ENJOY MUSIC AT BETH TZEDECC
All Season Long!

Shabbat Dinner with
Aviva Chernick
February 7
See p. 30

Shabbat Shirah Celebration
February 8
See p. 2

Purim Carnival and Abridged Megillah Reading
March 9
See p. 8
Beth Tzedec celebrates Shabbat Shirah and Black History Month with the Nathaniel Dett Chorale.

Join us for a melodic Shaḥarit Service led by Cantor Sidney Ezer and the Beth Tzedec Shir Ḥadash Ensemble, featuring the Nathaniel Dett Chorale’s artistic director Brainerd Blyden-Taylor speaking about Old Testament stories in African American Spirituals and the shared experience of slavery/persecution in both traditions and music. Everyone is welcome.

A community kiddush follows.

On Saturday evening, the Nathaniel Dett Chorale joins Cantor Sidney Ezer and the Shir Ḥadash Ensemble for an inspirational interfaith concert on the theme of slavery and freedom featuring Afrocentric music. The liturgy and music of both faiths will be represented.

**Tickets:** *Advance Purchase: $15 members; $20 non-members. At the door: $25*

For information or concert tickets, contact the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511 or info@beth-tzedec.org.

*Advance ticket sales end Friday, February 7 at 12:00 NOON*

The Nathaniel Dett Chorale is a multi-faceted group of singers and Canada’s first professional chamber choir dedicated to Afrocentric music of all styles, including classical, spiritual, gospel, jazz, folk and blues. They have shared the stage with internationally recognized artists such as Juno Award-winning jazz pianist Joe Sealy, singers Molly Johnson and Jackie Richardson, opera star Kathleen Battle and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. The ensemble has performed for such luminaries as opera singer Jessye Norman and Dance Theatre of Harlem founder Arthur Mitchell. They have also performed at events honouring world leaders Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, boxing personality Muhammad Ali and pianist Oscar Peterson. They were the only Canadian ensemble invited to perform at celebrations surrounding the historic inauguration of President Barack Obama in 2009.
Justice, Justice You Shall Pursue

We are Beth Tzedec, a platform for righteousness. We share a passion for extending justice into the world.

TZEDAKAH IS NOT CHARITY. THOUGH CHARITY IS TZEDAKAH.

The word charity comes from the Latin word caritas meaning love. One gives charity, then, when one feels love or empathy for another person or a cause. There is no sense of obligation or responsibility, though it is, of course, highly encouraged.

The word tzedakah, on the other hand, comes from the Hebrew word tzedec, meaning justice or righteousness, and its implication goes way beyond charity. Tzedec implies a modality of individual and communal responsibility and behaviour to uphold what is right, moral and fair. This is why the Jewish concept of tzedec informs how we view legal systems, economic systems, social systems and the like.

In fact, as Rabbi Sidney Schwarz writes in his book Judaism and Justice, the creation and maintenance of justice is one of the essential purposes of Judaism. To fulfill his destiny, Abraham must “extend the boundaries of righteousness and justice in the world.” Schwarz continues, “Why be Jewish?—because it is a heritage that extends the boundaries of righteousness and justice in the world and invests our world with holiness.”

Consider Beth Tzedec. When the generation that founded this sacred community determined its name, they clearly had this notion of tzedec in mind. I’m reminded of a story Zoli Zimmerman’s family shared with me as we prepared for his funeral. When he came to Toronto after the Holocaust, he needed work. Construction was underway here at Bathurst and Eglinton and he was able to work collecting the unneeded and damaged steel and iron. Beth Tzedec worked with JIAS and others and helped provide some of the first jobs for new immigrants. That’s not charity, that’s tzedakah.

We are a congregation that continues to live up to our name. We welcome IDF veterans still suffering from PTSD, we rescue refugees, we house the homeless, we collect food for the hungry, we engage the lonely and we give charity to support worthy causes.

As you read through the winter bulletin, look for ways in which you too can make a difference and give of yourself such that we can extend the boundaries of tzedec beyond our synagogue walls. Donate winter clothing to Out of the Cold, join the Refugee Sponsorship Group, help us meet the needs of bikkur holim (visiting the sick and homebound) or let us know how we can help you and your friends in a project that you care about—we can infuse it with Jewish context and offer a vast network, promotion and more. Contact Yacov Fruchter, Rabbi Fryer Bodzin or myself and we will be happy to support you.

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**BETH TZEDEC @ OUT OF THE COLD**

Tuesdays, January 21, February 4 & 18 and March 3 & 24 from 5:00 to 9:00 PM

Beth Tzedec families are invited to participate in Out of the Cold at Beth Sholom, serving hot meals to the guests of the program. Teens in Grades 6 to 8 must come with an adult; parents are welcome! RSVPs required to Daniel Silverman at 416-781-3514, ext. 231 or dsilverman@beth-tzedec.org.
VOLUNTEER IN MEXICO

Join UJA Genesis, in partnership with Holy Blossom Temple and Beth Tzedec Congregation, for an 8-day volunteer mission to Huatulco, Mexico. A unique opportunity for young adults who are passionate about educating and engaging with youth abroad.

// Help support the local population's needs by teaching children life skills
// Learn about the development issues facing the local community
// Explore the important question of responsibility toward others through a Jewish lens

Dates: Monday, June 1 – Monday, June 8, 2020
Application Deadline: Friday, January 17, 2020
Eligibility: Young professionals (20-30)
Cost: $300
This covers ground costs, but does NOT include airfare, travel insurance, visas and immunizations.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT
Yacov Fruchter
yfruchter@beth-tzedec.org

Mark Your Calendar
OUT OF THE COLD ART EXHIBIT AND SALE
Sunday, March 29 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM
I came from a family of strong women, all very involved in community activities and leadership.

My grandmothers were both very philanthropic and tireless in their volunteer positions. My mother was involved with the National Council of Jewish Women, Chair of the Women’s Division of UJA, among numerous other organizations, and of course, Beth Tzedec.

My mother’s passion at the shul has always been the Reuben & Helene Dennis Museum. I spent many an afternoon doing my homework in the Museum as she organized and catalogued exhibits. I was always taught that a woman’s contribution was just as important as a man’s in all facets of life, and I learned from the example of those who came before me.

Personally, I had never thought of joining the Board of Directors at Beth Tzedec. When I was nominated nine years ago, I was taken aback, not really knowing what I could contribute. My husband Michael and I had been asked to join a Bar/Bat Mitzvah Task Force as our daughter Emma, was starting the Bar/Bat Mitzvah program. The task force was asked to look at ways in which the program could be improved. That was the extent of my involvement at Beth Tzedec, other than being a lifelong member and a regular shul-goer. But I was asked and really, how could I say no given my family’s history at Beth Tzedec—but more importantly, how could I say no to a place that I love?

There are so many opportunities for involvement and leadership in our kehillah. My first year on the Board, I co-chaired the Communications Committee, which undertook the redevelopment of the Beth Tzedec website. I moved onto the Executive a year later. As Chair and now as President, I have had the unique perspective of witnessing the inner workings of the many committees that are the heart and soul of our shul.

My newest position is serving in an ex-officio role on the Centre for Spiritual Well-Being Advisory Committee.

At our first meeting, under the leadership of Rabbi Fryer Bodzin, I was so privileged to see the others on the committee get so excited about the Centre and sharing their gifts and expertise with our community. There is a lot about leadership that can be exhausting, stressful and draining, but these are the days that keep me energized, excited and focused on our goals.

Last year, under our new by-laws, for the first time, members of the congregation could put their names forward to be nominated to the Board. The hope was that members would be motivated to get involved, no longer hampered by who they knew on the Nominations Committee. What I didn’t expect was that all but one of the members who put their names forward would be men. How was this possible when there are so many incredibly capable and impressive women in our kehillah?

Leah Mauer, a member of our 20’s and 30’s Committee, sent me an article from eJewish Philanthropy that gave me an answer. The article, “The Week That All Jewish Women Turned Invisible”, details how without women’s voices being acknowledged in leadership, they simply do not step forward to fill vacant slots. It was a fascinating read and one that has really changed my way of thinking. We need to be conscious of the make-up of our committees—women need to be better represented as committee members and as leaders. The same holds true for Jews by Choice, Jews of Colour, Jews who identify as LGBTQ+. Having a diversity of voices at the table only makes us stronger.

I urge each and every one of you to get involved in some way at Beth Tzedec. We’re not just here for the High Holy Days. There is so much to experience at our shul the other 362 days of the year. I am confident that if you do, you will find a strong community waiting for you and many opportunities to make Beth Tzedec and the broader world a better place.

Rabbi Wernick has said that shlaymoot will be the foundational principle of the synagogue moving forward. We each share a personal responsibility for community, social and personal well-being. So please get involved in any manner in which you can.

And when the e-mail goes out in early 2020 asking for nominations to the Board of Directors, ladies, please step forward!

If you would like to become more involved in any way at Beth Tzedec, please contact me at president@beth-tzedec.org.

—Debbie Rothstein, President
Lishma Jewish Learning Project launched in November 2018 in Toronto. We are a community of learners in our 20s and 30s, excited to share our desire for greater Jewish engagement. We are willing to ask questions of our tradition and we want to explore how it informs our lives today. We hope you’ll be part of it.

Semester 3: January 15, 22 & 29 and February 5, 12 & 19 @ Holy Blossom Temple

Hands-On Track: New Jewish Film with Aaron Rotenberg

Judaism + Modernity: Bad@$$ Sheroes with Rabbi Becca Walker

Text and Context: Jewish Couplehood with Yacov Fruchter

For information or to register, visit www.lishma.com

Healing Services

with Rabbi Fryer Bodzin

Wednesday evenings, January 8, March 4 and May 6 at 7:30 PM

When you feel broken, turn to our tradition for strength and renewal. With the launch of the Centre for Spiritual Well-Being, we will be offering regular healing services with Rabbi Fryer Bodzin. Join us as we enrich our lives and strive for a sense of shlaymoot (well-being). No charge, but RSVPs appreciated.

The Beth Tzedec Centre for Spiritual Well-Being

Beth Tzedec Congregation
What Time is It?

With so much on the go and a finite amount of time, we must stop and ask ourselves what matters most and give ourselves the opportunity to spend time doing it.

THE ALARM BLASTS AT 6:00, THE shower heats, the coffee percolates, the flat iron is fired up, the mousse foams, contact lenses are popped into tired eyes and clothes are laid out just as the bus beeps for the kids—oy! Traffic is “light” (who are they kidding) and Shabbat starts in 15 minutes.

Work by 9:00, meetings at 11:30, 1:00 and 3:00, pick-up from extended care by 5:30, dinner, homework and kids to bed by 7:00. Finally, by 8:30, a chance to ... fill in the blank.

We run our lives with schedules: sunrise/sunset; Shabbat / Minnah / Ma’ariv; candles to start and end Shabbat. Somehow we have to fit it all in. We rely on diaries, devices and mostly on each other to keep us on pace and hit our deadlines.

My friend Louie “used to say that there are only two important things in life—timing and moderation. It’s gruelling trying to stay on time. And in doing so, we frequently violate the idea of moderation. Our age of information technology demands that we do more, better and faster. It takes so much just to keep up, never mind find the time for quality thought and creativity. From school to work, we are forever cramming, playing catch-up.

In the synagogue, there is so much going on—Professor Ages’ classes, luncheons, Canasta, Family Shabbatot, Out of the Cold, Hana Werner lectures, community programs, concerts—all demanding the full effort of volunteers and staff. And as much as we do, demands grow with each success. Technology allows us to reach more people and to get instant feedback. We try to stay on top of literally hundreds of emails every day, but how to do it all and more—and do it well?

Harry M. Jansen Kraemer, Jr., a brilliant businessman, inspirational speaker and author, talks about the importance of the number 168; the number of hours in the week. As he says, it is all we have, for whatever it is we want/need/wish to accomplish. No more, no less.

Let’s see:
- Work (depending on where you work): 50 hours
- Sleep: 42 hours
- Personal time (reading, Netflix, time with friends): 25 hours
- Time in the car (commuting/schlepping): 10 hours
- Meal time: 10 hours
- Getting ready for work, activity, bed: 7 hours
- Exercise: 4 hours

How to spend the remaining 20 hours of your week?

In his book, From Values to Action, in addressing leadership, Kraemer says, “Self-reflection is the key to identifying what you stand for, what your values are and what matters most.” With so much on the go and a finite amount of time, we must stop and ask ourselves ‘what matters most’ and give ourselves the opportunity to spend time doing it. His message is a reminder of one way for us to look at life.

What if we just paused and looked at ourselves and each other a little longer, listened a little more carefully and took a few well-earned deep breaths? What if we set limits on what we have to do and gave ourselves the opportunity to focus better and with less stress, and feed our inner selves with what we want to do? When we can know what really moves us, gives us pleasure and makes life meaningful, we can lead happier and more successful lives. Balance, Kraemer says, is fundamental. And with the numerous competing interests in our lives, “It always comes down to doing the right thing and doing the best you can.”

Perhaps, as we strive for excellence in our daily lives, we must (another Kraemer principle) have the humility to accept who we are and who others are. Try as we do to fit it all in, Shabbat will start when it starts, whether we are ready or not. Ever watch Iron Chef? “Spatula down, time’s up.” The newspaper, the broadcast, even this Bulletin, have to go to press. We must live with deadlines and accept there can be no more “final” edits or tweaks. There will always be another headline to write, another article to post and another loaf of hallah to bake.

How to cope? Invest in the time it takes to do our best, accept our limitations and reflect on what and how we do what we do.

We only have 168 hours in each week. Kraemer says that “when you truly know yourself and what you stand for, it is much easier to know what to do in any situation.” Think about how you spend your 168 and how to use them wisely because they are yours. As we spend the time to take the time, we may just find the peace and balance we need to do the things that matter most.

To make a gift that will strengthen our kehillah, please contact me at 416-781-3514, ext. 211 or rspiegel@beth-tzedec.org.
Searching for My Voice

A World Premiere by Allan Soberman

May 12, 2020

“Searching for My Voice” is Allan’s heartfelt story of growing up in the family of Beth Tzedec’s beloved Cantor Morris Soberman (z”l), who was the Ba’al Koreh, Hazzan Sheini and Bar/Bat Mitzvah teacher of 2,800 of us for over 35 years. The show features melodies Allan learned as a child as the “cantor’s son” and traces his personal journey as a performer and music producer to find his own voice.

Watch for ticket information coming soon.

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PURIM CARNIVAL
and Abridged Megillah Reading

Monday, March 9 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM

Join the fun at our annual Purim carnival! Kids of all ages will enjoy carnival booths, bouncy castles, a toddlers’ play-zone and a dance party. The carnival will pause from 5:15 to 5:45 PM for a child-centric, abridged Megillah reading, and then resume with more fun and games. (A full Megillah reading begins at approximately 7:15 PM).

No charge for activities; children’s food available for purchase. RSVPs appreciated to the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511 or info@beth-tzedec.org by Wednesday, March 4.
Mazal Tov
to our B’nei Mitzvah

WHO HAVE COMPLETED
OUR BAR/BAT MITZVAH
PROGRAM

January 18
Justin Giddens
son of Dr. Jonathan
& Susan Giddens

February 1 (at Minḥah)
Eden Agulnik
dughter of Adam Agulnik
& Galit Zupnik

February 17
David Pasternak
son of Jonathan & Cara Pasternak

February 22 (at Minḥah)
Maya Klimentz
daughter of Dr. Jordan & Ester Klimentz

March 28
William Wall
son of Edmund & Lisa Wall

Are you a Beth Tzedec member with a child attending Camp Ramah in Canada for the first time? BT members have access to one incentive grant per family, thanks to The Beth Tzedec and Phyllis & Ab Flatt Camp Ramah in Canada Incentive Program Family Fund.

For additional information about summer camping opportunities, please contact Daniel Silverman at dsilverman@beth-tzedec.org, call 416-781-3514, ext. 231 or call the Jewish camp of your choice.
The Iron Tracks
Dr. Harriet Morris discusses Aharon Appelfeld’s book.

A peddler of Judaica has been riding the trains of postwar Austria for over 40 years, ever since his release from a concentration camp, with a secret mission. Appelfeld takes us on a trek of memory, revenge and forgiveness.
Milestones and celebrations

Births

Micah Hallie, daughter of LESLEY & REUBEN KOCHMAN, granddaughter of LAWRIE & ELLEN MANN and MARK & LOLA KOCHMAN, great-granddaughter of ANN SAMUELS and LUCY KOCHMAN, great-granddaughter of ANN SAMUELS and LUCY KOCHMAN, born July 27.


Edie Lynne, daughter of MICHAEL & CARRIE GEIST, granddaughter of THE LATE TERRY GEIST, MARVIN GEIST, BARBARA BREGMAN and MICHAEL BREGMAN, great-granddaughter of YETTA BREGMAN, born August 26 (in Los Angeles).

Oliver, son of JUSTIN LINDEN & STEPHANIE ORLEANS, grandson of ROCHELLE LINDEN and ADELE & MARVIN ORLEANS, born September 5.


Maya Frances, daughter of REBECCA & IRA SHINER, granddaughter of BENITA & FRED GOLT and FAYE & ALAN SHINER, born October 31.

Lior Yitzhak, son of YAKOV KOHL, grandson of RABBI BARUCH & JOSETTE FRYDMAN-KOHL and DANIEL NEMZER, born November 11.


Weddings

Jonathan Rosen, son of RANDY & HOWARD ROSEN, grandson of GINA & SIDNEY BROWN and PEARL & JOSEPH ROSEN, and LAUREN KLEINER, daughter of FRAN & IRV KLEINER, granddaughter of PAULA & BENNET AGRANOVE and YETTA & LEO KLEINER, who were married August 26 (in Los Angeles).

Yael Liat Pullan, daughter of ANNE & ELI PULLAN, granddaughter of DEVORAH PERLMAN & DAVID PULLAN, and CORY DITKOFSKY, son of NANCY & JACK DITKOFSKY (of Montreal), grandson of GUSTAWA MANSFIELD and BEatrice DITKOFSKY, who were married October 19.

Justin Rosen, son of RANDY & HOWARD ROSEN, grandson of GINA & SIDNEY BROWN and PEARL & JOSEPH ROSEN, and ERICA FRIEBERG, daughter of KATHY & DAVID FRIEBERG, granddaughter of BETTY & HERB FRIEBERG, who were married December 14.

Congratulations to

Allan Pyzer, who celebrated his 90th birthday on October 24.

Allen & Susan Schacht, who celebrated their 30th anniversary on November 26.

Louise Starkman, who was awarded the Ontario Volunteer Service Award by the Province of Ontario in recognition of her service to Dawes Road Cemeteries.

Cathy Surdin & Lawrence Shiff, who celebrated their 25th anniversary on October 30.

Simon Weisz, son of ANNE & RANDY WEIZS, and Katarina Zoricic, daughter of SILVIA BRUDAR & BEBE ZORICIC, on their engagement.

Many Thanks to

The Rosen Family, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on August 10 to honour the marriage of their son Jonathan Rosen & Lauren Klener.

Moshe Micha & Chloe McAlister, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on September 14 to honour the birth of their daughter Nava.

Larry & Nina Wallach, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on September 21 to honour Toby Wallach on her 99th birthday.

Aaron Bodzin & Rabbi Robyn Fryer Bodzin, who sponsored a Seudah Shlisheet on September 28 to commemorate the yahrtzeit of Jerry Bodzin.

Dot Whitehouse, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on October 5 to honour the birthday of her late father Louis Whitehouse.

Caroline Bokar Gordon & Errol Gordon, who sponsored a Seudah Shlisheet on October 12 to commemorate the yahrtzeit of Mara Bokar.

Mazal tov to Geneviève & Pearl Cohen, who welcomed daughter Josephine on October 22.
Ilene Flatt and family, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on October 12 to commemorate the yahrtzeit of P. Theodore Magram.

Gella & Paul Rothstein, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on October 14 to commemorate the yahrtzeit of J. Barney Goldhar.

Debbie & Mark Bank, Corrie & Paul Gancman and Alison & Robert Gladstone, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on October 26 to commemorate the yahrtzeit of Shirley Gladstone.

Joseph Rosenthal, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on October 26 to commemorate the yahrtzeiten of Shmuel Rosenthal and David White.

The Black Family, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on October 26 to commemorate the yahrtzeit of Shmuel Rosenthal and David White.

Geneviève & Pearl Cohen and families, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on November 2 to honour the birth of their daughter Josephine.

The Ezer Family, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on November 9 to honour Cantor Sidney Ezer.

Ab & Phyllis Flatt, who sponsored a Seudah Shlisheet on November 9 to commemorate the yahrtzeit of Moses Flatt.

Gloria & Dr. Ronald Jacobs, who sponsored a Seudah Shlisheet on November 9 to commemorate the yahrtzeit of Dorothy Freedman.

Esterita Rajsky and Rochelle Zabitsky, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on November 16 to commemorate the yahrtzeit of William Chananie.

The Ezer and Arbuck Families, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on November 16 to commemorate the yahrtzeit of William Chananie.

The Ackerman Family, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on November 23 to honour the first anniversary of the Bar Mitzvah of their son Aaron Black.

Gloria & Dr. Ronald Jacobs, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on November 30 to honour their 36th wedding anniversary, the anniversary of Lawrie's Bar Mitzvah and the engagement of their son Seth Giddens & Dani Jesin.

Debbie & Mark Bank, Corrie & Paul Gancman and Robert & Alison Gladstone, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on December 7 to commemorate the yahrtzeit of Harold Gladstone.

Bernice Stern and the Stern and Gropper families, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on December 7 to commemorate the yahrtzeit of Gitel Rotenstein.

The Ackerman Family, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on December 14 to commemorate the yahrtzeit of Dr. John Ackerman.

Dr. Jonathan & Susan Giddens, who will sponsor a Congregational Kiddush on January 18 to honour the Bar Mitzvah of their son Justin Giddens.

Adam Agulnik & Galit Zupnik, who will sponsor a Congregational Kiddush on February 1 to honour the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Eden Agulnik.

Jonathan & Cara Pasternak, who will sponsor a Congregational Kiddush on February 22 to honour the Bar Mitzvah of their son David Pasternak.

Dr. Jordan & Ester Klimitz, who will sponsor a Congregational Kiddush on March 28 to honour the Bar Mitzvah of their son William Wall.

Jeffery & Cherryl Berliner, who will sponsor a Congregational Kiddush on February 22 to honour the upcoming marriage of their son Michael Berliner and Sara Schachter.

Join Cantor Sidney Ezer, choir director Ezra Burke and Yacov Fruchter on the third Tuesday of each month at 8:00 PM for an uplifting sing-along highlighting familiar and less familiar melodies that will be featured at Shabbat at the Floor and Shabbat/Festival morning services. No charge. Everyone welcome.
Ceiling Tiles

When we are able to let go and focus on the blessings and the opportunities we have, then we can begin to act more godly.

MOST OF US, AT SOME POINT OR another, have found ourselves staring upward, counting ceiling tiles. So let’s imagine that we are sitting in a room with a tiled ceiling. Now imagine that one tile is missing. Just one. Where do your eyes go? Of course, you’re staring at the missing tile.

What if you were looking at our Beit Alpha Floor mosaic and noticed a piece was cracked—would you be able to look away?

Or what if during a rainy summer, your entire family worked on a 1,000 piece jigsaw puzzle together? And somehow, one piece was missing. Which piece would you focus on?

What about when one hair is out of place, or one fingernail is messed up or there is a tiny stain on an otherwise pristine carpet? When these situations arise, what do we fixate on? What don’t we let go of?

That’s The Missing Tile Syndrome—the preoccupation with imperfections and anomalies. It runs contrary to how we are supposed to live our lives as Jews. We are supposed to engage in hakarat hatov, expressions of gratitude, such as thanking God and those around us for our blessings.

People who are afflicted by The Missing Tile Syndrome focus on what is missing from their lives. It robs us of the ability to appreciate the ample goodness that surrounds us.

When we are able to let go and focus on the blessings and the opportunities we have, then we can begin to act more godly.

When we consider the sisters Leah and Rachel from the Torah, Rachel is usually elevated in comparison to her sister. Rachel is described as shapely and beautiful, while her sister is not. Of the two sisters, Rachel is Jacob’s beloved wife. In Genesis 30:22, we read that God was directly involved in Rachel’s fertility journey as “God remembered Rachel; God heeded her and opened her womb.” Rachel is the one who births Joseph, the favourite son. It is Joseph who continues the story of our ancestors, the Israelite people.

Leah is known for mothering most of Jacob’s sons. But I think that Leah’s legacy goes far beyond her ability to give birth. Leah taught us all how to say thank you. She modeled hakarat hatov, the importance of gratitude. After giving birth to Reuven, Shimon and Levi, she bore one more son. We read in Genesis 29:35 “she conceived again, and bore a son; and she said: ‘This time will I thank the LORD.’ Therefore she called his name Judah.”

On this verse, Rabbi Yohanan said in the name of Rabbi Shimon ben Yohai: “From the day the Holy One, Blessed be He, created the world, no one thanked the Holy One, Blessed be He, until Leah came and thanked Him, as it is stated: ‘This time I will give thanks to God.’”

Giving thanks to God and our fellow human beings is an essential part of being Jewish. Among the first words in our siddur, we find the Modeh Ani, where we thank God for life and for enabling us to wake up.

While our days are short and the cold makes many of us want to hibernate through the winter, I encourage all of us to prioritize hakarat hatov. Make time to thank people for the good they bestow on us and to thank God for the blessings in our lives.

If you have a positive interaction with a person, send a text, an email or a handwritten note letting them know how they made you feel. Hakarat hatov is contagious. If you do it for someone, chances are they will pay it forward.

Nearly every ceiling we stand under will have at least one missing or cracked or nicked tile. Some cracks will be easier to see than others. Instead of focusing on the negative above, look at the blessings around you and within you. And then say thank you, in whatever way works best for you.
Mr. Gaga

Ohad Naharin, an artistic genius who redefined the language of modern dance, is a director of the Batsheva Dance Company. He is regarded as one of the most important choreographers in the world. Filmed over a period of eight years, director Tomer Heymann mixes intimate rehearsal footage with an extensive unseen archive and breathtaking dance sequences for this fascinating documentary. The rhythm of the story is guaranteed to leave you skipping.

[Hebrew with English subtitles]

Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles

Discover the origin story behind one of Broadway’s most beloved musicals, Fiddler on the Roof, and its creative roots in early 1960s New York, when “tradition” was on the wane as gender roles, sexuality, race relations, and religion were evolving.

Data Mining the Deceased: Ancestry and the Business of Family

This documentary explores genealogy, ownership and access of your personal data and privacy risks. FamilySearch is the largest non-profit genealogical database in the world, while ancestry.com is the largest for-profit genealogical database. Both sites extensively share and exchange records. How do we protect our privacy? After the movie, we’ll enjoy a talk with producer and director Dr. Julia Creet.

Prosecuting Evil: The Extraordinary World of Ben Ferencz

The fascinating story of Ben Ferencz who, at 27 years of age, became the lead prosecutor in the Einsatzgruppen case at Nuremberg, which has been called the biggest murder trial in history. All 22 Nazi officials were convicted. Ferencz became a lifelong advocate of “law not war” and, at 98 years of age, continues his fight for justice for victims of atrocity.

Cost: $5 per screening (Funds support the Out of the Cold program)
Sponsored by the Sigmund and Gabriella Schmidt Endowment Fund

For more information, contact the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511 or email info@beth-tzedec.org

Mark Your Calendar

Megillah Reading

Join us on Monday evening, March 9 at 7:15 PM and on Tuesday morning, March 10 at 7:00 AM for a lively Megillah reading.

Save the Date!

Professor Stephen Berk returns to Toronto for his annual scholar-in-residence series April 24 to 26, 2020. Watch for details coming soon.
Melding Musical Encounters

Jews and African Canadians share a common history of suffering through a struggle for freedom and acceptance.

FOR THE LAST FEW SUMMERS, DURING MY VACATION TIME, I have made it a point to travel within Canada to discover as much of our vast country as possible. On each of my trips, I’ve come across at least one Jewish connection. This past summer, I actually made it to the Yukon, which I had always dreamed of visiting.

While in Dawson City, I took in a vaudeville show at Diamond Tooth Gertie’s Gambling Hall. Gertie’s, as it is colloquially known, is Canada’s oldest casino, reminiscent of the area’s Klondike Gold Rush history. Imagine my surprise when I see Gertie Lovejoy and her “Gold Rush Girls” come out for an encore, dancing the can-can and singing made-up English lyrics to “Hava Nagila”! I know it has become a prominent tune in secular society, but it was still an unexpected surprise.

I also visited the Bet Chaim cemetery established by the Baron de Hirsch Congregation in 1902. At that time, Dawson City’s Jewish community had nearly 200 members. There are five known burial sites, but the only identified grave belongs to Solomon Packer, a popular merchant who owned a hardware store. Born Aaron Yehudah ben Pekler in the Ukraine, he immigrated to North America in the late 1880s, arriving in Dawson City during the Gold Rush. He was a member of the Yukon Order of Pioneers but chose to be buried in the cemetery of his faith. Several other members of the congregation are buried in the nearby Hillside Cemetery.

The Yukon trek notwithstanding, I have mostly travelled closer to home to see more of Ontario. Two summers ago, I travelled to Tobermory and Manitoulin Island. The crystal clear waters and the Niagara Escarpment were breathtaking. While aboard the Chi-Cheemaun Ferry, passengers often visit the lounge deck for entertainment. The performers that day were a duo of university students, one of whom sang a song she wrote as an assignment for her Concordia professor, who is a member of the First Nations. Everything seemed fine until the lyrics “When the Israeli occupation is over …”. After the performance, I approached them and politely but firmly expressed my disappointment in their choice of repertoire. My sole Jewish encounter was not a pleasant one.

Three summers ago, I travelled through more of southwestern Ontario, visiting Grand Bend, Goderich, Blythe and Petrolia and taking in some local theatre. The plays all involved Canadian subject matter. The one I saw in Petrolia was the adapted musical Portia. It weaves together the interlocking true stories of Portia White, who broke through the colour barrier to become the first Black Canadian concert singer to win international acclaim, her father, a Baptist minister and son of a former slave, and Portia’s vocal instructor, Ernesto Vinci.

Ernesto was an Italian opera singer, teacher, adjudicator, doctor and German-speaking Polish Jew. When WWII broke out, he was studying opera in Italy, so he passed himself off as Italian and escaped to Canada. His family died in the Holocaust. The relationship between Portia and Ernesto is explored throughout the musical culminating in Portia’s death in 1968, when Ernesto attends her grave, sings from Proverbs 31 (“Eshet Hayil”) and recites Kaddish for her.

At one point in the musical, Ernesto tells Portia “they accept you, they accept me”. It puts in perspective a Jew’s struggle to vicariously gain acceptance through an African Canadian who herself endures racism, prejudice and discrimination. Jews and African Canadians share a common history of suffering through a struggle for freedom and acceptance. This is reflected in common spirituals like “Wade in the Water” and “Go Down Moses”.

Ever since seeing that musical and the complex relationship between Portia and Ernesto, it made me reflect more on our shared experience of slavery and Exodus and inspired a special celebration of Shabbat Shirah and Black History Month. Join us as we welcome the Nathaniel Dett Chorale, under the direction of Brainerd Blyden-Taylor. This multi-faceted group of singers is Canada’s first professional chamber choir dedicated to Afrocentric music of all styles, including classical, spiritual, gospel, jazz, folk and blues. Together with myself and the Beth Tzedec Shir˙Hadash Ensemble, they will inspire us with an interfaith concert on the theme of slavery and freedom, bringing Old Testament stories in African American Spirituals to life.

These were my Jewish encounters in the unlikeliest of places. This summer I will likely take a break from domestic travel as I hope to join the Cantors Assembly on a musical journey to Italy, to visit Rome, Florence and Venice to meet with the local Jewish communities and learn about their experiences. I will keep you posted. In the meantime, I wish you only wonderful Jewish encounters wherever you go.
REFUGEE AWARENESS SHABBAT
Friday, March 20 and Saturday, March 21

20s and 30s
SOCIAL JUSTICE
SHABBAT
with Dawit Demosz

PROGRAM / SERVICE / DINNER
Service begins at 6:00 PM
Join us for a unique Shabbat dinner as we get to know activist and refugee Dawit Demosz, who settled in Canada after several years of living in Israel as an asylum-seeker.
Cost: $18 per person.

MONTHLY
FAMILY
SHABBAT

PROGRAM / SERVICE / DINNER
Beginning at 5:15 PM
Come together for a delicious Shabbat dinner and great programming for kids of all ages. A young children’s craft program begins at 5:15 PM, with a lively abridged Kabbalat Shabbat service at 5:45 PM followed by a delicious Shabbat dinner, an activity for older kids and a conversation with a recent refugee.
Cost for dinner: $60 per family (2 adults and max. of 4 children); $25 each additional family member. Beth Tzedec member discounted price: $50 per family; $20 each additional family member.

LUNCH AND LEARN
with Elise Herzig

Saturday, March 21
Community Kiddush following Services
In conjunction with JIAS (Jewish Immigration Aid Services), Beth Tzedec is marking this weekend with a Refugee Awareness Shabbat. Following the congregational kiddush, Elise Herzig, Executive Director of JIAS, will be leading a lunch and learn.

Reserve online at www.beth-tzedec.org/login or call the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511 by Monday, March 16.
Face to Face
A vision for Beth Tzedec’s Small Groups.

My mother and her walking group showed me the power of being part of a caring community. It has been the single most important influence in my work at Beth Tzedec and in the hospitals that I have served.

With all his interactions and direct conversations with God, there was one thing that Moses craved more than anything else: to see God face to face, panim el panim. Even with the burning bush, the splitting of the Yarn Suf and the Revelation at Mount Sinai, Moshe wanted complete intimacy with God.

I believe we all need relationships where we can just be our true selves, judgment-free, and be silly, boring, ridiculous, vulnerable, intense, emotional and whatever else we authentically need to be in that moment to feel seen, loved and cared for unconditionally.

This is where you, the reader, come in. When Moshe reunited with his father-in-law Yitro, following the miraculous Exodus story, Yitro notices that Moshe is working day and night to care for the Jewish People, addressing their questions, concerns and conflicts. He acted as rabbi, judge and emissary, and since he wasn’t God, he struggled to keep up with the task.

Yitro said to Moses: “you will surely wear yourself out, and these people as well. For the task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone.” He suggests instead that Moshe must trust the people around him, share the burden of the Torah with them and offer leadership and facilitation training so that they can, in turn, support others. In other words, though Moshe was ultimately responsible for offering care to his community, he was implementing a less hierarchical structure of care.

While the entire Beth Tzedec team will continue to support you during challenges and celebrations, the Beth Tzedec Small Group Initiative (a better name forthcoming) is one way of reorganizing our community in a way that allows members to develop deep relationships with one another, see each other panim el panim, face to face, and offer care, learn together, do acts of kindness and affect change together, raise families together, exercise together, play together and share a loving community together.

More will become clear over the next year as we continue to plan and put the infrastructure in place to make this strategy effective for our community, but here are a few things that you should know:

1. The number one goal of this initiative is relationship building.
2. There will be many opportunities to have a leadership role and to make use of the incredible talents, creativity and skills that exist in this community.
3. We will be having a listening campaign over the winter to get a better sense of your interests and priorities.
4. We are not reinventing the wheel. The small group strategy is based on the work of Mega Churches in the United States and Dr. Ron Wolfson, the author of Relational Judaism, who adapted it for the Jewish community.
5. We plan to share our learnings with you in the spring and formally launch the initiative in September 2020.

What my mother had in her synagogue community is what I want for each of us at Beth Tzedec. Together, I think we can achieve that vision.

B'Shalom, Yacov Frchter
PJ Library
Our youngest members kicked off the new year with another series of special programs offered in conjunction with PJ Library, including the “Let’s Talk About Tzekakah” program, where ritual director Lorne Hanick blew the shofar during a story session, and the “Sukkah Fun” program, where kids enjoyed a sukkah craft and activities before settling in for a holiday story.

Making Friends
Shul is a place where many things happen—services, simhahs and classes—and there is always the opportunity to make new friends!

Shakshuka with Shinshinim
Gal and Alona helped add a little spice to Beth Tzedec with their shakshuka tutorial.

Save the Date!
The Delicious Chocolate Seder for Grades 1 to 12
Sunday, April 5 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM
The Righteous Among Us

Our tradition, time and time again, has ways of causing us to stop, to think, to contemplate, to improve ourselves and to see the broader world around us in new ways.

The summer I was 16, I had the pleasure of meeting Justice Abraham Lieff and reading from the Torah scroll that he donated to Beth Tzedec and which spent its summers at Camp Ramah in Canada.

Justice Lieff spoke about how justice, fairness and equity in the Jewish tradition had guided his work as a judge, and it left a meaningful impact on me. It brings me great pleasure to continue to see that Torah around our synagogue and to be reminded of Justice Lieff, who spent many years involved in my home synagogue in Ottawa before moving to Toronto.

The Hebrew word for justice, which is inscribed on Justice Lieff’s Torah mantle, is *tzedec*. From this word, we extract two very familiar words in our tradition. One is *tzedakah*, usually translated as charity but encompassing much more than that. The other is *tzadik*, a righteous person, and a moniker that was given to select individuals in our tradition who demonstrated righteousness in their actions. The Biblical Joseph was understood by our later rabbis to have been a *tzadik*. Some rabbis of the *Mishnah* and *Talmud* are also given this title.

Another use of the title is the concept of the *Tzadikim Nistarim* (hidden righteous people), a tradition that speaks of 36 individual righteous people who are alive at any given time and on whose merit God continues to sustain the world around us. These 36 people are anonymous, not even known to themselves, but it is their inherent righteousness and goodness that makes our world go on.

Think about this for a moment and the value that this concept offers us when it comes to how we treat others and, most especially, how we socialize children to treat others. Who knows who these 36 individuals might be; and furthermore, if the continued health of the world is contingent on these people maintaining their behaviour in a manner befitting of a *tzadik*, then can any of us risk being rude, dismissive or curt to anyone, lest they be one of these 36 and we have provoked them to deviate from their righteous ways?

This framing raises the stakes of any interpersonal interaction—perhaps unfairly so—but it also gives deeper meaning and purpose to things like civil discourse, looking out for others, proper debate and disagreement and so on. These values continue to be diminishing in our society, and whatever we can do to slow their erosion will benefit us as a community and as a people.

Are there really 36 righteous anonymous people walking around right now, holding up our world? I have no idea—I’m not so sure that I really buy it; but in a certain way, that’s beside the point. Our tradition, time and time again, has ways of causing us to stop, to think, to contemplate, to improve ourselves and to see the broader world around us in new ways. The *Tzadikim Nistarim* is one of these motifs. It reminds us that how we act and how we might cause others to act can have serious outcomes and consequences.

Justice Lieff understood this too. As someone trusted with the responsibility to adjudicate and give sentences and other consequences, he expressed to me two decades ago the sensitivity that one must bring to that action, and how making the wrong decision could have significant negative impacts on not only one person, but on their family, their social circle and so on—potentially even on the entire world. To effectively operate in the world of *tzedec*, of justice, we need to have qualities of a *tzadik*: righteousness, fairness, goodness, openness to new ideas and a healthy appreciation of the consequences of our actions and decisions.

If we can act like *tzadikim* and embody these values, our community and our world will be better for it.

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Board of Directors Meetings

Members are welcome to attend all regularly scheduled meetings of the Board of Directors. 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: **Tuesdays, January 21, March 3 and April 7** at 7:00 PM*

* Meeting dates are subject to change. Please check with the office to confirm dates before attending.
Winter Well-Being Workshops
with Rabbi Robyn Fryer Bodzin

Tuesday evenings at 7:30 PM

February 11
Comforting Mourners
When someone you care about is mourning, it can be difficult to navigate the right words—let alone the rituals, practices and traditions of shiva. In this workshop, learn to offer comfort and support to those in mourning with a mix of text study and practical applications.

February 18
Helping the Ailing
Bikkur Holim—visiting the sick—is a sacred and important mitzvah. Learn and develop the skills you need to help those ailing in our community find support and resiliency through a blend of text study and practical applications.

February 25
Caring for Elderly Parents
Navigate living in the sandwich generation from a Jewish lens as we explore a child’s responsibility for an elderly parent. Join Rabbi Fryer Bodzin for a mix of text study and practical applications about what it means when the caregiver role is reversed.

COST FOR SERIES
No charge for Beth Tzedec members; $20 for non-members. RSVP to the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511 or info@beth-tzedec.org.
Building a Caring Kehillah

There’s a new energy at Beth Tzedec.

IT’S OFFICIAL—THE CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING IS IN FULL SWING
at Beth Tzedec! With programs running through the winter, our Artist-in-Residence formally “in residence” (see article on p. 35) and the first Small Groups coming together to strengthen their sense of well-being (see article on p. 17), it finally feels like it’s time to talk less about what’s going to happen and more about what’s already happening in our kehillah.

Advisory Committee

Our Centre for Spiritual Well-Being Advisory Committee meets regularly to articulate the mission, vision and goals of the Centre. The Advisory Committee is made up of professionals from the fields of social work, psychotherapy, rehabilitation, sociology, spirituality and more. They have been brought together to guide the Centre for Spiritual Well-Being and ensure that its work aligns with the needs of the Beth Tzedec community.

When the visioning process for the Centre is complete, the Advisory Committee will be turning their attention to finding ways to measure and track our individual and community well-being. This will help us identify the challenges and changes shaping the lives of our members.

Learning and Healing Together

After Beth Tzedec’s first Healing Service, David and Ellen Zworth wrote they felt “comforted to be able to sit with others who may have experienced difficulties and setbacks in their lives, to express our own feelings through study... and enable us to have a better understanding of ourselves as individuals.”

And that’s exactly what we’re going for. Those are the types of experiences that we hope to support with the Centre for Spiritual Well-Being as we bring members of our community together to learn, heal, support, share, grow and transform their lives.

Experiences come through participating in Healing Services and Small Groups. We are improving support for members with special training for our spiritual leaders and with more programs tackling contemporary issues, like caring for elderly parents or comforting people in mourning.

Silence and Sound

Music has the spirit to connect us, the influence to inspire us and the power to move us to action. We are fortunate to have a community that comes together to share in song, from our musical Shabbat at the Floor Services to the many concerts and performances led by our own Cantor Sidney Ezer.

We are also fortunate to be able to learn from our Artist-in-Residence Aviva Chernick, who blends together singing, silence, meditation and reflection to help us find the spirituality in the regular melodies of our lives.

Over the next few months, we encourage you to explore the power of music to bring us together, whether that’s during a regular service or a special program through the Centre for Spiritual Well-Being.

Supporting the Centre

This Bulletin is full of calls to action, from our Senior Rabbi to our President, asking you to get involved in life at Beth Tzedec and help us work toward the communal goal of shlaymoot, or well-being.

One way to get involved is by contributing to the Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl Endowment Fund, which supports the Centre for Spiritual Well-Being. Gifts from members like you allow us to develop programs and resources to help our entire community grow, heal and improve their sense of social and community well-being.

Today, we are over one-third of the way to our fundraising goal of $6 million dollars, which will help ensure that the important work of the Centre will continue long into the future, supporting our families for generations to come. As issues and concerns evolve over time, we want to be able to provide evolving levels of support as well.

If you would like to get involved in the Campaign Cabinet or support our efforts to fund the Beth Tzedec Centre for Spiritual Well-Being, contact Klara Romm at kromm@beth-tzedec.org or 416-781-3514, ext. 220.
Upcoming Programs and Events

For Children 0 to 5 and their Families

Pre-Shabbat Music Mornings
(babies up to 18 months with an adult)
Friday mornings
11:30 AM to 12:15 PM
Welcome Shabbat with a 45-minute music class featuring Shabbat songs and blessings, hallah, grape juice, reading and lots of fun. For more information on fees or to register, call the Synagogue office.

Sportball @ Beth Tzedec
Sunday mornings
8:45 to 9:30 AM (16 months to 2 years)
9:30 to 10:15 AM (20 months to 2.5 years)
10:15 to 11:00 AM (2.5 years to 4 years)
Sportball is back at Beth Tzedec! Preschoolers can participate in fun, non-competitive sports activities on Sunday mornings. For information or to register, visit www.sportball.ca.

PJ Library presents: A Purim Show
(toddlers ages 1 to 4 with an adult)
Sunday, March 8
10:00 to 11:30 AM
Every moment is a good moment to laugh, rejoice and be happy - especially in the month of Adar! Have a laugh with the clowns and performers at our special Purim show. Snacks will be served. No charge, but RSVP by Tuesday, March 3.

PJ Library presents: Moses and the People of Israel
(toddlers ages 1 to 4 with an adult)
Sunday, April 5
10:00 to 11:30 AM
Join Moses on a journey through the desert to the special little mountain: Sinai. Crafts, games, music and a special story will transport us to the times of the “Yetzeeat Mitzraim” exodus. No charge, but RSVP by Tuesday, March 31.

For Children in Grades 1 to 5

Master Chef Yeladim for Kids
Sundays, January 12 and February 9
2:00 to 3:30 PM
The art of Israeli cuisine is coming to Beth Tzedec! Children are invited to learn how to cook Middle Eastern food. The first session is dedicated to learning about ingredients, mixtures and smells. In the second session, they will learn to cook and feed their parents with a blind taste-testing game. They will decorate their own chef’s apron and at the end of the program, earn a diploma and their own kid-sized kitchen utensils. Cost for series: $15 for Beth Tzedec members; $20 non-members. RSVPs required.

For Teens in Grades 6 to 8 (Kadima)

Master Chef Yeladim for Kadima
Saturday, January 11   6:00 to 7:30 PM
Saturday, February 15  6:40 to 8:00 PM
The art of Israeli cuisine is coming to Beth Tzedec! Kadimaniks are invited to learn how to cook Middle Eastern food. The first session is dedicated to learning about ingredients, mixtures and smells. In the second session, they will learn to cook and feed their parents with a blind taste-testing game. They will decorate their own chef’s apron and at the end of the program, earn a diploma and their own kid-sized kitchen utensils. Cost for series: $15 for Beth Tzedec members; $20 non-members. RSVPs required.
For Teens in Grades 9 to 12 (BTUSY)

Teen Grogger Making
Sunday, March 8
3:00 to 5:00 PM

Decorate boxes of Wacky-Mac to be purchased at the Purim Megillah reading to be used as goggers. There will be a food donation box available after the reading for non-perishable foods to be donated. Community service/volunteer hours are available. No charge, but RSVPs are requested.

For Families and Parents

Teddy Bear Havdalah
Saturday evening, January 18 and February 8
5:30 to 7:00 PM

Everyone is invited to say goodbye to Shabbat with music, Havdalah, dinner, a special story and a very enjoyable time with friends and family. No charge, but RSVPs requested through Eventbrite.ca.

BT @ Out of the Cold
Tuesday, January 21, February 4 & 18 and March 3 & 24
5:30 to 7:00 PM

Beth Tzedec families are invited to help at the Out of the Cold program at Beth Sholom as we serve hot meals to the clients of the program as a community. Teens who are in Grades 6 to 8 must be accompanied by an adult, and community service/volunteer hours are available. Parents are also welcome to participate. No charge; RSVPs required.

Monthly Family Shabbat Dinner
Friday evenings, January 17, February 21 and March 20
5:15 PM

Come together for a delicious Shabbat dinner and great programming for kids of all ages. A young children’s craft program begins at 5:15 PM, with a lively abridged Kabbalat Shabbat service at 5:45 PM followed by a delicious Shabbat dinner and programming for older kids and adults. Cost for dinner: $60 per family (two adults and up to four children (under age 18); $25 each additional adult / Beth Tzedec member discount price: $50 per family; $30 each additional adult. Participants are welcome to join for the craft and service at no cost. RSVPs required by the Monday prior to each program. Sponsored by the Gertner Family

ECRUSY Programs

ECRUSY Kadima Regional Convention
February 21 to 23, 2020

For kids in Grades 6 to 8 (Kadima): Spend the weekend with your peers from throughout the Eastern Canadian region and the GTA enjoying great programs, community service opportunities and lots of food and fun. Pre-registration required. For information, fees or to register, contact Sylvie Moscovitz.

For more information about ECRUSY and teen programs, contact Sylvie Moscovitz at 416-781-3514, ext. 246 or smoscovitz@beth-tzedec.org.

High School Student Volunteers—
Calling all teens in Grades 9 to 12: Teen volunteers are needed for many of our Youth and Family programs. If you are looking to fulfill community service/volunteer requirements or would like to gain valuable experience working on family-oriented programs, contact Sylvie Moscovitz, Teen Engagement Associate, at 416-781-3514, ext. 246 or smoscovitz@beth-tzedec.org.

For more information about Youth and Family programs, contact Shirel Barkan-Slater at 416-781-3514, ext. 290 or sbarkan@beth-tzedec.org.
When Nietzsche wrote that “God is dead,” he was just one of many modern philosophers focusing on the idea that religions are psychologically destructive and prevent healthy human development. Prof. Daniel Rynhold of Yeshiva University explores the merits and limitations of this argument and delves into the ways that Rabbi Dr. Joseph Soloveitchik used it as a launching pad as he created the foundation for a modern and powerful Jewish theology.

Tuesday, March 24 at 7:30 PM

No charge, but RSVPs appreciated to the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511 or info@beth-tzedec.org.
<p>| Day       | 6:05pm | 7:00pm | 7:30pm | 8:45am | 10:00am | 12:00pm | 1:00pm | 2:00pm | 3:00pm | 4:00pm | 5:00pm | 5:45pm | 6:00pm | 6:45pm | 7:30pm | 8:45am | 10:00am | 12:00pm | 1:00pm | 2:00pm | 3:00pm | 4:00pm | 5:00pm | 6:00pm |
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| Thursday  |        |        |        |        |         |         |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |         |         |        |        |        |        |        |        |
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Selihot with Shtisel
In their only Canadian appearance this year, several cast members and the creator of Shtisel joined us at Beth Tzedec as part of our Selihot celebrations. Rabbi Steven Wernick hosted a discussion about the series and their experiences on this Israeli television drama.

The New York Cantors came to Toronto
Beth Tzedec and the Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University had the honour of welcoming the New York Cantors—Yaakov (Yanky) Lemmer, Chaim David Berson and Netanel Hershtik—in an engaging and harmonious evening of song in late October.
Our Shabbat Service Experiences

Kabbalat Shabbat Services every Friday night.
Check our weekly e-newsletter, The Week Ahead, or 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 Rabbi Steven Wernick, Cantor Sidney Ezer and Lorne Hanick. Lift your soul in prayer as you sing along, or close your eyes in meditation and be carried away by 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 to lead parts of the service. Torah readers, daveners and those wishing to deliver a D’var Torah are always welcome.

Short & Sweet Multi-Generational Family Service
10:30 AM, Shabbat, January 11, February 1 and March 7. Our participatory abridged 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. It features the highlights of a Shabbat morning service and is led by children, teens and Rabbi David Lerner. It also includes programs by our shinshinim and youth staff. Celebrate a group aliyah and blessing for everyone whose birthday is that month. A complimentary dairy lunch follows.

For information on Shabbat Youth programming, see pages 22 & 23.

Can’t Get Enough Torah?
Here’s more!

Talking Torah with Daniel Silverman
9:30 to 10:30 AM every Shabbat morning
A new look at the traditional and modern interpretations of the weekly Torah reading with Daniel Silverman.

Jewish Meditation with Michelle Katz
10:00 to 11:15 AM on January 11, February 8 and March 7
Meditation for men and women, centred on texts from our tradition, eliciting response and deep listening—a doorway to enhanced prayer.

Shabbat 101
10:30 to 11:45 AM on January 18, February 15 and March 14
This educational Shabbat morning service is for anyone interested in becoming familiar with the structure, choreography and deep meaning of the traditional Shabbat morning service.

Fridays, January 10, February 7 and March 6 at 6:00 PM
Join our musical Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat service on the Beit Aleph Floor the first Friday of each month. Led by Cantor Sidney Ezer, Yacov Fruchter and friends, the focus is on high energy and spirited, participatory singing. For more information, contact the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511.
Shabbat Dinner
with Aviva Chernick

Friday, February 7
SERVICE 6:00 PM | DINNER 7:15 PM

Following our Shabbat at the Floor service, join us for a delicious catered dinner with our artist-in-residence, Aviva Chernick, leading us in communal singing.

Cost for dinner: $40 adults; $18 youth (ages 5-14); $6 kids (ages 1-4). Register online at www.beth-tzedec.org/login or call 416-781-3511 by Monday, February 3.

MONTHLY FAMILY SHABBAT DINNER

PROGRAM / SERVICE / DINNER

Fridays, January 17 and February 21 at 5:15 PM

Come together for a delicious Shabbat dinner and great programming for kids of all ages. A young children’s craft program begins at 5:15 PM, with a lively abridged Kabbalat Shabbat service at 5:45 PM followed by a delicious Shabbat dinner and older kids programming.

COST FOR DINNER:
$60 per family (2 adults and max. of 4 children); $25 each additional family member. Beth Tzedec member discounted price: $50 per family; $20 each additional family member. Dinner by advance reservation only by the Monday prior to each date.

Reserve online at www.beth-tzedec.org/login or call the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511.
We welcome our newest members

Every member is an integral part of the Beth Tzedec community. We encourage you to take part in the many spiritual, educational and social programs we offer, and we look forward to your presence and involvement!

Lorne Albaum
Sheila Benoit
Lana Bezner and Hooman Tabesh
Edward Brown and Susan Friedman
Diandra Budd and Noah Fenyes
Juan Carvallo
Lonny Cass
Tanya Cotler and Warren Smulowitz
Allie Dennis and Asher Faber
Semyon and Elena Dovzhik
Shira Fenyes
Michael Fogelman
Reny Friedman
Aaron and Elise Fudim
Isaac and Tove Gaon
Marcie-Ann Gilgig
Arlo Godel
Harvey and Lisa Golombek
Sarah Golombek
Michael and Tamara Gottlieb
Annette Grujo
Andy and Adina Hauser
Marilyn Herbert
Sarah Jones and Ory Valin
Vered Kamer
Howard and Sarah Kazdan
Ira Levy and Shari Zinman-Levy
Alexander Mansfield
Jason and Meredith Mednick
Meagan Newman
Samuel Newman
Ilan Orzy
Ellie Pinsker
Daniel Prusky
Harvey and Shirley Rachman
Judith Reiss
S. Alexandra Rogul-Lichty
Benjamin Rother
Jason Saltzman
Stephanie Schecter
Rebecca Shalansky
Joshua Silvertown and Ilana Valo
Barbara Simmons
Avram Spatz
Joshua and Samantha Spatz
Jacob Trossman
Madison Wagman
Samahra Zatzman
Eugene and Irene Zigelman
David and Ellen Zworth

New 18 to 24 Year Old Members

Max Abrahams
Tatiana Anhalt
Sam Aronoff
Kyle Cass
Laurel Cass
Alexa Charlat
Elie Fenyes
Ethan Glazman
Liora Golden
Lauren Goldfarb
Gabriel Grammer
Alyssa Green
Hannah Grosman
Rebecca Grossman
Tobias Halman
Lauren Isenberg
Sydney Jacobs
Abby Kazdan
Julianne Kazdan
Noah Kazdan

Eric Kerbel
David Kirshner
Charles Leranbaum
Madeline Leranbaum
Jessica Levitt
Shelby Litwin
Sam Maltz
Alanna Mandel
Daniel Nepom
Jacob Nepom
Faith Pasternak
Jenna Pasternak
Aleksandra Plotkin
Daniel Pollock
Gabriele Roitman
Adam Rotstein
Hannah Sandler
Jacob Schwartz
Lily Sherman
Samuel Shiff
Hannah Shuster-Hyman
Margot Sigel
Paige Soberano
Oren Solish
Alexa Speyer
Halle Tator
Zoe Trister
Jacob Weinstein
Joshua Weinstein
Matthew White
Rachel Wine
Shira Wine
Adam Wofond
Annie Wofond
Isaiah Zabitsky
Annika Zworth

New Member Welcome Bags

Klara Romm, Membership Engagement & Development, put together the welcome bags for Beth Tzedec’s newest members. Special thanks to the volunteers of the Membership Committee who helped hand-deliver each package.
IN AND AROUND THE SHUL Past Events

[Images of people in various group settings]

meaning life and the ability to make the world a better place.

[Images of people in formal settings]
A Moment for Beth Tzedec

On Wednesday, November 13, Beth Tzedec celebrated the installation of Rabbis Wernick and Fryer Bodzin

ON A COLD WINTERY NIGHT IN NOVEMBER, BETH TZEDEC celebrated what was a major moment in its long and hallowed history. The two new rabbis at the synagogue were formally installed, Rabbi Steven Wernick as the new Senior Rabbi and Rabbi Robyn Fryer Bodzin as Associate Rabbi. It was a kind of a Rabbinic double-header. In fact, it was one of those rare occasions where many of the rabbis in the Conservative movement all were assembled to see two new members welcomed officially into the fold in Toronto. If you had a religious question, that night, with all that clergy around, was the time to strike.

The evening was an unqualified success. It went so smoothly and in a room with likely close to 400 people in attendance, those present were treated to a warm welcome from the Installation Chair, Carolyn Kolvers. Then Cantor Sidney Ezer, accompanied by pianist Charles Heller, led the guests in “O Canada” and “Hatikvah” followed by two other Hebrew selections which really gave the evening a great start. Debbie Rothstein, the President of Beth Tzedec, spoke and introduced the keynote speaker Dr. Ron Wolfson, who is what might be called a superstar in the Conservative Judaic world. He sparkled in his delivery with memories of him growing up in Omaha where he claimed to have learned only one Hebrew word in three years of Hebrew School.

Rabbi Robyn Fryer Bodzin was introduced by Dena Libman and Ted Zittell, the co-chairs of the Associate Rabbi Search Committee. After, Rabbi Manes Kogan of the Hillcrest Centre in Queens, New York welcomed Rabbi Fryer Bodzin into the club so to speak. He was a long time friend and colleague of RFB. It was easy to see the closeness of that relationship and how important it was to both of them. And then Rabbi Fryer Bodzin spoke, highlighting her return to the city of her birth and the warmth she felt at the synagogue as far back as February, 2019 when she first came to Beth Tzedec for a weekend interview process. Just to see the smile radiating on her face spoke volumes about the joy she felt about taking on the pulpit at Beth Tzedec and all that the position entails.

Next up was Dr. Eudice Goldberg, a Co-chair of the Senior Rabbi Search Committee, who talked about the process of landing Rabbi Steven Wernick to be the leader of the largest synagogue in the Conservative movement in North America. And then in what was surely the most emotional moment of the evening, we all had the privilege to witness a father induct his son into the position of Senior Rabbi. The father was Rabbi Eugene Wernick, the Rabbi of Or Shalom Synagogue in New York City, who had the great nachas of inducting his son, Steven, as the head honcho at Beth Tzedec. It brought a tear to my eye and it made me recall that great hockey moment when Gordie Howe lined up along side his sons Mark and Marty Howe. The pride of the father was palpable in each instance. Of course for me, the significance of the moment was further augmented by the fact that Rabbi Eugene Wernick was my rabbi in Winnipeg (from whence I come) at Shaarey Zedek Synagogue where he served from 1979-1986.

Then Rabbi Steven Wernick spoke about his taking over and the feeling he has about the synagogue and the challenges he is ready to face in his new position. Anyone in attendance that night had to feel elevated right then and there as he spoke. When he concluded, Cantor Ezer sang “Birkat Kohanim”, “Sheheheyanu” and the familiar melody by Graham Nash of “Teach Your Children Well”. It was a fitting finish to a wonderful night. That it went so well was clear but never clearer than was evidenced by the comment of a friend of mine who was with me that night. He is a very infrequent attendee at synagogue services and yet he thanked me for inviting him and said how pleased he was by the whole night.

And lest I forget, everyone present had to be impressed with the reception following the ceremony with a terrific spread of pastry delivered by the new caterer, Apex Kosher Catering. In short, it was a memorable moment in the life of Beth Tzedec.

—Gerry Posner
Welcome Sylvie!

Beth Tzedec welcomes a new Teen Engagement Associate.

ORIGINALLY FROM LONG ISLAND, SYLVIE MOSCOVITZ,
Beth Tzedec’s new Teen Engagement Associate, grew up deeply rooted in Judaism. An alumna of Emory University, Camp Ramah, USY and The Schechter School of Long Island, she has spent her life learning, preparing and dedicating herself to becoming a leader in the Jewish community.

Sylvie joins us in Toronto after spending six months living in Israel as a Fellow of The Nachshon Project, an elite group of young Jewish leaders discussing innovative ways to improve the future of North American Judaism. The Project gave her an opportunity to develop strong leadership skills and explore Jewish identity through an inclusive, pluralistic lens.

As a former counselor at Camp Ramah Canada, she was thrilled to join Beth Tzedec and find so many familiar faces among our teenage cohort. “When I visited during Shabbat, I was amazed by how many people I already knew. Everyone was so friendly and welcoming, but it was a wonderful surprise to realize that so many of the teens I got to know at camp are also involved at Beth Tzedec.”

Sylvie credits her Jewish upbringing—and the teachers, counselors and friends she met along the way—with shaping her identity and the person she’s become. “I owe everything in my life to the relationships I formed in the Jewish community. The people I grew up with helped me navigate tough times and provided opportunities to learn and change in ways that I never would have imagined. My goal at Beth Tzedec is to be that same conduit for opportunity for the teenagers in this community.”

In her free time, Sylvie loves art and experimenting with different mediums and styles. She enjoys woodwork, embroidery, painting and, when the music moves her, tap dancing.

Al Hanisim:
Spiritual Preparation for Purim

Seeing What Cannot Be Seen
with Aviva Chernick

Sunday, March 8 from 10:00 to 11:00 AM

Purim is a practice of bringing awareness to that which is veiled—that which is concealed within each one of us. Join Artist-in-Residence Aviva Chernick as she guides us through song and silence in a reflection on this rich and intricate moment in our Jewish calendar. A perfect preparation for getting into costume and reading Megillat Esther.

No charge, but RSVPs appreciated to the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511 or info@beth-tzedec.org.
Introducing Aviva Chernick

Beth Tzedec’s inaugural Artist-in-Residence offers new ways to think about prayer.

WHEN THE TIME CAME TO DECIDE HOW SHE WANTED TO practice her Judaism, Aviva Chernick didn’t want to have to choose between being a “singing Torah person” and a “speaking Torah person”. She wanted to be both.

That’s one of the things that makes her perspective so unique. She uses silence and sound, music and moments of stillness, to help Jews deepen their connections with God, with each other and with themselves.

As Beth Tzedec’s new Artist-in-Residence, Aviva Chernick will spend her tenure here, (from November 2019 to May 2020), leading programs related to mindfulness and spirituality for our members and offering mentorship to our spiritual leaders to nurture their own practice.

After growing up in Congregation Or Shalom in London, Ontario, she went on to take leadership roles at Camp Ramah and in USY. She began her cantorial training at Holy Blossom in 2005 and has spent three years leading the sitting and singing community nesyHEV. She also facilitates workshops in freeing the voice and practices of Mindfulness in Song and Silence in Toronto and with diverse communities while on her many travels.

Aviva might be best known for her musical talent and for being the lead singer in Jaffa Road for over a decade. Singing in Hebrew, Ladino (Judeo-Spanish), Yiddish and English, she has had the pleasure of making music with many wonderful musicians including Frank London, Yair Dalal, Jackie Richardson and Flory Jagoda. Her collaborative recordings have garnered several nominations and awards, including Juno nominations.

“For almost 16 years, I’ve been leading tefillah across denominations (although I had a Conservative upbringing),” she says. “I’m here to help invite congregants into a practice of shlaymoot—wholeness, well-being, completeness—through different doors.

“There’s no one type of shlaymoot, or one type of congregant—it isn’t my suggestion that everyone should start meditating, because that doesn’t work for everyone. I want to help create doorways for the myriad of ways that people want to enter into a relationship with themselves, their community and God.

“While I certainly want to nourish the musical culture at Beth Tzedec, people approach shlaymoot in different ways: singing, silence, eating meditation, walking meditation, reflecting, tefillah, movement of the body … there’s no wrong way to bring people into a new relationship with the liturgy.”

Aviva recently led a program at Beth Tzedec called “Al Hanisim: Spiritual Preparation for Hanukkah”, which gave community members the opportunity to explore and prepare for the Festival of Lights.

Keep your eyes on your e-mail newsletter for the details on her other upcoming programs, including:

- Saturday, January 25: Aviva will share a D’var Shira with our community, as part of the Sanctuary Service.
- Friday, February 7: Aviva will join the Shabbat at the Floor Kabbalat Shabbat Service, followed by dinner.
- Sunday, February 9: In partnership with Rabbi Robyn Fryer Bodzin, Aviva will lead an innovative mindful eating meditation for Tu B’Shevat to help our members connect to the holiday and awaken to our sense of aliveness, even in the dead of winter.
- Wednesday, February 19: Aviva will lead a special Healing service, holding space for comfort with song and silence.
- Sunday, March 8: Aviva will be leading “Al Hanisim: Spiritual Preparation for Purim”, to help our community prepare for Purim.
- Friday, April 3: Aviva will be leading a Spiritual Sounds Lab Pre-Shabbat Concert and Service, followed by dinner.

Save the Date!

Spiritual Sounds Lab Pre-Shabbat Concert and Service

Friday, April 3 beginning at 5:45 PM

Following the incredible success of our first two Spiritual Sounds Lab weekends, Aviva Chernick, our artist-in-residence, joins us for a captivating and inspiring program.
SURELY ONE OF MY FAVOURITE moments of synagogue life is getting the royal welcome when I enter the Sanctuary. You can count on few things in life, but as certain as it snows in December, there is a smiling face and a warm greeting for you when you arrive at shul each Shabbat—or on any Jewish holiday, for that matter. Those who perform this volunteer service really are the unsung heroes of any synagogue. They help the service move along seamlessly. Because the service moves so smoothly, it is easy to miss the little things that ushers do to facilitate an easy and friendly experience.

When I first joined Beth Tzedec seven years ago, I was struck by the sincere and heartfelt greetings I received, especially as I visited the Hendeles Chapel for services. The welcome each person receives is from that friendly group of volunteers known as our ushers. Their welcome is noticeable. The feelings they engender go a long way to creating a proper atmosphere for the morning.

For the last three years, the leader of this ushering team has been Barry Phillips, who has ushered for over 23 years. It is not surprising that Barry is so effective at ushering, given that he has spent his career catering to the public as a pharmacist. In fact, in 2016, Barry Phillips was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Ontario Pharmacists Association. That made me think that he should be nominated for a Synagogue Usher of the Year Award (if such existed).

Phillips, a 1962 graduate of the University of Toronto, was a community pharmacy owner and Shoppers Drug Mart Associate for many years. He was responsible for the implementation of the “Brown Bag” program, whereby people were encouraged to bring in old medications to be discarded. He was also very much involved in the Employee Assistance Program for Shoppers Drug Mart, which helps employees and their families suffering from drug and/or alcohol dependency issues. He served as the President of the Ontario College of Pharmacists in 1984-85 and again in 1993, and has been active in many areas of his profession over his career. In short, Barry knows what it means to be committed, and that’s the attitude he brings to the table—or more accurately, to the synagogue service.

Barry is quite clear about an usher’s duties. It starts with knowing the names, or at least the faces, of everyone who comes to synagogue regularly. Bar the real challenge is to make the stranger feel at home. Moreover, Phillips or another usher occasionally has to assign members to be the gabbai or parnos. The ushers are charged with the task of handing out aliyot and other honours where there are gaps. That might seem simple, but it can be a weekly challenge. You can easily knock someone’s tallit off his shoulders with a perceived slight in the handing out of honours. Happily, Barry says he and the other members of the ushering quartet—Lawrie Lubin, Marvin Miller and Jeff Gertner—have not had to deal with that issue. More serious problems arise when a person arrives late for an aliyah and the honour has been assigned to another person. Barry says that quick thinking, help from Lorne Hanick and diplomacy go a long way in alleviating these potential upsets.

So the next time you join the Sanctuary Service, note the speed, ease and comfort of the aliyah brigade, and thank Barry, Marvin, Lawrie and Jeff. They are sure to help you feel at home.

—Gerry Posner

SENDING PURIM CHEER TO OUR POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS

The Membership Committee is gearing up to send our annual holiday package filled with Purim treats to our university/college student members. To receive a package, please provide a mailing address to Klara at kromm@beth-tzedec.org or call 416-781-3514, ext. 220. All requests must be received by Wednesday, February 12 to ensure that they arrive in time for the holiday.
The Other Roth Collection

I was fortunate to visit the United Kingdom recently to explore what I think of as the other Cecil Roth Collection, at Leeds University.

As many of you may know, Beth Tzedec is exceptionally proud of the Cecil Roth Collection, which makes up a big part of the Reuben & Helene Dennis Museum. I was fortunate to visit the United Kingdom recently to explore what I think of as the other Cecil Roth Collection, at Leeds University.

Cecil Roth (1899-1970) was the foremost historian of Jewish history in Great Britain. Over a period of 50 years, Cecil, with his wife Irene at his side, amassed an exceptional and historically important collection of Judaica that included 1000 ritual objects, a circumcision seat, books, art works, ephemera and manuscripts. These items were acquired by Beth Tzedec members Sam and Israel Shopsowitz and their family for the museum during the period that Rabbi Stuart Rosenberg was Senior Rabbi (1965).

The personal collection of Dr. Roth went to the Brotherton library at the University of Leeds in England. Housed there since 1961 are Roth’s medieval and early modern manuscripts, rare printed books, pamphlets and ephemera relating to Jewish life, history, liturgy and culture. Another small collection of Cecil Roth material is located in Northampton University and includes some correspondence, transcripts, documents, photographs and other artifacts of the social history of the Jews in Europe.

Working between 1925 and 1970, Dr. Roth’s most lasting achievements are his editorship of the notable Encyclopaedia Judaica and his book Jewish Art. Roth’s literary output was vast, encompassing the history of the Jews in particular of England and Italy, editing of many publications, writing more than 30 academic books and papers, studies of painting and scholarly research, particularly on the Dead Sea scrolls and biographical works. Add to that his brilliant eye for collecting important objects of Judaica and, specifically, the unique collection of ketubbot (marriage contracts) from countries around the world that are an outstanding part of our museum collection.

Over the 27 years that I have been curator at the museum, I have occasionally been in touch with Dr. Eva Frojmovic, Associate Professor, Director of Postgraduate Research Studies and Director of the Centre for Jewish Studies at Leeds University, to discuss the Roth collections—theirs and ours. Recently I was invited to the University of Leeds to give a talk about our collection, and I was able to not only share with them a presentation about our Cecil Roth Collection, but also to see what they had stored in their stacks under special collections in the Brotherton Library.

An example of an unusual item in their collection is a booklet of hymns sung in the service preceding a circumcision over the Chair of Elijah. Vernacular in style, the title page is framed by a colourful arch-shaped border. Beneath the title, a pair of outstretched hands make the gesture of the priestly blessing. Dated before 1805, the manuscript was doubtless made especially for the family of Isach di Sabbath Coen, (Cohen), who signed his name on both the front and back fly leaves.

To finally have the opportunity to meet the scholars who curate and care for the “other” Roth Collection and to be taken into the stacks, behind the scenes, to explore the collection at Leeds University was an inspiring and unique experience. To be asked to speak about and show images of our Cecil Roth Collection was truly an empowering moment in my career and I look forward to sharing what I have learned with our Beth Tzedec family and beyond.

—Dorion Liebgott, Curator
DAY TRIPS IN JEWISH HISTORY

With educator and lecturer
HANA WERNER

MONDAYS:
1:30 PM Refreshments / 2:00 PM Lecture

10 sessions: $60 for Beth Tzedec members / $70 for non-members;
5 sessions: $45 for Beth Tzedec members / $55 for non-members; Per session: $14

PART TWO: Bible Is Our School of Life

April 27
Evil and Hope in Noah’s Ark: A modern approach

May 4
The Challenge of Blindness: Samson, Isaac, Jacob and others

May 11
Rejuvenation and Resilience: Deborah, Yael and Miriam

May 25
Vision, Passion and Hutzpah: The midwives, Puah and Shifra and the five daughters of Zelophehad

June 1
Jewish Continuity: Dilemmas in family relationships—Moses, Eli and Samuel

To register, visit www.beth-tzedec.org/online or contact the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511 or email info@beth-tzedec.org.
Together for Tzedakah

Bazaar Tzedakah: Hands-on Social Justice.

WHEN I LIVED IN ISRAEL, IN MY KIBBUTZ AND MANY OTHERS, children would go on an annual hunt for donations of new or second-hand items to sell. Knocking door to door in our community, pulling a little cart, they would bring their treasures back to the Beit Yeladim. The money raised by selling those goods would not go to the kibbutz, but to organizations that help people in need. It is true that these children volunteered in different ways throughout the year, but the “Bazaar Tzedakah” was their special project. It’s a special project that I wanted to bring to Beth Tzedec.

From the first time we mentioned the Bazaar on the synagogue Facebook page, I was getting calls and emails from many members who were excited about the idea and were willing to donate, volunteer and support the project. Just like in my kibbutz, the idea was embraced by our community.

I’m still amazed by the amount of support we generated. Leading up to the big day, staff and community members dropped off hundreds of new and gently-used housewares, toys, knick-knacks and lots more—not to mention over a thousand books! On September 8, the day of the Bazaar Tzedakah, we had more than 35 hardworking volunteers, including teens and children. Thanks to these amazing people, we raised nearly $1000 for Chai Lifeline Canada in two hours.

Many of the items donated and sold that afternoon came with stories, but there is one I would like to share with you. I call it Mamtak L’nefesh (Sweet for the Soul). A community member, who had been holding on to her late mother’s beautiful china dishware for years, called me. She told me about the dishes and the memories they represented and explained that she wanted to know that they would go somewhere that they would be appreciated—a feeling that I’m sure many of us would share.

When she heard that our “Bazaar Tzedakah” would be supporting Chai Lifeline Canada, an organization that had helped a close family member battle a terrifying childhood illness, she knew that it was finally the right time to let go of those dishes.

The china was picked up by a young woman who thought they would be perfect for Pesah, meaning that once a year, when they were taken out of storage, they would be appreciated and used by another loving family sharing their seder together. What a beautiful way to celebrate our member’s gift and her mother’s legacy. Hine ma tov!

In my two years as part of this community, this was one of the most rewarding projects that I have been a part of. Thank you to the incredible donors and volunteers who helped make this event a reality. Thank you to our co-sponsors, PJ Library Toronto, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, the Miles Nadal JCC and JNF. Thank you to the vendors who joined us and the community members who browsed and purchased items. Thank you to Klara Romm, Membership Engagement and Development, who helped me from the beginning to the end of the project. None of this would have been possible without Brian Dias, our Building Manager, and his amazing team. Special thanks to our superstar volunteer, Alan Bernstein, who worked tirelessly to help make this event a success.

The members and staff of Beth Tzedec have transformed this synagogue into a home away from home for myself, my husband Yuda and our daughter Mia—you might have seen her running around the shul on Shabbat. Thank you for transforming this little idea from my kibbutz back in Israel into an opportunity to help others, support a great cause and come together as a community to do something incredible.

Yours,
—Shirel Barkan-Slater
Our Next Refugee Sponsorship

Whoever saves a life, saves the world.

JUST OVER THREE YEARS AGO, THE BETH TZEDEC COMMUNITY welcomed our sponsored Syrian family to Toronto. Tarek & Hanaa Alhamwi and their three daughters had escaped from Syria and spent a challenging year in Turkey. It was with much relief and excitement that a group of Beth Tzedec members and rabbis greeted them at the airport in September 2016.

What has life been like for the family since then? Dad Tarek secured a job within four months of arrival—a job he still holds today. After three years of ESL and a job in a day care centre, mom Hanaa is studying medical technology to become a certified medical instrument technician. She will be graduating next June.

The girls are performing well in school. Sanaa, now 19, will graduate from high school this coming year. Her plan is to apply to an engineering program at an Ontario university. She volunteers as a translator for newly arrived Arabic-speaking students at her school and works part-time. Siba, 15, is also a high academic achiever and an active volunteer. Youngest sister Besan, 11, is creative and funny. She is also a terrific student. The girls speak perfect, unaccented English; they sound like the Canadian citizens they will soon become!

Through generous community support, the kids have experienced summer camp, canoeing in Algonquin Park, picking apples and hitting most of the tourist attractions around the GTA. Hanaa is able to converse with great confidence about politics; we chat about parenting and raising kids in today’s challenging world. She has explained the intricacies of the conflict in Syria to me from a true insider’s perspective. Tarek is not as comfortable speaking English, but he understands everything I say. They even love winter!

As sponsors, Beth Tzedec has changed the course of this family’s life. And we have the opportunity to do that again for another family.

The Beth Tzedec Board of Directors has approved our sponsorship of a second refugee family through JIAS (Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, an agency of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto), a Canadian government refugee application licence holder. Our Refugee Sponsorship Group will be actively raising contributions and awareness. Please plan to attend information and fundraising events to help support this initiative.

Teddy and I have just returned from Berlin with renewed clarity about our moral imperative as Jews to help refugees in need. We are proud that our community has helped and continues to help Jewish refugees because they are Jews. And now we help all refugees because we are Jews.

—Bari Zittell
Chair of the Beth Tzedec Refugee Sponsorship Group

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Beth Tzedec Purim Seudah
Tuesday, March 10
Watch for details coming soon!
Bringing Peace to Minds

From November 10 to 17, 2019, Beth Tzedec hosted 20 Israeli veterans of the Okeetz (canine special forces) Unit of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and two specially trained Israeli therapists. The visit was arranged through Peace of Mind Canada, an organization whose mandate is to facilitate emotional and psychological support for veterans who have undergone difficult battle situations. Our group of veterans served as a unit in the IDF from 2007 to 2010, although many of them served longer and most continue to do reserve duty.

The concept of the program is to bring the veterans to a Jewish community of embracing hosts, away from the pressures and distractions of their everyday lives, where they can, as a unit, deal with the emotional and psychological scars of their years of intense army service. For the soldiers, the week is one which taxes their emotions, but ultimately gives them the tools to live their lives in a new way. And for the host community, the week is one in which we develop a deep bond with our guests and the State of Israel and more fully understand the lingering trauma associated with serving in an IDF combat unit. The end result for all involved is one of shlaymoot—wholeness, well-being and peace; a result which is in line with our goals as a synagogue community.

This was the fourth time that Beth Tzedec has been a Peace of Mind host and we hope to continue to host on an annual basis. Plans are already in process for 2020; if you’re interested in hosting or helping to fund the visit, contact the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511 or info@beth-tzedec.org.

—Bernie Gropper

In October, Beth Tzedec had the privilege to again host a special unit of discharged Israeli elite combat soldiers through the Peace of Mind program. The soldiers spent their days in group sessions, but evenings and Shabbat were spent interacting with our community, including their host families and at a Kabbalat Shabbat service and dinner and Shabbat morning service and kiddush. (In order to protect the identity of the POM participants, their faces have been blurred.)

This year, when you Celebrate • Honour • Commemorate Choose ‘Treasures of Beth Tzedec’ Tribute Cards

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

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

All ‘Tribute card’ contributions are fully tax receiptable. For information or to purchase, contact Avital Narvey at 416-781-3511 or info@beth-tzedec.org.
Grades 1 to 5 (Kokhavim)
Sundays, January 12 from 2:00 to 3:30 PM
and February 9 from 2:00 to 3:30 PM

Grades 6 to 8 (Kadima)
Saturdays, January 11 from 6:00 to 7:30 PM
and February 15 from 6:40 to 8:00 PM

Does your child enjoy cooking? Children in Grades 1 to 5 and Grades 6 to 8 are invited to learn how to cook Middle Eastern food and feed their parents their delicious creations. Master Chef Yeladim is a two-session program. Kids will decorate their own chef’s apron, and at the end of the program, they will earn a diploma and their own kid-sized kitchen utensils.

First Session  Learn about ingredients, mixtures and smells.
Second Session  Learn to cook and feed your parents with a blind taste-testing game.

Cost: $15 for Beth Tzedec members; $20 for non-members.
For information or to RSVP, contact Shirel Barkan-Slater at 416-781-3514, ext. 239 or sbarkan@beth-tzedec.org.
Out of the Cold Winter 2020
Our shelter, which is run jointly with Beth Sholom out of their premises, operates every Tuesday night from January 7 until March 24. We serve dinner to nearly 200 guests each week and provide sleeping accommodations and breakfast for 60. Our guests have the opportunity to participate in our art program, play BINGO and chat with our volunteers. We have a nurse on hand each week as well as community support workers. We are thrilled that this year, St. Michael’s Hospital Eye Clinic is sending a specialist to our site as well.

As you are all aware, homelessness in Toronto has reached crisis levels. Our work at the shelter is vital, as is your involvement. Out of the Cold is completely self-funded, therefore we rely on monetary and product donations from the community and from local companies. It is never too late to donate to this worthwhile cause and there are so many ways to do so.

You can purchase items, such as underwear, long johns, waterproof gloves, boots/running shoes, sweatshirts or sweatpants. (These donations will be eligible for a tax receipt for the value of the goods.) You may choose to sponsor dinner for our guests. Bar/Bat Mitzvah students occasionally decide to fill centerpieces at their simhah with items that we use each week: large tins of coffee, cereal, granola bars, soya milk, socks, t-shirts, art supplies and personal care toiletries. Students can take the initiative to organize a drive to collect much-needed items. It is a wonderful opportunity for youth to get involved in hesed activities and earn community service hours. You can buy tribute cards from the synagogue and direct the proceeds to OOTC. The possibilities are endless, and if you have any questions or ideas, feel free to reach out to me at the Synagogue office or by e-mail at ootcbsbt@gmail.com.

We are always in need of gently used adult-sized winter clothing such as down-type coats and ski jackets, winter boots, running shoes, sweatpants and sweatshirts, t-shirts and blue jeans as well as hotel-size toiletries. Donations should be bagged, labelled and dropped off at Beth Sholom on weekdays between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM.

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, March 29 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM for Out of the Cold’s Annual Art Exhibit and Sale, hosted at Beth Sholom. It showcases the talent and creativity of our guests who work on their paintings each week under the guidance of our talented instructors. For many of our guests, it is the highlight of their year.

12th Annual Mother’s Day Chai Tea: Save the Date
The annual Mother’s Day Chai Tea will be held on Sunday, May 10 and promises to be an inspiring afternoon. The committee is already hard at work and I have no doubt it will be a wonderful experience. As co-chair of Out of the Cold, I am so grateful that we have been the recipients of the proceeds from this special event since its inception, which to date totals over $80,000. We could not have achieved the success that we have at OOTC without such generosity.

Thursday Games Afternoon
Games Afternoon is going strong! Every Thursday from 1:00 to 4:00 PM, more than 75 participants gather to play Mahjong and Canasta. For those interested in playing Bridge, please contact me ahead of time to be sure that there are enough Bridge players on any given dat. Feel free to join us for any of the games, regardless of your level of expertise. The cost is a toonie, which helps to support Beth Tzedec’s various hesed programs. Please remember to bring your own cards and supplies and encourage your friends to join us. Non-members are always welcome and you do not have to bring your own foursome to attend.

Mahjong and Canasta Lessons
Mahjong and Canasta lessons are available from our fabulous instructor. We try to hold lessons every month, depending on the demand. Our ‘snowbirds’ may want to pre-register and reserve a spot for lessons in the spring.

Call the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511 to leave me a message if you would like more information on any of these exciting initiatives.

—Maureen Tanz
Chair, Hesed Committee

Beth Tzedec /Beth Sholom
Out of the Cold Adult Clothing Donations
Out of the Cold always appreciates donations of warm clothing, which can be dropped off at Beth Sholom Synagogue. Please note that they only accept the following adult-sized items: down coats, ski jackets, parkas, snow pants, sweaters, hoodies, sweatshirts, sweat pants, blue jeans, corduroy pants, winter boots, hiking boots and running shoes.
Mahloket Matters: Constructive Conflict in Jewish Life

with Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl

Monday evenings, January 13, 20 & 27 at 7:30 PM

In the current cultural and political climate, most people agree that civil discourse has deteriorated, a sign of danger to democracy. Following a program developed by the Pardes Institute, we shall study constructive disagreement. Whether in the Sanhedrin (High Court) or the Beit Midrash (Academy), mahloket, conflicting opinion, is found throughout classic Jewish literature. Using video and text study we shall examine a contemporary issue with reference to a biblical conflict narrative, how classical commentators read the “facts,” historical precedents for each position and practical possibilities to understand and engage more constructively with opposing political views, encountered in personal interaction, social or news media.

COST: No charge for Beth Tzedec members; $20 non-members.

For more information or to register, contact the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511 or info@beth-tzedec.org

The Beth Tzedec Sisterhood wishes everyone a Happy Purim.
Men’s Club Makes a Difference

Membership Cards
The Beth Tzedec Men’s Club has mailed out personalized cards to Men’s Club members that have a three-year Jewish calendar. Each card identifies supporters and allows privileges for designated Men’s Club events.

Your voluntary, tax deductible contribution of $36 allows us to continue to serve the needs of our synagogue and community. If you have not received your card, please contact our Membership Chairman Art Andrews at aandrews@rogers.com.

Cardholders are invited to attend a complimentary Men’s Club Board dinner. For information on dates or to RSVP for a dinner, contact Art Andrews.

World Wide Wrap 2020
There’s a big change to our World Wide Wrap program! This year, kids in Grades 6 to 8 are invited to order a ‘Build-a-Pair’ tefillin kit to create their own handmade ‘model’ tefillin. The kit includes Hebrew script, inserted straps and ideas for their own “wRAP” songs to sing during the World Wide Wrap service and breakfast on Sunday, February 2. Cash prizes will be awarded. “Build-a-Pair” is a fun, educational program that introduces kids to the joy and mitzvah of tefillin in Jewish life. To get a ‘Build-a-Pair’ kit, contact Shirel Barkan-Slater at 416-781-3514, ext. 290 or sbarkan@beth-tzedec.org.

Men’s Club Scholarship Program
Applications are now available for scholarships assisting young adults pursuing programs of higher Jewish education. For information or an application, email Hersh Rosenthal at hershr@rogers.com. Deadline for submissions is April 7, 2020.

Beth Tzedec at the Blue Jays
Thank you to all those who helped make our “Family Blue Jays Baseball Night” on Thursday, September 12 such a wonderful success. In particular, thanks to our the Men’s Club leaders—Larry, Adam and Karen—who honoured our amazing teens and new shinshinim, Alona and Gal, at the Rogers Centre! Thank you also to Ellie, Dani, Tal, Isaiah, Seth, Abby and Lily who helped cheer on the Jays as they battled the Boston Red Sox in an end-of-season match. Beth Tzedec is really lucky to have you. Reb Steve and Jody were there too, helping make the evening extra fun. Being part of a community is so important for well-being, and we feel so lucky to be part of such a wonderful kehillah.

Photo courtesy of Larry Rachlin.

Anshe-Zafon (Lake Region) News

FJMC Convention Recap
The Anshe-Zafon region had its annual retreat in Toronto from December 6 to 8. It was held jointly with Mercaz Canada and Rabbi Jennifer Gorman, executive director of Mercaz, was our special guest. The Federation of Jewish Men’s Clubs (FJMC) and Mercaz held separate streams throughout the retreat, but joined together as a community for tefillah and meals.
Inscribe one or more of our siddurim, to mark a celebration, special occasion or achievement, or to honour the memory of a loved one. Each siddur will bear an elegant, personalized bookplate to acknowledge the mitzvah of your gift to Beth Tzedec.

For more information or to arrange for an inscription, contact the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511 or visit www.beth-tzedec.org/login.
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.

Tributes

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Prep Club Fund
The Milne Family, wishing Lorne Hanick Shanah Tovah.

Camp Ramah Fund
Phyllis Flatt, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Samuel Albert.
Michael and Rochelle Kerzner and family, honouring Carole and Harold Wolfe on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson Jake Mandel.
Michael and Rochelle Kerzner and family, honouring Jodi and Paul Mandel on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Jake Mandel.
Michael and Rochelle Kerzner and family, acknowledging Louise Starkman and Bobby Starkman and family in memory of Steven Starkman.

Daily Minyan Breakfasts
Jeffrey Axler, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Sara Axler.
Rosalee Berlin, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Myer David Berlin.

Daily Minyan Fund
Rosalee Berlin, acknowledging Brenda Dales in memory of Barney Dales.
Rosalee Berlin, acknowledging Esther Peters in memory of Cantor Morris Goldlust.
Rosalee Berlin, acknowledging the Schlanger Family in memory of Mary Miriam Aaron Schlanger.
Rosalee Berlin, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Kate Lee Moss.
Rosalee Berlin, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Rose Greenberg.
Rosalee Berlin, wishing Dot Whitehouse Shanah Tovah.
Rose Sobel and Duke Segel, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Harry Chelin and Anne Grimson.
Rose Sobel and Duke Segel, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Verne Chelin and Lillian Kaplan.

Daily Minyan Breakfasts
An anonymous contribution, honouring those who sacrificed so much and those who keep the memory alive.
The Ashley Family, marking the conclusion of shloshim for Evelyn Ashley.
Beverley Black, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Ada Starkman.
Lorne Blumer, marking the conclusion of kaddish for Jack Blumer.
The Bot Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of William Bot.
Fredelle Brief, commemorating the tenth yahrtzeit of Millie Stein and marking the tenth anniversary of davening with the morning minyan.
The Cummings Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of George Cummings.
Brenda Dales and family, marking the conclusion of kaddish for Bernard S. Dales.
Brian, Kathryn and Robert Feldman, commemorating the yahrtzeiten of Gilbert and Reta Newman.
The Fox Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Helen Fox.
Jeffrey and Jane Gertner and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Samuel Gertner.
Helen Glazer and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Jennie Potash.
Helen Glazer and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Melville Potash.
Sheldon and Judith Godfrey, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Bert Godfrey.
Sheldon and Judith Godfrey, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Ruth Godfrey.
Dr. Eudice Goldberg and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Tillie Goldberg.
David and Cindy Goldfarb, honouring the marriage of their son Robbie Goldfarb to Nikki Rand.
The Greenberg Family, marking the conclusion of shloshim for Carole Greenberg.
Ena and Moshe Greengarten and Eric Potechin, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Norman Potechin and honouring the memory of Evelyn Potechin.
Brian Heller and Dr. Beverly Kupfert and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Dr. Leon Heller.
Mark and Jan Lapedus, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Ann Gross.
Justin Lapedus and Danielle Lapedus, honouring the Bar Mitzvah of their son Ryan Lapedus.
The Leibel and Nemoy Families, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Max Lubin.
Helen Marr and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Gerald Marr.
Liz Martin-Landau and Joel Landau, commemorating the yahrtzeiten of Sally Shapiro Martin, Melvin Shapiro and Ruth Smith Shapiro Dickstein, and honouring the 45th anniversary of Harry and Nicole Martin.
Mitch and Anne Max, marking the conclusion of shloshim for Paul Max.
Sam Merson and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Lorraine Merson.
Henia Miller, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Meir Ambruski.
Harvey Minuk, commemorating the tenth anniversary of the yahrtzeit of Edith Michnik.
Annette Oelbaum and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Ron Oelbaum.
Alan and Francine Peters, honouring the marriage of their daughter Sabrine Peters to Jason Craig.
Marlene and Ian Rattner and Mitchell and Samantha Rattner, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Aaron Black.
Jacqueline and Mark Rother and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Joyce McDonald.
Lorraine and Allan Sandler, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Harry Weinstock.
Soozi Schlanger, Goldie Schlanger and Chaja Grande, marking the conclusion of kaddish for Mary Miriam Aaron Schlanger.
The Scoler Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Renee Scoler.
Lauren and Dvir Shatach, honouring the birth of their daughter Eleanor.
The Sobel Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Ben Sobel.
The Sobel Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Eli Sobel.
The Sobel Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Frances Sobel.
Eric Sobel, honouring his birthday.
Rose Sobel and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of George Sobel.
Dr. Sylvia Solomon and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Cantor Joseph Horowitz.
Bernice Stern and the Gropper family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Ruth Goldstein.
Sharon Yale and Blake Teichman, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Bernard Yale.

**General Fund**

Mariana Grinblat, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Fridel Sulim Klepper.
Bernie and Elise Gropper, acknowledging Danny and Arlyn Zimmerman in memory of Zoltan Zimmerman.
Shane Grosman, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Ben Grosman.
Terri Humphries, acknowledging Neil Abbott and Mary Johnston Abbott and family in memory of Dr. Michael Abbott.
Norman and Jackie Kahn, honouring Lyon Wexler on being named Hattan Bereisheet.
Mildred Kriezman, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Morris Kriezman.
Mildred Kriezman, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Max Bernard Kriezman.
Mildred Kriezman, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Rose Glazer.
Ellis and Vicci Macmull, honouring Harry Enchin and Susan Friedrich on their birthdays.
Susan Schendel, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Edith Milder.
Jerry Schendel, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Klara Schendel.
Richard Seligman, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Lawrie Seligman.

**Hesed Fund**

Frances Ackerman, acknowledging Nathan Greenberg in memory of Carole Greenberg.
Frances Ackerman, honouring Lyon Wexler on being named Hattan Bereisheet.
Frances Ackerman and family, acknowledging Sara Zimmerman and family in memory of Zoltan Zimmerman.

Frances Ackerman and family, wishing Joseph Isaacson a refuah sheleimah.
Shirley and Perry Cooper, acknowledging Nathan Greenberg in memory of Carole Greenberg.
Shirley and Perry Cooper, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Doris Cooper.
Shirley and Perry Cooper, honouring Harry Enchin and Susan Friedrich on their birthdays.
Aubrey and Judith Golden, acknowledging Louise Starkman in memory of Steven Starkman.
Aubrey and Judith Golden, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Harry Golden.
Marsha Joseph, acknowledging Louise Starkman in memory of Steven Starkman.
Helene Kerr, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Shirley Rosenthal.
Helene Kerr and Adrian Tenser, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Max Rosenthal.
Sylvia Singer and family, acknowledging Nathan Greenberg in memory of Carole Greenberg.
Rose Sobel, commemorating the yahrtzeiten of Benjamin Chelin and Harry Sobel.
Melvin and Ruth Steinhart, honouring Judy and Ralph Shiff on the marriage of their grandson Noam.
Terry and Nadine Walman, acknowledging the Zimmerman Family in memory of Zoltan Zimmerman.

**Howard (Hy Cooper) Trust Fund**

David, Carol, Ari, Marissa and Yonit Grossman, acknowledging the family of the late David Reiss.
Sandi and Jack Grossman and family, wishing Gayle and Morty Eisenberg Shanab Tovah.

**Israel Sydney & Pearl Wolfe Memorial Fund**

Caryl and Bernard Schwartz, commemorating the yahrtzeiten of Pearl Wolfe, Myrna Hanet and Sean Atkins.

**Jewish Family Living Fund**

An anonymous contribution, honouring Pearl and Genevieve Cohen on the birth of their daughter.
An anonymous contribution, honouring Moshe Micha and Chloe McAlister and family on the birth of their daughter.
Dot Whitehouse, honouring Avital Narvey, Florence Bendelac and Klara Romm and wishing them Shanab Tovah.

**Jonathan Kahn Memorial Fund**

Brenda Orser, acknowledging Jackie and Norman Kahn and family in memory of Jonathan Kahn.
Clare, Ken and Noah Shapiro, wishing Norman and Jackie Kahn Shanab Tovah.
Dayna and Jordan Waltman, acknowledging Jackie and Norman Kahn and family in memory of Jonathan Kahn.

**Jonathan Steiner Memorial Fund**

Harold and Ruth Margles, honouring Joseph and Elaine Steiner on their 50th anniversary.

**Kaddish Fund**

Marilyn Debora and Judy Litwack-Goldman, honouring the memory of Dora Litwack.

**Kosher Food Bank**

An anonymous contribution, honouring Rabbi Jennifer Gorman and wishing her Shanab Tovah.
An anonymous contribution, honouring Rabbi Shalom Schachter and Marcia Gilbert and wishing them Shanab Tovah.
An anonymous contribution, honouring the volunteers of the Kosher Food Bank.
Denise Chiuri, wishing Ab and Phyllis Flatt Shanab Tovah.
Irving and Barbara Green, honouring Lyon Wexler on being named Hattan Bereisheet.
Marlene Laba, wishing Allan and Margaret Weinstein Shanab Tovah.
Newton and Claire Markus, acknowledging the Nachman Family in memory of Gabriel Nachman.
Newton and Claire Markus, honouring Diane Grafstein on her special birthday.
Pearl Schwartz, honouring John and Jane Trachtenberg on the birth of their grandson Andrew.

**Little Minyan Fund**

Sephi Band, Jeffrey Mitz and Zoe Mitz, honouring Lyon Wexler on being named Hattan Bereisheet.

**Lorne Hanick Website Development Fund**

An anonymous contribution, honouring Lorne Hanick.
An anonymous contribution, honouring Lorne Hanick.

**Men’s Club Scholarships**

Sylvia Singer and family, acknowledging the family of the late Ida Wiesenthal.

Dor Whitehouse, honouring her late father’s birthday.

An anonymous contribution, honouring Gary Elman.

Out of the Cold Fund

An anonymous contribution, honouring Lyon Wexler on being named Hattan Bereisheet.

Beverly Applebaum, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Sydney Applebaum.

Rosalee Berlin, honouring Lyon Wexler on being named Hattan Bereisheet.

Barbara Firestone, acknowledging Carmella Betel in memory of Rauba Barac.

Tovah and Sheldon Rotman and family

Patti Ellis and Vicci Macmull, wishing memory of Sherman Hans in memory of Judith Hans.

Ellis and Vicci Macmull, wishing Patti and Sheldon Rotman and family Shanah Tovah.

Harold and Ruth Margles, honouring Lyon Wexler on being named Hattan Bereisheet.

Mary and Saul Merrick, acknowledging Jackee Gosewich in memory of Arnold Gosewich.

Marillyn and Saul Merrick, acknowledging Louise Starkman in memory of Steven Starkman.

Roslyn Oslander, honouring Lyon Wexler on being named Hattan Bereisheet.

The Pollock Family, wishing the Aronowicz Family Shanah Tovah.

Frank and Milli Richmond, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Edward Richmond.

Mary and Les Richmond and family, honouring Lyon Wexler on being named Hattan Bereisheet.

Patti and Sheldon Rotman and family, acknowledging the family of the late Zoltan Zimmerman.

Sheldon and Patti Rotman and family, acknowledging Randy Kalpin in memory of Jean Kalpin.

Sheldon and Patti Rotman and family, acknowledging the family of the late Yehuda Golan.

BETH TZEDEC SISTERHOOD’S Torah Fund Tribute Cards

Choose these beautifully illustrated cards when you honour, acknowledge or commemorate the memories of those who are most important in your life.

The Torah Fund tribute cards can be purchased individually at a cost of $5 each or a selection of 5 cards for $20*. To purchase, contact Lynne Taradash at 416-781-3714 or lynnetaradash@icloud.com.

*Tax receipts will be issued for orders of $20 or more.

The Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl Endowment Fund

An anonymous contribution, acknowledging Sara Zimmerman and family in memory of Zoltan Zimmerman.

An anonymous contribution, honouring Rabbi Baruch and Josette Frydman-Kohl and wishing them Shanah Tovah.

An anonymous contribution, honouring the office and caretaking teams and Nash’s team and wishing them Shanah Tovah.

An anonymous contribution, honouring the spiritual care team and wishing them Shanah Tovah.

An anonymous contribution, honouring Rabbis Steven Wernick and Robyn Fryer Bodzin on being installed as Beth Tzedec’s rabbis.

David Ackerman and Joni Cohen, honouring Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl on his retirement.

Rosalee Berlin, honouring Rabbis Steven Wernick and Robyn Fryer Bodzin on being installed as Beth Tzedec’s rabbis.

Sandra Brown and family, honouring Rabbi Robyn Fryer Bodzin.

Murray Collis, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Max Collis.

Marion and Ron Feld, honouring Mel and Ruth Steinhart on their 60th anniversary.

Ab and Phyllis Flatt, acknowledging Louise Starkman in memory of Steven Starkman.

Ilene and Stephen Flatt, honouring Brenda Singer on receiving the Order of Canada.
**Jewish Meditation**

Shabbat, January 11, February 8 and March 7 from 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.

For more information, please contact Marlene Laba at 416-781-3514, ext. 234 or mlaba@beth-tzedec.org.

*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.*

**Canasta and Mahjong Lessons**

Are you interested in learning to play Canasta or Mahj? We are offering a new series of lessons in the coming months. For fee information or to register, please contact the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511 or info@beth-tzedec.org.

**Condo lences**

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

- Dr. Michael Abbott
- Sarina Auriel
- Dr. Robert Bendavid
- Cindy Duchon-Pasternak
- David Gavsie
- Yehuda Golan
- Arnold Gosewich
- Marion Gould
- Aurel Gropper
- Sam Hoffer
- Arthur Levman
- Harvey Lindzon
- Gene (Eugene) Opler
- Andy Senyi
- Marvin Shore
- Bernard (Bernie) Staiman
- Steven Starkman
- Margaret Ungar
- William (Bill) Wagman
- Ruth Sarah Wagman

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

**Beth Tzedec has a number of opportunities for members wishing to support our tzedakah initiatives. Honour the memory of a loved one by making a contribution to one of our funds or sponsoring breakfast on a yahrtzeit. For a complete list of Synagogue funds, please call the office at 416-781-3511.**

If you are interested in leaving a legacy for the Congregation to name a special project, youth program or adult education seminar, we would be pleased to help you plan today for tomorrow. Contact our Executive Director, Randy Spiegel at 416-781-3514, ext. 211 to discuss these opportunities in confidence.
Lila Freedman, commemorating the yahrzeit of Sima Hirsh, Norma Freedman and Naomi Freedman.
Maxine Gallander Wintre, honouring Paul and Gella Rothstein on their anniversary.
Shep Gangbar, honouring Allan Phillips.
Diane Grafstein, acknowledging Sara Zimmerman and family in memory of Zoltan Zimmerman.
Diane Grafstein, honouring Lyon Weixel on being named Hattan Bereisheet.
Barry Greenberg and Susan Laufer, honouring Lorne Hanick.
Henrietta Kostman and Judith Kostman, honouring Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl on his retirement.
Ruthann and Lawrence Lubin, acknowledging Jill Cain in memory of Ruth Cutler.
Marilyn and Saul Merrick, acknowledging Nathan Greenberg in memory of Carole Greenberg.
Rochelle and Peter Miller, commemorating the yahrzeit of Yale Daniel Piltz.
John and Molly Pollock, acknowledging Dr. Bill and Taffy Cass in memory of Larry Cass.
Millie Pollock, acknowledging Sara Zimmerman in memory of Zoltan Zimmerman.
Millie Pollock, commemorating the yahrzeit of Muriel Gorsky and Harry Tobenstein.
Millie Pollock, commemorating the yahrzeit of Faye Tobenstein.
Dr. David and Shirley Promislow, acknowledging Nathan Greenberg in memory of Carole Greenberg.
Dr. David and Shirley Promislow, honouring Judy and Ralph Shiff on the marriage of their grandson Noam.
Dr. David and Shirley Promislow, honouring Ruth and Mel Steinhart on the marriage of their grandson Zachary.
Debbie Rothstein and Michael Friedman, acknowledging Estelle Perlmutter and family in memory of Marvin Shore.
Debbie Rothstein and Michael Friedman, honouring Jeffrey and Joanne Perlmutter on the birth of their grandson.
Debbie Rothstein and Michael Friedman, Emma and Zachary, acknowledging Drew Berman in memory of Alex Berman.
Bernie and Caryl Schwartz, acknowledging Louise Starkman in memory of Steven Starkman.
Lesley Shore and family, honouring Joseph and Elaine Steiner on their 50th anniversary.
Jack and Jill Spitz, honouring Cantor Sidney Ezer.
Jack and Jill Spitz, honouring Lorne Hanick.
Ruth and Melvin Steinhart, commemorating the yahrzeit of Rose Siegel.
Beverley Stern, commemorating the yahrzeit of Geri Sitzer.
Jennifer Wyman and Neil Zworth, commemorating the yahrzeit of Roel Wyman.
Cecile Zaifman and Malcolm Weinstein, honouring Patti and Sheldon Rotman.
Sheila Zeldin Memorial Fund
Susan Zeldin and Ron, Noah and Daniel Clark, commemorating the yahrzeit of Sheila Zeldin.
Victims of Terror Fund
Bella, Zamir and Alexander Latipow, commemorating the yahrzeit of Larisa Zhornisky Shpiegelman.
David and Shayndelynne Zeldin, acknowledging Ron and Karin Poizner in memory of Julius Poizner.
Yom Hashoah Candle Fund
Eddie and Bonny Kirschner, honouring Cathy Surdin and Lawrence Schiff on their 25th anniversary.
Dot Whitehouse, honouring her late father’s birthday.

PILATES
@ Beth Tzedecc

with Christine Biggs

Monday evenings at 7:30 PM
Sculpt your body, improve your strength and flexibility and relax your mind with certified pilates instructor Christine Biggs. Participants must bring their own mat and sign a waiver form. Class size limited.
Pre-registration recommended. Contact the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511 or info@beth-tzedec.org.

FIVE SESSIONS:
$60 Beth Tzedecc members / $75 non-members

PER SESSION:
$15 Beth Tzedecc members / $20 non-members
Friday, February 7 and Saturday, February 8

Friday, February 7 at 5:45 PM
Join us for a delicious dinner with guest Dara Horn discussing her latest book *The Eternal Life*. Cost for dinner: $24 USD for Beth Tzedec members; $32 USD non-members. For information or to reserve for the dinner, contact B'nai Torah at 516-392-8566 or visit www.btcboca.org.

Saturday, February 8 at 8:45 AM
Join us for services, a pulpit address from Dara Horn on *I Only Want My Child to be Happy and Other Lies: Happiness versus Holiness in the Modern World* and a special Kiddush panel discussion with Rabbis David Englander and Steven Wernick and Dara Horn on *Happiness versus Holiness*.

Encourage your Florida friends and snowbirds to attend!