

# Beth Tzedec Congregation Bulletin

VOLUME 71, NO. 3 | ADAR 2 5782 • MARCH 2022 | WWW.BETH-TZEDEC.ORG

# A springtime of connecting, learning and praying

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# DURIM FAMILY FIN



### **PJ Library presents:** "Purim!"

For families with children up to age 5

Sunday, March 6 at 10:30 AM

Let's get into our costumes and enjoy all the spirit and fun of Purim! Join us at Beth Tzedec for a Purim story, mask-making and a costume parade with your friends!



**Purim Fun** For Grades 1 to 5

Sunday, March 6 at 2:00 PM

We will retell the Purim story together, acting it out as if it took place during the COVID-19 pandemic with all the restrictions we faced! Let's see what modern Purim story we invent!

### **Parking Lot Purim Carnival**

Sunday, March 13 from 2:00 to 4:00 рм

Grab your costumes, maybe throw on your winter coat over it and head to Beth Tzedec for a fun, festive Purim carnival in our parking lot!



We all long for

in-person panim el

panim relationships.

We've learned just

how essential they

are to our lives.

"Last night a violent arrest was made.... The crime? Reciting the Shema aloud in a prayer shawl."

In what country would you think such an arrest occurred? Iran? Russia?

Unfortunately, it was Israel, October 2012 at the Kotel, in Jerusalem. The perpetrator? Anat Hoffman, one of the leaders of Women of the Wall, a pluralistic group of women who have been gathering in the Women's section of the Kotel for more than three decades to pray Rosh Hodesh services together. This arrest, and one a month later, for the crime of carrying a Sefer Torah into the Kotel Plaza, outraged world Jewry. (Rabbi Fryer Bodzin was arrested a year later with others as Women of the Wall continued to pray in the Women's section and to advocate for their rights.)

The response of our 1.7-million-member Masorti/Conservative Movement, the Reform Movement and others of shared values was swift. Thousands of messages poured into Prime Minister Netanyahu's office demanding an end to Orthodox exclusivity of prayer at the Kotel and the long overdue recognition of Jewish pluralism in Israel. The New York Times





### Abridged Family Megillah Reading

### Wednesday, March 16 at 5:00 PM

Come together either in-person or online (in your best costume, of course) for an early and abridged Megillah reading. Perfect for little ones and older ones too. We'll retell the Purim story, listen to parts of Megillat Esther, and make lots and lots of noise!

# The Kotel Agreement

ran a front-page story about the arrests as did every major Israeli news outlet. What had been simmering beneath the surface for years boiled over. If Israel was to be the homeland of the Jewish people, it could no longer ignore nor subjugate non-Orthodox Jews, especially not at our holiest site, the Kotel.

I was leading USCJ at the time and was a newer member of the Board of Governors of The Jewish Agency. Many of the leaders of Federation and the Jewish Agency are from Conservative and Reform Communities. We began an advocacy campaign that successfully raised the profile of this issue such that the Prime Minister asked his friend and Chair of The Jewish Agency Executive, Natan Sharansky, to solve the Kotel problem. Sharansky convened the leaders of the Conservative and Reform Movements, Women of the Wall, and the Jewish Federations of North America to negotiate a solution with Avichai Mendelblitt (who was then the Cabinet Secretary and just completed his service as Attorney General) to get to work.

Sharansky's vision was "one Wall for one people". It was a difficult negotiation that lasted four and a half years. We had to negotiate among ourselves a set of common goals and understandings and negotiate with the Government which had to negotiate with us, the Archeological Society, the Waqf and the Western Wall Heritage Society led by the Rabbi of the Wall and the Haredi parties.

Ultimately, Sharansky's vision prevailed. We concluded the Kotel Agreement that expanded the Kotel and had three main understandings. The first to extend the notion of the Kotel to include the area known as Robinson's Arch. renamed Ezrat Yisrael, and to designate the Northern section for Orthodox prayer and the Southern section for Pluralistic prayer. Prior to that the Kotel was not a designated synagogue. It is a National Site of Israel and the Jewish People. That



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#### **CONTINUED** Rabbi Steven Wernick



prayer occurs there under the supervision of the Rabbi of the Wall is custom, not law. Our agreement would give up our legal right to pray there in a pluralistic manner for the official designation of Ezrat Yisrael as a pluralistic synagogue at the Kotel.

The second understanding was that the Kotel plaza would be expanded so that when one entered it, they would clearly have a choice between Orthodox prayer in the Northern section and pluralistic prayer in the Southern section. The entrance and security stations would have to be modified to accommodate this. Related to the plaza was also an understanding that the entire section would have to be built out, maintained, and have signage appropriate to a National Historical Site of the Jewish People.

The third and final understanding was that the groups who used each section would have a role in the governance of the site. The Prime Minister was to establish a new committee for the pluralistic section that would be chaired by the head of The Jewish Agency and include two members each of the Conservative and Reform Movements, and Women of the Wall. Other members would include a representative of the Archeologist Society and four at-large members appointed by the Prime Minister. This understanding was most important because it meant de facto recognition of the pluralistic movements in Israel.

In January 2016, the Israeli Government accepted the Kotel Agreement by a vote of 15:5. It was a historic day. We who had worked so hard for such an agreement celebrated. Our joy, however, quickly turned to anger. In short order the Haredi parties started to threaten the viability of the government coalition over the Kotel Agreement, even though they were aware of it and tacitly approved of it. As a result of their political gamesmanship the Kotel Agreement was tabled a year later.

Since then, tensions have only risen at the Kotel. Women of the Wall, the Conservative and Reform Movements and others continue to gather monthly for Rosh Hodesh services. Efforts are made to smuggle a Torah into the Women's Section for Torah Reading. Most months they are successful.

#### **CONTINUED** Rabbi Steven Wernick

-Yet, the Haredi parties send busloads of Yeshiva students-men and womento harass the worshippers. Often, it's very ugly with name calling, yelling, whistle blowing and spitting. Sometimes there is pushing and shoving.

It's a shame really, because the Kotel Agreement is really a good compromise for all. The Orthodox gain a legally recognized synagogue in the Northern section and Women of the Wall and the Movements get "out of their hair and sight." The pluralistic section is South of the Maghrabi Ramp and several meters below. We gain a beautiful site for our prayer services without harassment and recognition.

Prime Minister Bennett and Prime Minister designate Yair Lapid placed the Kotel Agreement on their official platform and as a part of their written Coalition Agreement. That's why Bennet's recent comments in which he said he will not implement the agreement is so disappointing. (Bennet was Diaspora Minister when we negotiated the agreement and supported it.) When government refuses to keep their agreements how

are we to have trust in their promises? It's one thing for campaign promises to be left unfulfilled. It's another for written agreements, that were ratified by Cabinet, to be unfulfilled.

I still have hope that Prime Minister Designate Lapid, who has been the most consistent and outspoken about supporting the Kotel Agreement, will implement it when he becomes Prime Minister. (If he becomes Prime Minister. It is Israel after all.)

But as the Talmud tells us, al tifros al hanes-don't rely on miracles. Until the Kotel Agreement is implemented, and likely even afterwards, we must continue to advocate for it. When you visit Israel, pray at Ezrat Yisrael. Write the Prime Minister and demand that the Kotel Agreement is implemented. Support the Masorti Movement in Israel. These simple actions will continue to put pressure on the Prime Minister to keep his word to world Jewry. And they will

### Yizkor Memorial Book

It is time to send information to include the names of your loved ones in the annual Yizkor Memorial Book used at Yizkor Services on Yom Kippur, Shemini Atzeret, Pesah and Shavuot for the year 5783. The cost is \$18.00 per memorialized name per household. Submission deadline: Thursday, June 30.

You can submit your Yizkor Memorial Book listing by completing this online form or you can phone or contact Terri Humphries at 416-781-3514 ext. 212 or thumphries@beth-tzedec.org.

#### Yizkor Memorial Book Donation

Make cheques payable to: Beth Tzedec Congregation 1700 Bathurst Street, Toronto, Ontario M5P 3K3 Phone: 416-781-3514 ext. 213 Fax: 416-781-0150

Deadline: Please complete and return this form with your payment no later than 5:00 pm on Thursday, June 30, 2022.



ensure that Israel. if it is to be the homeland of the Jewish People, will be the homeland of all the Jewish People, no matter their religious identification and denomination.

As we approach Israel's 74<sup>th</sup> Yom Ha'atzmaut this is what's on my mind. I hope that next year, when we are in Israel with UJA Federations Mission in honour of its 75th Yom Ha'atzmaut, we will be able to celebrate the implementation of the Kotel Agreement and pray at Ezrat Yisrael with full joy.



This place is in my bones, and it is as much a part of my own Jewish identity as reading from the Torah or celebrating Shabbat.

### Passing the Gavel

After three years, hundreds of meetings, countless emails and a worldwide pandemic, it's hard to believe that this is my final Bulletin article as President of Beth Tzedec.

One of the most important resources I've had during these busy years, both personally and professionally, has been the leadership and dedication of Executive Director Randy Spiegel.

Over 11 years, he led transformational changes to our physical space, managed an incredible team of professional and support staff and his fundraising efforts have helped position Beth Tzedec as one of the most financially stable synagogues in North America. When caring for the well-being of our Congregation meant transitioning to a hybrid of in-person and online supports for our members, Randy's leadership helped ensure that we could continue to Care, Connect, Pray, Learn, Celebrate and Give & Get as a united *kehillah*. We wish him nothing but the best in his future endeavours.

I've also been energized by the efforts, feedback and commitment of our members. While it hasn't always been easy to hear what you told me, and it can be difficult to face criticism, I've been reminded again and again just how deeply our community cares about Beth Tzedec. I'm so fortunate to have gotten to lead a congregation full of people willing to put in the work to ensure that we can continue to inspire and enable our community to live meaningful Jewish lives.

And there is still so much work to do. While we've made incredible progress, even when focused on nourishing our *kehillah* through an ongoing global crisis, the list of ways we want to improve the spiritual, emotional and

overall well-being of our members continues to grow. In her essay "Upstream", Mary Oliver shared a wish that I want to extend to each of you: "May I be the tiniest nail in the house of the universe, tiny but useful."

Beth Tzedec, our house of tzedecjustice, righteousness-calls on each of us to support and sustain the work of those who have come before us and those who will follow after us. I'm excited to see the many ways that our members' care and talents will continue to support our shared home, and I'd encourage each and every one of you to find your own "tiny but useful" way to contribute to this incredible community. I hope it is as rewarding an experience for you as it has been for me.

As I've said many, many times, I love Beth Tzedec. This place is in my bones and it is as much a part of my Jewish identity as reading from the Torah or celebrating Shabbat. I grew up at 1700 Bathurst Street, from attending services with my grandfather to Junior Congregation to my bat mitzvah and my wedding, my family has marked some of our biggest milestones in this beautiful building. The roadmap of my life flows in and out of Beth Tzedec. Serving as President-especially during such a difficult time-has been and will remain one of the greatest honours of my life. Thank you for putting your trust in me.

There are far too many people to thank -Rabbis Wernick, Fryer Bodzin and Frydman-Kohl and Yacov Fruchter for always checking in on my well-being and providing much needed support.

To our entire professional staff and SLT—thank you for all that you have done, most especially since

#### **CONTINUED** Debbie Rothstein

March 2020. You are the glue that holds Beth Tzedec together.

And thank you to all the lay leaders I have been privileged to work with, most especially Sheldon Rotman, Bernie Gropper and Patti Rotman and my COVID-Executive Consiglieres, Gary Elman, Jamie Golombek, Mitch Max, Aaron Wine, Cecile Zaifman and

Oscar Zimmerman. Thank you for helping to steer Beth Tzedec so smoothly through some very rough waters, and for keeping me sane while doing it.

I could not have held this position without the abundance of love, support and patience shown by my family, particularly Michael, Emma and Zach.



### **Board of Directors Meetings**

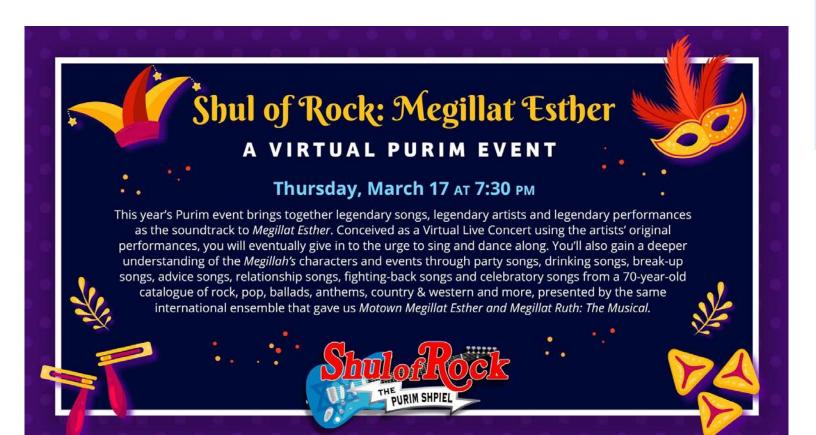
In adherence to Toronto Public Health guidelines and Beth Tzedec's safety protocols regarding COVID-19, the Board of Directors meetings will be conducted virtually via Zoom. Members are welcome to participate, but must pre-register for link information. Upcoming dates: **Tuesdays, March 15**, April 12 and May 10 at 7:30 PM.

For information or to pre-register for a Board meeting, contact Klara Romm at 416-781-3514 ext. 220 or email kromm@beth-tzedec.org.

### **Annual Meeting**

All members are encouraged to participate in our Annual Meeting on **Tuesday, May 24** at **7:30** PM. Watch for information to be shared with members via email in the coming days and weeks.

This has been an enormous undertaking, but so gratifying and fulfilling. Don't worry, I'm not going anywhere-you'll still see me around for Shabbat and *haggim*. A little less stressed, a little better rested and maybe with the time to finally learn to speak Italian. But Beth Tzedec will always be my second home.



# Jerusalem Love **Songs and Stories**

#### Sunday, May 29 at 7:30 PM

Celebrate Yom Yerushalayim with a coffee-house experience featuring music, poetry, songs and stories about Jerusalem. We will hear how the city has impacted poets and writers, as well as some members of our Beth Tzedec community.



# **Milestones and Celebrations**

We can't share your good news unless you tell us about it. Send an email to thumphries@beth-tzedec.org or call 416-781-3514, ext. 212. Deadline for the next Bulletin covering June through August is July 8.

December 19.

#### **Births**

Mara Rose, son of Howie Katz & Sydney Lashko, grandson of Janet & Neil Katz and Catherine Lashko and Peter Lashko, great-grandson of Harry Katz, born January 1.



Hayley Rose, daughter of Risa Reisman & Eric Jacobs, granddaughter of Gloria & Ron Jacobs, Linda Reisman and Howard Reisman, greatgranddaughter of Danny & Thelma Weisbrod, born February 13.

### Weddings

Brittany Shay Sud, daughter of Reesa & Avrom Sud, granddaughter of David<sup>z<sup>1</sup></sup> & Martha Sud and Louis<sup>z<sup>1</sup></sup> & Yetta Hotz, and Justin Leo Hennick. son of Karrie & David Hennick, who were married on September 12.



David Grossman, who was awarded the prestigious Fred Sgambati Media Award by USports, an honour of distinction for his contribution to university sports in Canada.

### **Sharing Your Success!**

### You've studied and applied yourself for years and now have your hardearned graduation certificate in hand. It's time to share your success.

Beth Tzedec will include of post-secondary graduation notices in the next edition of the Bulletin. Use this form to upload your graduate's name, parents' names, degree earned and university/college they attend. We'd also be happy to include a digital photo. Deadline for submissions is Friday, July 8.



#### Congratulations to

Bryon & Lani Alexandroff, who celebrated their 50th anniversary on

Sarah Joanna Garbe, daughter of Alby & Ruth Garbe, granddaughter of Irving & the late Esther Matlow and the late William & Lorna Garbe, and Daniel Lawrence Mandel, son of Harvey & Joyce Mandel, grandson of the late Manny & Hilda Ezrin and Joseph & Toby Mandel, on their engagement.

Lana Liss, daughter of Greta Coopersmith and Howard & Susan Liss, and Daniel Perlin, son of Zina & George Perlin, on their engagement.



Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl, who was appointed to the Order of Canada.



#### **UPCOMING GUESTS**

#### March 14: Mike Katz

basketball.

#### March 21: Joel Chasnoff

Joel Chasnoff, a stand-up comedian, TV and podcast host, and author of three books, including the bestselling memoir The 188<sup>th</sup> Crybaby Brigade, will discuss comedy as a coping and healing strategy.

vour bliss.

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



April 2 (Minhah) Chloe Rapoport daughter of Adam & Mia Rapoport שרה בת אדם ומאירה

May 12 Oliver Rethazy son of Daniel Rethazy & Lauren Greisman חיים בן גדליה הלוי ולבנה



May 28 (Minhah) Aidan Sugarman son of Lorne Sugarman & Vanessa Pinsky-Sugarman אברהם בז זלמז ויהודית



March 5 (Minhah) Maya Agulnik child of Adam Agulnik & Galit Zupnik

מיה שנולדה לאדם וגלית



May 12 Aiden Kaufman son of Jesse & Renee Kaufman ארי לב בן יעקב ורוחמה



December 9 **Jacob Weinstock** son of Dr. David & Lauren Weinstock יעקב אברהם בן דוד יעקב

וביילה שיינה



Mav 7 Georgia Riv Hewson Ruth Promislow & Shawn Hewson רבקה בת רות



May 5 Jonathan Kraft son of Michael Kraft & Lesli Marcus

יונתן אַלי משה בן מנחם מענדל פינחס וחיה חוה



April 7 Noah Levine son of Darren & Jennifer Levine

Mazal Tov

to our B'nei Mitzvah

WHO HAVE COMPLETED OUR BAR/BAT MITZVAH PROGRAM

אשר זעליג בן גבריאל דב בער ויהודית דבורה



May 28 Henry Stein son of Jared Stein & Naomi Zittell נתז שלמה בז לב ונעמי טובה



May 23 Solomon Levy son of Ira Levy & Shari Zinman-Levy פריידה שלמה בן יחיאל וחיה מלכה



May 14 Emma Jacobs daughter of Jeremy Jacobs & Carrie Lindzon-Jacobs חנה בת יהודה ורחל



May 14 Mia Wolfe daughter of Jeffrey & Debra Wolfe מיה שיינא בת ניסן אבא ודבורה אלישבע

### Monday afternoons 12:30 PM

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

#### March 7: Sabrina Malach

Sabrina Malach, Director of Engagement for Shoresh, will discuss Shoresh's Reforestation Project at Bela Farm where they have planted 11,000 native trees.

Mike Katz, former head coach of the University of Toronto's Varsity Blues, the Humber College men's basketball team and an assistant coach of Team Canada's men's basketball squad at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney will talk about Jews in

#### March 28: Judy Librach

Judy Librach, television host, journalist and author of The Toronto Wedding Handbook and Love, Mommy: Writing Love Letters To Your Baby, will talk about finding and following



Presented as part of The Institute for Jewish Learning in memory of Anne and Max Tanenbaum



### Shabbat at the **Floor Service**

### Fridays, March 4, April 1 and May 6 at 6:00 PM

Join us in person or via livestream at https://www.bethtzedec.tv/ for a high-energy service with Cantor Sidney Ezer, Yacov Fruchter and Aviva Chernick. Prepare your spirit for Shabbat with song, comfort and community Minhah.



### **Beth Tzedec Congregation** continues the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Club, a program for children with difficulty in social situations.

We are looking for students with a Bar/Bat Mitzvah in 2022-2023 or 2023-2024 who are seeking to prepare for this experience with peers in a program suited to their needs.

The program will consist of nine evening sessions with dinner. A valuable and voluntary parent group will run concurrently with the children's sessions. The highly subsidized cost of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Club is \$700.

For information, contact Daniel Silverman at 416-781-3514, ext. 231 or dsilverman@beth-tzedec.org.

This program has been made possible thanks to the Elizabeth Rose Herman Education Bursary of Beth Tzedec Congregation





I celebrate Judith Kaplan and lift up the decision that her family and community made in March 1922, which has created seismic shifts and change in the Jewish community.

Judith Kaplan

# Our Place on the Bimah

Before it was revealed that my destiny was to become a rabbi, I worked with Jewish university students. In that role, I was privileged to be a staff member on the first ever Birthright Israel trip. Video cameras followed us everywhere and it was a memorable Israel experience.

In those early years, the ten-day trip was strictly reserved for young Jewish adults who had never been to Israel. When you accompany a bus full of first timers, you see Israel again for the first time. It really was a privilege.

Our itinerary had us scheduled to climb Masada early Thursday morning, a Torah reading day. We held a minyan on Masada. Many in the group did not know their Hebrew names and quite a few never had a formal bar or bat mitzvah With that in mind, we offered the opportunity to have a first aliyah to the Torah. We would call it their bar or bat mitzvah—and as there were video cameras everywhere, the moment would live on forever.

At the time, I was 25 or 26 years old-not much older than the group-working on a MSW and Certificate in Jewish Communal Service and was firmly ensconced as a Jewish professional. And, I hadn't had a bat mitzvah! Did I know how to have an aliyah? Of course. Had I ever said the words barkhu et Adonai hamvorakh while holding onto a Torah? Never in my life. In the mid-'80s when I was 12 and 13 years old, most girls were not called to the Torah, did not read Torah or Haftorah and did not lead davening here in Toronto.

I still remember during a staff meeting, in the wee hours of the morning telling colleagues that I also wanted to have my bat mitzvah the next morning. with the participants. Then I started to cry.

The next morning, we climbed Masada and I, along with ten or so others, was called to the Torah, outdoors. That was my bat mitzvah. It was Parashat Bo.

The year 2022 marks the centennial of



the first public bat mitzvah ceremony in North America. Judith Kaplan, daughter of Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan, became the first North American girl to have a bat mitzvah ceremony on March 18, 1922 at the Society for the Advancement of Judaism (SAJ). I wonder if that young girl knew that her actions would change Jewish communal life forever!

That moment was pivotal. I would argue it was the catalyst to women's participation in Jewish ritual life. As increasing numbers of girls ascended the *bimah*, girls and women began to expect access to ritual honours and synagogue leadership. Said differently, had Judith Kaplan not had her bat mitzvah 100 years ago, Debbie Rothstein would not be president, Patti Rotman would not be your chair of the Board and I would not be one of your rabbis.

I celebrate Judith Kaplan and lift up the decision that her family and community made in March 1922, which has created seismic shifts and change in the Jewish community. Nowadays, it is expected that all children will be called to the Torah at the age of mitzvot.

As we are a multi-generational congregation, there are still countless women in our community who have not been be called up to the Torah. To these woman I say: Imagine the meaning it would have if during this year, when we celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the bat mitzvah, you came to shul on a Shabbat morning and had your first aliyah to the Torah?

There is always an opportunity to get closer to mitzvot. If not now, when?



Beth Tzedec claims a long-standing cantorial and choral tradition.

### What's in a Name

#### Cancer, Coronavirus, COVID.

These are euphemistic **C**-words that are now a part of our lexicon. In a Jewish liturgical context, I will venture to add another one-Choir.

Choirs and Cantors (another c-word, for that matter) have historically been blamed for inhibiting congregational participation. The word "choir" gives an intrinsic notion of formality, of concert performance. With the decline of the golden age of cantors and *hazzanut*, what musically spoke to the previous generations unfortunately no longer speaks to the younger generation, the future on which synagogues depend for their survival.

In many synagogues, choirs are becoming increasingly rare, often relegated to the High Holy Days. Add to this the new reality of COVID, where group singing in proximity is not possible and the likelihood of large choirs making a comeback diminishes.

Beth Tzedec claims a long-standing cantorial and choral tradition. Having grown up in the Congregation, I was privileged to hear Cantor Paul Kowarsky and the Beth Tzedec Choir under the direction of Gordon Kushner <sup>z</sup>". I also had the fortune to join the choir and sing under the accomplished guidance and mentorship of Cantors Meir Finkelstein and Simon Spiro.

As Beth Tzedec's current cantor, I was given the opportunity to reconstitute a new choir for Shabbat services once a month, the Shir Hadash Ensemble, a choir of ten to 12 voices under the direction of Ezra Burke.

Aside from services, the Ensemble presented a successful set of concerts. With the onset of COVID and Ezra's return to England, things came to a grinding halt and Beth Tzedec took the opportunity to explore a different direction. The aim was to find three or four singers to accompany me for one Shabbat a month to elevate the *davening* and encourage congregational singing.

Enter Asher Farber, a tenor from the Shir Hadash Ensemble and an accomplished pianist and choir conductor who has since collaborated with me on a variety of musical programs.

Asher formed part of the quartet of singers for the Sanctuary Service during the High Holy Days this year under the direction of Maestro Meir Briskman. He recruited three singers-Ilana Zarankin, Laura Fishman and Josh Goldman—for the new small vocal ensemble experiment. With Asher conducting, they accompanied me for our Shabbat of Remembrance service and at Hanukkah Shabbat.

There were several suggestions what to name this new ensemble.

### **Musical Participatory Shabbat**

### with Cantor Sidney Ezer, Asher Farber and the HarmonEzers

#### Shabbat mornings, March 26, April 30 and May 28

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

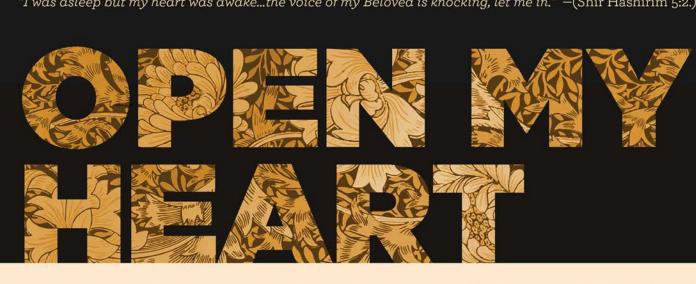
#### **CONTINUED** Cantor Sidney Ezer

Unofficially, they were dubbed "The Ezerettes" or "The Asherettes"! Finally, Asher came up with "The HarmonEzers" alluding to the goal of the ensemble.

Asher's simple and accessible musical arrangements leave open the opportunity for the Congregation to participate. So far, the response has been positive. The surge of the Omicron variant was a temporary setback but by the time you read this article, we will-please God-be on the other side of this wave.

Frankly speaking, I enjoy choral music and I miss having a choir. I do not see "choir" as a "c-word." I do not believe that choirs inhibit congregational participation. Congregants with Hebrew reading skills, familiarity with the meaning and structure of the prayer service and musical prayer modes should not be intimidated by a choir.

In his Guide of the Perplexed 2:6, Rambam wrote: "And let it be deeply known to you that the essential powers of humankind and of nature and of the soul are called angels (malakhim), which are spoken of in many places. Their purpose is explained in Bereisheet Rabbah, that every day the Holy Blessed One creates a choir/class of angels that



### SONGS OF LOVE FROM SHIR HASHIRIM A Pre-Shabbat Concert Friday, April 8 at 5:00 PM

On this Shabbat before Pesah, we warm up our prayer space, our homes and our hearts with this pre-Shabbat concert highlighting the beautiful poetry of Shir Hashirim–Song of Songs. This musical event features Aviva Chernick, Beth Tzedec Artist in Residence, together with Cantor Sidney and an accomplished musical ensemble. Shabbat services to follow.

This event will be presented for both in-person and virtual audiences. Pre-registration is required to attend in-person. To register, **click here** or visit our **www.beth-tzedec.org**.

say song before Him and then move on." The essence of our beings is that we are indeed singing angels. This applies to the Congregation as much as it does to any choir. I do not know what the future holds for choral music at Beth Tzedec after COVID and beyond. For this year though, why not join me, Asher, and the Beth Tzedec HarmonEzers for a musically engaging Shaharit service in which we will introduce new melodies and revive older familiar ones. (See, we did not call them a "choir," but what's in a name?) Upcoming dates are March 26, April 30, and May 28.

"I was asleep but my heart was awake...the voice of my Beloved is knocking, let me in." –(Shir Hashirim 5:2.)

# Refugee Awareness Shabbat

### Saturday, March 5; Services begin at 9:30 AM



Refugee Awareness Shabbat is a moment for our kehillah to turn outward and dedicate a Shabbat experience to the millions of refugees around the world fleeing persecution and violence. For many of us, it is also an opportunity to reflect on the past refugee experiences within our own families.

Our guest speaker is Adam Hummel, a South African-born immigration lawyer. He will reflect on Parashat Pekudei and how it relates to the experiences of modern-day refugees. Much like the Israelites building the Mishkan in the desert, refugees are in unfamiliar countries trying to build a new home and life, with entire communities coming together to help them establish themselves.

Please consider making a donation to the Beth Tzedec Refugee Fund, our partnership with JIAS in supporting refugee families. Click here or visit our website.

### Love Thy Neighbour **Give and Get**

Beth Tzedec Congregation will once again support the St. Michael's All Angels Anglican Church's Out of the Cold Program on Sunday, March 6 & 20 and April 10 at 12:00 NOON. St. Michael's provides a warm meal to 70 of our hungry neighbours, and we are honoured to be able to participate in this mitzvah.

#### **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

Sign up for a shift to help serve hot meals. (All servers must be double-vaccinated; limit of five servers per shift) Create handwritten cards or drawings to be included with the meals Contribute to Beth Tzedec's Food Insecurity Fund to help provide assistance for this program. To register for this program—either to help serve hot meals, submit artwork or make a contribution—please complete this form.

For information or to register for the Love Thy Neighbour program, contact Avital Narvey at 416-781-3511.



It is through small actions-or sometimes brave ones-that we find ways to rise to the occasion.

As you have undoubtedly noticed, Jewish prayer services include a great deal of choreography. Notably, we often ask you to stand up at various times, and with a hint of empathy, inform you when sitting is acceptable or expected. As a way of being inclusive to those who can't stand or have difficulty doing so, I, like many colleagues, often invite you to "please rise if you are able to".

In a recent Beth Tzedec Spiritual Leadership Team (SLT) meeting, our Artist in Residence Aviva Chernick suggested an alternative way of making this announcement that she had encountered in other communities. The new language which I hope you are now hearing in services is "please rise as you are able". Rather than giving those who are unable to stand an "out", Aviva suggested we think differently about what "rising" looks like.

This slight shift from "if" to "as" really resonated with me. Admittedly, I first heard the suggestion as purely about semantics but I believe this shift is at the core of what the Jewish experience is really all about.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks <sup>z<sup>n</sup></sup> famously taught that Judaism prioritizes making the mundane holy. We add spirituality to everyday living through ritual and intention. It is in small actions that we increase holiness in the world. Hillel the sage, in contrast to the House of Shamai, argued that we increase the number of candles that we light on each night of Hanukkah, and his reason is that we believe in the concept of *ma'alin bakodesh*—increasing the holiness and the light in the world.

This word for "increasing" in holiness truly means to go up and is derived from the same root as the word alivah that we use both for someone who moves to Israel as well as one who gets called to the Torah. In these cases, there is a choice to increase spiritual

### Rise (raise up) As You Are Able

connection and bring holiness to the world actively and deliberately. ing holiness to the world.

It is through small actions-or sometimes brave ones-that we find ways to rise to the occasion. This slight shift in how we invite people to "rise" for particular points in the service demonstrates our belief that there are multiple ways that we can "rise" and that we all ought to be invited to find our way of completing this task as we are best able.

We have brought together some Beth Tzedec folks to create a Volunteer Engagement Leadership team, chaired by Judy Libman, tasked with determining how we can make the shul accessible and meaningful for all members, to find a way to volunteer through the shul, and in so doing, raise up others while also feeling spiritually raised. We look forward to sharing more in the months to come.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank Randy Spiegel for his leadership in his role as Executive Director. He always strives to raise up the people around him and the Jewish people, and I benefited from his kindness and wisdom.

As we approach Pesah, I invite you to consider the freedom that we celebrate and the power that exists in all of us to rise up and raise up. With each cup we raise up in the seder, we acknowledge this possibility as the Psalmist wrote "kos yeshuot esa- I raise up this cup of salvation".

May we all rise up as we are able to meet the challenges and opportunities of this moment.

For bonus inspiration, check out "We Rise" by Batya Levine by clicking here.



One of the greatest successes of Rabbinic Judaism was how Jewish life pivoted from a central place of worship—the Temple in Jerusalem—to worship as a smallerscale activity built around community, family and the individual.

### A Community Pivots

One of our best-known psalms is Psalm 137, which opens with "By The Rivers of Babylon..." Bob Marley tune aside, verse 4 of this psalm asks one of the most critical and provocative questions in all of *Tanakh* (Bible): "How can we sing a song of the Lord on foreign soil?"

The Israelites, recently exiled to Babylonia after the destruction of the first Temple, are in a state of upheaval and radical change. They are confronted with the existential question of how to worship God now that the Temple is gone and God's chosen people are not in God's chosen land.

The answer to the Psalmist's question was to establish the synagogue as the central Jewish institution, a move that was further entrenched after the destruction of the second Temple and the shift from sacrificial Judaism to rabbinic Judaism. The synagogue and the home became the focal points of Jewish living.

The different names we've developed for our community institutions show how important it is and how diverse its use has been: synagogue, from a Greek origin meaning 'to bring together; Beit Knesset, Beit Tefillah and Beit Midrash, each from Hebrew and meaning respectively 'the house of gathering', 'the house of prayer' and 'the house of study'; Temple, from a Latin origin meaning 'consecrated piece of ground'.

When the COVID-19 pandemic began and we had to shutter public spaces, we suddenly were confronted with a similar question that faced our ancient ancestors in Babylon: "How can we maintain a synagogue community when we cannot safely gather?" The words we use for the synagogue are literally words that connect to assembling.

As we all know, the answers have come through the combination of technology and refocussing Jewish living on home life. Thanks to livestreams, Facetime, Zoom and so many more, we've been able to see and hear each other in oneon-one conversations and large group events from the safety—and dare I say comfort—of our homes.

While COVID remains a difficult, isolating experience, it is far less isolating than it would have been even a generation ago. Technology has been the tool by which we've essentially continued as normal. Instead of coming together in person, we do so online. It has been incredibly helpful, even lifesaving and emotionally necessary, but it is not a radical transformation of Jewish living.

The reinvigoration of Jewish home life, however, is becoming a transformational place. How many do you know who now bake their own *hallah* every Shabbat but didn't before COVID? Or who is engaging more deeply in Jewish holiday celebrations? Or who is reading more Jewish books? Attending more Jewish programming? Bringing more Jewish ritual and meaning into their lives?

The pandemic has shown us that Beth Tzedec—and all synagogues—are not

#### **CONTINUED** Daniel Silverman

about the physical space. When forced to retreat to our other centre of Jewish living, our homes, we've found that community exists through the phone, through video, through a renewed focus on family and friends, through offering help, through deeper engagement in that which we find most meaningful and with whom we have connections.

One of the greatest successes of Rabbinic Judaism was how Jewish life pivoted from a central place of



this shift.

# DAY TRIPS IN JEWISH HISTORY

with educator and lecturer HANA WERNER

#### Mondays at 1:30 PM

Back by popular demand, Hana Werner presents snapshots of the Biblical stories, scrolls and characters.

#### SPRING SERIES

In their life journey, real heroes are guided by hope, inspiration and determination in taking major risks.

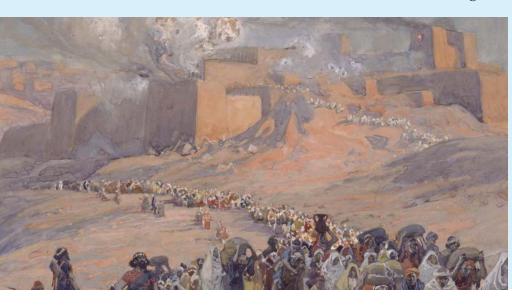
April 25: Shimon Peres May 2: Al Schwimmer May 9: Theodore Herzl

May 16: Technological Innovation

May 30: Natan Sharansky

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worship— the Temple in Jerusalem to worship as a smaller-scale activity built around community, family and the individual. Jewish life no longer needed a physical centre. We created *Mishdashei Me'at*, small sanctuaries synagogues, study halls and Jewish activities within our homes. Rituals like the Passover seder, set in our home around a family table, designed to prompt questions from the next generation, are perfect examples of Beth Tzedec is not and never has been 1700 Bathurst Street. Beth Tzedec is the act of community that we have all continued to engage in from a distance since March 2020. So long as we continue to remember this and allow for Jewish living and connection to infuse our day-to-day lives, wherever we physically find ourselves, Jewish living will surely continue and strengthen for centuries to come.

News & Views from Prominent Scholars and Personalities

#### WEDNESDAYS APRIL 13 AND MAY 11 AT 1:00 PM

Engaging ideas in current Jewish affairs, politics, arts and sciences with note-worthy community figures.

April 13 Toby Saltzman: Exploring Germany as a Jewish Travel Writer

May 11 Lawrence Siegel: Filmmaker of Footprints/Lábnyomok

To register, complete this form or call the Synagogue Office at 416-781-3511



"I would rather think

of life as a good book.

The further you get

into it, the more it

together and make

-Rabbi Harold Kushner

begins to come

sense."

## A Dedication to Community

You have heard him speak. Prayed with him. Had occasion to talk at smahot (simhahs) as well as during challenging times. Even heard his humour before a sermon.

He likes to chat and if you listen carefully, every word that is shared has a message that is meaningful in many ways. Put those words and messages together, and it's like reading a book and getting a coherent and distinct understanding.

At birth, he was given the name Byron Cyril Kohl. You know him as Baruch, the Hebrew word which begins almost every Jewish prayer.

Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl, who for more than a quarter of a century was the spiritual leader at Toronto's Beth Tzedec Congregation, has been and continues to be a luminary pioneer in the community-at-large.

Honest, respectful, hard-working, skilled and approachable. These are just a few of the many characteristics that make up a good leader. A person with integrity, who believes in the people he leads.

So, what is leadership? The Talmud is loaded with wisdom on how to be a good leader. Taking responsibility begins with leadership, something that

is often emotionally demanding and stressful. Leaders learn from many days of study. In short, leadership also means believing in the people you lead.

> That is Rabbi Frydman-Kohl.

Little did he know. growing up in a rough neighborhood just blocks away from baseball's famous Wrigley Field on the north side of Chicago,

that one day this American-born, (Israeli resident as often as he can), and Canadian citizen, would one day be the recipient of something very special.

Rabbi Frydman-Kohl credits his mother, who suffered from mental illness, for maintaining Jewish life as an anchor of stability. Growing up, he lived near an Orthodox synagogue, attended a Reform congregation and was involved in Conservative and Zionist youth groups in high school.

"I was heavily influenced by the civil rights movement, the anti-war demonstrations in the United States, Israel's Six-Day War, getting Jewish people out of the Soviet Union, the two Kennedy assassinations (John F. and Bobby) and the words of Dr. Martin Luther King," he said. "I knew that community work was essential and something had to be done to build a better society."

He entered Northwestern University with plans of one day becoming a high school social studies teacher in marginalized neighborhoods, and at one time was invited to work with Jewish educational leaders in Chicago. But a developing interest in philosophy and political science, as well as concern for the community, gradually led to the rabbinate. Many days, months and years of community work would follow.

It's not uncommon to see him shrug off recognition for most things.

As for his latest honour, it was something exceptional and appropriate. It was a form of beauty that registered in his soul.

The Order of Canada, the highest civilian honour, is presented to people who exemplify the motto "Desiderantes meliorem patriam". That's Latin and means "(those) desiring a better country". It's known to be Canada's way of paying tribute to individuals who have made extraordinary improvements and contributions to the country.



"It's quite humbling to be part of this group and it's something that I honestly didn't anticipate," said Rabbi Frydman-Kohl. "I was in Jerusalem when I received a note from the Office of the Governor General of Canada.

"As on other occasions, I thought they were asking references for people getting a passport or nominated for a committee. When I was informed of the honour, I remember saying, woah, hold on, were they talking about me getting the Order of Canada?"

Known for his involvement in promoting women as leaders, interfaith, working with the gay community, numerous multicultural events and standing for equality for people with colour, Christians, Muslims and Jews, Rabbi Frydman-Kohl knew he was making an impact on a large part of society that went beyond the walls of the largest Conservative synagogue in Canada.

"The Order of Canada is different, not coming from one group, it's a statement that my work matters to Canada and makes it a better place," he said. "That's quite meaningful to me. This is a privilege."

Not one who is big on putting awards, of which he has many, on his walls, Rabbi Frydman-Kohl recalled that it took him 20 years to frame his Certificate of Ordination. In case you were wondering, what he does fill his walls with are books and artwork.

After serving Congregation Ohav

Shalom in Albany, N.Y. for 16 years, Rabbi Frydman-Kohl came to Canada in 1993 with his wife Josette and three sons.

Committed to opening up Beth Tzedec to new ritual and program ideas, as well as increased congregational involvement and engagement with the larger community, he was well on the way to making a lifetime contribution to humanity.

Several years later, he would be a member of an exceptional group of individuals. Presented by the Governor General of Canada on behal of Queen Elizabeth II, the award is more than a white enamelled badge with a snowflake-like design, a maple leaf containing a ribbon with red stripes and a white border. Similar, indeed, to the Canadian flag.

There is a prayer recited on the occasion of good news shared with others:

> Praised are You, Eternal our God, Sovereign of Space/Time; You are good and do good

Rabbi Frydman-Kohl said he shares his honour with the Congregation, which has supported his efforts and with other educators and rabbis who work with devotion and diligence for the Congregation and community.

For many of us, memorable,



#### בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה׳, אֵלֹקֵינוּ מֵלֵךְ הַעוֹלַם, הַטּוֹב וְהַמֵּטִיב.

personable and exceptional are words that clearly fit Beth Tzedec's Rabbi Emeritus. When in need, the telephone call comes from himwhether he's at his home not far from Beth Tzedec or at his other home in Israel.

Many times unexpected, Rabbi Frydman-Kohl shows up at a community activity, an event, offering support, prayer and attention that is hard to put into words. His pledge to comfort, and that of a foundation for comfort, is guaranteed.

With the Jewish community having grown, paradoxically both more inclusive and exclusionary, there is also an opportunity to continue building a life that still carries the importance of faith. It is very much what Rabbi Frydman-Kohl continues to do.

"Caring for others and humility are key elements to a person in leadership," he said. "It's about doing things and not just saying them. I have tried to bring others along in a quiet and persistent way. I hope we have done this and continue to do this at Beth Tzedec, throughout the community and the country."

There is a reference in the Book of Proverbs that says to answer before listening is folly and shame. Too many leaders are quick to jump into action, but slow to listen. Great leaders, like Rabbi Frydman-Kohl, know they have to listen and to listen more than they talk or act.

#### -David Grossman

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

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

These six core values represent the unified mosaic guiding the programs, services and events offered by Beth Tzedec that make our *kehillah* such a special and unique place.

# Care



#### **Grieving Together: A Virtual** Support Group with Yacov Fruchter and Rabbi Robyn Fryer Bodzin Mondays, March 14 & 28, April 18,

May 2, 16 & 30 and June 13 at 7:45 PM

The loss of a loved one, at any time, is challenging. Judaism has a clear set of mourning rituals that help us relearn to be in the world after our significant loss. For many of us these rituals have been altered or limited. just as the rest of life has been full of uncertainties. Loss during the time of COVID-19 brings a host of other issues that may complicate our grief and bereavement.

What has not changed is our desire to support you at this time, and our belief in the power of coming together. We are here to provide an opportunity for you to meet, support and share—together.

#### Pre-registration required via ShulCloud.

PRESENTED BY THE BETH TZEDEC CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING



An Empty Place at Seder with Rabbi Naomi Kalish and Rabbi Robyn Fryer Bodzin

Sunday, April 10 at 7:45 PM

For many of us this will be the first time in two years that we are joining with friends and family for Pesah. With the passing of time came the passing of some of the people we love and cherished as well.

We invite you to take some time out of your physical Pesah preparation and focus on your emotional needs as Pesah approaches.

Join Rabbi Naomi Kalish, the Harold and Carole Wolfe Director of the Center for Pastoral Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary, and Rabbi Robyn Fryer Bodzin as they help you get ready for a meaningful and heartfelt Pesah with Jewish wisdom texts, as well as tools and imagery for resilience and coping.

#### Pre-registration required via ShulCloud.

CO-SPONSORED BY THE BETH TZEDEC CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING AND THE CENTER FOR PASTORIAL EDUCATION AT THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

L'Chaim!

#### Friday evenings, check website for times

Connect

Ess Gezunterheit (Eat in Good

Thursday afternoons at 4:00 PM

did your Bubby teach you about

chicken soup? How come bialys

you recently read or watch that's

What's new? What's cooking? What

never made it to Canada? What did

worth sharing? What brings you joy

right now? We usually watch a short

cooking lesson in Yiddish and other

videos sometimes pop up, too. It's all

for fun and companionship. Link at

Seniors with Judy Libman

Health): BT Hazak Tea Time for

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



The PJ Library Presents Program (For toddlers ages 1 to 5 with a parent or caregiver)

#### Sundays from 10:30 to 11:30 AM

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

#### March 6—Let's Celebrate Purim!

There is no better way to get a start on all the fun than with a Purim story, mask-making and a costume parade!

#### April 3—It's Passover Time!

Let's get together with friends and family to enjoy a special Passover book, games and a craft project.

#### May 1—Yom Ha'atzmaut!

Join us to move, dance and celebrate Israel with a delightful story, music and crafts.

#### Pre-registration required via ShulCloud.

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

**Crafts and Fun for Kids!** (For kids in Grades 1 to 5) Sundays from 2:00 to 3:00 PM

Let's get together with friends at shul (or online) for fun projects and games.

#### March 6—Purim Fun!

We will retell the Purim story together, acting it out as if it took place during the COVID-19 pandemic with all the restrictions we faced. Let's see what modern Purim story we invent!!

#### April 3—Celebrate Passover!

Frogs! Bugs! Boils! Hail! The Passover story is a heck of an adventure. Let's see what fun activites we can create for ourselves and our friends.

May 1—It's Israel's Day! Break out the blue & white and let's celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut and Israel.

Pre-registration required via ShulCloud.

WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THE FIRST EVER WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THE CANADAUSY NATIONAL & CONVENTION

A USY Immersive March Break Experience March 11 - 14\* 2022 • Toronto, Ontario • Grades 9-12 REGISTER AT ECRUSY.ORG/CANADAUSY

\*Special leadership track for Toronto teens in grades 9-10 end



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









Shabbat Teen Lounge with Sylvie Moscovitz (For teens in Grades 7 to 12)

#### Saturdays, April 9 and May 28 at 11:00 AM

Come hang out with Sylvie and other teens at BT for games, snacks, and interesting discussions about Judaism on topic of your choice!

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



**BT Riders Small Group** 

#### Sundays, April 3 & 24 and May 22 at 8:45 AM

The BT Riders brings together people interested in cycling to build community and connection. With Reb Steve and Alan Sless as team captains, the 'team' with head outdoors to get some exercise and reconnect with neighbours after a long winter.

In inclement weather, this group can 'gather' virtually utilizing Zwift or Discord apps with a stationary bike, treadmill or other device.

This group is open to all, regardless of cycling experience. Contact Reb Steve with any questions you may have, including information about the Zwift or Discord apps.

Pre-registration required via ShulCloud.



#### The Great Chocolate Seder! (For kids in Grades 1 to 8)

#### Sunday, April 10 from 1:00 to 2:00 PM

Join us at Beth Tzedec for the return of our amazing chocolate seder! We will be going through the seder with all chocolate and candy ingredients!

This program is planned for in-person participation. Participants must wear a mask when not eating or drinking. Limited spaces available; register early to avoid disappointment.

Cost: \$15 for Beth Tzedec members; \$18 for non-members; Pre-registration is required via ShulCloud.



#### **ECRUSY Spring Convention** (For pre-teens and teens in Grades 6 to 12) Friday, May 20 to Monday, May 23

Calling all Jewish kids and teens in the Eastern Canadian Region in Grades 6 to 12! Join our annual Spring Convention—three days of fun programs, social action projects and opportunities to connect and chat with friends from near and far.

Registration details, cost and itineries are being confirmed. Check our website periodically for updates.

For information, email Sylvie Moscovitz.

PRESENTED BY EASTERN CANADA REGION USY



**USY Summer Experience** (For teens in Grades 9 to 12)

For over 60 years, USY has provided Jewish teens with transformative travel experiences, opening their eyes to new places, different ways of life, and some of the world's most spectacular sights. Now, it's YOUR turn to have the summer of a lifetime in the U.S., Canada, Israel, Europe, or the Dominican Republic. See where USY Summer Experience takes you ... and register today.

For information or to register, visit https://www.usy.org/summer/.



#### **Conversations Over Coffee** with Rabbi Steven Wernick

#### Monday afternoons at 12:30 PM

Reb Steve gathers a cadre of community personalities Mondays at lunch for conversations on politics, culture, social existence and Jewish life. Grab a coffee and join us on Facebook or YouTube.

#### UPCOMING SESSIONS:

March 7: Sabrina Mallach March 14: Mike Katz March 21: Joel Chasnoff March 28: Judy Librach



Day Trips in Jewish History with Hana Werner

#### Monday afternoons at 1:30 PM

Back by popular demand, lecturer and educator Hana Werner presents snapshots of Biblical and modernday stories, scrolls and characters.

#### WINTER SESSIONS-**Biblical Heroes**

March 7—Jonathan March 14—Queen Esther

SPRING SESSIONS-**Modern-Day Heroes** 

April 25—Shimon Peres May 2-Al Schwimmer May 9—Theodore Herzl May 16—Technological Innovators May 30-Natan Sharansky

#### Pre-registration required for each series via ShulCloud.

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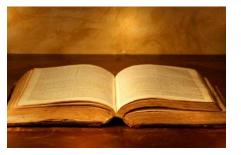
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### Daily Tanakh Study

#### Weekday afternoons at 3:00 PM

We continue our 929-day project studying each chaper from the Tanakh on our Facebook grouphttps://www.facebook.com/groups/144 2160352615555.



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

#### Monday evenings at 7:30 PM

The study of Talmud can seem overwhelming. In this weekly Zoom series, we will learn at a slow and deliberate pace, studying a single page of Talmud each week with Shabbat designated for personal review. This fall we will study Tractate Berakhot, the very first tractate of the Talmud.

No previous experience is necessary and students are invited to participate and drop in to our *shiur* as they are available. Sessions begin November 1.

#### For information or to pre-register, email Sheri Federman.

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



#### Torah Through the Ages with Rabbi Robyn Fryer Bodzin

#### Thursday mornings at 10:00 AM

Rabbi Fryer Bodzin leads an in-depth look at the weekly Torah portion with traditional and modern commentaries. It will be beneficial to have an Etz Chaim humash on hand; other materials will be provided.

#### Pre-registration required via ShulCloud.

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



# May 3 at 7:30 PM

Please join Cantor Sidney Ezer and Asher Farber as we explore many Jewish musical themes and genres revolving around Rosh Hodesh. Each month, we will explore many musical themes and genres associated with that month, streamed to our Facebook page and YouTube channel.



### Reb Steve's Salon with Rabbi Steven Wernick May 12 at 7:30 PM

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

# The Zionist Ideas.

### via ShulCloud.

MAX TANENBAUM



Mizmor Monthly with Cantor Sidney Ezer and Asher Farber Mondays, March 1, April 5 and

Thursdays, March 10, April 7 and

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

Pre-registration required for each series

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



**Megillah Moments** Monday, March 14 and Tuesday, March 15 at 8:45 AM

Join the Spiritual Leadership Team and a few guests as we take a new look at the megillot and their connection to festivals and holidays. Rabbi Fryer Bodzin and Reb Steve will unlock secrets of Esther following morning minyan.

This program will be offered via Zoom, though those who come to the morning service on Monday will be able to join the Rabbis in the Lounge following services.

Pre-registration required via ShulCloud



#### Seder Strategies: A Workshop on Designing Child-Centric Seder **Experiences**

#### Thursday, March 31 at 7:45 PM

Reb Steve leads a special workshop helping you create an engaging and exciting Passover Seder for all kinds of participants: adults, children, and even guests on Zoom. You will walk away from this program with plenty of tangible tools and ideas to uplift your Passover celebration.

Pre-registration required via ShulCloud.



#### **BT Book & Film Club Series** Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 PM SPRING SESSIONS

#### March 30—The Diary of a Young *Girl* by Anne Frank

Discovered in the attic in which she spent the last years of her life, Anne Frank's remarkable diary has since become a world classic-a powerful reminder of the horrors of war and an eloquent testament to the human spirit. Led by Harriet Morris.

#### April 27—*The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett

Weaving together multiple strands and generations of this family, from the Deep South to California, from the 1950s to the 1990s, Brit Bennett produces a story that is at once a riveting, emotional family story and a brilliant exploration of the American history of passing. Led by Cathy Tile.

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY PHYLLIS AND AB<sup>Z<sup>\*1</sup></sup> FLATT AND CAROL AND HAROLD WOLFE, IN MEMORY OF MAX AND BEATRICE WOLFE

#### May 18—Film title TBC

Check the Beth Tzedec website for confirmation of the film coming soon. Led by Dr. Gillian Helfield.

Pre-registration required via Shulcloud.



L'Dor Va Dor Pirkei Avot Wednesdays, April 27, May 4, 11, 18 & 25 and June 1 at 11:00 AM

Pirkei Avot is a tractate of the Mishnah that details the Torah's views on ethics and interpersonal relationships. During this six-week learning series, we will examine how the Rabbis of Pirkei Avot shared wisdom with each other.

We will reference the Rabbinic Assembly's edition of Pirkei Avot Lev Shalem. All participants will be required to have a copy on-hand. Copies can be purchased through Beth Tzedec for \$40.

This learning series will be offered both for in-person and virtual participation. Pre-registration is required for all; those attending in person must provide proof of full vaccination.

Pre-registration required via Shulcloud.



**Notable Speakers Series** Wednesday afternoons at 1:00 PM SPRING SESSIONS

#### April 13–Toby Saltzman, Travel Writer: Exploring Germany as a Jewish Travel Writer

Award-winning travel journalist Toby Saltzman will present a visual tour of Germany along with her experiences as a Jewish travel writer exploring the country. Highlights will include her visit to the recently refurbished Gorlitz Synagogue, the only synagogue in the Saxony region to survive Kristallnacht.

#### May 11—Laurence Siegel, Filmmaker Footprints/Lábnyomok

Laurence Siegel is director and producer of this dance short film that commemorates the 1944 murder of Budapest Jews by the Hungarian Arrow Cross Militia. Laurence will screen the film and discuss its creation, reception and meaning, including its goal to honour the memories of the hundreds of thousands of Hungarian Jews murdered in the Holocaust towards the end of World War II.

Pre-registration required via Shulcloud.



The evening of Shavuot is traditionally spent learning until late into the night. Following our Festival Minhah / Seudah Shlisheet / Ma'ariv services offered in-person or via livestream, join members of our Spiritual Leadership and special guests as we connect for learning sessions exploring themes related to the concept of *Panim El Panim*—Face to Face. Pre-registration for learning sessions is required to access the Zoom link information.





Mother-Daughter Rosh Hodesh with Rabbi Fryer Bodzin and Sylvie Moscovitz Librach

#### Sunday, April 3 at 5:30 PM

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

#### Pre-registration required via ShulCloud.

PRESENTED BY THE BETH TZEDEC CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING



Iran: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow with Professor Stephen Berk

#### Thursday, April 28 at 7:00 PM

In conclusion of the 2021-2022 lecture series, Professor Stephen Berk speaks about Iran from a historical perspective to the current situation and toward a future influence.

Pending the continued relaxation of COVID protocols and restrictions, this lecture may be offered as an in-person weekend lecture series.

#### Pre-registration required via ShulCloud

The sam & sarah kerzner and joseph KERZNER HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL INSTITUTE

PRESENTED BY BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION. BETH EMETH BAIS YEHUDA SYNAGOGUE AND THE IEWISH FOUNDATION OF GREATER TORONTO

# Prav



#### Weekday Shaharit Services Sunday mornings at 8:45 AM Weekday mornings at 7:30 AM

Begin your day with our morning minyan Sundays through Fridays. Our morning Shaharit services are streamed via Zoom. (Visit our website for Zoom links.) We are also happy to announce that you can attend in person every Sunday, Monday and Thursday morning.

Those attending in-person must provide proof of identity and full vaccination status Upload vaccine verification via ShulCloud



Minhah-Ma'ariv Services

check website for times

At the end of the day, join us on Zoom for our evening services via https://zoom.us/j/668598809. You can also join by phone only by calling 647-374-4685 and inputting the meeting ID 668-598-809. At present, we are not able to offer in-person evening davening but check our website for updates and changes as Public Health recommendations are revised over the coming weeks.

### Every Sunday to Thursday evening;



#### Friday Early Minhah Services Friday afternoons, March 4 & 11; check website for times

During the winter months, before the clocks 'spring forward', join our *Minhah-*only service via Zoom at https://zoom.us/j/668598809.



#### Kabbalat Shabbat and Ma'ariv Every Friday evening at 6:00 PM

Prepare your spirit for Shabbat with song, comfort and community at our Kabbalat Shabbat and Ma'ariv services, either in person in the Hendeles Chapel or streamed to our new https://www.bethtzedec.tv/ livestream hub.

Those attending in-person must provide proof of identity and full vaccination status. Upload vaccine verification via ShulCloud.



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



Shabbat at the Floor Services Fridays, March 4, April 1 and May 6 at 6:00 PM

Once a month, join us in-person or on our https://www.bethtzedec.tv/ livestream for a musically-infused Kabbalat Shabbat and Ma'ariv experience. Led by Yacov Fruchter, Cantor Sidney Ezer, artist-inresidence Aviva Chernick and our Rabbis, this intimate service will help prepare your spirit for Shabbat with song, comfort and community.

Those attending in-person must provide proof of identity and full vaccination status. Upload vaccine verification via ShulCloud.



#### **Sanctuary Services** Saturday mornings at 9:30 AM

Our Shabbat service offers the energy and inspiration of a liturgical and spiritual Shabbat experience as you sing along with **Cantor Sidney** Ezer. Rabbis Steven Wernick and Robyn Fryer Bodzin offer insights into our Torah reading.

Join us in person in the Sanctuary or at https://www.bethtzedec.tv/ for our musical and spiritual davening experience.

Those attending in-person must provide proof of identity and full vaccination status. Upload vaccine verification via ShulCloud.



Little Minyan Services Saturday mornings, March 5, 12 & 26, April 9 & 30 and May 14 & 28 at 9:30 AM

Looking to be more actively involved in the worship experience? The Little Minyan offers a traditional service in a relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere full of song, spirit and warmth. Participants lead portions of the service and Torah readers, daveners and those wishing to deliver a D'var Torah are always welcome. Contact Rabbi Fryer Bodzin to arrange to lead portions or for an aliyah.

Those attending in-person must provide proof of identity and full vaccination status. Upload vaccine verification via ShulCloud.



#### **Musical Participatory Services** Saturday mornings, March 26, April 30 and May 28 at 9:30 AM

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

Those attending in-person must provide proof of identity and full vaccination status. Upload vaccine verification via ShulCloud.



Havdalah, Torah Study and Kaddish

Every Saturday evening; check website for times

Join us on Facebook or Zoom for a live Havdalah experience and some Torah to begin a new week followed by Mourner's Kaddish. We hope this experience together can continue to help create spiritual nearness in the midst of our physical distancing.



#### **Refugee Awareness Shabbat** Saturday, March 5 at 9:30 AM

Refugee Awareness Shabbat is a moment for our kehillah to turn outward and dedicate a Shabbat experience to the millions of refugees worldwide fleeing persecution and violence. For many, it is also an opportunity to reflect on the refugee experiences of our own families.

South African-born immigration lawyer Adam Hummel will reflect on Parashat Pekudei and how it relates to the experiences of modern-day refugees. Much like the Israelites building the Mishkan in the desert, refugees are in unfamiliar countries trying to build a new home and life, with entire communities coming together to help them.

Those attending in-person must provide proof of identity and full vaccination status. Upload vaccine verification via ShulCloud.



#### Megillah Readings @ Beth Tzedec Wednesday, March 16 at 7:00 PM and Thursday, March 17 at 7:30 AM

Join our festive Purim Minhah-Ma'ariv and Shaharit services, including a fun, full reading of the Megillah, for in-person and livestream daveners. Get in costume, grab the groggers and join us at BT or via livestream at https://www.bethtzedec.tv/.

Those attending to hear megillah reading in-person must provide proof of identity and full vaccination status. Upload vaccine verification via ShulCloud.

# Celebrate



#### Parking Lot Purim Carnival Sunday, March 13

from 2:00 to 4:00 PM

Grab your costumes, maybe throw on a winter coat and head on over to Beth Tzedec for fun, festive Purim carnival in our parking lot!

For information, email Daniel Silverman.



Abridged Family Megillah Reading Wednesday, March 16 at 5:00 PM

Come together in-person or online (in your best costume, of course) for an early, abridged Megillah reading. Perfect for little ones and older ones, too. We'll retell the Purim story, listen to parts of Megillat Esther and make lots and lots of noise!

Pre-registration required for both in-person and online participation via ShulCloud.



from Shir Hashirim

Hashirim 5:2)

On this Shabbat before Pesah, we warm up our prayer space, our homes and our hearts with this pre-Kabbalat Shabbat concert highlighting the beautiful poetry of Shir Hashirim-Song of Songs.

This musical event features Aviva Chernick together with Cantor Sidney Ezer and an accomplished musical ensemble. Join us in-person or via Zoom as we prepare to welcome Shabbat together with song.

Those attending in-person must provide proof of identity and full vaccination status. Pre-registration required for both in-person and online participation via ShulCloud.

### **Open My Heart: Songs of Love**

#### Tuesday, April 8 at 5:00 PM

"I was asleep but my heart was aware.. the voice of my Beloved is in me." (Shir



#### Shul of Rock: Megillat Esther Thursday, March 17 at 7:30 PM

This year's Purim event brings together legendary songs, legendary artists and legendary performances as the soundtrack to Megillat Esther.

Conceived as a virtual live concert using the artists' original performances, you'll give in to the urge to sing and dance along, and gain a deeper understanding of the characters and events through party songs, drinking songs, break-up songs, relationship songs, fighting-back songs and celebratory songs from a 70-year catalogue of rock, pop, ballads, anthems, country & western and more, presented by the same international ensemble that gave us Motown Megillat Esther and Megillat Ruth: The Musical.

Dress in the spirit of the event, whether it's Shushan Royal business casual from 400 BCE or dressed for vour favourite concert or theatre venue from the 1950s onward (that also makes a really good virtual background). And save a little time for a special Purim seudah together!

For a little inspiration, you can stream our "Shul of Rock" video.

Pre-registration required via ShulCloud.



#### Second Seder with the Wernicks Saturday evening, April 16 at 7:30 PM

Whether you're celebrating alone this year or hoping to recapture the fun of big, bustling Pesah meals of the past, you're invited to share the second seder with Reb Steve and family for a lively, engaging seder. If COVID protocols allow, a small number will be able to join the Wernicks in their home for the seder on a first-come basis.

Pre-registration required via ShulCloud.



#### Yom Ha'atzmaut Family Celebration Thursday, May 5 from 4:30 to 6:00 PM

Aya and Liel, our UJA shinshiniyot, welcome you to a fantastic Yom Ha'atzmaut camily carnival! Join us for carnival games, Israeli food, dancing and more to celebrate Israel's 74<sup>th</sup> birthday. Registration information coming soon.



Jerusalem Love Songs and Stories: **Celebrating Yom Yerushalayim** Together

#### Sunday, May 29 at 7:30 PM

Celebrate Yom Yerushalayim with a coffee-house experience featuring music, poetry, songs and stories about Jerusalem. We will hear how the city has impacted poets and writers, as well as some members of our Beth Tzedec community.

### The Rav Roy Tanenbaum Israel Scholarship

Beth Tzedec is pleased to announce a new scholarship fund for students enrolled in degree programs in accredited colleges or university in Israel. Preference will be given to Beth Tzedec members. For more information, please contact Hadassah Bernstein at 416-781-3514, ext. 244 or hbernstein@beth-tzedec.org.

PJ Library Invites you to...

Get comfy and cozy for a morning filled with fun, new friends, Jewish programming and creative activities.

#### For Toddlers with a Parent, Grandparent or Caregiver



### **PJ Library presents: Purim!** for families with children up to age 5 Sunday, March 6 at 10:30 AM

Let's get into our costumes and enjoy all the spirit and fun of Purim! Join us at Beth Tzedec for a Purim story, mask-making and a costume parade with your friends! Register via email to Daniel Silverman at dsilverman@beth-tzedec.org





בית צדק

eth Tzedec Congregatio

## Give & Get



Love Thy Neighbour: An Interfaith Mitzvah Project Opportunity

Sundays, March 6 & 20 and April 10 at 12:00 NOON

Beth Tzedec is again supporting the St. Michael's All Angels Anglican Church Out of the Cold lunch program. Each Sunday, St. Michael's provides a warm meal to 70 of hungry neighbours, and this is an opportunity to participate in this mitzvah.

Here is how you can help:

- Sign up for a shift to help serve the hot meals.
- Sign up to bake nut-free treats to be distributed with the warm meals.
- Create handwritten drawings and cards to share some love with meals.
- Donate to the Beth Tzedec Food Insecurity Fund.

To register, email Avital Narvey.



with Liel and Aya

Learn

#### Tuesdays, March 8, 15, 22 & 29, April 5, 12 & 26, May 10 & 17 and June 7 at 7:45 PM (via Zoom)

Aya and Liel, our UJA shinshiniyot, are excited to offer lovers of Hebrew a place to gather together on Zoom and deepen their knowledge.

The Tachles curriculum is perfect for beginners looking to grow their modern Hebrew vocabulary, and a parallel experience will be offered for those wishing to engage in Hebrew at a more advanced level.

#### To register, email Daniel Silverman.

SPONSORED BY WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION: DEPARTMENT OF IRGOON AND ISRAELIS ABROAD AND CANADIAN ZIONIST FEDERATION

# **PURIM FUN** FOR GRADES 1 TO 5

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 6 FROM 2:00 TO 3:00 PM

We will retell the Purim story together, acting it out as if it took place during the COVID-19 pandemic with all the restrictions we faced! Let's see what modern Purim story we invent!

Register via email to Daniel Silverman at dsilverman@beth-tzedec.org.



# Late Additions

**Tachles: A Hebrew Experience** 





#### ScholarStream Learning Series A Partnership of the Conservative Movement

#### Learn

#### Tuesday or Wednesday evenings at 8:00 PM (via Zoom)

Following a successful launch of our ScholarStream program in 5781, we are excited to announce the full year of ScholarStream learning in 5782! Beginning in October and spanning all the way up to Shavuot, the **Conservative Movement seminaries** and institutions are partnering to offer eight series that will bring you face-to-face with the brightest and most engaging scholars our movement has to offer.

Scholarstream 5782 features three distinct arcs of learning that stand alone or flow into each other. Our final arc is "Renewing Our Resilience" and will offer an exploration of who we are, where we are in relation to others, and how we move forward in this complicated world.

#### No charge for Beth Tzedec members; pre-registration required. To register, click here>> and enter the code Thornhill21.

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

PRESENTED AS AN INITIATIVE OF THE RA, USCJ, JTS AND ZIEGLER

## Passover Guide

Why This Passover is Different from Last Year As we return to gathering, we return to seder. We wish everyone a safe and joyous Passover.

Preparing Our Homes for Passover This year, as we transition back to 'normal' routines and practices, we can again plan to prepare and celebrate Passover with family, friends and neighbours.

While we are less in a state of sha'atk'khak, time of crisis, we must still take care to follow the guidance of our local public health authorities. For guidance on *kashering* your home or hosting or attending sedarim with others, please contact Sheri Federman at 416-781-3514 ext. 227 to request an appointment with a member of our Spiritual Leadership.

#### Seder

Individuals living alone or those absolutely unable to prepare for Passover are encouraged to contact us directly and we will do our best to help you acquire what you need to enjoy a Passover seder.

#### Kosher for Passover

We should strive to clean our homes for Passover as we normally would. In the coming weeks, we will make available the Rabbinical Assembly's "Passover Guide" for 2022/5782. In the meantime, you can review last year's recommendations here>>.

Vegetarians and vegans are permitted, l'hathilah, from the outset, to eat kitniyot (legumes).

#### Yizkor

As is our tradition, we will mark Yizkor in person and with a livestreamed service on the last day of Pesah. Please note that this service will begin at 9:30 AM, via our new Beth Tzedec TV livestream hub. We will record Yizkor and make it available on **Beth Tzedec TV** and social media channels following the service.

#### The Sale of Hametz

Forms to sell your *hametz* to our Rabbis who will sell it on your behalf may be accessed **here** or found on the Beth Tzedec website. Alternately, you can contact our Synagogue office at 416-781-3511 or info@beth-tzedec.org to make arrangements to sell your hametz.

Contributions to Rabbi Wernick's Discretionary Fund in honour of this mitzvah are especially appreciated at this time, as there are many people continue to face food insecurity that require *tzedakah* and these contributions will be earmarked to purchase food vouchers.

#### The Fast of the Firstborn

Following morning *minyan* on Friday, April 15 at 7:30 AM, we will provide a siyyum (completion of a cycle of study) in person and on Zoom. Join us for coffee and a bagel in the comfort of your own home or with our Spiritual Leadership and kehillah at Beth Tzedec as we celebrate this learning together.

#### Bidikat and Biur Hametz

The search for *hametz* takes place as usual Thursday, April 14, using the formula found in your Hagaddah. If you do not have a Hagaddah, see one of the resources we have made available on our website.

Traditionally, we use a candle, a wooden spoon and a feather to find even the smallest amount of hametz. If you don't have these tools handy, you can use any utensil or product in your home that accomplishes the same symbolism.

We will provide an opportunity for people to burn their hametz at Beth Tzedec in our parking lot from 10:00 to 10:30 AM. If you have any questions, please contact Lorne Hanick at 416-781-3514 ext. 240.

We encourage our *kehillah* to do so at home using their barbeque, a metal trashcan or in another safe manner. If that is not possible, then one may crumble the *hametz* and throw it into a flowing body of water or into a natural area where animals are likely to consume it, as in tashlikh, the casting away of our sins on Rosh Hashanah

#### Other Resources

We will be posting a variety of Passover resources, downloadable Hagaddot, supplemental readings and the like for all ages on our website. Check back regularly to see what's been added.

We pray that each of us celebrates a meaningful, safe and healthy Passover and that God will bless all humanity with health, happiness and shlaymoot.

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



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

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

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

There are four ways we fulfil the Biblical mitzvah of ridding ourselves of hametz before Pesah: we clean our homes; we burn any remaining crumbs; we verbally declare that any hametz in our possession is worthless and no longer owned by us; and to ensure that there is no question about our intent to remove *hametz* from our possiession, we sell our hametz to non-Jews who may own leavened products on Passover.

If you are unable to personally sell your hametz, please complete this form no later than 6:00 PM on Thursday, April 14.

You are welcome to join us in the parking lot on Friday, April 15 from 10:00 to 10:30 AM to burn hametz. For information, contact Lorne Hanick

### Selling Your Hametz





In 2021, there were approximately 84 million forcibly displaced people worldwide. Of those, 48 million were internally displaced people and 26.6 million were refugees.

# An Update from the Refugee Sponsorship Group

The Beth Tzedec Refugee Sponsorship Group invites you to support our Refugee Sponsorship initiative through Canada's unique refugee resettlement program called the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) program.

In 1979, the Canadian government created the Private Refugee Sponsorship Programme. Ordinary Canadians could form a group with others; family, neighbours, members of a religious organization, for example, to raise money to bring a refugee family or individual to Canada. The government laid out the rules—the sponsor group had to be approved, had to raise a designated amount of money and agree to be responsible for the resettlement of the refugees for a full calendar year from the day of arrival.

In many cases, the sponsor group had connected with an anchorperson, someone who had come to Canada as a refugee and was now looking for help to bring the family here. The programme was and is a tremendous success. Over the years, Canadians have stepped up: we have supported the Vietnamese refugees, Syrians, the Rohingya, Yazidis, Eritreans and now, Afghanis.

So what is the definition of a refugee? A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee their country because of war, persecution or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group.

Refugees are only eligible for sponsorship if they are no longer in their home country. This often means dangerous travel to another country, sometimes by paying smugglers. It

may mean leaving partners and children behind while one family member, usually the dad, goes ahead to try and find a place to live and a way to earn money. Sometimes it means families being separated for years in different countries.

In 2021, there were approximately 84 million forcibly displaced people worldwide. Of those, 48 million were internally displaced people and 26.6 million were refugees. An estimated 35 million forcibly displaced persons were under 18, and in the last couple of years, about one million kids have been born as refugees.

The members of Beth Tzedec stepped up to sponsor a Syrian family in 2016. That family, the Alhamwis, became Canadian citizens on January 20, 2022. The kids are in school and both parents are working. We are no longer their sponsors; we are now their friends, even family.

Our current family, an Eritrean family of six, fled from their homeland to Ethiopia. There have been many recent news articles about the situation in Ethiopia and the plight of the people in the Tigray Region of northern Ethiopia and Eritrea.

After spending years in a refugee camp in the Tigray Region, the family made a perilous journey to Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia. Each day, they live in fear of being arrested by Ethiopian authorities or kidnapped by Eritrean soldiers and sent back to Eritrea, where they face prison or, even worse, death. The mother and daughter are afraid to go out alone.

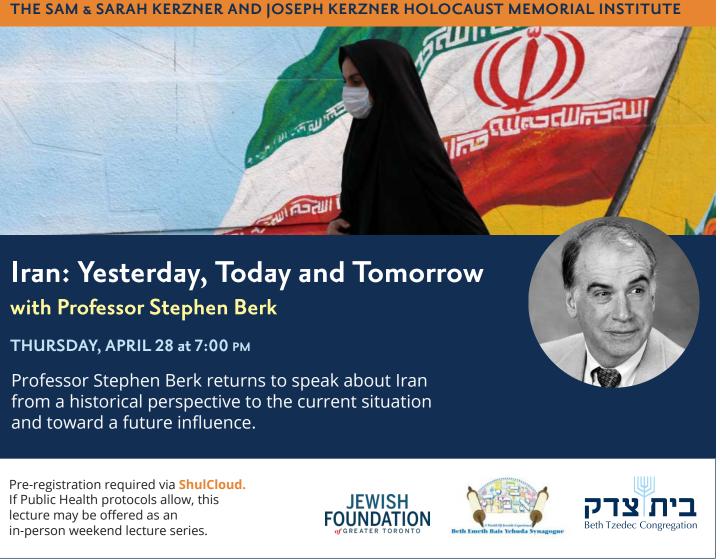
A teenage son of their friends was assaulted on the street after being overheard speaking Tigrinya, a Semitic language commonly spoken in Eritrea and Ethiopia's Tigray

Region. However, they continue to teach themselves English and prepare as best they can for their new life in Canada- although nothing will prepare them for a Toronto winter!

The Refugee Sponsorship Group has been working hard, collecting furniture donated by generous Beth Tzedec members and community members. We have also been consulting with an incredibly responsive staffer at an MP's constituency office who has been helping us move our sponsorship application along. We hope our family will receive permission to travel during this calendar year.

How can you help?

- page.
- a home.



• Please consider joining the Beth Tzedec refugee sponsorship group. If you are looking for an incredibly fulfilling volunteer opportunity, look no further. Check out our group members talking about their experiences on our information

• Once we know when the family will arrive, we will reach out for household items, linens, kitchen stuff–everything needed to furnish

• Please consider a donation to the refugee sponsorship fund.

• Attend the programs organized by the clergy, staff, and laypeople at Beth Tzedec to learn more about Ethiopia and Eritrea's stories, history, and politics.

Organizations like HIAS, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society in the U.S., and JIAS, Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (which manages our sponsorship committee's relationship with the Government of Canada), were founded to help Jews. We continue to do this work because we are Jews.



If you happened to be at Beth Tzedec on a day when no clergy were present, (highly unusual), you need not worry as Lyon Wexler can and will lead the service.



## Lyon Wexler: He Does It All

I have always said there are three certainties in life-death, taxes and change. When I joined Beth Tzedec in 2013, I added a fourth: Lyon Wexler davening. His voice and presence are hard to miss and that fact is all the more remarkable given that he is now 87. You would be hard-pressed to believe that if you heard him lead services. He has a distinct style.

Wexler's abilities with the prayer book did not come accidentally. Born and raised in Montreal, Yehuda Leib (his

Hebrew name) had the benefit of having a caring grandfather who would take him to synagogue when Lyon was just a toddler. Even then, Wexler felt an attachment to shul. As he puts it, he was attracted to cantorial music. Later, a synagogue was built right across the street from his home where he spent much time.

Benjamin Friedberg later became Rabbi of Agudath Israel.)

A graduate of Carleton College (now Carleton University), Wexler enrolled at Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto. Following graduation, he practiced law for many years and was appointed a Q.C. in 1980.

His law career and family connections soon led him to other pursuits. His then father-in-law was involved in the world of horse breeding and racing, pursuits in which Wexler became interested and

enjoyed immensely. One of his horses was entered and raced in the Queen's Plate but unfortunately did not fare too well. However, members of the family present were introduced to the Queen Mother in the paddock before the race which could be considered a "perk" of having a horse running in Canada's oldest and most prestigious race.

Wexler was schooled at Herzylia Hebrew High School followed by time at Yeshiva University's High School programme. He was raised in a kosher home and with that background, it was natural for him to prioritize synagogue life where he was often asked to lead services.

Wexler attended Camp Massad, the first Hebrew-speaking camp in Canada, and even had his bar mitzvah there. The Wexler family relocated to Ottawa where Lyon often led services at the Agudath Israel Synagogue until the arrival of a full-time cantor. (Coincidentally, Rabbi J.

Over the years, Wexler's various relationships led him to the business world where he was immersed for many years. That route should not be so surprising given his ease in meeting and talking with people. You notice his smile and humour right away.

Today, Wexler hangs his hat at The Metrontario Group where he has been since 2004. Metrontario is a large business development with ventures in real estate, environmental development, nuclear medicine, marine agriculture and tourism. The company's head office

is in Toronto with satellite offices in Israel. The breadth of what Metrontario offers reminds me of Wexler and the full range of what he provides at each and every service he leads. He can do it all.

If you happened to be at Beth Tzedec on a day when no clergy were present, (highly unusual), you need not worry as Lyon Wexler can and will lead the service. By the way, he does it all in a siddur the size of your hand with a print size readable only by 10-year-old eyes! It matters little to Wexler who does it by heart. I suppose the only aspect of the service I have yet to hear from him is a sermon, but likely he has done that over the years. Truth be told, Wexler enjoys being an integral part of the service.



# Maayan Belding-Zidon, Our Tanenbaum Fellow

Introducing Maayan Belding-Zidon, the Anne & Max Tanenbaum Fellow for 5782.

This year marks the 18th anniversary of the Tanenbaum Fellow program. The Fellows receive a significant financial award and the opportunity for a twoweek internship at Beth Tzedec, followed by a two-week experience at Camp Ramah Canada. Fellows alternate between rabbinical students with a Canadian connection who study at the Jewish Theological Seminary and Israeli students from the Beit Midrash of the Schechter Institute. While at Beth Tzedec, the Fellow shadows our rabbis, experiencing daily activities in synagogue and community,

Wexler traces his connection to Beth Tzedec to 2001 when he became a member of the Congregation. He is appreciative of his association with the synagogue over the past 20 years and has been on various committees in the shul-Ritual, Cantorial Search and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Many people recall Wexler for his many appearances on stage at the many Purim shpiels the synagogue staged, particularly his roles as both Mordechai and Haman. He was very clear in his gratitude to the people he has been in contact with,

committees.

including all the rabbis, cantors and staff that have served during his time as a member. What stood out for me about Lyon Wexler when I chatted with him was just how thankful he is for the people he has known at Beth

Tzedec and Metrontario.

In closing, in Lyon Wexler, you have a man who gets full value from his membership at Beth Tzedec and yet, at the same time, he is a man who understands the value of the people he meets and greets each day. With that and his four sons, seven grandchildren (with two more coming this year) Wexler has been blessed. He knows it and appreciates it all.

-Gerry Posner

Gerry Posner is a retired lawyer from Winnipeg who moved to Toronto in 2012 with his wife Sherna.

participating in lifecycle events, learning about the life of a large congregation, and teaching Torah in various settings.

Maayan is a rabbinical student with the Masorti-Conservative Movement at the Schechter Institutes in Jerusalem. A native of Hyde Park, New York, she graduated from Yale with a degree in Modern Middle East Studies in 2013 and worked with youth at risk in Boston before moving to Israel in 2016. Before starting her rabbinical training, she worked at Israel Experience as an informal educator with Diaspora young adults in Israel.

Maayan lives in Rishon LeZion with her wife and three cats.





# Welcoming Karen and Yuri to Team BT

#### **Karen Goldstein**

We are pleased to officially welcome the newest member to our professional team, Karen Goldstein, in the role of Senior Executive Assistant.

Karen brings many years of working in the Jewish community to Beth Tzedec Congregation. Karen worked at Prosserman Jewish Community Centre for 11 years as their Executive Assistant. Prior to that, she worked for the Canadian Council for Reform Judaism for 18 years as the Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director. And over the past eight months, she has filled a temporary position here as Executive Assistant, working with our professional staff and lay leadership.

Karen will be assisting Rabbi Robyn Fryer Bodzin, planning milestone celebrations and events at Beth Tzedec Congregation. She is very excited to be a part of a great team.

Karen has three wonderful children and three special grandchildren.

#### Yuri Vitovsky-Remi

Originally known for heading the Aquatics programs of the Prosserman and Schwartz Reisman JCC's, Yuri leveraged his passion for photography, as well as audio, video, computer, and network engineering to reinvent himself over the course of the pandemic as a broadcast professional.

Yuri is most typically seen streaming Beth Tzedec's services and programs, building AV infrastructure, editing videos, taking photos and flying his drone.

Yuri has been described by his Beth Tzedec peers as "the one who has the most fun."

### Men's Club Makes a Difference

#### Men's Club Scholarship Program

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

The criteria judge applicants is based on the following and should be given careful consideration when applying:

- The financial need of the candidate.
- The program of study for which the funds will be used.
- The career goals of the candidate and how the program of study relates to it.

### Hesed from a Distance

#### Out of the Cold Program

Our Out of the Cold program operated out of St. Luke's United Church again this winter due to the pandemic. Once again, Rafi Aaron, my co-chair from Beth Sholom, and Reverend James Keenan from St. Luke's United Church ran our program for the homeless during the winter months.

We completed the 20-week program of offering a hot dinner at St. Luke's and served roughly 550 meals on Sunday and Wednesday evenings. This under-taking was quite challenging, given the strictest health and safety protocols as determined by Toronto Public Health that had to be followed. We thank Reverend James Keenan from for his unwavering compassion toward the homeless population and for providing us with the opportunity to work together in solidarity with other faith-based groups.

This year, we added a new component to our program. Street Outreach

engaged with the homeless on the streets. It was especially impactful for those with disabilities unable to come to the Church to collect meals.

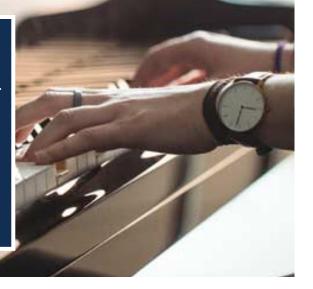
The number of homeless continues to grow exponentially in Toronto. As a result, the outreach will continue to operate year-round, though not as part of the Out of the Cold Program.

A particular debt of gratitude is owed to Rafi Aaron from Beth Sholom. He worked tirelessly both behind the scenes and in-person every Wednesday and Sunday night at St. Luke's United Church. He ensured that every safety protocol was respected and that every guest, harm reduction worker and volunteer felt safe and protected. Rafi never let an unused meal go to waste; he made sure that left-over meals were delivered to those living in the encampments. His dedication and empathy toward the plight of the homeless in our community know no bounds.

### Mizmor Monthly

Mizmor Monthly with Cantor Sidney Ezer and Asher Farber Mondays, March 1, April 5 and May 3 at 7:30 PM

Please join Cantor Sidney Ezer and Asher Farber as we explore many Jewish musical themes and genres revolving around Rosh Hodesh. Each month, we will explore many musical themes and genres associated with that month, streamed to our Facebook page and YouTube channel.



- The benefit that may be brought to the Jewish community by the candidate.
- The overall quality of the application.
- Special needs or other consideration.
- The information provided is the sole source upon which the scholarship committee will make a decision.
- Download an application here or contact Hersh Rosenthal at hershr@rogers.com.
- The deadline for applications is April 8, 2022. Applications received after that date will not be considered.



We want to also thank all volunteers who assisted, despite the constraints and dangers inherent in the pandemic. Donations of food offered by Provincial Fruit and Commercial Bakeries were appreciated. Beth Tzedec's Men's Club has been a steadfast supporter of our program and once again has provided a very generous monetary donation. Don Smith, one of our veteran volunteers, did an outstanding job leading the volunteers at our meal program. A huge thank you is owed to Terri Humphries, who always works tirelessly to promote Out of the Cold.

#### **Our Hesed Tribute Cards**

If anyone would like to support the Out of the Cold program, please consider purchasing a Tribute Card in honour or memory of someone special, with the proceeds earmarked for OOTC.

# Tributes

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

#### **Camp Ramah Fund**

Beverley Black, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Ada Starkman.

Phyllis Flatt, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Ab Flatt.

Phyllis Flatt, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Beatrice Wolfe.

Gerold and Rosylin Goldlist, honouring Phyllis Flatt on the birth of her greatgrandson Asher.

Rochelle and Michael Kerzner and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Norton Lorne Grimson.

#### Susan and Paul Lindzon and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Åb Flatt. Marlene Rattner, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Ada Starkman. Carla and Michael Worb and family. honouring Stephen and Ilene Flatt on

the birth of their grandson Ollie Simon.

#### **Cantor Sidney Ezer Discretionary Fund**

An anonymous contribution, honouring the first yahrtzeit of Arlene (Etty) Silver. Ilana Albert-Novick, honouring Annette Albert.

Ellen Band, honouring **Cantor Sidney** Ezer.

Donnie Friedman, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Mark Bohnen.

J. Lowell Pancer and Dena Pollack, honouring Cantor Sidney Ezer for his participation in the bar mitzvah of their son Lewis.

Steven Rayson and Elissa Gamus, honouring **Cantor Sidney Ezer** for his participation in the bar mitzvah of their son Joseph Gamus-Rayson.

Dara Schwartz, Amir Walden and family, honouring Cantor Sidney Ezer for helping their son prepare for his bar mitzvah.

Joseph and Elaine Steiner, honouring Cantor Sidney Ezer.

Ellen and David Zworth, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Hilda Hindy Davis.

#### **Food Insecurity Fund**

Shirley Brazer, honouring Patti and Sheldon Rotman.

Ruth and Alby Garbe, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Esther Matlow**. Irving Matlow, commemorating the yahrzteit of Esther Marlow. Irving Matlow, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Jean Matlow. Anne and Mitch Max, honouring Randy

and Debbie Spiegel and family on the birth of their granddaughters Eliana Tzofia and Yakira Liba.

Susan and Norman Mogil, acknowledging Rick Rodney and family in memory of Sheila Rodney.

Richard Seligman, acknowledging Resa Eisen in memory of Sidney Seligman.

Garv. Jill. Ira and Jonah Stern. commemorating the vahrtzeit of Morton Stern.

#### **General Fund**

Ellen Band, honouring the **Daily Minyan** participants.

Murray and Cheryl Cepler and family, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Frances Irene Cepler.

Joyce Chapnick and family,

commemorating the *yahrtzeiten* of Dr. Murray Peiser and Mollie Peiser.

Arthur Cole, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Judith Cole. Murray Collis, commemorating the

yahrtzeit of Rick Collis.

Perry and Shirley Cooper, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Hyman Cooper.

Jeffrey and Tamara Cummings, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Dr. Anne Cummings.

Jeffrey and Tamara Cummings, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Michael Cummings.

Ron and Diane Ennis, honouring Hana Werner.

Martin Halpern and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Sidney Halpern.

Charles Heller, honouring Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl.

Charles Heller, honouring the memories of Otto Heller and Betty Heller.

Lou Hoffer, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Sally Hoffer.

Shaya and Ziva Izenberg, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Helen Izenberg. Larry and Karen Leiter, commemorating

the yahrtzeit of Jack S. Leiter. Larry and Karen Leiter, commemorating

the yahrtzeit of Mildred Leiter. Ruth Milne, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Bernie Tishman. Roslyn Nathanson and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of

Belle Singer. Ruth Nichols, commemorating the

yahrtzeit of Samuel Nichols.

Les and Mary Richmond, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Marilyn Richmond. Sandra and Hascal Rosen, commemorating the yahrtzeit of

### Leah Rappaport Zatz.

Gordon and Mona Rosenberg, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Joseph Rosenberg.

### Rosette Rutman, Stephen and Tamara

Abrams, marking the conclusion of Kaddish for Abraham Rutman. Paul Sheldon and Amy Phillips,

commemorating the yahrtzeit of Irving Sheldon.

Carole and Marvin Sherkin, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Sari Troister.

Mel and Ruth Steinhart, honouring Brenda Orser on her bat mitzvah. Martha Sud and family, commemorating

the yahrtzeit of David Sud. Gail and Stuart Teperman and family, commemorating the vahrtzeit of

#### Marvin Mandell.

Steve Wernick, honouring Ziva Wernick. Gerald and Lynda White, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Harry White.

Mila Zigelman and family, commemorating

the yahrtzeit of Leon Zigelman. David and Ellen Zworth, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Mickey Zworth.

#### Hesed Fund

Frances Ackerman and Henry Einstoss, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Jack Einstoss.

Rosalee Berlin and family, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Anne Tennenbaum.

#### Rosalee Berlin and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Rose Berlin.

Perry and Shirley Cooper, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Mervin Cooper.

Sam and Melissa Glazer, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Anna Glazer**. Nathan Greenberg, honouring the

#### Hallah Brigade.

Alan and Barbara Sless, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Brian Sless. Howard and Emily Snow and family, commemorating the vahrtzeit of

### S. Milton (Mickey) Snow.

Rose Sobel and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Gussie Sobel. Rose Sobel and Duke Segel. acknowledging the **Reichert Family** in

memory of **Toby Reichert**. Mel and Ruth Steinhart, commemorating

the yahrtzeit of Harry Steinhart. Mel and Ruth Steinhart, commemorating

the vahrtzeit of Sam Siegel. Dorothy Tessis, honouring the Hon.

Katherine and Brian Feldman on their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

#### Howard (Hy) Cooper Trust Fund

Art and Carole Andrews, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Carey Andrews. Jonathan Breido, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Zalman Breido. Melvyn, Marcia and Sheldon Eisen, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Harry Eisen.

Rabbi Baruch and Josette Frydman-Kohl honouring the Hon. Jack Grossman on the publication of his book. Ronna Hoffer, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Sali Hoffer. Ronna Hoffer and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Joseph Rutman. Ronna Hoffer and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Sam Hoffer. Mark and Jan Lapedus, acknowledging Yana Brikker in memory of Edward Brikker.

Mark and Jan Lapedus, honouring Cheryl and Hersh Rosenthal on the bar mitzvah of their grandson Noah. Elaine Marcus, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Stanley Marcus. Cheryl and Hersh Rosenthal, acknowledging the Halpern Family in memory of Marcia Halpern.

### BT Book & **Film Club Series**

Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 PM

SPRING SESSIONS

#### March 30

#### The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

Discovered in the attic in which she spent the last years of her life, Anne Frank's remarkable diary has since become a world classic—a powerful reminder of the horrors of war and an eloquent testament to the human spirit. Led by Harriet Morris.

#### April 27 The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett

Weaving together multiple strands and generations of this family, from the Deep South to California, from the 1950s to the 1990s. Brit Bennett produces a story that is at once a riveting, emotional family story and a brilliant exploration of the American history of passing. Led by Cathy Tile.

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY PHYLLIS AND AB <sup>Z<sup>"L</sup></sup> FLATT AND CAROL AND HAROLD WOLFE, IN MEMORY OF MAX AND BEATRICE WOLFE

Pre-registration required via Shulcloud.

Cheryl and Hersh Rosenthal, honouring Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl on being appointed to the Order of Canada. Hersh and Cheryl Rosenthal and family, honouring the Hon. Jack Grossman on the publication of his memoirs, Decisions: My Memories as a Lawyer and a Judge.

#### Jewish Family Living Fund

Budgie Frieberg and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Joseph Frieberg.

Brenda Orser, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Bryan Orser**.

Brenda Orser, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Mary Orser.

Brenda Orser, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Trevor Orser.

Larry and Teresa Swern, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Temi Krovblit.

#### Jonathan Kahn Memorial Fund

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

#### Kaddish Fund

Maurice Levy, honouring the memory of Brigitte Levy.





#### May 18 Film title TBC

Check the **Beth Tzedec website** for confirmation of the film coming soon. Led by Dr. Gillian Helfield.

#### Kosher Food Bank

Marion Alberga, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Eprhaim Zalman Goldberg. Ron and Diane Ennis, honouring **Fred** and Jocelynn Engle on their anniversary. Phyllis Fien, commemorating the vahrtzeiten of Zavel and Esther Fien.

Sally Gallinger, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Harry Gallinger.

Nathan Greenberg, acknowledging Dr. Richard Rodney and family in memory of Sheila Rodney.

Beverly Kahn, honouring Ely Cohen and family on his bar mitzvah.

Noah Kochman and Brendan Donovan, honouring Howard Black.

Esther Korn, honouring Sheldon and Patti Rotman.

Leah and Israel Liquornik, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Ida Turowicz.

Rhoda and Andre Salama, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Florence Kurtz.

Teresa and Larry Swern, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Ruthe Klein.

#### Little Minyan Fund

Bernie Gropper and Elise Stern Gropper, acknowledging Neil Zworth and Jennifer Wyman in memory of Elaine Birnbaum.

Debbie Rothstein and Michael Friedman, acknowledging David Zworth and Neil Zworth in memory of Elaine Birnbaum.

#### Lorne Hanick Website **Development Fund**

Ellen Band, honouring Lorne Hanick. Steven Rayson and Elissa Gamus, honouring Lorne Hanick for his participation in the bar mitzvah of their son Joseph Gamus-Rayson.

#### Membership Relief Fund

Stephen Abrams. Rosette Rutman and Tamara Abrams, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Ida Abrams. Drew Berman, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Valli Jean Berman. Dr. Ira Bernstein, acknowledging Esther Bernstein in memory of Dr. Abraham Bernstein. The Caplan Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Leonard Caplan.

Lyle Cappe, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Solomon Freedman. Cheryl and Murray Cepler and family, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Sam Abramson.

Cleotilde Ceron, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Ernestina Valencia de Ceron. Leonard and Merle Eisen, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Harry Eisen. Stanley and Genia Elkind, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Morris Elkind. Albert and Dorothy Gellman

Gianna Glassman, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Dr. Max Glassman.

Sheldon and Judy Godfrey, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Ruth Godfrey.

Lorne Hanick, honouring Patti and Sheldon Rotman.

Esther Hussman and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Rahamim Rami Mizrahi.

The Hussman Lesh Family, honouring Ayal Lesh on his new position at Watersheds Canada.

Martin and Sandra Karp, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Eva Karp.

Sandra and Martin Karp, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Anne Weisfield.

Helen Lester, honouring the memory of Dr. Marvin Lester.

Murray and Adrienne Levinter, honouring Stephen Berk.

Dena Libman, honouring Patti and Sheldon Rotman.

Nathan and Glennie Lindenberg, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Philip Lindenberg.

Glennie Lindenberg and Morland Brown, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Rose Brown.

Allan and Rosalynd Pyzer, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Jerry Pyzer.

Mary Richmond, Judi Alter and Susie Sokol, commemorating the yahrtzeit of

Andrew Mittelman.

The Rogul Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Norman Rogul.

Hascal and Sandra Rosen, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Dr. Louis Julius Rosen.

Hascal and Sandra Rosen, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Leah Rappaport Zatz.

Lorraine and Morris Rotbard and Gerry and Donna Koffman. commemorating the yahrtzeit of Annie Koffman.

Lorraine and Morris Rotbard and family and Gerry and Donna Koffman and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Morris Koffman.

Gella and Paul Rothstein, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Isaac Rothstein.

Debbie Rothstein and Michael Friedman, acknowledging **Rochelle Reichert** in memory of **Toby Reichert**.

Debbie Rothstein and Michael Friedman. honouring Debbie and Randy Spiegel on the birth of their granddaughters Elaine Sophia and Keira Livia.

Patti and Sheldon Rotman, honouring Elana Rosenberg and Lorne Birnbaum on their marriage.

Sheldon and Patti Rotman, acknowledging the **Reichert Family** in memory of Toby Reichert.

Sheldon and Patti Rotman, acknowledging David Seligman and family in memory of Sylvia Seligman.

Sheldon and Patti Rotman, honouring Randy and Debbie Spiegel on the birth of their twin granddaughters.

Rosette Rutman, Stephen and Tamara Abrams, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Mark Streiman.

Jeanne Salit, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Emmanual Cooke, Q.C. Marcia Schnoor, commemorating the

yahrtzeit of Betty Billinkoff. Joel and Bella Shupack, commemorating

the yahrtzeit of Balla Schupack. Lynn and Skip Sigel, commemorating

the yahrtzeit Ira Kaufman. Don Smith, honouring the memory of

his parents.

Eric Sobel, honouring his birthday. Eric Sobel and family, commemorating

the yahrtzeit of Lilian Fine. Eric Sobel and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Meyer Samuel Fine.

Lloyd and Deborah Speyer and family, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Ruth Speyer.

Randy and Debbie Spiegel, acknowledging Amanda Kohl in memory of Yossi Schneider.

Reesa and Avrom Sud, commemorating the vahrtzeit of David Sud.

Reesa and Avrom Sud, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Louis Hotz.

Howard and Carole Tanenbaum and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Rose Granick.

Fran Giddens and family, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Harry Giddens.

The Valo Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Sidney Valo.

Felicia Valo, commemorating the yahrtzeit of William Travis.

Harold and Carole Wolfe, honouring Randy and Debbie Spiegel on the birth of their granddaughters.

Rafi Yablonsky, honouring **Debbie** Rothstein and Patti Rotman.

#### Men's Club Scholarships Fund

Elaine Marcus, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Stanley Axmith.

#### Music Fund

Sharon and Michael Pupko, honouring Mona Rosen on her special birthday. David and Frances Topper and children, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Victor Topper.

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

Sephi Band and family, Ellen Band and Ira Band, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Philip Ephraim Band, Q.C.

Lyle Cappe, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Ida Cappe.

Larry Chad and family, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Lori Tanzer Chad. Janet Cohen, honouring Eleanor Dover on her birthday.

Shirley and Perry Cooper, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Nathan Korzenstein.

Arron and Devra Eisen, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Samuel Eisen.

Fred and Jocelynn Engle, honouring Ron and Diane Ennis on the bar mitzvah of their grandson Austin.

Ron and Diane Ennis, honouring **Fred** Engle on his birthday.

Ilene and Stephen Flatt, honouring Patti and Sheldon Rotman.

Ruth and Alby Garbe and family, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Jean Matlow.

Cynthia and Morris Glick, commemorating the *vahrtzeiten* of Etta Glick and Julia Zidel. Bonnie and David Goldstein. commemorating the yahrtzeit of Gertrude Goldstein.

Bayla Gross, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Morris Gross. Corinne Hart, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Lazar Glickman. Mary Ellen Herman and Phil Markel, honouring Patti and Sheldon Rotman. The Hussman Lesh Family, honouring Hanna Leszcz on her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday.

Martin Kelman and Gilda Tanz, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Mildred Kelman. Judith Kostman and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Harry Kostman. Judith Kostman and family, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Henrietta Kostman.

The Koven Family, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Dorothy Koven. Susan Laufer and Barry Greenberg, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Ida Laufer.

Susan Laufer and Barry Greenberg, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Pia Berlin.

Irving Matlow, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Jean Matlow. Honey Milstein and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Sarah Nisker.

Eric and Brenda Bornstein on their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Charles Radzinski, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Fanny Radzinsky. Frank and Milli Richmond,

commemorating the yahrtzeit of Edward Richmond.

Rhoda and Andre Salama, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Gertrude Paul.

Cantor Deborah Staiman, honouring Brenda Orser on her bat mitzvah. Mel and Ruth Steinhart, acknowledging the family of Judy Amsterdam in her

memory.



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

Marvin and Elaine Mintz, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Abraham Mintz. Bonnie and Larry Moncik, honouring

Gilda Tanz and Marty Kelman, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Bernard Newman.

Dorothy Tessis, honouring Larry Moncik on his birthday.

Sara Wunch Glick, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Cypora Kamel.

Sara Wunch Glick, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Jerry Freeman.

#### **Prayer Book Dedications (Si**

Sandra Cohen, commemorating the vahrtzeiten of Minnie Clavir and Murray Clavir.

Noreen Kay and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Sari Troister.

Karen Mann, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Dr. John Mann.

Shirley and David Promislow, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Corinne Gandler Koslovsky.

Shirley and David Promislow, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Israel Gandler.

Renee Sananes, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Joseph Sananes. Debbie Shecter, honouring Brenda

Orser on her bat mitzvah.

#### Rabbi Robyn Fryer Bodzin **Discretionary Fund**

Ellen Band, honouring Rabbi Fryer Bodzin.

Bruce and Nancy Elman, acknowledging Rochelle Reichert in memory of Toby Reichert.

Nancy and Sid Golden, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Esther Rosen. Nancy and Sid Golden, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Isadore Rosen. Ronna Hoffer, wishing Rabbi Fryer Bodzin and family a happy Hanukkah. Norman and Gloria Jacobs, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Alan Jacobs.



### Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl Endowment Fund

In December 2021, Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl was appointed to the Order of Canada, in recognition of his lifetime of service to the Jewish people, the city of Toronto and the citizens of Canada. Rav Baruch has been a spiritual guide to thousands and has represented our kehillah (community) with distinction.

We thank all those listed below who honoured Rav Baruch by contributing to The Baruch Frydman-Kohl Endowment Fund, supporting the Beth Tzedec Centre of Spiritual Well-Being.

An anonymous contribution Frances Ackerman and family Marion and Tony Alberga Art and Carole Andrews Dr. Gerald Arbus and Joy Wagner Arbus Ellen Band Hadassah Bernstein **Beverley Black** Brenda and Eric Bornstein Shirley Brazer Melvin and Sandra Brown Lyle Cappe Donald Carr and Judy Feld Carr Denise Chriqui Halle Cohen Sandra Cohen, Jeff and Terry Cummings Jan and Gary Elman Bruce and Nancy Elman Diane and Ronnie Enni Fred and Ruth Fishman Donnie and Jerry Friedman Shep and Lorraine Gangbar Ronnie Gavsie Albert and Dorothy Gellman Dr. Dafna Gladman Lorraine Glassman Sam and Melissa Glazer Judith and Aubrey Golden Diane Grafstein Jerry Grammer Albert and Sabina Green Nathan Greenberg and family David and Lucille Griff Mariana Grinblat Jack and Sandi Grossman Roz and Bill Halman

Gloria Houser Terri Humphries Ravna Jollev Jackie and Norman Kahn Michael Kaplan Martin and Sandra Karp Noreen Kay Frances and Sheldon Kay Jerome and Pearl Kazdan Carole and Harvey KerbeL Max and Dolly Kerzner Eddie and Bonny Kirschner Noah Kochman Joy and David Kohn Judith Kostman and family Bev Kupfert and Brian Heller Barbara and Allan Leibel Gloria Lepofsky and family Helen Lester and family, Murray and Adrienne Levinter Mark and Judy Libman Phil and Fauna Lidsky Marcia Lightman and family Glennie and Nathan Lindenberg, Ira and Sarah Lindenberg, Joanna Lindenberg and Adam Weizman and families Dr. Jack Lipinsky, Elaine Marcus Claire and Newton Markus Mitch and Anne Max Roz Mendelson Honey Milstein and family Sybil Milstone Stan Moneta Marlene Olyan and Arthur Cole Ellen and Eric Pervin Millie Pollock

Shirley and David Promislow Esterita Rajsky and family Marjorie Rasky and family Ian, Marlene, Mitchell, Sam and Florence Rattner John and Susan Rose and family Loren and Mark Roth Paul and Gella Rothstein Debbie Rothstein and Michael Friedman Patti and Sheldon Rotman Bernie and Ferne Rubinstein Rosette Rutman, Stephen and Tamara Abrams Dr. Irving and Jeanne Salit Toby Saltzman Rob Sandler and Nyla Ahmad. Ralph and Judy Shiff Lynn and Skip Sigel and Deenna Sigel and families Jason Simon Shoshanah Steel Rosalie Steinberg, The Steinhart Family The Sussman Family Celine Szoges Schwartz Gail Teperman Dorothy Tessis Regan Tessis, Michael Benadiba and family Renee Topper and family Neil and Naomi Warshafsky Malcolm Weinstein Rabbi Steven and Jody Wernick Esther Westelman Lynda and Jerry White Eleanor Wisenberg

Norman and Gloria Jacobs, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Tillie Jacobs.

J. Lowell Pancer and Dena Pollack. honouring Rabbi Fryer Bodzin for her support of their son Lewis' bar mitzvah. Alison Prosser, acknowledging Nate Epstein in memory of Joy Epstein. Rosette Rutman, Stephen and Tamara Abrams, honouring Rabbi Fryer Bodzin. Harold and Carole Wolfe, honouring Esther Westelman on her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

#### Rabbi Steven Wernick **Discretionary Fund**

Earl Altman and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Sonny Altman. Ellen Band, honouring Rabbi Steve Wernick.

Earl Berger and Lou Berger's grandchildren, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Louis Berger. Marvin and Mary Cooper, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Harry Zvi Cooper.

The Dorfman Family, honouring Rabbi Steven Wernick.

Norman and Gloria Jacobs, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Alan Jacobs.

Norman and Gloria Jacobs, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Tillie Jacobs.

Harold Margles, honouring the memory of Maurice Margles.

Steven Rayson and Elissa Gamus, honouring Rabbi Steven Wernick for his participation in the bar mitzvah of their son Joseph Gamus-Rayson. Klara Romm, wishing Rabbi Steven Wernick and family Hag Hanukkah Sameah.

Patti and Sheldon Rotman, honouring Rabbi Steven Wernick on being honoured by the Jewish National Fund's Negev 2021: A Night of 100 Dinners honouring spiritual leaders. Alan and Lorraine Sandler, honouring Patti and Sheldon Rotman. Marcia Schnoor, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Jack Schnoor. The Walters Family, honouring Rabbi Steve Wernick. Rabbi Steven Wernick, honouring Gabe Wolofsky and Tammi Hawa on their marriage.

Faygie Buchman, wishing **Murray Buchman** a refuah sheleimah and honouring him on his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday. honouring him on his 99th birthday.

#### Reuben and Helene Dennis Museum Fund

Manley Walters.

**Endowment Fund** 

Ron and Diane Ennis, acknowledging Amanda and Amir Kohl and family in memory of Yossi Schneider. Ronna Hoffer, wishing Rabbi Frydman-Kohl and family a happy Hanukkah. Rochelle Linden and family, commemorating the vahrtzeit of

David Risen.

yahrtzeit of Aliyah Malka. Elaine Marcus, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Vicki Marcus. Roslyn Mendelson, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Fay Frances Bigman. Marlene Olyan and Arthur Cole, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Jack Cherlon.

### **Tax Receipts**

Tax receipts for contributions made to Beth Tzedec during 2021 have been emailed to all those who have contributed over this trying year. If we do not have an email address on file, the charitable tax receipt has been mailed to your home address.

If you have any questions, email Aida Adel. Thank you to all who helped support our community.

Brenda Orser, acknowledging Barbra Walters and family in memory of

### The Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl

Elie Haim Malka, commemorating the

Dara Schwartz, Amir Walden and family, honouring Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl for his support and participation in their son's bar mitzvah.

Skip and Lynn and Deenna Sigel, commemorating the vahrtzeit of Rose Kaufman.

Jack, Jill, Cynthia and Daniel Spitz, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Inge Spitz.

Line and Steven Troster, commemorating the *yahrtzeiten* of **Madeleine and Jean** Veillant.

Lynda and Jerry White, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Louis Swartz.

#### **Torah Through the Ages Fund**

The Ackerman Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of John Ackerman.

Mona Lee and Dennis Brockman, Jake Brockman and Griffin Brockman, commemorating the yahrtzeit of

#### Harvey (Hymie) Lee.

Mona Lee and Dennis Brockman, Jake Brockman and Griffin Brockman, honouring Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl on being appointed to the Order of Canada.

Gloria Houser, honouring Brenda Orser on her bat mitzvah.

Debbie Rothstein and Michael Friedman, acknowledging Gilad and Stephanie Abrahami and Leonora Abrahami and Peter Larmand in memory of Gabi Weisfeld.

#### Yom Hashoah Candle Fund

Rosalee Berlin and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of Louis Whitehouse.

Cathy Surdin, and Lawrence and Brooke Schiff, acknowledging **Rana Leibowitz** in memory of **Tina Schnipper**.



### Shabbat Teen Lounge

#### with Sylvie Moscovitz

(For teens in Grades 7 to 12)

Saturdays, April 9 and May 28 at 11:00 AM

Come hang out with Sylvie and other teens at BT for games, snacks, and interesting discussions about Judaism on topic of your choice!

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

### Inscribe our Siddurim!

Inscribe one or more of our *SIDDURIM*, to mark a celebration. special occasion or achievement, or to honour the memory of a loved one. Each *siddur* 

will bear an elegant, personalized bookplate to acknowledge the MITZVAH of your gift to Beth Tzedec.

> To inscribe a siddur, call 416-781-3511

#### Condolences

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

Sara Amir Lia Besunder Elaine Birnbaum Freda Blankenstein Dr. Edward Brikker Dr. Murray Buchman Marjorie Collis Joy Epstein Karla Greenspan Marilyn Gwartzman Alfred Howard Herman Reva Hertz **Aaron Howard** Michael Jacobs Robert Lambert

Ronald Landsberg Richard Levy Mildred Mazin Falk Max Nisker Murray Harold Nisker **Donald Pearlston** David Pullan Oskar Rajsky **David Redinger** Vivian Rosen Alan Schwartz Leslie Singer Jean Tanny Erica Elmine Travis Ann Zidenberg

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

#### **Memorial Plaques**

A plaque to honour the following individual will be installed in the Sanctuary:

Robert Bendavid Helen Sarah Glazer Frances Goodman **Murray Phillips** Bette Risen

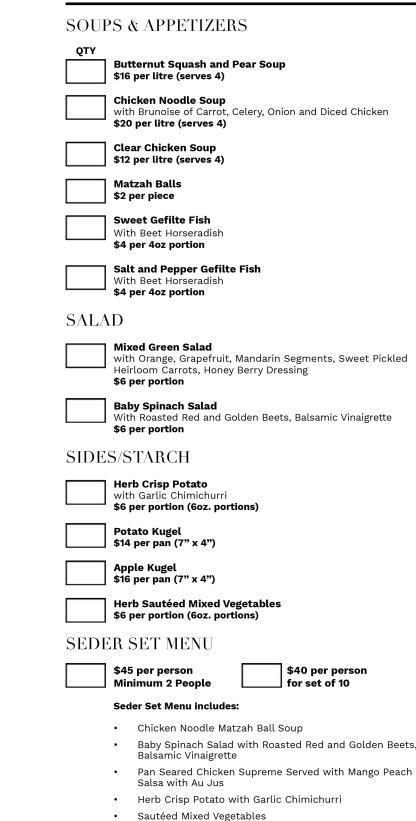
Clare Sheldon **Irving Sheldon** Victor Shiff Frances Roslyn Phillips Bernard Emanuel Staiman Fern Sugarman Philip White

If you wish to honour the memory of a dear one, a fitting, traditional and dignified remembrance is through a memorial plaque and lamp. Each plaque, bearing the name and yahrtzeit date, is mounted on a bronze tablet in the Sanctuary. The lamp is lit on the Shabbat of the week of the yahrtzeit, on the day of the yahrtzeit, and on the four festivals during the year when Yizkor is recited. To order a memorial plaque, click here or contact our Ritual Director Lorne Hanick at 416-781-3514, ext. 240.

#### Everything we do Today is for Tomorrow

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





- Choice of Dessert:
- frozen lemon cake 🕥 flourless chocolate cake 🌰

#### Passover Menu 2022 | 5782

Email Orders to passover@apexkoshercatering.com All Orders Must be Received by Sunday April 10th, 2022 Available for Pick-Up From 10AM to 1PM on Friday, April 15th, 2022

MAINS	
QTY Pan Seared Chicken Supreme Served with Mango Peach Salsa and Au Jus \$19 per portion	
Citrus Glazed Salmon Served with Citrus Pomegranate Salsa \$22 per 8 oz portion	
Montreal Spiced Braised Brisket Served with Au Jus \$28 per 8oz portion cooked weight	
ADDITIONAL	
Cajun Spiced Chicken Leg Qu \$12 for 2 pieces	arters \$25 for 6 pieces
Chicken Fingers with Ketchup and Plum Sauce \$30 per dozen	
Crispy Chicken Wings with Smokey BBQ Sauce \$24 per dozen	
Charoset \$16 per 500 ml	PLEASE NOTE:
Seder Plate \$20 per plate	MINIMUM SPEND
Red Beet Horseradish \$7.50 per 250 ml	\$90 + HST
INDIVIDUAL DESSERTS	
Frozen Lemon Cake \$7.50 per individual piece	\$65 per whole cake
Flourless Chocolate Cake \$7 per individual piece	\$60 per whole cake
Name Address	
Phone # () Dat	
Email	c / /
PAYMENT INFORMATION (Minimum spend \$90 + HST)	
CREDIT CARD	
Credit Card #	
Expiry Date / CCV	
E-TRANSFER: m@apexkoshercatering.com Pay VIA Password: Provided after order confirmation	
PICK UP/DELIVERY 2% SERVICE	
Beth Tzedec Beth Emeth CHARGE ON CREDIT CARD	
Holy Blossom Delivery PAYMENTS	





### Sunday, June 2 at 7:00 PM

It is the time for song. We have travelled quite a journey through this time of pandemic. On the days leading up to Shavuot, together with an All Star collection of musical guests, join us as we acknowledge the healing that is necessary and celebrate the renewal that is possible.

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



n Iz.dec Congregation 0 Barurst Street, Toronto, Ontario 18da M5P 3K3 (416) 781-3511 / Fax (416) 781-015C (416) 781-3511 / Fax (416) 781-015C