: February 14 to March 19</b>						
12 ADAR I 8:45am Shaharit 11:00am Grandparent & Grandchild Sunday Morning Hangout 12:00pm <i>Nitzanin</i> & <i>Kokhavim</i> : <i>Tikkun Olam</i> Project— The <i>Mitzvah</i> Series 5:45pm Minhah-Ma'ariv	13 ADAR I 7:30am Shaharit 1:30pm For Every Season 5:45pm Minhah-Ma'ariv 8:30pm Monday Night Learning with Rabbi Cutler	14 ADAR I 7:30am Shaharit 4:00pm Cook & Snook for <i>Kokhavim</i> 5:45pm Minhah-Ma'ariv	15 ADAR I 7:30am Shaharit 5:45pm Minhah-Ma'ariv 8:30pm Torah Reading	16 ADAR I 7:30am Shaharit 1:30pm Games Afternoon 5:45pm Minhah-Ma'ariv	17 ADAR I 7:30am Shaharit 5:00pm Tot Shabbat Dinner 5:44pm Candle Lighting 5:45pm Kabbalat Shabbat	18 ADAR I  <b>Ki Tissa</b> 8:45am Shaharit 9:30am LM/Dr. Ages 10:15am L'l Minyanim 10:30am Junior Congregation 12:00pm Young Shamashim 5:25pm Minhah/SS/Ma'ariv 6:47pm Havdalah
19 ADAR I 8:45am Shaharit 12:00pm <i>Nitzanin</i> & <i>Kokhavim</i> : <i>Tikkun Olam</i> Project— The <i>Mitzvah</i> Series 5:55pm Minhah-Ma'ariv	20 ADAR I 7:30am Shaharit 5:55pm Minhah-Ma'ariv 8:30pm Monday Night Learning with Rabbi Cutler	21 ADAR I 7:30am Shaharit 5:55pm Minhah-Ma'ariv 8:00pm <i>Hesed</i> 101 with Yacov Fruchter	22 ADAR I 7:30am Shaharit 5:55pm Minhah-Ma'ariv 7:30pm Wild World of Israeli Politics 8:30pm Torah Reading	23 ADAR I 7:30am Shaharit 12:15pm Lunch n' Learn 1:30pm Games Afternoon 5:00pm Student Mentorship Program 5:55pm Minhah-Ma'ariv	24 ADAR I 7:30am Shaharit 5:55pm Candle Lighting 5:55pm Kabbalat Shabbat	25 ADAR I  <b>SHABBAT SHEKALIM</b>  <b>SHABBAT MEVARKHIM</b> 8:45am Shaharit 10:00am Jewish Meditation 10:30am Family Service 12:00pm Live! Learning 5:35pm Minhah/SS/Ma'ariv 6:56pm Havdalah
26 ADAR I	27 ADAR I 7:30am Shaharit 1:30pm For Every Season 6:00pm Minhah-Ma'ariv 8:30pm Monday Night Learning with Rabbi Cutler	28 ADAR I	29 ADAR I	30 ADAR I <b>ROSH HODESH ADAR II</b> 7:15am Shaharit 1:30pm Games Afternoon 5:00pm Student Mentorship Program 6:00pm Minhah-Ma'ariv 7:30pm Havurat HaSefer	1 ADAR II <b>ROSH HODESH ADAR II</b> 7:15am Shaharit 6:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat 6:02pm Candle Lighting	2 ADAR II  <b>Pekudei</b> 8:45am Shaharit 9:30am LM/Dr. Ages 10:15am L'l Minyanim 10:30am Junior Congregation 12:00pm Young Shamashim 5:45pm Minhah/SS/Ma'ariv 7:05pm Havdalah
3 ADAR II <b>DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME</b> 8:45am Shaharit 9:30am Jews Who Changed How We Look at Everything 7:00pm Minhah-Ma'ariv	4 ADAR II 7:30am Shaharit 7:00pm Minhah-Ma'ariv 7:30pm Monday Night Learning with Rabbi Cutler	5 ADAR II 7:30am Shaharit 5:00pm Beth Tzedec Youth @ Out of the Cold 7:00pm Minhah-Ma'ariv	6 ADAR II 7:30am Shaharit 7:00pm Minhah-Ma'ariv 7:00pm <i>Hadsot</i> for <i>BTTeens</i> 7:30pm Wild World of Israeli Politics 8:30pm Torah Reading	7 ADAR II 7:30am Shaharit 12:15pm Lunch n' Learn 1:30pm Games Afternoon 7:00pm Minhah-Ma'ariv	8 ADAR II 7:30am Shaharit 6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat 7:10pm Candle Lighting	9 ADAR II <b>SHABBAT ZAKHOR</b>  <b>Vayikra</b> 8:45am Shaharit 10:00am LM/Dr. Ages 10:15am L'l Minyanim 10:30am Junior Congregation 11:00am Torah Next Dor 6:50pm Minhah/SS/Ma'ariv 8:13pm Havdalah

**This page: January 17 to February 13**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>JANUARY</b></p> <p>7 SHEVAT 8:45am Shahrarit 11:00am Grandparent &amp; Grandchild Sunday Morning Hangout 5:00pm Minhah-Ma'ariv</p>	<p>8 SHEVAT 7:30am Shahrarit 5:00pm Minhah-Ma'ariv 8:30pm Monday Night Learning with Rabbi Cutler</p>	<p>9 SHEVAT 7:30am Shahrarit 4:00pm Cook &amp; Shook 5:00pm Minhah-Ma'ariv Beth Tzedec Youth @ Out of the Cold</p>	<p>10 SHEVAT 7:30am Shahrarit 5:00pm Minhah-Ma'ariv 7:30pm Bible Stories They Never Taught You in Hebrew School 8:30pm Torah Reading</p>	<p>11 SHEVAT 7:30am Shahrarit 12:15pm Lunch 'n' Learn 1:30pm Games Afternoon 4:30pm Kadima: Through the Lens Photo Series 5:00pm Student Mentorship Program 5:00pm Minhah-Ma'ariv</p>	<p>12 SHEVAT 7:30am Shahrarit 4:57pm Candle Lighting 5:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00pm Shabbat Shirah Friday Night Live Service &amp; Dinner with Sam Claser</p>	<p>13 SHEVAT <b>SHABBAT SHIRAH</b>  <b>Bestallah</b> 8:45am Shahrarit/Claser 10:15am L'l Minyans 10:30am Junior Congregation 4:40pm Minhah/SS/Ma'ariv 6:00pm Havalah 8:00pm Shabbat Shirah Community Concert</p>
<p>14 SHEVAT 8:45am Shahrarit 11:00am P1 Library Story Time 12:00pm Nitzanim &amp; Kokhavim: Tikun Olam Project— The Mitzvah Series 4:00pm “Rockin’ with Sam” Youth Concert 5:10pm Minhah-Ma'ariv</p>	<p>15 SHEVAT <b>TU B'SHEVAT</b> 7:30am Shahrarit 1:30pm For Every Season 5:10pm Minhah-Ma'ariv 7:15pm Monday Night Learning with Rabbi Cutler</p>	<p>16 SHEVAT 7:30am Shahrarit 4:00pm Cook &amp; Shook 5:10pm Minhah-Ma'ariv 7:30pm Information Night: Musical Journey to Spain</p>	<p>17 SHEVAT 7:30am Shahrarit 5:10pm Minhah-Ma'ariv 7:30pm <i>Hadashtot</i> for BTTeens</p>	<p>18 SHEVAT 7:30am Shahrarit 1:30pm Games Afternoon 4:30pm Kadima: Through the Lens Photo Series 5:00pm Student Mentorship Program 5:10pm Minhah-Ma'ariv 7:30pm Havurat HaSefer</p>	<p>19 SHEVAT 7:30am Shahrarit 5:06pm Candle Lighting 5:10pm Kabbalat Shabbat</p>	<p>20 SHEVAT  <b>Yitro</b> 8:45am Shahrarit 9:30am LM/Dr. Ages 10:15am L'l Minyans 10:30am Junior Congregation 12:00pm Young Sharnashim 4:50pm Minhah/SS/Ma'ariv 6:10pm Havalah</p>
<p>21 SHEVAT 8:45am Shahrarit 12:00pm Nitzanim &amp; Kokhavim: Tikun Olam Project— The Mitzvah Series 2:00pm Singles Friendship Group Meet &amp; Greet 3:00pm Kadima: Trampoline Party at Sky Zone 5:20pm Minhah-Ma'ariv 6:30pm We Can Pickle That</p>	<p>22 SHEVAT 7:30am Shahrarit 5:20pm Minhah-Ma'ariv</p>	<p>23 SHEVAT 7:30am Shahrarit 5:20pm Minhah-Ma'ariv</p>	<p>24 SHEVAT 7:30am Shahrarit 5:20pm Minhah-Ma'ariv 7:30pm Bible Stories They Never Taught You in Hebrew School 8:30pm Torah Reading</p>	<p>25 SHEVAT 7:30am Shahrarit 12:15pm Lunch 'n' Learn 1:30pm Games Afternoon 4:30pm Kadima: Through the Lens Photo Series 5:00pm Student Mentorship Program 5:20pm Minhah-Ma'ariv</p>	<p>26 SHEVAT 7:30am Shahrarit 5:00pm Blue Jeans Shabbat Dinner 5:16pm Candle Lighting 5:20pm Kabbalat Shabbat</p>	<p>27 SHEVAT <b>SHABBAT MEVARKHIM</b>  <b>Mishpaitim</b> 8:45am Shahrarit 9:30am LM/Dr. Ages 10:00am Jewish Meditations 10:15am L'l Minyans 10:30am Family Service 12:00pm Lively Learning 5:00pm Minhah/SS/Ma'ariv 6:19pm Havalah</p>
<p>28 SHEVAT</p>	<p>29 SHEVAT 7:30am Shahrarit For Every Season Minhah-Ma'ariv Monday Night Learning with Rabbi Cutler</p>	<p>30 SHEVAT <b>ROSH HODESH ADAR I</b></p>	<p>1 ADAR I</p>	<p>2 ADAR I</p>	<p>3 ADAR I</p>	<p>4 ADAR I  <b>Terumah</b> 8:45am Shahrarit 9:30am LM/Dr. Ages 10:15am L'l Minyans 10:30am Junior Congregation 5:10pm Minhah/SS/Ma'ariv 6:29pm Havalah</p>