

Bulletin

VOLUME 75, NO.1 | ELUL 5785 • SEPTEMBER 2025 | WWW.BETH-TZEDEC.ORG



70th Anniversary Events

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Celebrate 70 Years in Song
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CONVERSATIONS WITH A JEW



Rabbi Steven Wernick

At the heart of our success is a simple but profound belief: Judaism flourishes in relationships.

Celebrating 70 Years of Bold Vision and Jewish Belonging From Crisis to Community: A Story of Renewal and Hope

Seventy years ago, Beth Tzedec Congregation was born from the dreams and determination of Toronto's Jewish community—a bold expression of our collective faith, commitment and hope for the future. In Jewish tradition, the number 70 holds profound meaning. It represents the fullness of a generation, the number of elders appointed to assist Moses in leadership (Bamidbar 11:16), and the nations of the world. It is also the number of years our ancestors wept in exile before returning to rebuild in Jerusalem (Yirmiyahu 29:10).

As we mark this milestone, it is clear that Beth Tzedec is not only reflecting on its legacy—we are actively building the next chapter.

Thanks to courageous thinking and decisive leadership, Beth Tzedec has transformed what could have been an existential crisis into a dynamic model for Jewish sustainability and renewal.

Just a few years ago, we faced a stark reality: increasing deficits, aging infrastructure and a decline in membership that mirrored global trends. We asked a sacred question—mah nishtanah? What must we change?

In 2022, we launched a bold fiveyear plan rooted in three core commitments:

- Offering complimentary membership for those under 40,
- Investing in youth and family engagement, and
- Hiring a professional to guide our philanthropic efforts.

This was not a strategy of survival—it was a declaration of purpose. And now, as we stand at the midpoint of that plan, the data tells an inspiring story.

A Thriving Kehillah

Since implementing our strategic vision, Beth Tzedec has grown from 1,700 to over 2,450 member households—an astonishing 40 percent increase. Most dramatically, membership among those under 40 has more than doubled, from 450 to almost 1,100.

Even more heartening: 53 percent of those who joined via complimentary membership transitioned to full membership, with a remarkable 97 percent retention rate into years two and three. This isn't just a spike in numbers; it's the result of meaningful relationships and shared purpose.

Living Relational Judaism

At the heart of our success is a simple but profound belief: Judaism flourishes in relationships. Inspired by Dr. Ron Wolfson's *Relational Judaism*, we've shifted from "programming" to belonging.

Our Family Shabbat services and dinners, parent groups, holiday celebrations and small groups are not simply events—they are moments of connection.

Eighty-five percent of participating families said they formed new friendships through Beth Tzedec.

Nearly 90 percent reported feeling more connected to the synagogue.

What we are building is more than a congregation—it's a sacred community.



BETH TZEDEC BULLETIN | Fall

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Gathering with Purpose

Guided by insights from Dr. Priya Parker's *The Art of Gathering*, we've reimagined what it means to come together. Whether it's Shabbat on the Floor, Simchat Torah or a deep-dive adult learning series, our events are shaped with *kavannah* (intention), meaning and purpose.

This intentionality has led to a 30 pecent increase in young adult Shabbat attendance, a renaissance in adult learning and a shift in how young families experience Jewish life.

Eighty-four percent of families with young children report that Beth Tzedec has brought more meaningful Jewish content into their homes. That's the power of belonging.

Building a Sustainable Future

Behind the scenes, strategic financial stewardship and community generosity have supported this growth. Our investments have outperformed expectations—a blessing in a volatile time. But we know this moment requires continued vigilance and responsibility.

That's why we're strengthening our endowment, diversifying revenue and planning with care. Fundraising has exceeded projections, thanks to the extraordinary commitment of you, our members—people who understand that giving is a form of spiritual investment in our collective future.

From 70 to 75-And Beyond

As we celebrate 70 years, we look to the future with excitement. Last spring, we launched a new visioning process that will guide us into the next generation. This initiative will focus on deepening the spiritual, educational and cultural life of our *kehillah*, growing our endowment and renewing our physical home.

Seventy, in Jewish tradition, is a number of completeness and transformation. As we mark this milestone, we honour our founders' dreams by continuing to dream. We remember that the psalmist teaches: שנה מענש — Seventy

yearsmay feel like exile, but they also mark the moment of return, of renewal, of *tikvah*—hope.

SHIVIM PANIM 70 FACES

This is our moment of return, not to what was, but to who we are meant to be.

Beth Tzedec's story is a story of resilience, vision and heart. It is a story written not by programs or policies, but by you, the members, leaders, dreamers and doers who make up this sacred community.

As we celebrate 70 years together, let's continue to write the next chapter—with courage, with compassion and with the conviction that the best is yet to come.

Mazal Tov, Beth Tzedec. Here's to 70 years—and to building for 70 more.



Don Smith

Beth Tzedec has
dozens of programs
and events on an
ongoing basis. With
prayer, study,
meditation, grieving
support, food
insecurity and so
many others related
to almost every
aspect of our lives,
embodied in our six
core values.

Who We Are

This summer, I was in Montreal while three of my grandchildren graduated from high school. I paused to reflect on the changes since growing up as a child there. My parents' family was typical of the early 1950s in Montreal: war veterans starting families, the vast majority of European descent. Montreal at that time had one of the largest Jewish communities in the diaspora, in large part, survivors of the Shoah.

Flashing forward to now, my family and that of my wife hail from the British Isles, Eastern Europe, Western Europe and the Middle East. The Jewish community (and in fact Canadian society) forms a mosaic of different origins, lifestyles, interests and religious practices, much the same as my extended family.

When I joined Beth Tzedec about a dozen years ago, it was a traditional North American religious institution; based around family with lifecycle events comprising many activities and a successful if somewhat monolithic model that was well run but still struggling with the less than assured outlook of most religious institutions. It was very satisfying and comfortable but with real concerns about a shrinking membership and relevance going forward.

Like society, we are also evolving. Our Past Presidents and Board had the foresight to realise that we needed to fundamentally rethink and change to be relevant. The relational model and the Generations Membership that we have introduced in this process has not only made us closer to each other but led to a huge amount of growth that wasn't entirely anticipated. Consequently, our Executive Director, Director of Finance, and Treasurer have been

doing continual and ongoing analysis to manage and plan to ensure our long-term financial health.

So, where are we? We have grown tremendously and are comprised of varied small communities. Some typical Shabbat examples: baby strollers filling the halls; multiple services; rambunctious children running the halls making Phil David, our Executive Director, crazy. 😃 Almost every person coming in on Shabbat takes a second to say thank you to the security or police officers. Some things never change: we are still kvetching about the kiddush or the length of the sermon. We are still schmoozing: halls are busy on Shabbat as people chat. Friendly clergy move through the crowds, taking time for a meaningful few words wherever possible. All the characteristics of a large, varied and caring extended family that is happy to connect are on display here.

This also extends outside the physical limits of the building. An example: on my wife's recent birthday, she opened her email and the first thing she saw was a beautiful, caring email from Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl, Rabbi Emeritus, conveying his wishes for her special day. Caring and excellence are still very much the hallmark of Beth Tzedec and we wear our history proudly.

Our relational model and core values of Care, Connect, Give and Get, Celebrate, Pray and Learn have made us a community umbrella destination for over 5,000 individuals.

Hence the catch phrase for our 70th anniversary—*Shivin Panim* translates as 70 faces. We are many, many communities but we share one commonality—a desire to live our lives in a meaningful Jewish context. There are activities and meetings

and teachings every day of the week and in all the rooms. There are the larger presentations and shows, and there are small meetings of only a handful. Some of those faces are less than joyful. My proudest moments are when we care for those who are hungry, those who hurt inside from illness, physical and emotional, and those who need support to come out and proudly own who they really are in their sexuality.

As we look to the future, we never forget our basis and core values. We welcomed Cantor Chaim Stern, our new Hennick Family Senior Cantor, to join with Cantor Ezer and allow them together to bring us a new world of music and maintain our vibrant history.

We are analyzing and changing our governance and lay involvement to be stronger and best support our core values. We have formed a Governance Committee to ensure compliance in our business model. Brian Segal has spent so many hours in rethinking the entire committee structure to allow and accommodate the increased involvement of our volunteers and align them with our core values.

Finally, the Visioning Committee is in the midst of a "needs analysis" on several levels that will guide us with our services, gatherings, communications and physical premises over the next decades with the goal of institutionalising our ability to manage our ongoing needs fulfilment.

Care, Connect, Give and Get, Celebrate, Pray and Learn. It's who we are.

-Don

Renew Your Commitment to Beth Tzedec

Renewing today comes with membership privileges to prepare you for the *chagim*. Receive or pick up your High Holy Day tickets early. Avoid the long line-ups at the shul office or on the day of. Qualify for special Member pricing to upcoming programs. It's easy.

To renew or become a Beth Tzedec member, or to learn more about our Generations Membership initiative, contact

Klara Romm at 416-781-3514. ext. 220

or kromm@beth-tzedec.org.





Phil David

There is so much happening at the synagogue. It's like a small friendly city here at Beth Tzedec and I guarantee, we have something for you.

Beth Tzedec: Your Place Along the Way

As the High Holy Days approach, our building begins to hum with more energy than the usual buzz that fills our halls and prayer spaces during the year.

Our entire team—Spiritual Leadership, Programming and Engagement, Administration, Maintenance and Security—is working diligently to ensure we're ready to welcome our **5,000 members** through our doors. It makes for a busy summer and we embrace it with pride.

With the annual contribution statements now in your hands, it's also the time of year when I'm frequently asked: "Why should I contribute to synagogue membership when I can choose to attend at no charge the rest of the year—and I have so many other financial demands?"

It's a fair question. And the answer, as I've learned, can be deeply personal. For many, the value of membership lies in the moments that remind us, "We are part of something bigger."

I can speak from experience. Last year, I shared that after my father's passing in 2010, when I was working at the GTAA, I found myself saying Kaddish alone in the airport chapel. It was quiet, impersonal and isolating. But when my mother passed away last year—and shortly after, my beloved dog and office partner, Lukie—I was immediately embraced by our SLT, not because I work here but because I am made to feel I belong here. That's the difference the Beth Tzedec community makes.

So, what does your membership support? Well, that list is long:

Security

- Since October 7, 2023, we've increased our annual security budget by over \$100,000, bringing our total to more than \$400,000, including 24/7 surveillance, on-site personnel and emergency preparedness training.
- We've partnered with local agencies including JSN and Toronto Police to ensure best-in-class protection for our community.



Security isn't optional. It's essential. And membership helps make it possible.

Membership & Financial Stewardship

- Our Generations Membership (free for those under 40) has grown to almost 1,100 member units, providing the foundation that creates a strong pipeline for the future that many synagogues can't rely on. We're already seeing higher-than-expected conversion rates as members turn 40 and begin contributing financially.
- As we strive to shift from transactional giving to transformational philanthropy, our development program continues to gain momentum with initiatives like the Annual Appeal, Tzedec Circle, Security Campaign and Legacy of Light bequest program.

Engagement & Programming

We host more than 20 subsidized Shabbat dinners annually, serving thousands across generations. Take a peek into the Herman Hall on the night of a Family Shabbat dinner and you'll see 300 parents and children sharing a meaningful evening together. It reminds me of the *ruach* I used to observe as a summer camp director on Friday nights, which I never imagined could be replicated at shul—but it has!

Our SLT supports dozens of lifecycle events each month—from baby namings to bereavements.

New programs like Babies, Blessings and Shabbat Fun, Spinagogue, Tzingles Connections (55+), and To-120 (seniors) are drawing in fresh faces and deepening connections. There's truly something for everyone.

Community Impact

- Our clergy respond to hundreds of pastoral calls each year.
- Our building is open 365 days a year, offering a safe and welcoming space for all.
- We've become a destination for landmark events—from UJA rallies and deeply personal speakers like Rachel Goldberg-Polin, to day school graduations and large marquee events like Idan Amedi.

What Do You Gain From Membership?

We hope your experience leads you to respond: "A lot!"

- A direct line to our Spiritual Leadership for life's most joyful and most difficult moments.
- Innovative programming for all ages.
- Nearly two dozen Shabbat dinners, bringing generations together.
- A beautiful, secure, and immaculately maintained building that's open every day of the year.

- High Holy Day tickets to a diverse network of services.
- Member pricing for cemetery plots at Beth Tzedec Memorial Park.
- A place where you are heard, supported, and safe.

What else do you gain? The understanding that you're helping to sustain a community that shows up for you, for your family, and for the Jewish people. You're investing in continuity, belonging and safety. You're helping us grow, adapt and lead.

As North America's largest Conservative congregation, Beth Tzedec is more than a synagogue. It's a spiritual home, a community hub, and yes, it's a business that must be managed strategically, with thoughtful planning and bold decisions.

So, whether you're here every Shabbat or just once in a while, think of Beth Tzedec as your stop along the way—to home, to work or... wherever. A place to reconnect, recharge, and reflect before heading back to where you're going next.

Thank you for being part of our *kehilla*. Your support fuels our mission and ensures that Beth Tzedec continues to inspire and enable meaningful Jewish lives today and for generations to come.

I look forward to seeing you during the High Holy Days.



Announcing our New Website

We're launching our brand-new website in late September. Designed with you in mind, it's easier to navigate, mobile-friendly, and packed with fresh content and features to keep you connected to everything happening at Beth Tzedec. Stay tuned—we can't wait to welcome you to our new digital home!

Mazal Tov to our B'nai Mitzvah WHO HAVE COMPLETED OUR BAR/BAT MITZVAH PROGRAM



Nathan Guberman son of Jesse Guberman & Carla Lancit יעקב יצחק בן יוסי הכהן וחיה חודס



October 11 Jacob Glick son of Jeremy Glick & Karen Born הרשל אליהו בן יצחק ורבקה בלימה



October 16 Madden Raine Schaffer son of Erin Kalef and Justin Schaffer מאיר משה בן יוסף



November 22 **Rachel Freeman** son of Ben & Laura Freeman רחל לאה בת בנימין



The Kaplan Family Fund

for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program

Beth Tzedec Congregation is pleased to be able to offer two financial assistance awards of \$450 each to qualifying students. These awards are made possible thanks to the Kaplan Family in memories of Charles and Pearl Kaplan^{z"1} and Robert and Estherelke Kaplanz". Applications will be confidentially reviewed and decisions will be made based on financial need. Questions regarding confidentiality may be discussed with Phil David, Executive Director, prior to submission.

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

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

Milestones and Celebrations

We can't share your good news unless you tell us about it. Send an email to thumphries@beth-tzedec.org or call 416-781-3514, ext. 212. The deadline for the next *Bulletin* covering December 1 through February 28 is October 31.



Births

Addison Reid, daughter of Gilly & Josh Cohen, granddaughter of Myra & Steven Blustein and Farley & Debbie Cohen, great-granddaughter of Lony & Ruth Gropper and Evelyn Spitzer, born December 10.

Oliver Haze, son of Marni & Michael Wolkowitz, grandson of Myra & Steven Blustein and Irving & Reina Wolkowitz, great-grandson of Lony & Ruth Gropper, born April 19.

Summer Hart, daughter of Samantha Bell & Josh Spatz, sister of Jake and Tyler, granddaughter of Marcie Gilsig, Jim Spatz, Bonnie & Bruce Bell, greatgranddaughter of Howie Bell, Evelyne Neiman and Shirley & the late Jerry Hannon, born May 7.

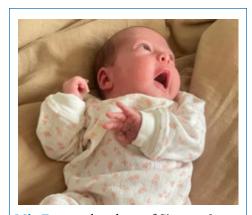
Joshua Walter, son of Amanda & Benjamin Pape, grandson of Gail & Gordon Pape and Dianna Katz and Eme Attar, **born May 23**.



Dovena (Dove) Isla, daughter of Pam Forster & Eli Zeldin, granddaughter of Errol & Bev Forster; Corinne Hart and David Zeldin, **born May 28**.

Allegra Winter, daughter of Alexis Levenson, granddaughter of Howard Levenson, **born May 29**. Mackenzie Jade, daughter of Lindsay & Nathan Van Horne, granddaughter of Anne & Chuck Resnick and Heather & Terry Van Horne, born June 21.

Hannah Edith, daughter of Sarah Silverberg & Omri Arbiv, granddaughter of Esti & Eli Arbiv and Robin & Steve Silverberg, greatgranddaughter of Honey Milstein and Chaim & Esther Arbiv, born June 24.



Mia Emma, daughter of Simone & Mattan Lustgarten, granddaughter of Suzanne Lilker and Alex Brodsky and Sara Naomi Gladstone and Abba Lustgarten, great-granddaughter of Harriet Lilker and Nonna Brodsky born July 11.



Brie Spencer, daughter of Sam & Marissa Risen, sister of Emmy and Will, eighth granddaughter of Stan & Peggy Risen and 12th granddaughter of Marty & Marilyn Firestone, **born August 12**.

Joelle Rose, daughter of Marly Peikes & Jonathan Gottesman, granddaughter of Linda Mostov Peikes & Stuart Peikes and Liddy Beck & Steve Gottesman, **born August 18**.

Congratulations

Briyah Appel-Wenner, daughter of **Rabbi Julia Appel & Aaron Wenner**, who will celebrate her Bat Mitvzah on October 18.

Robert Farber, who celebrated his 102^{nd} birthday on SEPTEMBER 2.

Ryan Hirsh, son of **Adam & Laura Hirsh**, who will celebrate his Bar Mitvzah on September 6.

Maya Laurito, daughter of Aaron Laurito & Jessica Weiss, who will celebrate her Bat Mitvzah on November 15.

Laura Lesser, who celebrated a special birthday on July 24.

Adrienne Levinter, who was honoured by Baycrest for her 57 years of volunteering at the organization.

Avraham Pesachov, Aviva & Avshalom Pesachov, who will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on September 6.

Gella & Paul Rothstein, who celebrate will celebrate their 65th anniversary on September 6.

Kimberly Snow, daughter of Dr. Howard & Emily Snow, granddaughter of Bernard (Bob) & Shirley Zarnett^{z*1} and Milton (Mickey)^{z*1} & Frimette Snow, and **Brent Marks**, son of Dr. Shawna Granovsky & Dr. Paul Marks, grandson of Toddy & Irving Granovsky and Dr. Cyril (Cy) & Lee Marks, on their engagement.

Dr. Matthew Snow, son of Dr. Howard and Emily Snow, grandson of Bernard (Bob) & Shirley Zarnett ^{z¬} and Milton (Mickey) ^{z¬} & Frimette Snow who has completed his medical residency and has been recognized as a certificant in General Surgery from Queen's University. He is continuing at McMaster University with his specialty in Thoracic Surgery.

Weddings

Thomas Cole, son of Laurie Sheff & Jonathon Cole, grandson of Marlene Sheff and Gerald Sheff & Shanitha Kachan, Bubby & Ellen Cole^{z¬}, and Sara Francis, daughter of Mike & Glenna Francis, granddaughter of Bev Francis and Val & Francis Wright, who were married August 17.

Graeme Kreindler, son of Eve Lerner & Jerry Kreindler, grandson of Joseph & Sara Kreindler^{z"} and Rabbi Dr. Harold & Yvette Lerner^{z"}, and Amanda Liebman, daughter of Dr. Jeffrey & Rhonda Liebman, granddaughter of Bernard & Jean Liebman^{z"} and Lil & Gerald^{z"} Wener, who were married on August 31.

Derek Kreindler, son of Eve Lerner & Jerry Kreindler, grandson of Joseph & Sara Kreindler^{z"1} and Rabbi Dr. Harold & Yvette Lerner^{z"1}, and Nicole Kelly, daughter of Thomas & Donna Kelly, granddaughter of Austin & Mary Kelly and Albert & Wilma Reitzel, who will be married on September 7.

Many Thanks

Phyllis Flatt and Susan & Paul Lindzon, who sponsored a Congregation Kiddush on June 7 celebrating the birth of Beatrice Annette Lindzon.

Jesse Guberman & Carla Lancit, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on June 21 honouring their son **Nathan Guberman** on his Bar Mitzvah.

Debi & Eddy Levy and Joanne & Earl Schwebel and families, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on June 21 celebrating the marriage of Andrea Schwebel & Brandon Levy.

The Radzinski Family, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on June 21 celebrating the naming of their granddaughter **Hannah Fay**.

The Hart, Zeldin and Forster Families, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on July 12 celebrating the naming of **Dovena (Dov) Isla Zeldin**.

Debbie & Neil Ambar, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on August 16 celebrating the marriage of **Philip Ambar & Julia McArthur**

The Lilker Family, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on August 16 celebrating the birth of **Mia Emma Lustgarten**.

Daniel & Natalie Fagen, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on August 23 honouring their son **Max Fagen** on his Bar Mitzvah.

Oren Furmanov & Yasmine Mucher, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on August 23 celebrating their marriage. Robbie & Mara Schachter, who sponsored a Congregational Kiddush on August 23 honouring their son **Nate Schachter** on his Bar Mitzvah.

Adam & Laura Hirsh, who will sponsor a Congregational Kiddush on September 6 honouring their son Ryan Hirsh on his Bar Mitzvah.

Aviva & Avshalom Pesachov, who will sponsor a Congregational Kiddush on September 6 honouring their son **Avraham Pesachov** on his Bar Mitzvah.

Gella & Paul Rothstein, who will sponsor a Congregational Kiddush on September 6 celebrating their 65th anniversary.

Julie & Armand Soberano, who will sponsor a Congregational Kiddush on September 13 honouring their son Joseph Soberano on his Bar Mitzvah.

Jeremy Glick & Karen Born, who will sponsor a Congregational Kiddush on October 11 honouring their son Jacob Glick on his Bar Mitzvah.

Rabbi Julia Appel & Aaron Wenner, who will sponsor a Congregational Kiddush on October 18 honouring their daughter Briyah Wenner on her Bat Mitzvah.

Azadeh & Rick De Leon, who will sponsor a Congregational Kiddush on October 25 honouring their daughter **Amelia De Leon** on her Bat Mitzvah.

David Setton & Rachel Grad, who will sponsor a Congregational Kiddush on November 8 honouring their son **Alexander Setton** on his Bar Mitzvah.





Cantor Chaim Stern

I was raised in a deeply rooted
Jerusalem family, surrounded by ancient stones and the eternal stories of our people.

Finding My Voice Among Yours: Reflections for the Yamim Noraim

As we approach the sacred Yamim Noraim (the Days of Awe), I am filled with a deep sense of anticipation and gratitude. This time of year carries profound meaning for each of us personally and for all of us together as a kehillah. It is a time when our tefillot rise higher, our hearts open wider and our neshamot unite in a truly unique way.

This year, these feelings are especially strong for me, as it is my first Yamim Noraim with you as your chazzan.

I would like to take this opportunity to share a little more about myself, not only so that you can get to know me better, but so you can understand the deep source from which my passion for music and *tefillah* flows.

I was raised in a deeply rooted Jerusalem family, surrounded by ancient stones and the eternal stories of our people.

My grandfather was a special baal tefillah (prayer leader), with a voice that was deep and full of emotion. Sadly, he passed away suddenly just over a year ago. As I write these words and recall his singing, I find myself in tears.

He taught me the power of *kavannah* (intention) and the meaning behind each word. He also opened the gate for me into the world of *chazzanut*, a world that was unfamiliar to me as a young boy, but thanks to him, became my life's calling.

He was a devoted member of his shul, always waking up early to be among the first to arrive.

Saba, I miss you.

As a young child, I remember walking to shul on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur in the early morning hours. It was dark outside, the street silent, and the only sound was the echo of our footsteps. My brothers and I were dressed in new festive clothes, feeling the weight and sanctity of these special days.

I spent much of my childhood in shul. What stayed with me most was the music. I can still hear the melody of *Unetaneh Tokef* during *Musaf*, the cries of *Avinu Malkeinu*, and the sounds of the shofar echoing beneath the vaulted ceilings.

These were not just songs. They were vessels that carried our deepest hopes, fears, and dreams straight to the gates of heaven.

One moment stands out especially in my memory. On Erev Yom Kippur, my father would call us children into his room. One by one, we would enter, trembling with awe. He would be dressed in white. He placed his hands on our young heads and whispered a quiet *tefillah* in a traditional melody, silent tears flowing down his cheeks. From this, I understood that music and prayer can reach places that words alone cannot.

The power of that short, heartfelt moment gave meaning to the entire Yom Kippur.

These early experiences planted a seed in me. As I grew older, I knew that I wanted to dedicate my life to the art of *tefillah*; to learn how to access the depths of emotion and bring people together through song. I wanted to help others feel what I felt in those sacred moments, that we are not alone, that we are part of something infinite and greater than ourselves.

Becoming a chazzan was never just a career choice. It was an answer to a

calling that had echoed in my heart since childhood.

Through years of learning, practice and sincere tefillah, I have tried to deepen my understanding of how music can open the soul. I have come to believe that every note, every phrase, carries centuries of longing, joy, pain, memory and hope.

Now, as I stand before you in this kehilla, I feel an immense sense of honour and responsibility.

As we prepare together for the Yamim Noraim, I look forward to adding my voice to yours, helping our tefillot ascend to the highest heights, and giving expression to the depth within every heart.

I know that for many, the Yamim Noraim are a deeply personal time. We each bring our own introspection, regrets and hopes for the year to come. But we also gather as a tzibbur (congregation), connected through shared melodies and collective

memory. Something extraordinary happens when our voices join together in familiar *niggunim*, something that reminds us we are part of a sacred and ancient story.

This year, more than ever, I am excited to experience these Holy Days with you—to stand on the *bimah* and look into your faces, to hear your voices joining mine in the melodies of *tefillah*, to feel the hush that descends just before the sounding of the shofar. These are the moments I have dreamed of and prepared for all my life.

I hope that together we will create *tefillot* that are both deeply moving and spiritually uplifting.

It is my heartfelt *tefillah* that the music will open pathways for your prayers to rise, and that through our shared experience, each and every one of us will feel connected: to our tradition, to one another, and to the *Ribono Shel Olam* (Master of the universe).

As I stand before you this year, I am not only your *chazzan*. I am also a fellow member of this remarkable *kehillah*.

I am proud to now call myself the senior cantor of Beth Tzedec.

May these Aseret Yemei Teshuvah (ten days of repentance/returning) bring you renewal and blessing.

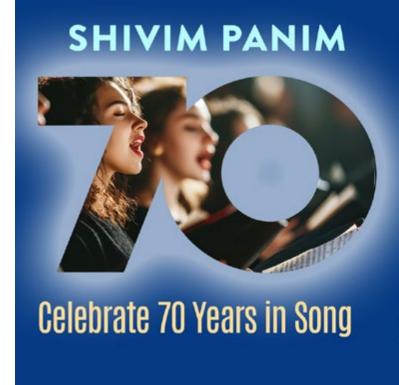
May our tefillot be accepted with favor before the Ribbono Shel Olam.

May they bring about the release of our brothers and sisters who are in captivity and distress, and may they bring healing to the immense pain of Am Yisrael, especially over the past two years.

With great appreciation and heartfelt wishes for a Shanah Tovah U'metukah.

Many blessings,

Cantor Chaim Stern



Sunday, September 28 at 7:30 PM

Join us for our Free Annual High Holy Day Concert

Get ready for an unforgettable night of music and memories as we celebrate Beth Tzedec's 70th anniversary in spectacular style! Join choir master, **Asher Farber**, as he leads our new High Holy Day ensemble—with special appearances by our new **Senior Cantor**, **Chaim Stern**, and **Cantor Sidney Ezer**—for an evening that will uplift your spirit and stir your soul.

Let's celebrate 70 years of community, tradition, and song—together. You won't want to miss it.

No charge. Register at https://bit.ly/Shivim-Panim-Concert.

Presented with the participation of The Jack & Libby Orenstein Fund 70th Anniversary Celebration Sponsor

BETH TZEDEC AT



A Legacy Shabbat Evening

Friday, October 24, 2025

Services 6:00 PM | Dinner follows

Join us for a very special Shabbat service and enhanced dinner in celebration of our 70th anniversary. Through prayer, music, food and fellowship, we'll honour our legacy and look forward to the future—together.

Limited seating available. Pre-registration required via https://bit.ly/70th-legacy-shabbat-evening or scan the QR code.







Rabbi Robyn Fryer Bodzin

Since October 7, 2023, we have been living with both the bitter and the sweet simultaneously.

Bitter and Sweet

Al Kol Eileh, Al Kol Eileh Over all these, Over all these God please watch over them for me, Over the honey and the stinger Over the bitter and the sweet

Naomi Shemer's song Al Kol Eileh has been a favourite of mine forever. The music hits me the way a good Crosby Stills and Nash song does. It is part of the soundtrack of my youth. When I hear it, I smile and think of the good old days. And then I remind myself, don't go down the rabbit hole of thinking it used to be easier. Don't say "how did we get to this point?" Kohelet warns us: Don't say, "How has it happened that former times were better than these?" For it is not wise of you to ask that question.

Only recently have I paid attention to the lyrics of the song. Naomi Shemer clearly points out that our lives include both bitter and sweet moments. It is as if she says, "God, please watch over us when things are both easy and challenging."

Even if we have selective memory when remembering our past, chances are our lives were and continue to be a combination of both.

Since October 7, 2023, we have been living with both the bitter and the sweet simultaneously. At Beth Tzedec, your spiritual leaders have officiated at what seems like an endless number of baby namings, brisses, B'nai Mitzvah and weddings. Many of you have attended milestone birthday and anniversary parties and graduations. And of course, we have found ample opportunities to celebrate our synagogue's 70th anniversary together.

But all of this "sweet" has happened in the shadow of "bitter", as we constantly discuss and watch for the latest news update coming from Israel. There is deep concern for the hostages, ongoing fear over Iran's nuclear capability and real sadness for innocent people caught in the crossfire of war. Every day during minyan, we recite Acheinu for the hostages the prayer for the State of Israel, and the prayer for the IDF. What happens all the way over there impacts us here.

When I begin to feel like the bitter in my personal or communal life is eclipsing the sweet, I turn to prayer. Lately I have been turning to the prelude of the *Amidah*.

Adonai Sfatai Tiftach u' fee yagid tehilatecha. O God, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise.

This is the verse that was chosen for the 5786 Beth Tzedec song, written once again by my beloved colleague Aviva Chernick and our member Ari Posner. Their new inspiring melody lifts my spirits, and the words remind me that I am not alone in the world. It reminds me to praise God for assisting me to do something as seemingly basic as opening my lips and operating my body. When I am having a particularly hard day, these words remind me to search a little deeper. There is always something to praise or thank God for, even when we are going through a tough time.

Naomi Shemer's song is as relevant today as it was when she wrote it in 1980. Her wisdom is timeless. If you want to witness a really sweet moment, I encourage you to visit youtube.com/watch?v=oxzR9Z-kG6Q or Google Koolulam Al Kol Eileh and you can watch and listen to an arrangement that was composed especially for Israel's 70th Independence Day.

Many blessings, Rabbi Fryer Bodzin

Cantor Sidney Ezer

They say it takes a village, and it took some gifted "Ezer K'negdos" to help raise this Cantor and I am profoundly grateful.



A Village of "Ezer K'negdos"

I have always found it cool that my Hebrew family name appears in the Bible in the famous story of Adam and Eve. In the creation of man, God says: "It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a fitting helper for him." (Genesis 2:18). The Hebrew for "fitting helper" is עֻזֶר כְּנֶגְדוֹ "Ezer K'negdo." "Ezer" means "helper" and together with the term "K'negdo" the Hebrew literally means "a helper corresponding to him" or "a helpmate equivalent to him". It can also sometimes have the connotation of "against him" or "opposing him". In sum, Eve as the "Ezer k'negdo" is not in Adam's shadow or subordinate to him, but rather his other self, a helper at his side.

Like my family namesake, I have always seen myself not as a leader, but rather as a helper, a facilitator, a collaborator or one who works better with others. Consequently, many times I found it a daunting challenge being the sole cantor of the largest Conservative congregation in the world, albeit my home congregation, for nine years. Fortunately, I have been blessed with some musically talented "Ezer K'negdos" who have helped me serve Beth Tzedec during these transition years. These individuals often helped me think more outside of the box.

The first of these individuals to which I am deeply indebted is Rabbi Moshe Meirovich. Besides sharing his experience and expertise as a *chazzan*, Rabbi Meirovich introduced me to new repertoire and ideas. He was instrumental in helping me put together a small youth ensemble for our Friday night service during the Wizards of Ashkenaz weekend in June 2018, and we incorporated new duets into our Shabbat *davening*.

The second individual is Ezra Burke. When I created the Shir Hadash Ensemble in 2017, Ezra, our then choir director, provided me with much

assistance, comradeship and guidance in offering monthly Shabbat musical services and dynamic Shabbat Shirah weekend programs such as "Fiesta Sepharad" in 2019 and the celebration of Black History Month with the Nathaniel Dett Chorale in 2020.

The third individual I must acknowledge is Asher Farber. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and Ezra Burke returning to his native England, having completed his studies at the University of Toronto, I was so incredibly lucky that longtime choir member Faye Kellerstein had introduced me to Asher. Asher had originally joined as one of our tenors in the Shir Hadash Ensemble. The two of us performed a few concerts together at the Miles Nadal JCC and that was the start of a series of collaborations.

I cannot overemphasize the importance of having Asher as part of the Beth Tzedec community. He is the brain behind many of the clever names and program titles you have seen from us over the years—"The Three Tenets", "Kinot Connect", "L.O.V. Elul", "Chanukah Modul8" and the "Hakol B'Seder Pre-Passover Program", just to name a few. Of course, there was also "Mizmor Monthly". We gathered virtually on zoom on or close to Rosh Chodesh and explored Jewish musical themes and genres, one for every month of the Jewish calendar. When health conditions made it permissible to have public singing once again, Asher created the HarmonEzers.

All the choral arrangements that the HarmonEzers have presented in recent years are his. In addition, for the first time at Beth Tzedec this past May, we were the a capella entertainment at a Bar Mitzvah luncheon. By the time you read this, we will hopefully have entertained another B'nai Mitzvah family. If you wish to have us for your simcha, feel free to speak with Asher or

myself. Asher has dedicated countless hours both together with me and individually in preparing first rate quality musical programming and choral arrangements. I am extremely happy that he will be the Choir Director for the Sanctuary Service at Beth Tzedec over the High Holy Days.

The final "Ezer K'negdo" to which I owe much gratitude is Aviva Chernick, our newly installed Director of the Centre for Spiritual Wellbeing. Although originally hired as our musical artist in residence. Aviva has been the de facto Chazzan Rishon at Beth Tzedec over the last nine years. During this time, it is she who has curated nearly all the Shabbat Shirah programming. In 2017, both she and Yacov Fruchter spearheaded the "Tribute to Leonard Cohen", partnering with the Ashkenaz Festival and a handful of talented musicians to create a highly inspiring concert which filled our Sanctuary. The following year for Israel's 70th birthday, they put together a "Tribute to Naomi Shemer" bringing in The Quartet from New York alongside scholar Roy Rimshon.

To help us past the pandemic, Aviva curated musical programs such as "Eit Zamir: A Concert of Healing, Renewal and Celebration" featuring multilingual flamenco artist Tamar Ilana. One cannot forget the Shabbat Shirah weekend this year with guest Dr. Galeet Dardashti which featured the award-winning concert "Monajat" with an acclaimed ensemble of Middle Eastern and Jazz musicians.

In addition to Shabbat Shirah, Aviva has also introduced other musical initiatives such as the Pre-Passover Shir Hashirim concerts, the "Song Circles" and of course, Shabbat at the Floor coordinated together with Yacov the first Friday of every month.

Aviva also incorporates a musical component into her mindfulness initiatives. Because of her experience and connections to the Jewish music scene, Aviva has been an invaluable mentor and role model.

One must also not forget the successful marquee musical events that our Director of Education and Program Development Daniel Silverman has brought to Beth Tzedec such as "Divas on the Bimah" and "An Evening with Idan Amedi". I consider myself fortunate to have participated in nearly all the above musical endeavours, but the only reason I have been able to shine is because of the aforementioned "Ezer K'negdos" who have helped me along the way.

Now as Beth Tzedec marks its 70th anniversary, we welcome a new member to our spiritual leadership team, Cantor Chaim Stern, Beth Tzedec's Hennick Family Senior Cantor. Amidst the whole period of transition and change leading up to this moment, I know that many of you in the Congregation have expressed concern for my well-being and how the situation would affect my position going forward. I also know that some have even expressed disappointment

as to why the shul should hire another cantor. Because it has been so long with me here as the only official full-time cantor, it is easy to forget that historically, Beth Tzedec has always had two full-time cantors. The size of the Congregation necessitates this.

This article is not intended in any way to diminish my contribution over this transitional period. I am indeed proud of my accomplishments over these nine years, especially all the Remembrance Day Shabbat programs, the moving Yizkor service incorporating the melodies into the memorial prayer, and of course my various musical parodies for Purim and other occasions. They say it takes a village, and it took some gifted "Ezer K'negdos" to help raise this Cantor and I am profoundly grateful.

I want to thank you all for your concern and support but also to reassure you that the culture among the spiritual leadership team at Beth Tzedec is not hierarchical. Although we officially have a Senior Rabbi and now a new Senior Cantor, we are essentially a village of "Ezer K'negdos" in which we all assist, encourage, and support each other.

I look forward to the opportunity of working with and learning from Cantor Chaim Stern and to also being an "Ezer K'negdo" for him as he settles into his new role at Beth Tzedec. I ask you to join me in welcoming him.

Shabbat of REMEMBRANCE

Saturday, November 8 at 9:00 AM





Jonathan Ain

"Beth Tzedec became my Jewish home at a time when I was looking for connection but didn't quite know where to start."

-Azadeh de Leon

70th Anniversary Annual Appeal Aims for a Record-Breaking \$650,000

As Rosh Hashanah draws near and the sound of the shofar approaches, our community once again turns its attention to the Annual Appeal. Each year, this is the moment when we ask members to give beyond their dues, ensuring we can continue to offer meaningful Jewish living for all who walk through our doors. In this milestone 70th Anniversary year, our goal is bolder than ever: \$650,000—a record-setting target that will shape the future of our Congregation.

For Azadeh de Leon and Daniel Stern, Co-Chairs of the 70th Anniversary Annual Appeal, the responsibility is both deeply personal and unmistakably urgent. As members with young families who have shared in the richness of Family Shabbat Dinners, celebrated holidays and festivals, and found meaning in special services like the Little Minyan, they regard the Appeal's success as essential to sustaining the bold vision Beth Tzedec has pursued in recent years.



"Beth Tzedec became my Jewish home at a time when I was looking for connection but didn't quite know where to

start," says Azadeh. "Now, it's where my children have grown up, where our friendships have flourished, and where my own Jewish learning has deepened."

"We've been members since 2019," says Daniel, "and in that time, Beth Tzedec has become central to my family and our



social life. In just a few years, we've watched the Congregation expand and thrive. It's pretty unique and exciting that since the pandemic, Beth Tzedec's membership has grown by 40 percent."

When Rabbi Wernick approached them to lead the 70th Anniversary Annual Appeal, both Azadeh and Dan reflected on their own powerful experiences at Beth Tzedec—deeply shaped by the success of the Generations Membership program. They had each felt the Congregation's impact firsthand and understood that its future depends on the generosity of its members—making their decision to say yes an easy one.

"What Beth Tzedec is doing is working," says Azadeh. "Now we have to sustain it. The only way to accomplish this is for the congregation to unite through philanthropy."

Dan agrees, adding: "When you clearly explain the case for support—why Beth Tzedec depends on this philanthropy—people are far more likely to give. Most people don't realize—I certainly didn't—that membership dues cover less than 30 percent of Beth Tzedec's annual expenses. When you hear that, and you factor in the inflationary pressures of the past few years, it's clear: Beth Tzedec thrives because of philanthropy."

Both Co-Chairs take confidence from how far the Annual Appeal has come in a short time. Prior to 2021, Beth Tzedec raised about \$100,000 annually from a small group of donors. Last year, that total reached \$580,000—an achievement that reflects both a growing culture of giving and the community's belief in Beth Tzedec's vision for the future.

This year, the \$650,000 goal is within reach thanks to a \$150,000 matching gift from the Larry & Judy Tanenbaum Family Foundation. Every gift made now will be doubled—fueling programs, services, and innovations that touch thousands of lives each year.

In this milestone Appeal, the fundraising effort is reaching further than ever, with dozens of members stepping forward to take an active role as part of the Appeal Cabinet or Ambassador team. Through personal outreach, peer-to-peer fundraising, and ambassador leadership, these volunteers are connecting with every corner of the Congregation—inviting first-time donors and long-time supporters alike to take part in this historic year.

For Daniel and Azadeh, the Annual Appeal is about more than hitting a financial target. It's about preserving what makes Beth Tzedec special: even with more than 5,000 members, it remains a place where every individual feels known and valued.

"What makes Beth Tzedec unique is that, even with thousands of members, you feel seen as an individual. That's something we can only maintain if we invest in it together," says Azadeh.

Daniel agrees. "In the end, the Appeal

is about shared responsibility. Beth Tzedec reflects who we are and what we value as a community. Together, we can make sure that reflection shines brightly for generations to come."

To make your 70th Anniversary Annual Appeal gift, or to join our volunteer team, visit: https://causematch.com/beth-tzedec.

70th Anniversary Annual Appeal Cabinet

Pearl Berman Azadeh de Leon Allan Kanee Naomi Oelbaum Debbie Rothstein Daniel Stern Rafi Yablonsky



The 70th Annual High Holy Day Appeal

Help Us Reach Our Most Ambitious Goal Yet

Join our community-powered campaign to raise more funds than ever in support of meaningful Jewish living at Beth Tzedec. For the first time, you can go beyond giving—you can lead. Set up your own fundraising page, rally your friends and family, and help ensure Beth Tzedec continues to inspire, connect, and grow. Scan to get started or visit or visit https://causematch.com/beth-tzedec.



Contact: Jonathan Ain, Director of Development, jain@beth-tzedec.org.

70th ANNIVERSARY Annual Appeal

Make your annual gift today to help shape Beth Tzedec's future.

When you make a gift to Beth Tzedec's 70th Anniversary Annual Appeal, it's about more than money. Your generosity ensures that Beth Tzedec can meet and exceed its mission of enabling and inspiring our community to live meaningful Jewish lives.



This year, the Larry & Judy Tanenbaum Family Foundation is once again providing matching funds on all gifts up to \$150,000 so you can DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT.





We are grateful to the 70th Anniversary Appeal donors.

Together, we are ensuring that everything we cherish at Beth

Tzedec is here for our children and grandchildren. Thank you!

-Azadeh de Leon and Daniel Stern Co-Chairs, 70th Anniversary Annual Appeal

Scan to get started with your donation or to volunteer or visit https://causematch.com/beth-tzedec



For more information, contact **Jonathan Ain**, **Director of Development** at **jain@beth-tzedec.org**.





Cantor Audrey Klein

In a sense, Sukkot can be a great equalizer. Whether your sukkah is lavish or modest, what matters is that we dwell in it with intention.

Sanctuary Under the Stars: Building Our First Sukkah

As autumn settles in and the air turns crisp, our family hopes to reach a very special milestone that will feel both ancient and brand new: building our first sukkah in our new backyard! Growing up, my family only built a sukkah twice, and the number of times for my husband's family is about the same. Now that we have an outdoor space of our own, we are excited to fulfill this important mitzvah (primary Jewish action) with our daughter.

The holiday of Sukkot, one of Judaism's three pilgrimage festivals, arrives just days after the solemnity of Yom Kippur. It is a joyful and earthy celebration that reminds us of the Israelites' journey through the desert, living in temporary shelters under divine protection. As it says in the Torah:

בסכת תשבו שבעת ימים... למען ידעו דרתיכם כי בסכות הושבתי את־בני ישראל בהוציאי אותם מארץ מצרים...

You shall dwell in booths for seven days... so that future generations may know that I made the people of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt... (Leviticus 23:42–43)

This year, for the first time, we won't just read about the sukkah—we will (B"H) build one! In a new backyard, in a new home, with tools in hand and

plenty of zip ties, we hope to create a structure that, for a week, will serve as a humble structure, full of joy, tradition, and the spirit of hospitality.

The Talmud says:

כל שבעת הימים צא מדירת קבע ושב בדירת עראי

For seven days, emerge from your permanent residence and dwell in a temporary residence. (Sukkah 2a)

It's a powerful reminder that permanence is an illusion. What we think is solid—our homes, our routines, even our comfort—can shift in an instant. The sukkah, with its open roof and tenuous sides, teaches us to embrace impermanence with joy rather than fear.

Since this is our first year, our sukkah probably won't be fancy. With the business of the High Holy Days and the fact that I'm also the crafter-inchief in our house, our decorations will probably be very simple. But we are determined to put up temporary walls and schach (material for the roof) and to welcome guests for delicious meals in our little sanctuary under the stars.

In a sense, Sukkot can be a great equalizer. Whether your sukkah is lavish or modest, what matters is that we dwell in it with intention. In a world that often measures value in square footage or what is "Instagram-able," the sukkah reminds us that holiness can live in a simple hut with a leaky roof—as long as there are open hearts and welcoming arms. As this season of harvest and holiness continues, may we all find shelter—not just in our homes, but in our traditions, our communities, and the sacred moments we create together.





Yacov Fruchter

As you dream about what work we should engage in next, I want to remind you that every act of chesed and tzedek, of loving kindness and righteousness, matters.

A Dream of a Better World

Ten years ago, in September 2015, a month after I joined Beth Tzedec, the world was horrified by the image of a dead child washed up on the shores of Greece. Alan Kurdi was only three years old when he drowned, as his family tried to flee the civil war in Syria.

Many Beth Tzedec members turned to Rabbi Frydman Kohl, Rabbi Cutler, and me, feeling helpless and wanting to find some way to get involved. Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (JIAS) had recently been awarded the status of a sponsorship agreement holder, and in partnership with JIAS we established our Beth Tzedec Refugee Sponsorship Group led by Bari Zittell and many other wonderful volunteers. In the 10 years that followed, we sponsored one Syrian and one Eritrean family who are both thriving in Canada. With the influx of Ukrainians to Canada after the onset of the war with Russia, Beth Tzedec members formed welcome groups in support of JIAS's work, just as we did when Israelis began arriving in Toronto after October 7.

All of this work followed in the footsteps of 70 years of Beth Tzedec activism in support of the social justice initiatives that have been most important to our community. Over the 70 years of our existence, Beth Tzedec members have protested and acted in support of Russian Jewry, ran Out of the Cold programs for unhoused Torontonians, and our

Beth Tzedec Men's Club founded the Yellow Candle program in memory of Holocaust victims, later adopted by hundreds of communities in North America. Notably, thanks to the leadership of Judy Feld Carr, the first female president of Beth Tzedec, our synagogue aided in rescuing 3,228 members of the Jewish Syrian community.

Each of these initiatives emerged from members of our community who felt moved by something that they learned or saw and were compelled to act.

At the beginning of the Exodus story, the Torah teaches us about two midwives, Shifra and Puah, often understood by the rabbis to be Miriam and Yocheved, Moshe's sister and mother. Despite Pharaoh's order to murder Jewish baby boys, these two brave women resisted the all-powerful leader and so altered the course of history. Their actions both saved lives and shaped the way our ancestors saw themselves and the power that they wielded. As Ben Azzai said in *Pirkei* Avot 4:2, "One mitzvah leads to another".

As you dream about what work we should engage in next, I want to remind you that every act of *chesed* and *tzedek*, of loving kindness and righteousness, matters.

It is in this spirit, I want to invite you to join me in plotting the future of tzedek/ social justice work at Beth Tzedec, by answering the following questions:

What are you noticing on our streets, in Canada, or across the world that is keeping you up at night?

What moral issue **do you** want to get involved in tackling today?

Send me an email to **yfruchter@beth-tzedec.org.** Together, let's continue shaping the Jewish community and world into one that we can only dream of now.





Aviva Chernick

Every ethical action, every moment of prayer or intention, is an opportunity to make the world more holy.

Tending a Divine Light

As part of the Kabbalistic framework about creation developed by Rabbi Isaac Luria in the 16th century, there was a shattering of the vessels housing the Divine light in which Divine sparks were dispersed around the world and some of those sparks ended up contained in קלפות husks, or spiritual obstacles. According to the mystics, this process continues today—the husks keep the sparks hidden, and it is our work in the world to free this light, lifting up God's presence.

In a sense, we are responsible to tend to the obstacles that keep us from being our most loving selves, and from behaving and treating all beings as made b'tzelem Elohim—in the image of God. This is tikkun—healing the rupture and brokenness in our world. Every ethical action, every moment of prayer or intention, is an opportunity to make the world more holy.

As I write this article, we are reading *Parashat Masei*, the final portion in the book of *Bamidbar*—Numbers. *Masei* begins with a recording of the various places that the Israelites stopped on their travels in the desert. Rabbi Levi Yitzhak of Berditchev, known as the *Kedushat Levi*, writing in the late 1800s, teaches that the people chose the stops along their journey based on where there was a *klippah*, an opportunity for learning and growth.

In responding to the Kedushat Levi, Rabbi Jonathan Slater suggests that,

"We generally think of Israel's travels in the wilderness as 'wandering.' as just a way of 'killing time'. Instead, we are told that their travels were intentional and that Israel accomplished great work on the way. They went from place to place identifying and connecting with a particular divine spark buried, hidden in the husks of the wilderness. They used different techniques to raise up each different spark to return it again to its holy state..."

As I envision the role of the Beth Tzedec Centre for Spiritual Well-Being in the lives of our community, this teaching inspires me and serves as a guide for our mission. Together, our holy work is to develop tools and a commitment to healing our brokenness. We will do this using a variety of modalities as each individual's way in is unique. It is through this conscious and intentional engagement that we become active participants in *tikkun olam*—the healing of the world.

I am excited to walk this journey with you through all the stops along the way, as we care for and nurture each other, thriving in our personal and professional lives, as a Beth Tzedec community and as part of the Jewish and greater world.







Beth Tzedec spiritual leader Yacov Fruchter moderated a conversation with Holocaust survivor Nate Leipciger and Nova survivor Hila Fakliro at the Nova exhibit site.



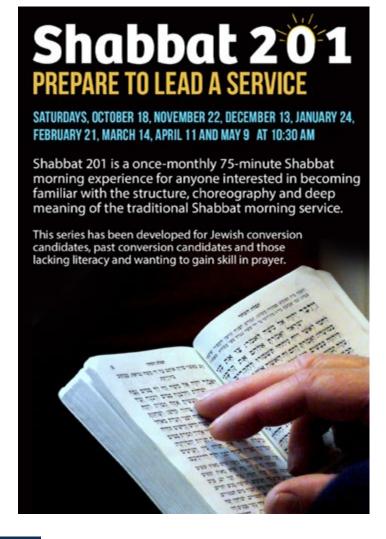


Sunday September 21 from 11:15 AM TO 12:45 PM (at Rocket Cycle)

Revitalize your body and spirit just in time for Rosh Hashanah.

Join Beth Tzedec for a community-wide, private Rosh Hashanah-themed spin class at Rocket Cycle. Ticket price includes a spot on a spin bike, spin shoes, a branded reusable water bottle, and a post-ride snack.

Register at https://bit.ly/spinagogue-all-ages-rh.





An Empty Seat at the Table

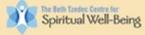
with Rabbi Fryer Bodzin and Yacov Fruchter.

Thursday, September 11 at 8:00 PM

For many of us, this year will be the first time there will be people no longer sitting at our Shabbat and holiday tables with us. We miss them and we continue to grieve for them.

Take some time out of your High Holy Days preparation and join Rabbi Fryer Bodzin and Yacov Fruchter as they help you get ready for a meaningful High Holy Days with Jewish wisdom texts and tools for resilience and coping.

There is no charge but pre-registration is required via https://bit.ly/empty-place-HHDs.





Rabbi Lara Rodin

May we each find our own way to say hineini this season. Not with all the answers, but with open hearts to experience this moment in its fullness.

Being Present: A High Holy Day Reflection

As the High Holy Days approach, the world seems to speed up. Calendars fill; tasks pile up. Even the most sacred days can feel like just another box to check off in the rhythm of busy lives.

But this season calls us to be present, to be in this moment.

Recently, I met a young congregant in her early 20s. She's bright, thoughtful and standing at a crossroads in life. Like many at her age, she is uncertain whether to stay in her current job, return to school, move cities or wait for a new door to open. She told me she was waking up at night running scenarios in her head, afraid that the "wrong" choice would set her life off course. She was living in the future and could not be present in the moment to allow her intuition to guide her.

I shared with her the moment in Shemot when God calls to Moses from the burning bush. Moses does what we all do as human beings. He second-guesses himself, wondering if he is up to the task and worrying about what might go wrong down the road. It takes several rounds of arguing with God before Moses eventually lets go of his forward-thinking worries for long enough to be in that moment with God, responding, "Hineini": "Here I am."

That single word that Moses eventually comes to is emblematic of the presence and groundedness that we all strive for in our lives. It doesn't mean having all the answers. It doesn't even mean knowing with certainty what comes next. It means showing up fully to the moment you're in.

A few days later, the congregant emailed me to say she'd written *hineini* on a sticky note and put it on her mirror. "It helps," she wrote. "Not to know what's next, but to stop spiraling and just be where I am. To be present for whatever might come next".

The Yamim Noraim (Days of Awe), a traditional title for the High Holy Days, invite us into that same presence. Yes, we reflect on the year past. Yes, we plan for the future year to come. But most importantly, we show up for ourselves, for each other, and for the moment that we find ourselves in.

May we each find our own way to say *hineini* this season. Not with all the answers, but with open hearts to experience this moment in its fullness.

Wishing us all a Shanah Tovah u'Metukah; a sweet, grounded, and present new year.

20s and 30s TRAIL TORAH with Rabbi Lara Rodin

Tuesday, September 23 at 11:15 AM

Join Rabbi Lara on the trails of Cedarvale Ravine as you reflect on the passing year and the year to come, connect to nature through the lens of Torah and prayer, and build community.

Meet in the Upper Parking Lot by the gate at 11:15 AM. We will use all of our senses— sight, taste, touch, smell, and hearing—to bring our bodies and our spirits into the High Holy Days.





Our Services

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

This High Holy Days Guide will be updated with direct links to access the services as we move closer to Rosh Hashanah. Check your emails, and weekly eblasts for updated information and virtual links or visit our High Holy Days hub page at https://bit.ly/hhd-info-page.



Sanctuary Services

Join Rabbi Steve Wernick, Cantor **Chaim Stern** and choir director Asher Farber with the High Holy Day Choir and Rabbi Lara Rodin for our spectacular and inspiring High Holy Day services with excellent Chazzanut, choral singing and teaching. Congregational Torah and Haftarah readers participate in the Torah Service.

The Shofar Service and initial blasts begin at approximately 10:30 AM. Cantor Stern and the choir will commence when the Torah Service begins.

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

Rosh Hashanah

September 23 & 24 at 8:30 AM

Kol Nidrei

October 1 at 6:45 PM

Yom Kippur

October 2 at 9:00 AM



Mezzanine Services

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

Rosh Hashanah

September 23 & 24 at 8:30 AM

Kol Nidrei

October 1 at 6:45 PM

Yom Kippur

October 2 at 8:45 AM



Return Again and Again: Meditation

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

Rosh Hashanah

September 23 & 24 at 9:30 AM

Yom Kippur

October 1 at 6:45 PM



Short & Sweet Outdoor Services

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

Rosh Hashanah

September 23 & 24 at 10:30 AM

Kol Nidrei

October 1 at 6:45 PM

Yom Kippur

October 2 at 10:30 AM



Family Services

This 90-minute service is lively and lots of fun. Join Daniel Silverman, Director of Education & Program Development, and Cantor Audrey **Klein**, Director of Family & Young Adult Engagement, for stories and songs to delight the family. These Services are in the Hendeles Chapel and offered in-person only.

Rosh Hashanah

September 23 & 24 at 11:00 AM

Kol Nidrei

October 1 at 6:45 PM

Yom Kippur

October 2 at 11:00 AM



Festival Mincha-Ma'ariv

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

Erev Rosh Hashanah September 22 at 6:00 PM

Rosh Hashanah

September 23 & 24 at 7:00 PM

Kol Nidrei: Early Mincha October 1 at 2:00 PM



Celebrating Selichot

Saturday, September 13 9:30 PM

Join us for an inspiring and soulful Selichot, beginning with Havdalah followed by an inspiring Selichot Service with our Spiritual

Leadership—Rabbi Steven Wernick, Cantor Chaim Stern, Rabbi Fryer Bodzin, Cantor Sidney Ezer, Rabbi Lara Rodin, Yacov Fruchter, Aviva Chernick and Lorne Hanick. A dessert reception follows.

Then, at midnight, the Gates open!

For information about our Fall programs, see pages 34 to 48



Neilah, Ma'ariv and Shofar Blowing

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

Neilah will be followed by Ma'ariv, Havdalah and the final shofar blowing. You are encouraged to bring your shofar

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

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

Yom Kippur Evening October 2 at 6:15 PM



Yom Kippur Mincha Service

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

Yom Kippur October 2 at 4:40 PM



Musical Participatory Service with The HarmonEzers

Tuesday, October 14 9:00 AM

Join us for a Musical Participatory
Service led by Cantor Chaim Stern,
Cantor Sidney Ezer and the
HarmonEzers, our a cappella choir,
conducted by Asher Farber. We will
explore many classic and familiar
melodies, as well as new and modern
ones. With inspiring arrangements and
innovative harmonies, we welcome
you to sing along with us. A
Congregational Kiddush follows.

This Service will be livestreamed via https://bethtzedec.tv.



Tefillah and Tales

Tuesday, October 14 9:00 AM

A joyful 30-minute holiday adventure for little ones—with songs, prayers, stories and shofar blasts! For kids in preschool, JK and SK and their families.

Rosh Hashanah

September 23 & 24 at 9:45 AM

Yom Kippur

October 2 at 9:45 AM

Our High Holy Days Programs



A Pre-Rosh Hashanah Kabbalat Shabbat Service and Dinner

Friday, September 19 6:00 PM

Shivim Panim-70 Faces

Join us for a musical Kabbalat **Shabbat Service featuring Cantors** Chaim Stern and Sidney Ezer and the High Holy Day Choir as we gather to celebrate the coming High Holy Days with an inspiring and meaningful Service followed by a delicious catered dinner.

Let's enjoy this time together as a community to celebrate and reconnect with our Beth Tzedec family, friends and neighbours..

Cost for dinner. Pre-registration is required by Monday, September 15 via https://bit.ly/pre-rosh-hashanah-dinner-2025 or call 416-781-3511.



The Beth Tzedec Sukkah has been donate by the Sitzer Family in memory of Minnie Sitzer.

Many of the decorations are provided by the Greenspan Family.



Spinagogue for All Ages **Rosh Hashanah Edition**

Sunday, September 21 11:15 AM

Join Beth Tzedec for a communitywide, private Rosh Hashanah-themed spin class at Rocket Cycle. Ticket price includes a spot on a spin bike, spin shoes, a branded reusable water bottle and a post-ride snack.

Cost: \$30 (includes spin bike, shoe rental, Spinagogue branded water bottle and smoothies/breakfast cookies from Becked Goods). Pre-registration required via https://bit.ly/spinagogue-all-ages-rh.



Pre-High Holy Day Picnic and Flower Picking

Sunday, September 21 1:00 to 3:00 PM

Nothing says living your best life like a field full of flowers for you to pick. On Erev-Erev Rosh Hashanah, join Beth Tzedec in Newmarket at Country Cut Flowers' beautiful farm for a picnic and flower-picking (970 Miller's Side Road, Newmarket). You'll even have a chance to work with a professional florist to create your own beautiful flower arrangement.

Cost: \$50 for one adult; \$10 for other family members over age 10. Pre-registration is required via https://bit.ly/family-picnic-

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Shivim Panim: Celebrate 70 Years in Song Annual High Holy Day Concert

Sunday, September 28 at 7:30 PM

Get ready for an unforgettable night of music and memories as we celebrate Beth Tzedec's 70th anniversary in spectacular style! Join choir master **Asher Farber** as he leads our new High Holy Day ensemble—with special appearances by our new Senior Cantor **Chaim** Stern and Cantor Sidney Ezer—for an evening that will uplift your spirit and stir your soul. Let's celebrate 70 years of community, tradition and song-together.

No charge, but pre-registration is required via https://bit.ly/Shivim-Panim-Concert.

Rosh Hashanah **Connect Lounge**

On both days of Rosh Hashanah, vou can take a break from Services to connect with friends and extended family over fresh coffee and baked cookies in the Connect Lounge.





Camp Hi Ho: High Holy Days Children's Care Experience

Welcome to Camp Hi Ho; our High Holy Day children's care experience! While parents are in services, campers (children) will be participating in developmentally appropriate explorations around the themes and messages of the holidays.

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

CAMP UNITS:

Shofar Babies: Birth to age two—with professional childcare staff

Tekiah Tots: Nursery (ages 2-3),

JK, SK

Shevet Shevarim: Grades 1—Ages 6

Troop Teruah: Grades 2, 3 and 4—

Ages 8 and 9

YESH:

Grades 5, 6 and 7—Ages 10 to 14

The Tekiah Gedolah Gang: Grade 8

Rosh Hashanah

September 23 & 24from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Kol Nidrei

October 1 from 6:15 to 9:00 PM (Babysitting, childcare and programs for children up to Grade 3 only)

Yom Kippur

October 2 from 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM

Pre-registration is requested for all participants in Camp HiHo. To register, please visit https://bit.ly/camp-hi-ho-2025.



A 20s and 30s Trail Torah with Rabbi Lara Rodin

Tuesday, September 23 from 11:15 AM to 12:30 NOON

Join Rabbi Lara Rodin on the trails of Cedarvale Ravine as you reflect on the passing year and the year to come, connect to nature through the lens of Torah and prayer, and build community.

Meet in the upper parking lot by the gate at 11:15 AM. We will use all of our senses—sight, taste, touch, smell and hearing—to bring our bodies and our spirits into the High Holy Days.



Outdoor Family Experience: Shofar Blowing and Tashlikh with Daniel Silverman

Tuesday, September 23

3:30 to 4:30 PM

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

For information, email dsilverman@beth-tzedec.org.



Downtown Shofar Blowing with Yacov Fruchter

Wednesday, September 24

5:00 PM

Join Yacov Fruchter in the Rosh Hashanah mitzvah of the shofar blowing. We will meet at the Labyrinth (700 Markham St., Toronto). All are welcome.

Pre-registration is not required. For information, email, please email Yacov Fruchter at yfruchter@beth-tzedec.org.



Outdoor Shofar Blowing and Tashlikh with Rabbi Steve Wernick

Tuesday, September 24

4:30 to 5:30 PM

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

For information, email nleybman@beth-tzedec.org.

Sukkot and Simchat Torah

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



Short & Sweet Multi-Generational Family Service and Sukkah Hop

Tuesday, October 7 at 10:30 AM

Join us for a special Short & Sweet Sukkot Family Service! Shake the lulav and etrog (bring your own or use ours), pray, sing and have lots of fun on Yom Tov! After services, we'll have lunch in stages as we visit sukkot in the neighbourhood. (In the case of rain, lunch will be at Beth Tzedec).

No charge. Pre-registration is requested via https://bit.ly/families-sukkah-hop-2025



Let's Sit: LGBTQ+ Mindfulness Event

Thursday, October 9 6:45 PM

Sitting in the Sukkah offers a special kind of comfort and embrace.

Join facilitator Aviva Chernick, Director of the Beth Tzedec Centre for Spiritual Well-Being, together with fellow community members for this opportunity to rest in loving attention through meditation, reflection and song in a Queer and Trans Jewish space. AND... there will be soup and tea to keep us warm.

While we honour our allies, this particular event is for those who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. Please only register if you will be attending the program.

No charge. Pre-registration is required via https://bit.ly/lets-sit-sukkot-2025



Family Simchat Torah Faire Pageant and Celebration

Tuesday, October 14

5:30 to 6:45 PM

Celebrate the merriment of Torah and all the pageantry of the holiday! Dress in a costume or design a hat based on something found in Torah. Join us for the Torah-related festivities with activities and games, joyous hakafot (aka Torah parades) in the Hendeles Chapel and a light, dairy dinner.

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Simchat Torah Community Hakafot

Tuesday, October 14 at 6:45 PM

Come Hug A Torah!

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

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

Everyone is welcome. Pre-registration is not required!

Everyone is welcome. Pre-registration is not required!







SENSORY ROOM

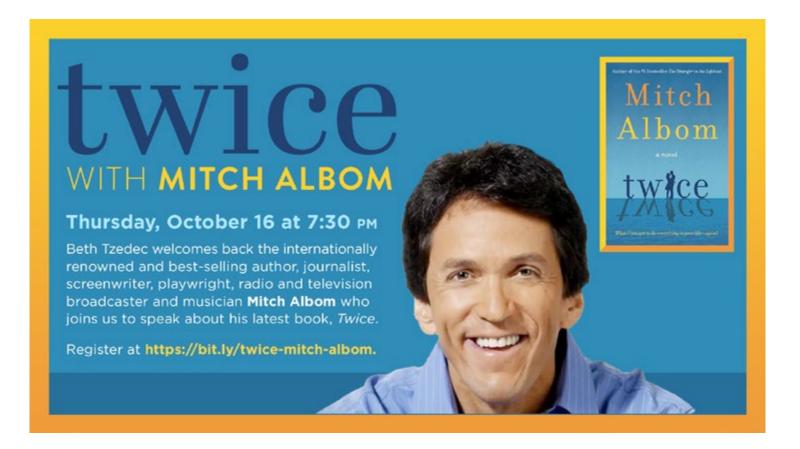
Beth Tzedec is pleased to announce the return of our dedicated Sensory Room Pop-Up, a calming space for individuals aged 4+—including adults—with neurodiverse or sensory processing needs.

Concerned your child might feel overwhelmed in a busy synagogue? We understand. That's why we've created a quiet, welcoming space where sensory overload melts away. With gentle lighting and soft textures, our Sensory Room helps reduce anxiety and increase calm—so your child can feel safe, supported and included.

Because every family deserves to feel at home during the High Holy Days.

The Sensory Room is located in the School Wing across from Room 213. To reserve a timeslot, visit https://bit.ly/sensory-room-2025-2026.

*Please note that the Sensory Room is a fragrance-free space. Images do not specifically depict the items in the Beth Tzedec Sensory Room



Turning Pages with Daniel Silva: A Canadian Exclusive

On July 27, Beth Tzedec was honoured to host best-selling author Daniel Silva for his exclusive Canadian appearance, celebrating the release of his latest thriller, An Inside Job. Hundreds gathered on a radiant summer afternoon to hear Silva in conversation with acclaimed journalist Jamie Gangel, diving deep into the intrigue and inspiration behind the book. Each guest received a copy of An Inside Job and waited eagerly as Silva personally signed every one—making it a truly unforgettable literary event.















Shema! Our Podcast Recommendations

While the Beth Tzedec staff and leaders often suggest reading material, they've never before told us what's playing in their ears. Here are some podcast favourites from our Spiritual Leadership Team.

Let's make a game of it: see if you can guess WHICH spiritual leader or Beth Tzedec senior staff member picked which podcast. Choose from the favourites of Rabbi Steve Wernick, Rabbi Robyn Fryer Bodzin, Rabbi Lara Rodin, Yacov Fruchter, and Daniel Silverman.

Happy Listening!

- Being Jewish with Jonah Platt, because "He focuses on Jewish joy."
- 2. But Why: A Podcast for Curious Kids, because "Great for road trips with children."

- 3. Call Me Back, because "a thoughtful balanced discussion about Israel" and "And remember to come see Dan Senor when he comes to Beth Tzedec in November!"
- **4. For Heaven's Sake** because " clear moral discussions about the dilemmas Israel and the Diaspora face"
- Identity Crisis: "Current events through Jewish values lens from the Shalom Hartman Institute"
- 6. Judaism Unbound, because "Interesting to see what's happening in the Jewish world that is beyond my personal bubble."
- Pardes from Jerusalem, because "Thoughtful and contemporary weekly parashah podcast."
- 8. The Promised Podcast, because "Amercian ex-pats in Israel with lots of nuanced views on current affairs, arts and & culture, and more."

- **9. TED Talks Daily**, because "Good to hear from other people about a variety of topics."
- 10. Tracks to Relax, because "Helps me daily, especially sleep meditation"
- 11. Unpacking Israeli History, because "10/10 for relevant political/thought provoking about community and our shared history.
- **12. What Now?**, because "a JTS podcast on death and dying."
- 13. Work Life with Adam Grant, because "Wharton Professor in psychology who tries to "Make Work Not Suck"

To review the answers, visit https://bit.ly/shma-podcasts-answers



Greetings from Sisterhood

The Beth Tzedec Sisterhood wishes everyone a healthy and happy new year.

Celebrating 70 Years!

For information about the Sisterhood, please contact Ruthann Lubin or Rhoda Salama through the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511 or info@beth-tzedec.org.



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



Beth Tzedec's ChazaKits: A Hug from the Beth Tzedec Community

Beth Tzedec is the place where we share our lives' journeys—the ups and the downs. We'll all go through them; no one's immune. We're introducing a way to help our friends and families get through the most intense and challenging times: a collective Beth Tzedec hug in the form of a box with a handle.

ChazaKits have been carefully curated around life events such as the birth of a sibling, divorce and separation, a death of a loved one, when a loved one has a mental health challenge or disease, a newly blended family, a major change in living arrangements.

Recipients can keep the ChazaKits for as long as they find them helpful, and return them when they're ready so other families can use them.

If you know of a family who could benefit from receiving a ChazaKit—just call the office or send an email to any Beth Tzedec staff member, tell them the family and the situation, and we'll get a ChazaKit to them. It's that simple.

For more information or to request a ChazaKit, contact Penina Hoffnung at phoffnung@beth-tzedec.org.



An Empty Seat at the Table: Rosh Hashanah Edition with Rabbi Fryer Bodzin and Yacov Fruchter

Thursday, September 11 8:00 to 9:15 PM

For many of us, this year will be the first time there will be people no longer sitting at our Shabbat and holiday tables with us. We miss them and we continue to grieve for them.

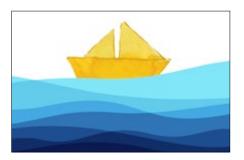
Take some time out of your High Holy Days preparations and join Rabbi Fryer Bodzin and Yacov Fruchter as they help you get ready for a meaningful High Holy Days with Jewish wisdom texts and tools for resilience and coping.

No charge but pre-registration is required at https://bit.ly/empty-place-HHDs.

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



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



Modern Loss: An Evening of Candid Community and Conversation about Grief with Rebecca Soffer and David Sax

Monday, September 15

7:30 to 9:30 PM

Join bestselling author and grief expert Rebecca Soffer (The Modern Loss Handbook) and acclaimed journalist and author David Sax (The Revenge of Analog) for an honest, heartfelt and even humorous conversation about grief, renewal, and the power of forming compassionate communities. Together, they'll explore the universal experience of grief, the growing movement to destigmatize it, and the importance of finding meaning, joy, and the people who "get it" in the wake of loss.

No charge but pre-registration is required at https://bit.ly/modern-loss-soffer-sax.

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP BY GOOD GRIEF!
BEREAVEMENT HEALING SERVICES AND THE BETH
TZEDEC CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING



Beth Tzedec Sensory Room Pop-Up

Tuesday, September 23, Wednesday, September 24, Wednesday, October 1 and Thursday, October 2

The Beth Tzedec Sensory Room pop-up is a space for those aged 4+ (up to and including adults) with neuro-diverse or sensory processing considerations.

Our Sensory Room offers controlled sensory experiences to create a soothing and engaging (fragrance free) environment. It will provide a safe space for individuals to engage with various stimuli, helping to manage sensory overload, increase the sense of calmness and decrease anxiety.

For more details and to see pictures and descriptions of the products in the room, visit https://bit.ly/ btsensory-room.

Pre-registration is appreciated. Drop-ins are welcome where space permits. To register, visit https://bit.ly/sensory-room-2025-2026.



Wise Aging with Yacov Fruchter and Aviva Chernick

Mondays, October 27, November 3, 10, 17 & 24 and December 1 & 8 10:00 to 11:15 AM

Aging can bring a rich mix of growth and opportunities, challenges and losses.

Abraham Joshua Heschel said, "The [senior years] are indeed formative years, rich in possibilities...One ought to enter old age the way one enters years of university, in exciting anticipation and consummation".

Join us as we learn and explore how to discover, within this time of life a sense of joy, meaning and connectedness.

For information, contact Yacov Fruchter at yfruchter@beth-tzedec.org.

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



Grieving Together Bereavement Group, for Those Who Have Lost **Parents**

Thursdays, November 13, 20 & 27 and December 4

8:00 to 9:15 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. What has not changed is our desire to support you at this time, and our belief in the power of coming together as a community. We are here to provide an opportunity for you to meet, support and share together.

No charge but pre-registration is required. To register, visit https://bit.ly/grievingtogether-parents-fall-2025.

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

Pre-Rosh Hashanah Community Shabbat Dinner Friday, September 19 Services 6:00 PM | Dinner following Join us for a musical Kabbalat Shabbat Service featuring Cantor Chaim Stern and Cantor Sidney Ezer and the High Holy Day Choir as we gather to celebrate the coming High Holy Days with an inspiring and meaningful service followed by a delicious catered dinner. Pre-registration required by Monday, September 15. Register at https://bit.ly/pre-rosh-hashanah-dinner-2025.

Connect



Beth Tzedec Small Groups

We are excited for our 2025-2025 year of Beth Tzedec Small Groups. Beth Tzedec Small Groups are an opportunity to connect with other Beth Tzedec members over a shared goal, project or interest. Registration is now open for Beth Tzedec members to join a Small Group.

BT Small Groups are not just a 'program'. They are a way to commit to a new peer group and learn, explore and build community together.

What:

BT Small Groups consist of 8 to 15 people meeting on Zoom or in person from November to SEPTEMBER to discuss a topic or engage in an activity that is of particular interest to YOU.

Who:

Led by a fellow Beth Tzedec member, BT Small Groups are made up of mostly BT members. Group members are asked to commit to attending regularly from November to June.

Where:

Some groups will meet over Zoom, others will plan to meet in person, while some will be hybrid (at times in person and at times on Zoom). Check the description carefully to see the leader's plan.

Why:

To learn, laugh and develop meaningful relationships that deepen connections to other members, to Judaism and to Beth Tzedec while engaging in activities that are important to YOU.

When:

Registration opens on Sunday, September 5. Group Leaders and members will schedule the exact meeting dates together. Most groups will meet monthly from November to June, while others may meet more regularly.

Watch for registration links coming soon. For more information, contact Yacov Fruchter at yfruchter@beth-tzedec.org.



Thursday Games Afternoons Thursday afternoons

12:30 to 3:30 PM

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

And for those interested in learning how to play Mahj and Canasta, we are pleased to share that Judi Rosen, our experienced instructor, offers lessons in both games in small group settings at Beth Tzedec. Contact the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511 for information.

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



Babies, Blessings and Shabbat Fun

Fridays, September 5, 12, 19 & 26, October 10, 17, 24 & 31, November 7, 14, 21 & 28 and December 5 & 12

Session 1: 11:45 AM to 12:30 PM Session 2: 12:30 to 1:15 PM

Welcome Shabbat with a class featuring Shabbat songs and blessings, challah and lots of fun. We have partnered with L'Dance Classes for for children up to 18 months old, accompanied by an adult.

Cost for fall term: \$210 for Beth Tzedec members; \$300 for the community. To register, contact the Synagogue Office at 416-781-3511.

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20s and 30s Shabbat Dinners

Fridays, September 5, November 7 and December 5

Services 6:00 PM | Dinner Following

Join BT 20s and 30s for our monthly Shabbat dinner.

We begin with our Shabbat at the Floor Service at 6:00 PM followed by a catered Shabbat dinner by Apex Kosher Catering at 7:15 PM.

Cost for dinner. Pre-registration is required the Monday prior to each dinner. To register, for the September dinner, visit https://bethtzedectoronto.shulcloud.com/form/20s-and-30s-welcome-back-dinner.html.



Ma'aseh Yadaynu: The Work of Our Hands

Sundays, September 7 & 28, November 30, January 4 and February 8

1:00 to 3:30 PM

A Pre-Holiday Maker Space Series Sometimes, the way to one's soul is through the hands.

Come and discover a new layer of meaning for upcoming Jewish holiday celebrations, by creating something to be utilized and loved at your holidays for years and possibly generations to come. Create a memory and an object together with a family member, or on your own.

Cost: \$10 materials fee per session; \$50 for the whole series. Register via https://bit.ly/ maaseh-yadaynu.

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Shabbat Afternoon Games Café and Open Gym

Saturday afternoons 12:30 PM

Every week in this time slot, featuring Shabbat-compliant board games for every age and level of interest, open gym time in the Kimel Family Gym and Mahjong with Jody Wernick. Fun for all—from pre-school, through serious Euro-game players.

Younger children must be with an adult throughout the session.



Beth Tzedec Book & Film Club Wednesday afternoons

12:45 to 3:00 PM

Join us for the return of our Book and Film Club, launching in September and including a presession lunch.

FALL SESSIONS

September 10: The Safekeep by Yael Van Der Wouden

Set in the Dutch countryside in 1961, The Safekeep is a haunting debut novel about obsession, memory, and desire. When Isabel's brother leaves his girlfriend Eva to stay at their family home, Isabel's orderly life begins to unravel. As tensions rise and secrets surface, the legacy of World War II looms large over their entangled relationship. Led by Elaine Newton

October 22: **Phoenix**; Director Christian Petzold

"Phoenix" is set in Germany in the aftermath of World War II, where Nelly, a Jewish woman who managed to survive Auschwitz concentration camp, decides to go back to her husband Johnny in Berlin. She has had to have her face reconstructed owing to a bullet wound, and her husband does not recognize her.

Led by Adam Nayman

November 12: On Her Own by Lihi Lapid

When Nina flees her struggling home for a life of luxury, she's quickly swept into danger. Hiding in a Tel Aviv stairwell after witnessing a murder, she must navigate secrets, survival, and unexpected connections in this gripping psychological drama set between Passover and Independence Day.

Led by Cynthia Good

May 6: Songs for the Broken Hearted by Ruby Newman

1In 1950s Israel, a forbidden love blooms between Yagub and Saida, a married woman in an immigrant camp. Decades later, Saida's daughter Zohara returns from New York after her mother's death, uncovering family secrets that challenge everything she thought she knew about her past, identity, and future. Led by Ruby Newman

May 27: **Autocorrect** by Etgar Keret

Etgar Keret, Israel's most celebrated living writer, crafts surreal, darkly funny short stories that explore everyday life's absurdities. With characters caught between technology and human emotion, his work reveals society's fault lines with wit, imagination, and unexpected hope. Led by Janna Nadler

June 17: TBC

This program will be offered for both in person and Zoom participants. Cost for six sessions: \$125 Beth Tzedec members; \$165 for the community; Individual session: \$30 per session. To register, visit https://bit.ly/ book-and-film-club-25-26.

How do you make a lulav shake?

Step 1: See page 59 to order your lulav and etrog through Beth Tzedec!





Family Shabbat Experience and Dinner

Fridays, September 12, November 21, December 19, January 23, February 20, March 20, April 17, May 29 and June 19

Beginning at 5:15 PM

Join us for our fabulous Family Shabbat experience and dinner.

New this year: Families have the option of registering for the Annual Pass, pre-registration for the full year of dinners. For information about the Annual Pass, contact Cantor Audrey Klein at cantoraudrey@beth-tzedec.org.

Cost for dinner, dependent on membership status and number of people in your party. Watch for registration links for individual programs on our weekly enewsletters.

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY THE GERTNER FAMILY



Run to Kiddush: A Social Run with the 'Nice Jewish Runners'

Sundays, September 14, December 7, March 22 and June 28

9:00 to 11:00 AM

Dash and schmooze!

Beth Tzedec's 20s and 30s are teaming up with Nice Jewish Runners (Toronto) for a dash and schmooze. We meet at the corner of Spadina and St Clair and end at Beth Tzedec for coffee and a schmooze.

No charge. For information, contact Rabbi Lara Rodin rabbilara@beth-tzedec.org.



BT Shabbat Chevra Small Tables, Big Connections

Fridays, November 21, December 12, January 16, February 20, March 20, April 17, May 22 and June 19

BT Shabbat Chevra is your chance to gather with friends, food, and song around the Shabbat table. Groups of 20s & 30s meet monthly in members' homes, building community beyond Beth Tzedec's walls and bringing Shabbat into our own homes.

There's no cost to join and meal costs are shared by the group, with significant subsidy support from our partnership with OneTable. Each group has a Chevra Captain to coordinate hosting and logistics, so all you need to bring is your spirit of Shabbat.

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



Beth Tzedec Small Groups Initiative

We are excited for our 2025-2026 year of Beth Tzedec Small Groups.

B-Fit: An Interactive Wellness Small Group for Boomer Women

Banned Book Club for 20s and 30s

BT Craft Club: Made with Love

Caregivers Connect

Chapters for Change: A Social Action Book Club

The Conversations We're Not Having: Being Jewish in 2025 Current Events Through a Jewish Lens

Ess Gezunterheit

Graphic Memoir: Comics as a Medium for Telling Our Stories

Help!! I Live in Toronto

Perfect Jewish Parents Eat Ice Cream

Post-October 7 Process Group

New groups will be added over the coming weeks. For registration information, contact Yacov Fruchter at yfruchter@beth-tzedec.org.



YESH: After Dark

(For kids in Grades 5 to 8)

September 28, November 29, December 7, January 24, February 28, March 29 and April 9

Once a month, when the sun goes down, the fun turns up!

Join us for an evening packed with awesome activities, chill time with friends and a touch of Jewish inspiration. When the program falls on a Saturday night, we'll kick things off with a meaningful Havdalah celebration.

For information, contact Shirel Barkan Slater at sbarkan@beth-tzedec.org.

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY THE FLATT FAMILY IN MEMORY OF AB FLATT Z*L



Twice with Mitch Albom Thursday, October 16 7:30 PM

Beth Tzedec welcomes back-for the second time!—the internationally renowned and best-selling author, journalist, screenwriter, playwright, radio and television broadcaster and musician Mitch Albom who joins us to speak about his latest book, Twice.

A signed copy of Twice will be provided with your ticket purchase.

Cost: \$45 (includes a signed coy of Twice). Pre-register via https://bit.ly/pre-roshhttps://bit.ly/mitch-albom-twice.



Faith and Food

October 29 at 6:30 PM November 4, 12 & 19 at 6:00 PM

Check website for times and session details

Faith can inform what we eat in meaningful ways: what we eat where and when, and how and who we eat it with can all be important ways of communicating our values and beliefs, and how we relate to each other within our communities. From how we use food in celebrating holidays to how we bless it around the table to the role of religious and cultural laws and global histories that shape what's on our plates, food plays a key role in how we can learn about and experience each other's faith traditions.

Learners will visit a new place of worship each week and prepare and share a meal together with the host congregation. In this way, we will learn about and experience each other's cultures and flavours, receive hospitality, explore each other's spaces, and hear about the ways that faith and fellowship are practiced across Toronto.

LOCATIONS

- October 29: Beth Tzedec
- November 4: St. Basil's Catholic Parish
- November 12: Ismaili Centre
- November 19: Toronto United Mennonite Church

Additional session will be confirmed soon.

Cost for series: \$150. Kosher food will be served at the Beth Tzedec session. Vegetarian food will be provided at the other sessions. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, contact the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511.



Book Launch—Zaidy's Band: The Untold Stories of a Jewish Band of **Brothers in World War II**

Sunday, November 16 3:30 PM

In Zaidy's Band, Aron Heller chronicles his extensive journey with his grandfather - his Zaidy to uncover long-time Beth Tzedec member Mickey Heller's mysterious wartime past and the untold stories of his Jewish Canadian "band of brothers." The book explores Heller's efforts to document their fates and the turbulent process of founding a museum in Israel dedicated to the 1.5 million Jewish soldiers like them who fought in World War II.

No charge but pre-registration is requested. Copies of the book will be available for purchase at a 25 percent discount. Register via https://bit.ly/zaidys-band.



Connecting the Expecting: A Three-Part Series for First-Time Expectant Parents

Thursdays, October 30 and November 6 & 13 6:30 to 8:00 PM

So, you're expecting your first? Mazal tov and B'Sha'ah Tovah! Come together with other soon-to-be-parents to hear from health professionals and our spiritual leadership team to learn more about raising healthy Jewish babies and growing your Jewish family together.

These three sessions will begin with dinner each evening. If you have any questions, contact Penina Hoffnung at **phoffnung@beth-tzedec.org**. Each session will begin with dinner.

Pre-registration is required via https://bit.ly/connecting-expecting-fall-2025.

Learn



Putting Your Stamp on History: An art installation created by Israeli artist Michelle Shalmiev

Continues through October 17

Beth Tzedec is proud to present this new art installation created by Israeli artist Michelle Shalmiev and commissioned by Beth Tzedec members David and Leanne Matlow. This 17-piece series is crafted entirely from Israeli postage stamps and tells the story of Israel's history through vibrant, textured imagery. Come experience the artwork and reflect on how each of us can put our own stamp on history.

This installation will be on display through the High Holy Days. We invite you to visit the Reuben & Helene Dennis Museum to experience the artwork and reflect on how each of us can put our own stamp on history.



Breakfast Bites

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at the Morning Minyan breakfast, on non-Torah reading days

Let's add a bit of learning to our morning minyan breakfast.

Join us for a 'breakfast bite' of Torah on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

SCHEDULE

- Tuesdays: Prayer with Rabbi Wernick
- Wednesdays: What Does God Look Like with Lorne Hanick
- Fridays: Sefer HaAgadah/The Book of Legends with Rabbi Fryer Bodzin

Everyone is welcome.



Torah Through the Ages with Rabbi Fryer Bodzin

Thursday mornings at 10:00 AM (beginning October 23)

Rabbi Fryer Bodzin leads an in-depth look at the book of Deuteronomy/ Sefer Devarim with traditional and modern commentaries. Having an Etz Chaim chumash is beneficial; other materials will be provided.

There is no charge but pre-registration is required. To register, visit https://bit.ly/torah-through-ages-2025-2026.

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



Talking Torah: with Daniel Silverman

Saturday mornings at 9:30 AM (beginning September 6)

Join Daniel Silverman, Director of Education, for a weekly examination of the Book of Leviticus (Sefer VaYikra).

Traditionally, VaYikra is the first book of Torah that a child studies. We will explore how this book of Torah-often considered less relevant today due to its focus on animal sacrifice and ritual purity—has much to offer us. Using traditional and modern commentaries and academic perspectives, Leviticus will come to life.



Nosh and Drash

Saturdays following Services, beginning September 6

Each week, a member of the Spiritual Leadership Team will teach a short session on the weekly parashah during the Kiddush. Everyone is welcome.

Check the website for the weekly schedule of presenters. Note that Cantor Stern's sessions will be presented in Hebrew.



Traumatic Invalidation in the Jewish Community after October 7: Jewish Resilience and a Path to Healing with Dr. Miri Bar-Halpern

Wednesday, September 3 (at Holy Blossom and via ZOOM)

7:30 to 9:00 PM

Since October 7, you've likely experienced a profoundly unsettling feeling in even your closest circles: Denial, dismissal, and distortion of our lived experience as Jews. You know it's real, but others act like it's not.

You're not alone—and you're not imagining it. It's called traumatic invalidation, a real and recognized psychological phenomenon.

Join Dr. Miri Bar-Halpern as we come together as a community for a powerful presentation to name what is happening, understand its impact and explore how we begin to heal. This program will be of interest to all in our community including educators, parents, and anyone who feels their Jewish identity and wellbeing have been impacted.

\$18. Pre-registration is required via https://bit.ly/Jewish-resilience.

THIS PROGRAM IS GENEROUSLY CO-SPONSORED BY HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE, THE LUKE SKLAR MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE OF HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE, MENTAL HEALTH EMPOWERMENT DAY, BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION, BETH TZEDEC CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING, AND ONEFAMILY.



University Health Network Jewish **Advisory Committee**

Wednesdays, September 17, November 26 and January 26

7:45 to 9:00 PM

Beth Tzedec partners with the UHN Jewish Advisory Group to provide a virtual learning series. Join us as we build a sense community with the Jewish UHN teams.

Wednesday, September 17:

Renewing Empathy and Compassion in the New Year

Wednesday, November 26:

Practicing Jewish Joy

Monday, January 26: Cultivating Gratitude for the Land (Tu B'Shevat)

If you are a member of UHN, please contact Rabbi Fryer Bodzin at

rabbiRFB@beth-tzedec.org.

SPONSORED BY BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION AND JEWISH ADVISORY GROUP UNIVERSITY HEALTH NETWORK



Calling All Kohanim with Norman Kahn

Wednesday, September 17

7:45 to 9:00 PM

Why the five coins?

Join Beth Tzedec past president Norman Kahn to learn and review the ins and outs of the sacred privilege of the Kohanim, including duchening, pidyon haben and the approach to funerals.

There is no charge but pre-registration is required via https://bit.ly/calling-kohens.



Help! My Loved One is Jewish Now and I've Got Questions!

Thursday, September 18

7:45 to 9:00 PM

Join us for an information session about Judaism's basics. We'll start with questions about the upcoming Jewish holiday season. Yacov Fruchter will provide you with all the answers you need.

This program will be offered online only. If you have a question you want answered during the session, make sure to add it to your registration

There is no charge. Pre-registration is required to access the Zoom link. Register at https://bit.ly/jewish-now.



Chai-er Learning: The York U at BT Speaker Series

Beginning October 22

7:45 to 9:00 PM

"Chai-er Learning" will feature six insightful presentations by leading academics, examining how Jewish communities interact with Israeli society and with diverse cultural and social groups. Through thought-provoking discussions, gain a deeper understanding of the complexities of Jewish identity in our multicultural society.

UPCOMING SESSIONS

- Wednesday, October 22
 David Koffman: Two Inward Turns: Canadian Jews Since Multiculturalism, Since October 8, and Since Trumps Annexationist Threats
- Thursday, December 11
 Randal Schnoor: Reflecting on Teaching an "Antisemitism and Islamaphobia Course at York U
- Monday, January 26
 Belarie Zatzman: The Diary of Anne Frank in Performance:

 Variations on a Theme
- Wednesday, March 11
 Carl Reingold: Topic TBD
- Thursday, April 16
 Matt Reingold: Cartooning the Yoms: Yom Hashoah, Hazikaron and Atzmaut in Israeli Society
- Wednesday, June 3
 Kalman Weiser: Topic TBD

There is no charge but pre-registration is required. To register, visit https://bit.ly/torah-through-ages-2025.

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP BY BETH TZEDEC AND YORK UNIVERSITY'S ISRAEL AND GOLDA KOSCHITZKY CENTRE FOR JEWISH STUDIES



Torah Through a Mindfulness Lens with Aviva Chernick

Thursdays, October 23 & 30 and November 13

7:00 to 8:15 PM

Join Aviva Chernick for an opportunity to study the weekly Torah portion through a mindfulness lens—reflecting on the ways the Torah's wisdom resonates within our own lives.

Together we will read in Hebrew and English, supported by classical commentaries and contemporary sources, finding meaning that connects us to ourselves, each other and the Divine.

This session includes brief periods of silent meditation and reflection.

There is no charge but pre-registration is required. To register, visit, https://bit.ly/torah-mindfulness-lens-2025.

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



Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class Two Sundays a month, beginning October 26

10:00 to 11:30 AM

Our most ambitious offering will start this fall. Once the High Holy Days season is completed and our sukkot are disassembled, our new "Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class" will begin. The class will meet bi-weekly for two years on Sunday mornings, with a big break in the summer. While Rabbi Fryer Bodzin will be the lead teacher and curriculum designer, Rabbi Steve Wernick, Rabbi Lara Rodin and Yacov Fruchter will also teach the cohort.

This class is for adults in our community who did not have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah at age 12 or 13. It will be a marvelous opportunity for people who converted to Judaism, as well as men and women who were not offered the opportunity when they were younger.

Topics in the first year will include Jewish time, kosher dietary laws, prayer, family obligations, Shabbat and Jewish pride.

After two years, at the conclusion of the course, participants will deliver a d'var Torah, read a short Torah reading and come up to the Torah for an alivah.

Cost: \$200 for the two-year program. To register, visit https://bit.ly/adult-bnaimitzvah-class.



BT Teens Beit Midrash and Moot Court Team: Torah Study for Teens in Grades 8 to 12

Begins Saturday, November 15 and meeting three times per month through March 14 from 12:30 to 2:00 PM

Sundays, March 1 & 7 rom 4:00 to 6:00 PM

Join Yacov Fruchter and Shirel Barkan-Slater to explore real-world ethical dilemmas through Jewish texts and prepare to compete in the Maimonides Moot Court Competition (MMCC), a North American Shabbaton and debate experience in New York from March 19 to 22.

Pre-registration is required. Watch for information coming soon. For more information, contact Yacov Fruchter at yfruchter@beth-tzedec.org.

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Learn Talmud with Reb Steve Begins Monday, December 1 and continues through June

7:45 to 9:00 PM

Join Rabbi Steven Wernick as he continues the exploration of Masekhet Megillah (Tractate Megillah Esther), focusing on the rituals and reading and on the public reading of Torah and other sacred texts. No previous experience is required.

There is no charge. Pre-registration is required at https://bit.ly/learntalmud-5786.

Pray



Weekday Shacharit Services

Sunday mornings at 8:45 AM Weekday mornings at 7:30 AM

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

Sundays: https://zoom.us/j/894447868 Weekdays: https://zoom.us/j/733141765

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



Weekday Mincha-Ma'ariv Services

Sunday to Thursday evenings: Check website for times

At the end of the day, join us in person in the Hendeles Chapel or on Zoom for our evening services via https://zoom.us/j/668598809.

You can also join by phone only by calling 647-374-4685 and inputting the meeting ID 668-598-809.



Kabbalat Shabbat and Ma'ariv

Every Friday evening at 6:00 PM

Prepare your spirit for Shabbat with song, comfort and community at our Kabbalat Shabbat and *Ma'ariv* services.

Our Friday evening Services are offered in person in the Hendeles Chapel and livestreamed via https://bethtzedec.tv.



Shabbat at the Floor

Fridays, September 5, November 7, December 5 6:00 PM

Shabbat at the Floor is a welcoming, inclusive, musical, connected, caring and relevant monthly Kabbalat Shabbat experience. We choose music intentionally to represent diverse Jewish voices, identities and life stories—some familiar, others new. Prepare to be moved and inspired.

Shabbat at the Floor services are offered in person and are livestreamed via https://www.bethtzedec.tv.



Shabbat Sanctuary Services

Every Saturday morning

9:00 AM

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

Lift your soul in prayer as you sing with us or close your eyes in meditation and be carried away by the magnificent harmonic sounds. Services are offered for in person daveners and are livestreamed via https://www.bethtzedec.tv.



Little Minyan Service

Saturdays, September 6, 13 & 27, October 11, 18 & 25 and November 8, 15, 22 & 29

NEW TIME: 9:15 AM

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

Little Minyan Services are offered for in-person participation only.



Short and Sweet Multi-Generational Family Service

Saturdays, September 6, November 1, December 6 10:30 AM

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

The Family Service is offered for in-person participation only.



Musical Participatory Services with The HarmonEzers

Saturdays, October 14 & 25, November 8 & 22 and December 6 & 20

9:00 AM

Join us for a Musical Participatory Service led by Cantor Chaim Stern, Cantor Sidney Ezer and the HarmonEzers, our a cappella choir, conducted by Asher Farber. We will explore many classic and familiar melodies, as well as new and modern ones.

With inspiring arrangements and innovative harmonies, we welcome you to sing along with us. A Congregational Kiddush follows.

Services are are offered in person and are livestreamed via https://www.bethtzedec.tv.



Mincha-Seudah Shlisheet-Ma'ariv

Every Saturday evening; check website for times

Join us for Mincha followed by Seudah Shlisheet (the third Sabbath meal) and Torah study. We will then return to the Chapel for Ma'ariv and Havdalah following. This Service is offered in-person only.



Bim Bam Bunch

(For children ages 0 to 12)

Saturday mornings 9:30 AM

The day starts with free play, then transitions to a little people *tefillah* (prayer) experience at 10:30 AM led by Cantor Audrey Klein followed a nutritious snack and special stories, songs or visits from our *Shinshinim* (young Israeli emissaries).

On days where there is a Multi-Generational Family Service, Bim Bam Bunch will conclude at 10:15 AM so that families can join our service and lunch.

Please note that children 3 and under must have a grown up with them. Older children can stay on their own if they're comfortable doing that.

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Shabbabah: Shabbat Morning Fun

(For children ages 6 and older)

Saturday mornings 9:30 AM

This Shabbat morning program begins with free play, followed by a 10:30 AM kid-led *tefillah* (prayer) service at 10:30 AM and concluding with visits from our *Shinshinim* (young Israeli emissaries), games, theme days and a nutritious snack. Grown ups are welcome to stay if they'd like.

On days where there is a Multi-Generational Family Service, Shabbabah Bam Bunch will conclude at 10:15 AM so that families can join our service and lunch.

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Na'aleh: Jewish Mindfulness Collective Series

Sundays, September 7, November 2 and March 1 1

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

We are excited to announce this year's Na'aleh series, an arc of three programs offered throughout this year, 5786 (2025-2026), each delving into mindfulness practices and Jewish spiritual wisdom to prepare for an upcoming Jewish holiday. All three sessions will be full-day sessions held at Beth Tzedec.

UPCOMING SESSIONS

- Sunday, September 7 Nashuva/Return
- Sunday, November 2 Avodah/Cultivation
- Sunday, March 1
 Kenisa/Entering

For information, contact Aviva Chernick at achernick@beth-tzedec.org.

Cost: \$50 for one session; \$90 for two sessions; \$135 for three sessions. Preregistration is required via https://bit.ly/na-aleh-2025-2026.

PRESENTED BY THE BETH TZEDEC CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING, DARCHEI NOAM, IJS AND NEYSHEV JEWISH MINDFULNESS MEDITATION



Pre-Rosh Hashanah Community Shabbat Dinner

Friday, September 19 Services 6:00 PM | Dinner following

Join us for a musical Kabbalat Shabbat Service featuring Cantors Chaim Stern and Sidney Ezer and the High Holy Day Choir as we gather to celebrate the coming High Holy Days with an inspiring and meaningful Service followed by a delicious catered dinner.

Let's enjoy this time together as a community to celebrate and reconnect with our Beth Tzedec family, friends and neighbours.

Cost for dinner. Pre-registration required by Monday, September 14. To register, visit https://bit.ly/pre-rosh-hashanahdinner-2025.



YESH: Youth, Energy, Shabbat, Happiness: End of Year Celebration

(For kids in Grades 5 to 8)

Saturdays, September 20, October 11 and November 15 10:30 AM

Join us once a month for a meaningful morning of Jewish learning, spirited tefillah and fun activities! This is a space to connect with friends, grow in Jewish pride, and start the day with purpose and joy.

For information, contact Shirel Barkan Slater at sbarkan@beth-tzedec.org.

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



A Musical Participatory Shabbat of Remembrance

Saturday, November 8 9:00 AM

Join Cantors Chaim Stern and Sidney Ezer, Asher Farber and the HarmonEzers for a moving Remembrance Day Shabbat.

As part of our 70th Anniversary, we will revisit some of the original melodies Cantor Sidney first introduced when first creating this special Shabbat as well as other melodies later added and arranged by Asher intrinsically linked to Remembrance Day, all reminding us of loss and sacrifice, but inspiring us towards hope, life, love and peace.

This service is offered for in person daveners and is livestreamed via https://www.bethtzedec.tv.



Shabbat 201

Saturdays, October 18, November 22, December 13, January 24, February 21, March 14, April 11 and May 9

10:30 AM

Shabbat 201 is a once-monthly 75-minute experiential Shabbat morning service for anyone interested in becoming familiar with the structure, choreography and deep meaning of the traditional Shabbat morning service.

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

For information, email Rabbi Lara Rodin at rabbilara@beth-tzedec.org.



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

Wednesdays, October 29, November 26 and December 17 at 8:00 PM

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

No charge. Pre-registration is requested via https://bit.ly/torah-tree-pose-2025.

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



Song Circles: Chanukah Edition with Aviva Chernicl

Wednesday, December 3, 10 & 17

7:00 to 8:15 PM

Join Aviva Chernick to explore what it is to sing together in joyous, moving and soul stirring song. Come in out of the cold and let the singing and community warm you up.

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

All Hebrew text will be translated and transliterated.

No charge. Register via https://bit.ly/ song-circles-winter-2025. (Please note that you only need to register once.)

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



Making a Minyan: WhatsApp Group

Saturday and Weekday Services

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

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

Celebrate

The Middle Years: **Building a Vibrant Legacy**

The Middle Years: Building a Vibrant Legacy

Exhibit opens for Rosh Hashanah

As part of Beth Tzedec's 70th anniversary, The Middle Years exhibit highlights a transformative era in our Congregation's history. This period reflects growth, innovation and deepening community ties—laying the foundation for the dynamic synagogue we are today.

Through depictions of our stories, images, and milestones, we celebrate the people and moments that shaped our evolving identity.

THE JACK AND LIBBY ORENSTEIN FUND, 70TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS SPONSOR



Shivim Panim: Celebrate 70 Years in Song

Sunday, September 28 7:30 PM

Get ready for an unforgettable night of music and memories as we celebrate Beth Tzedec's 70th anniversary in spectactular style!

Join choir master Asher Farber as he leads our new High Holy Day ensemble, with special appearances by our new Senior Cantor Chaim Stern and Cantor Sidney Ezer, for an evening that will uplift your spirit and stir your soul.

Let's celebrate 70 years of community, tradition and song—together. You won't want to miss it.

There is no charge but pre-registration is requestd via https://bit.ly/Shivim-Panim-Concert.

THE JACK AND LIBBY ORENSTEIN FUND, 70TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS SPONSOR



Simchat Torah Luncheon honouring Gary Elman and Debbie Rothstein

Wednesday, October 15 Following Services

Join us as we gather for Simchat Torah Services honouring our Chattan Torah Gary Elman and our Kallat Bereisheet Debbie Rothstein.

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

Cost for luncheon. Register via https://bit.ly/simchat-torah-lunch-2025.



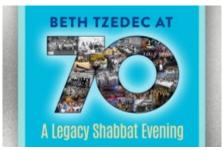
Dan Senor: In Conversation
Tuesday, November 4 7:30 to 9:00 PM

Dan Senor, best-selling author, columnist, political adviser and host of the "Call Me Back" podcast, joins us at Beth Tzedec as part of our 70th anniversary celebrations for an evening of stories and commentary.

Tickets: \$55 to \$120. To purchase tickets, visit https://bit.ly/BTZ-Dan-Senor-In-Conversation.

Sponsorships/VIP premium packages available. Contact Jonathan Ain at jain@beth-tzedec.org.

THE JACK AND LIBBY ORENSTEIN FUND, 70^{TH} ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS SPONSOR



Beth Tzedec at 70: A Legacy Shabbat Evening

Friday, October 24 Service 6:00 PM | Dinner 7:15 PM

Beth Tzedec's 70th anniversary is a milestone in our beloved community, reflecting seven decades of spiritual growth, Jewish learning, meaningful relationships, and shared values.

Join us for "Beth Tzedec at 70: A Legacy Shabbat Evening",with a special Shabbat service and elevated dinner. Through prayer, music, food and fellowship, we'll honour our legacy and look to the future.

Create new memories together as we continue building the next chapter of Beth Tzedec's story—together.

Cost for dinner. Limited seating available. Pre-registration is required by Monday, October 20 at https://bit.ly/70th-legacy-shabbat-evening.

Thank you for understanding that an event of this size will be very difficult to manage with people registering just days before the event—place cards, table arrangements, table linens and napkins, chair rentals, floral centrepieces etc. We will be unable to accept registration requests after **October 13**.

THE JACK AND LIBBY ORENSTEIN FUND, $70^{\rm TH}$ ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS SPONSOR



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

Rosh Hashanah Day 1

"Like Dreamers": How Everyone
Can be a Philanthropist
with Pearl Goodman, Marilyn Finkelstein
and Jonathan Ain

Rosh Hashanah Day 2

Compassion for Those Who Care: Tools for Renewal and Balance with Stephanie Muskat and Anne Max Yom Kippur

SESSION ONE:

Yizkor and the Power of Mourning in Community with Yacov Fruchter, Adam Goodman, Ellen Babbins

SESSION TWO:

Dreaming Forward:

The Next 70 Years An intergenerational panel led by Rabbi Steven Wernick

Wishing you a sweet, joyful, and meaningful New Year. Shanah Tovah!



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Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Classes



Are you interested in having an adult bar or bat mitzvah? We're planning classes to be taught by the Spiritual Leadership Team (SLT) and will be open for all members of Beth Tzedec. At the conclusion of the course, participants will deliver a *d'var Torah*, be called for an aliyah and read a short aliyah.

For more information, contact Rabbi Fryer Bodzin at rabbirfb@beth-tzedec.org.



An Evening of Celebration

We are truly honoured and delighted to serve as co-chairs for the 70th anniversary celebrations at Beth Tzedec Congregation. This is a remarkable milestone in the life of our beloved community-one that reflects seven decades of spiritual growth Jewish learning, meaningful relationships, and unwavering commitment to our shared values.

Beth Tzedec has been a place where generations have come together to celebrate, reflect and support one another, and we are humbled to play a role in marking this significant chapter in our Congregation's history.

As we prepare for our upcoming, Shabbat celebration—Beth Tzedec at 70: A Legacy Shabbat Evening—we are especially excited to welcome our members, past and present, to a very special Shabbat service and celebratory dinner on Friday, October 24.

The evening promises to be filled with warmth, joy and reflection as we honour the legacy of those who came before us and look ahead to the vibrant future of our community. Through prayer, music, food and fellowship, we will come together to give thanks and celebrate all that Beth Tzedec has meant over the past 70 years.

This milestone is not only a celebration of our past but also a beautiful expression of the strength, resilience and enduring spirit of our Congregation. We look forward to sharing this meaningful Shabbat with you and your families and to creating new memories together as we continue building the next chapter of Beth Tzedec's story-together.

Please register today for this exciting event!

For more details about this celebration, please see page 14.

-Patti Rotman & Arlyn Zimmerman, 70th Anniversary Events Co-Chairs

20s and 30s Around Town

From swinging paddles to cheering in the stands, our 20s and 30s crew made the most of summer! July 5 saw the first-ever BT Pickle Party at Branksome Hall, and on July 21, they packed the Rogers Centre to watch the Jays sweep their division rivals NY Yankees.

















As we bring in the High Holy Days, we look to our synagogue communities to rise with courage, conviction, and unity.

Now is the time to turn our prayer into action, and our solidarity into meaningful support. Israel faces a long road of rebuilding its economy and healing the trauma of an entire generation that refuses to give up.

An investment in Israel Bonds is more than financial it is a powerful expression of faith in Israel, its people, and our shared future.



6 TISHREI 28 8:45am Shacharit 1:00pm Ma'aseh Yadaynu: The Work of Our Hands 5:30pm YESH: After Dark 6:40pm Mincha-Ma'ariv 7:30pm Shivim Panim: Celebrate 70 Years in Song	28 ELUL 8.45am Shacharit 11:15am Spinagogue 1:00pm Pre-High Holy Day Picnic and Flower Picking 6:50pm Mincha-Ma'ariv	845am Shacharit 9:00am Run to Kiddush 10:30am Estate Planning in Ten Easy Steps 7:00pm Mincha–Ma'ariv	21 ELUL	8.45am Shacharit 10.00am Na'aleh: Nashuva/ Returning 1:00pm Ma'aseh Yadaynu: The Work of Our Hands 7:00pm Mincha-Ma'ariv	14 ELUL	September 2025	SUNDAY
7 TISHREI 7:10am Selichot Shach 6:40pm Mincha-Ma'ariv	29 ELUL 29 ELUL 22 EREVROSH HASHANAH 7:10am Selichot Shacharit 6:00pm Mincha and Festival Ma'ariv 6:58pm Candle Lighting 7	7:10am Selichot Shach: 7:00pm Mincha-Ma'ariv y in 7:30pm Modem Loss: A Evening of Cano Community and Conversation ah Grief	22 ELUL 1	7:30am Shacharit 1va/ 7:00pm Mincha-Ma'ariv nu: 1r	7 15 ELUL	8 ELUL LABOUR DAY 8:45am Shacharit 7:00pm Mincha-Ma'ariv 725 / Elul 5785	MONDAY
8 TISI 7:10am 8:30am 6:40pm	2 1 TISHREI 23 ROSH HASHANAH B:30am Mezzanine Service 9:30am Sanctuary Service 9:30am Return Again & Again Meditation 10:30am Short & Sweet Outdoor Service 11:00am Family Service 7:55pm Candle Lighting 7:55pm Candle Lighting	out 7:	5 23 ELUL 16	7:30am Shacharit 8:30am Breakfast Bites 7:00pm Mincha-Ma'ariv	8 16 ELUL 9	1 9 ELUL 2 7:30am Shacharit 8:30am Breakfast Bites 7:00pm Mincha-Ma'ariv	TUESDAY
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	3 TISHREI PAST OF GEDALYAH 7:10am Selichot Shacharit 12:30pm Games Afternoon 6:50pm Mincha-Ma'ariv 7:48pm Fast concludes	7:10am Selichot Shao 12:30pm Games After 7:00pm Mincha-Ma'a	25 ELUL 18	7:30am Shacharit 12:30pm Games Afternoon 7:00pm Mincha-Ma'ariv 8:00pm Empty Seat at the Table	18 ELUL 11	11 ELUL 7:30am Shacharit 12:30pm Games Afternoon 7:00pm Mincha-Ma'ariv	THURSDAY
	4 TISHREI 26 7:10am Selichot Shacharit 8:30am Breakfast Bites 11:45am Babies, Blessings and Shabbat Fun 6:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat 6:51pm Candle Lighting	7:10am Selichot Shac 8:30am Breakfast Bite 11:45am Babies, Bless and Shabbat 6:00pm Kabbalat Shal 7:15pm Pre-Rosh Has Community I 7:04pm Candle Lighti	26 ELUL 19	7:30am Shacharit 8:30am Breakfast Bites 1145am Babies, Blessings and Shabbat Fun 5:15pm Family Shabbat Experience 6:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat 7:17pm Candle Lighting	19 ELUL 12	7:30am Shacharit 8:30am Breakfast Bites 11:45am Babies, Blessings and Shabbat Fun 6:00pm Shabbat at the Floor 7:15pm 20s and 30s Shabbat Dinner 7:30pm Candle Lighting	FRIDAY
	5 TISHREI SHABBAT SHUVAH The Vayelekh 9:00am Sanctuary Service 9:15am Little Minyan 9:30am Bim Bam Bunch 9:30am Shabbabah 9:30am Talking Torah 6:30pm Mincha/SS/Ma'ariv 7:49pm Havdalah	Nitzavim 9:00am Sanctuary Se 9:30am Bim Bam Bu 9:30am Shabbabah 9:30am Talking Tora 10:30am YESH 6:45pm Mincha/SS/N 8:02pm Havdalah	27 ELUL 20	SELICHOT Ki Tavo 9:00am Sanctuary Service 9:15am Little Minyan 12:30pm Nosh & Drash 6:55pm Mincha/SS/Ma'ariv 9:30pm Pre-Selichot Havdalah and Selichot Service	20 ELUL 13	13 ELUL Ki Teitzei 9:00am Sanctuary Service 9:15am Little Minyan 9:30am Bim Bam Bunch 9:30am Shabbabah 10:30am Short & Sweet Family Service 7:10pm Mincha/SS/Ma'ariv 8:28pm Havdalah	SATURDAY

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26 TISHREI Bereisheet 9:00am Sanctuary Service 9:15am Little Minyan 9:30am Talking Torah 10:30am Shabbat 201 12:30pm Nosh & Drash 5:55pm Mincha/SS/Ma'ariv 7:13pm Havdalah	25 TISHREI 7:30am Shacharit 8:30am Breakfast Bites 11:45am Babies, Blessings and Shabbat Fun 6:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat 6:14pm Candle Lighting	24 TISHREI 16 7:30am Shacharit 12:30pm Games Afternoon 6:15pm Mincha-Ma'ariv 7:30pm Mitch Albom Twice	23 TISHREI SINCHATTORAH 9:00am Sanctuary Service 12:15pm Simchat Torah Luncheon 6:15pm Mincha-Ma'ariv 7:18pm Yom Tov concludes	22 TISHREI SHEMINI ATZERET 9:00am Musical Participatory Sanctuary Service 5:30pm Family Simchat Torah Faire Pageant 6:15pm Mincha-Ma'ariv 6:45pm Hakafot 7:18pm Candle Lighting	21 TISHREI HOSHANAH RABBAH THANKSGIVING DAY 8:30am Shacharit 6:15pm Mincha and Festival Ma'ariv 6:21pm Candle lighting	20 TISHREI CHOLHAMOED SUKKOT 8:30am Shacharit 10:00am Teen Volunteering Opportunity 6:15pm Mincha-Ma'ariv
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Celebrating Our Simchat Torah Honourees

On Wednesday, October 15, join us at Beth Tzedec as we celebrate our Simchat Torah honourees **Gary Elman**, who will honoured as our *Chattan Torah*, and **Debbie Rothstein**, who will be honoured as *Kallat Bereisheet*. Each have demonstrated an outstanding dedication to our Congregation and the community.

Gary Elman



Gary Elman and his wife Jan were not really more than three-days-a-year goers until their daughters were getting a little older

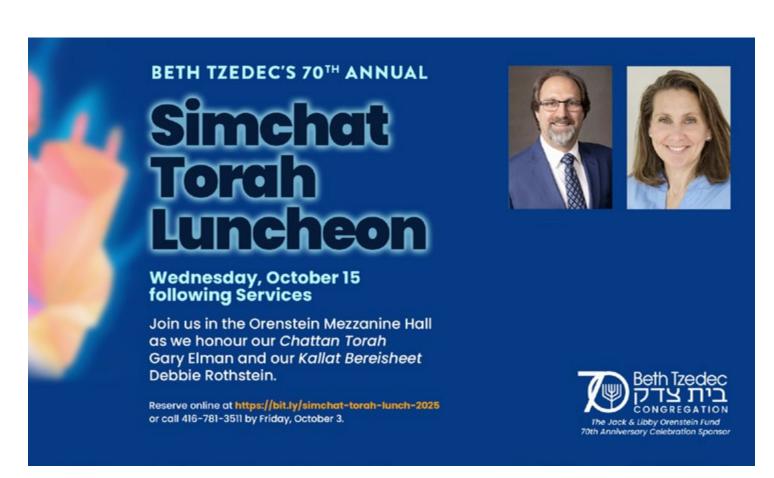
and it was time to start thinking about a Bat Mitzvah for their oldest one, Laura. They wanted somewhere welcoming, intimate and where their girls could have a full Bat Mitzvah experience. They did a fair bit of shul shopping, and although their three kids were at USDS and they knew the Beth Tzedec building, it felt like too big a place, and they never tried it.

Fast forward to a chance meeting with Steven Flatt at the local cleaners, whom they knew from U of T. The conversation somehow led to synagogues, and Steven suggested trying The Little Minyan as it seemed to hit the highlights they were looking for. They did... and they never left.

Gary and Jan felt immediately at home in The Little Minyan community. It wasn't too long before Gary took on some responsibilities within the Minyan and eventually became co-chair for two years.

As he became more comfortable at Beth Tzedec, he wanted to get more involved, and he eventually joined the Board. Simultaneously, he also joined what was then the Adult Education Committee, as well as the Membership Committee. He sat on both for several years. Eventually, Gary became co-chair of the Ritual Committee, and by virtue of that appointment, he was a member of the Executive Committee of Beth Tzedec.

Of all the things that have gone on at Beth Tzedec, the changes that he has seen throughout his time as a member and in a leadership role, he will tell you that he is most proud of helping usher in the Peace of Mind program and helping to establish it as part of the fabric of what we do.



Debbie Rothstein



A lifelong, thirdgeneration member, Debbie Rothstein grew up surrounded by the warmth of the Beth Tzedec community and the deep values

of service and leadership modelled by her family. Her grandfather, J. Barney Goldhar, served as Chair of the Board. Her father, Paul Rothstein, served as both Chair of the Board and President, and her mother, Gella Rothstein, served in numerous roles at the synagogue. Their example instilled in Debbie a profound respect for the synagogue's mission and an enduring commitment to helping it flourish.

Debbie was immersed in Jewish learning from an early age, and while her connection to Beth Tzedec was always strong, it deepened in a new way when her daughter, Emma, entered the Bar/ Bat Mitzvah program. Debbie joined the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Task Force, helping to revamp the program for future B'nai Mitzvah.

In May 2010, Debbie was asked

to join the Board of Directors. The following year, she joined the Executive Committee. She served on a variety of committees, and assumed the role of Chair of the Communications Committee during the last redevelopment of the Beth Tzedec website. She also led communications for the synagogue's 60th Anniversary, helping celebrate its history and strengthen its future. Debbie now co-chairs the Visioning Committee, as Beth Tzedec looks towards its next 70 years. From 2016 to 2019, Debbie served as Chair of the Board, followed by her tenure as President from 2019 to 2022.

Her presidency began with great optimism, with the adoption of the mission of Inspiring and Enabling our Community to Lead Meaningful Jewish Lives, as well as the six values of Care, Connect, Give and Get, Celebrate, Pray and Learn. Then, the COVID-19 pandemic forced the synagogue to shut its doors entirely. Under Debbie's leadership, Beth Tzedec pivoted to livestream services for the first time in its history, ensuring that worship and community connection could continue despite physical separation.

In her final year as President, Debbie helped spearhead the adoption of a Five-Year Plan, which introduced the highly successful Generations Membership initiative and secured the hiring of a Director of Development, as well as a financial plan to ensure the sustainability of the synagogue. This visionary step marked a shift towards a philanthropic financial model, ensuring greater viability for future generations. Through every challenge and achievement, Debbie's dedication has been rooted in the values passed down through her family.

Married to Michael and the proud parent of Emma and Zachary, she feels a deep sense of pride in carrying forward her family's legacy of leadership at Beth Tzedec.

For Debbie, Beth Tzedec is not just a place to pray—it has been a constant in her family's life for generations, where lifelong relationships have been formed, and where she has had the privilege to give back to the community that has given her so much. Her dedication reflects a guiding belief: that the strength of a synagogue lies in its people, its shared traditions, and its vision for the future.

Welcome Tsvia Weisberger, This Year's Tanenbaum Fellow



Beth Tzedec is very pleased to introduce Tsvia Weisberger, our Anne & Max Tanenbaum Fellow for

Tsvia Weisberger is an educator and rabbinical student with extensive

experience in teaching, leadership, and community engagement. She holds a

B.A. in Bible and Jewish Studies and an M.A. in Jewish Education from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and is currently studying for rabbinic ordination at the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary in Jerusalem.

Tsvia served for two years as an emissary (Shlicha) in Rochester, NY, where she taught Hebrew and Jewish Studies. She has spent the

past two summers at Camp Ramah in Canada, where she served as the Head of the Israeli delegation, and as an educator.

Tsvia lives in Kfar Adummim, Israel, with her husband and their three children.

We look forward to welcoming Tsvia later this year when she will join us at Beth Tzedec as part of her fellowship.

Beth Tzedec's Ushers: A Meet and Greet with Jeff Gertner and Lawrie Lubin

"Shabbat Shalom and welcome to Beth Tzedec."

These are the first words you will almost inevitably hear from Jeff Gertner and Lawrie Lubin when you walk into any Shabbat service at Beth Tzedec, no matter what time you enter or whether it is in the sanctuary or the chapel. They are the Gabbai/ ushers, and they are present at the service regularly, or at least one of them is, as surely as a Levi follows a Kohen and Ma'ariv follows Mincha. Their task, one they excel at, is to make the congregants feel welcome and comfortable in the service. No one realizes how well they do, what is, on the face of it, a somewhat difficult job.



Jeff Gertner's association with Beth Tzedec goes back nearly 60 years, to when his parents, Sam and Ruth Gertner, joined the new shul in 1956. Living near Bathurst and Wilson, Jeff had to hustle to make it to the afterschool program. Even as he reached milestones at the synagogue, his Bar Mitzvah, his wedding, he drifted away from synagogue life, like many of his



peers at that time. He stayed a threedays-a-year member until his father's death in 2005, and began attending the minyan to say Kaddish on a regular basis. Having been included as part of a group that recognized his pain and grief, Jeff came to realize the importance of the Beth Tzedec community. It was not long before the service became an integral part of his life, so much so that he gave up his regular Saturday golf game to attend on Shabbat. He joined the Ushering Committee and ushered on the leadership of the late Barry Phillips^z". Several years ago, he took charge along with Lawrie Lubin.

Jeff says that he enjoys the challenge of making people feel comfortable in the service, especially for those who attend synagogue less frequently. It helps, of course, that he knows so many of the people in the service—who can be called to chant an aliyah or open the ark. That is no small talent, I suggest.

Lawrie Lubin also had an early connection to the synagogue since his parents joined when he was only six. He had his Bar Mitzvah during the Rabbi Stuart Rosenberg^{z"} tenure, and even reconfirmed his commitment following Hebrew School. Lawrie was involved in USY and Atid after that, staying closely connected to the Jewish community.

Lawrie Lubin's feelings for Beth Tzedec have always remained strong—evident through years of service on a variety of committees and over two decades as a Board member. He and Jeff have been co-chairs of the Ushering Committee for about four years now.

Lawrie knows many of the people at the service by name and can confidently ask them to receive honours, knowing they will usually agree. It's a challenge for him (and I suggest for most people) to optimally delegate and make sure they are prepared, even to the extent of giving tips on how to lift the Torah, as in *Hagbah*. The reality is that for many people, there is a certain amount of "Shabbat Shalom and welcome to Beth Tzedec."

-Gerry Posner



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

Wave Hello to Sukkot!

Participate in the mitzvah of shaking the lulav and etrog! Order your families set at Beth Tzedec.





Chesed Report

Out of the Cold Resumes at Beth **Sholom in January**

Beth Tzedec and Beth Sholom will resume their Monday night Out of the Cold program at Beth Sholom starting in January, running for 12 weeks from 5:30-9:30 PM.

Guests will receive:

- A hot dinner
- Musical Entertainment
- Clothing distribution
- Art program
- BINGO
- Bagged lunches

Volunteer Opportunities

Teens, adults, and Bar/Bat Mitzvah groups are invited to help. Community service hours are available for high school students. Shifts are approximately two hours and include:

- Dinner setup and service
- Clothing distribution
- Art and BINGO support
- Sandwich-making
- Guest/volunteer check-in
- · Shift leadership

Volunteer registration opens in early October via Beth Tzedec's e-newsletters and website.

Urgent Donations Needed

OOTC is self-funded and our inventory is low. We urgently need **NEW or GENTLY USED ADULTS-**ONLY ITEMS. WE DO NOT ACCEPT SUMMER CLOTHING

- · Jeans, pants, t-shirts, sweatpants, sweatshirts
- Warm ski jackets, running shoes, winter/hiking boots
- · Hats, scarves, gloves
- New sleeping bags, underwear, hotel-sized toiletries

Corporate donations are always welcome.

Drop-off: Weekdays, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Beth Sholom, starting early November.

Contact: 416-781-3511 or info@beth-tzedec.org (Attn: Maureen Tanz)

Thursday Games Afternoon Join the Fun!

Canasta and Mahjong are thriving every Thursday from 12:30-4:00 PM

at Beth Tzedec! Whether you're a seasoned player or new to the games, come solo or with friends for a fun and social afternoon. \$2 weekly contribution.

Interested in learning? Judi Rosen, an experienced instructor, offers lessons in both games. Contact Avital in the Synagogue Office to be connected.

Have a spare **Mahjong set**? Donations are welcome to help keep extra sets on hand.

Chesed Fund Occasion Cards

Tribute chesed cards are available for purchase through the Synagogue office for all your family occasions, including Rosh Hashanah. Please consider supporting our program by having the funds directed to the Out of the Cold program.

Wishing you a sweet and meaningful Shanah Tovah. As Beth Tzedec celebrates our 70th anniversary, may the year ahead bring abundant health, joy and serenity to you and your loved ones.

> -Maureen Tanz. Chesed Chair



Na'aleh / Toronto Jewish Mindfulness Collective Sundays, September 7, November 2 and March 1 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

We are excited to announce the launch our 2025-2026 Na'aleh / Jewish Mindfulness Collective series, an arc of three programs offered throughout this year, each delving into mindfulness practices and Jewish spiritual wisdom to prepare for an upcoming Jewish holiday.



Nashuva/Return Sunday, September 7



Avodah/Cultivation

Na'aleh is a partnership between

Sunday, November 2



Kenisa/Entering Sunday, March 1

This year, all sessions will be held at Beth Tzedec. Everyone is welcome. To register for the Na'aleh programs, visit https://bit.ly/naoleh-series-2025.











Men's Club Makes a Difference

Men's Club Scholarships for 2026

The Beth Tzedec Men's Club is pleased to sponsor our long-standing scholarship program to assist young men and women who are pursuing programs of higher Jewish education. Applicants need not be a member of Beth Tzedec. Awards are available for a wide range of Jewish studies including education, arts, social work and cantorial and rabbinic studies.

The criteria we use to judge each applicant is based on the following and should be given careful consideration when applying. The information provided with this

application is the sole source upon which the scholarship committee will make a decision.

- 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.
- The benefit that may be brought to the Jewish community by the candidate.
- The overall quality of the submitted application.
- Special needs or consideration.

The relationship between and the planned area of study and what benefit will be provided to the Jewish community by the candidates' career goals should be detailed very clearly.

The deadline for submissions is April 17, 2026.

Applications and information are available from the Beth Tzedec Men's Club at 416-781-3511 or email hershr@rogers.com.

NOW ... MORE THAN EVER ... BETH TZEDEC NEEDS A STRONG MEN'S CLUB

For only \$36, Men's Club Contribution gives you

- A Personalized Plastic 3-Year Membership Card & Jewish Holiday Calendar
- ✓ Preferred Seating at Selected Men's Club Sponsored Events
- ☑ Benefits from National Men's Club Federation
- ✓ FREE Dinner with Fellow Men's Club Board Members











Men's Club Hits a Home Run at Blue Jays Night!

On August 12, Beth Tzedec's Men's Club brought the energy to Rogers Centre for their annual Blue Jays Night, welcoming members and friends for an unforgettable evening. In a nail-biter of a game, the Jays pulled ahead in the late innings to clinch a win over the Chicago Cubs. (Sorry, Rav Baruch.)

While the action on the field kept us on edge, another spectacle stole the show: the legendary loonie dog counter. Over 78,000. hot dogs were devoured by the sold-out Rogers Centre crowd!

Tributes

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

Arts and Culture Fund

Ellen and Jerry Babbin, honouring **Aviva Chernick** on being named Director of the Beth Tzedec Centre for Spiritual Well-Being.

Rosalee Berlin, honouring **Aviva Chernick** on being named Director of the Beth Tzedec Centre for Spiritual Well-Being.

Shirley Brazer, honouring **Aviva Chernick** on being named Director of the Beth Tzedec Centre for Spiritual Well-Being.

Aviva Chernick, honouring **Lyon Wexler** on his 91st birthday.

Aviva Chernick, honouring Rabbi Lara Rodin on receiving her ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Odette Masliyah, honouring **Rabbi Lara Rodin** on receiving her ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Petra Newton and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Lionel Newton**.

Deborah Staiman, honouring **Aviva Chernick** on being named Director of the Beth Tzedec Centre for Spiritual Well-Being.

Elaine and Joseph Steiner, honouring **Aviva Chernick** on being named Director of the Beth Tzedec Centre for Spiritual Well-Being.

Dot Whitehouse, honouring **Corinne Hart**.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Prep Club

Michael and Phyllis Kaplan, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Pearl Kaplan**.

Camp Ramah Fund

Art and Carole Andrews, honouring **Rabbi Lara Rodin** on receiving her ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Liane Greenberg and family, honouring **Rabbi Lara Rodin**.

Loren and Mark Roth, wishing **Ben Roth** continued good health.

Deborah Staiman, honouring **Rabbi Lara Rodin** on receiving her ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Barbra Walters, honouring **Rabbi Lara Rodin** on receiving her ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Todd and Janna, Danielle and Josh Walters, honouring **Rabbi Lara Rodin** on receiving her ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Chesed Fund

Carol Barkin, honouring **Marvin and Barbara Miller** on their 70th anniversary. Shep and Lorraine Ganbgbar, honouring **Marvin and Barbara Miller** on their 70th anniversary.

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

Adrienne Levinter, honouring **Rabbi Lara Rodin** on receiving her ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Susan Swartzman, honouring the memory of **Eleanor Templar**.

Dorothy Tonchin, honouring **Lyon Wexler**.

Daily Minyan Breakfast Fund

Rosalee Berlin, acknowledging **Melissa Glazer and family** in memory of **Evelyn Dorfman**.

Gary and Ivan Betcherman, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Ann Betcherman**.

Devin and Jordana Borst, honouring the birth of their daughter **Veda Emery Borst**.

The Carr and Allen Families, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Murray Allen**.

The Casse Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Joseph Casse**.

Aviva Chernick, commemorating the second yahrtzeit of **Dr. Avinoam Bentzion Chernick**.

The children and grandchildren of **Dr. John Zeldin**, commemorating his yahrtzeit.

Janet and Edwin Durbin, commemorating the yahrtzeit of

Alexander Devon.

Janet and Edwin Durbin, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **David Durbin**.

Elliott and Wendy Eisen, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **David Eisen**.

Jeffrey and Jane Gertner, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Sidney Oscar Stern**.

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

Sam Glazer, commemorating the yahrtzeiten of Jennie and Melville Potash.

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

Melissa and Sam Glazer, commemorating the *yahrtzeiten* of **Saul and Gertrude Pasen**.

Eudice Goldberg and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Arthur Konviser**.

Nancy Golden, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Dr. Sidney Golden**.

Alison Himel, Sharon and Andrew Himel, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Malka Green**.

Nava, Amit and Difat and families, commemorating the yahrtzeit **Iran Esther Jakubovicz**.

Lianne and Bruce Leboff and family, marking the conclusion of *Kaddish* for **Gersh (Gerald) Sone**.

Lianne and Bruce Leboff and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Ellie Leboff**.

The Promislow Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Shirley Promislow**.

The Promislow Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Arlene Gandler Moskowitz**.

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

The Rand Family, honouring **Jared and Ellie Rand** on their marriage.

Robert Milne, Cindi Resnick and Jeffrey Milne, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Ruth Milne**.

Caren Ruby and family, commemorating the 20th yahrtzeit of **Gerry Ruby**.

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

Lorraine and Alan Sandler, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Mickey (Morris) Weinstock**.

Sara Wunch Glick, commemorating the vahrtzeit of **Srul Irving Glick**.

The Greenspan Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Harry Greenspan**.

Judith Shostack and family, commemorating the 42nd yahrtzeit of **Aron Shostack**.

Judith Shostack and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Ruth Shostack**.

The Sobel Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Bert Fine**.

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

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

Dorothy Tessis and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Zenek Wajgensberg**.

Rabbi Steve and Jody Wernick, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Judy Ellen Wernick**.

Lisa and Howard Winston and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Samuel Larry Krem**.

Lisa and Howard Winston and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Shirley Krem**.

Emergency Security Fund

Marilyn Appleton, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Michael Appleton**.

Marilyn Appleton, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Ruth Brickman**.

The Brockman Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Louis Brockman**.

Lynn Catzman and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Hon. Justice Marvin Catzman**.

Jeffrey and Shawna Citron and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Dr. Kenneth Citron**.

Jeffrey and Shawba Citron and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Dr. S. Paul Citron**.

Marshall Drukarsh and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Florence Drukarsh**.

Nancy and Bruce Elman, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Norman Adelsberg**.

Nancy and Bruce Elman, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Fani Adelsberg**.

Pearl Elman, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Bina Ostreger-Kent**.

Pearl Elman, commemorating the vahrtzeit of **Clara Zucker**.

Pearl Elman, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Saul Joseph Elman**. Pearl Elman, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **William Ostreger**.

Pearl Elman, honouring **Gary Elman**. Pearl Elman and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Morris Zucker**.

Dianne and Ron Ennis, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Wayne Rose**.

Michael Flatt, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Lila Gloria Flatt**.

Cindy Goldfarb and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **David Goldfarb**.

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

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

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

Donna Cohen, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Harris Cohen**.

David and Lucille Griff, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Alexander Griff**.

Franklin and Lisa Gwartz, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Judy Gwartz**.

Riva and Jerry Kirsh, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Fradel Schneider**.

David and Nadine Koff, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Simon Zalman Koff**.

The Kravice Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Fanny Pesses**.

Patricia and Robert Levy and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Dr. Gerald Chertkow**.

Bobbi Lewin and family, commemorating the first yahrtzeit of **Harvey Lewin**.

Judy, Cliff, Max, Sylvie, Meir and Lily Librach, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Herbert Elliot Siblin**.

Claire and Newton Markus and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Isadore Steinberg**.

Claire and Newton Markus and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Thomas Friedlich**.

Doreen Mason, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Edith Wengle**.

Roslyn Mendelson, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Joseph Bigman**.

Roslyn Mendelson, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Dr. Murray Mendelson**.

Roslyn Mendelson, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Audrey Ellison**.

Phyllis and Jeffrey Miller, honouring **Rabbi Lara Rodin** on receiving her ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary.

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

Sandra Rosen, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Samuel Zatz**.

Gella and Paul Rothstein, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Pauline Goldhar**.

Paul and Gella Rothstein, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Marjorie Rothstein**.

Caren Ruby and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Reta Isenberg**.

Carole Salomon and family, honouring Rabbi Steve Wernick, Cantor Sidney Ezer and the HarmonEzers choir, Lorne Hanick and the administrative staff.

Joel and Tammy Seigel, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Dr. Harold Seigel**.

The Seigel Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Joan Charna Godfrey**. Harold Shapiro, commemorating the

yahrtzeit of **Marilyn Smith**. Marvin and Carole Sherkin,

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

Barbara Simmons, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Morris H. Barash**.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE. DONATE TODAY.

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

Beth Singer, Gary Stern and Susan Stern, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Beverley Stern**.

Deborah Staiman, commemorating the yahztzeit of **Rebecca Staiman**.

Deborah Staiman, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Herman Itkoff**.

Sylvia Steinberg, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Arnold Steinberg**.

Sylvia Steinberg, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Josef Glanzstein**.

Dorothy Tessis and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Dena Jean Tessis**.

Norman Tobias and Ava Kanner, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **David Charles Tobias**.

Sharon Pupko and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Rose Pupko**.

Sharon Pupko and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Michael Pupko**.

Jamie Wilks and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Gerald Wilks**.

Ted and Annette Wine, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Jack Wine**.

Family Shabbat Dinner Fund

Sharon and Norman Bacal honouring **Jerold Grammer** on the 75th anniversary of his bar mitzvah and his 88th birthday. Debbie Rothstein and Michael Friedman, honouring **Rabbi Lara Rodin** on receiving her ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary. Sheldon and Patti Rotman, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Norem Litvak**.

Food Insecurity Fund

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

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

General Fund

Deborah Baumgarten, acknowledging **Paul Baumgarten** in memory of **Susan Baumgarten**.

Judy and George Fono, honouring **Av Ray** on his Bar Mitzvah.

Elayne Freeman, honouring **Bonnie Greenberg**.

Karen Oshry and Ellery Lew, honouring **Rabbi Lara Rodin** for officiating the wedding of **Rayna and Alon**.

Judy and Mark Libman, honouring **Rabbi Lara Rodin** on receiving her ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Dr. Jacob and Odette Masliyah, honouring **Rabbi Fryer Bodzin** on receiving an honorary doctorate from the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies.

Susy and Murray Miller and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Allan Miller**.

Susy and Murray Miller and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Bessie Miller**.

Pearl Rosen, honouring **Beth Tzedec's Spiritual Leadership Team**.

Pearl Rosen, honouring **Rabbi Steven Wernick**.

Raphael Rush, honouring **Penina**, **Orly**, **Rebecca**, **Theo**, **Lilah and Abby** for educating, role-modelling and creating such a love of shul and Saturday mornings.

Rhonda Sacks, honouring **Rabbi Lara Rodin** on receiving her ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary. Irving and Jeanne Salit, honouring **Stephen Margles** for facilitating a Small Group.

Brian Segal, honouring **Don Smith**. Mark Selick and Gloria Chaim, honouring **Mitch Max** on his birthday and retirement.

Dorothy Tessis, honouring **Bonnie Greenberg** on receiving a *Yasher Koach* Award.

Dot Whitehouse.

The Zidel Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Sheina (Sheila) Zidel**.

Howard (Hy) Cooper Trust Fund

Art and Carole Andrews, acknowledging **Josh Shulman and family** in memory of **Joanne Nelson**.

Shirley Brazer, honouring **Jerry Grammer**.

Jewish Family Living Fund

Aubrey Dorfman, acknowledging **Faye Dorfman** in memory of **Kate Dorfman**. Gary and Marcie Mansfield, honouring

Mary and Les Richmond on the birth of their grandson Oliver Aron.

Debra and Gary Walters, honouring **Rabbi Lara Rodin** on receiving her ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Kaddish Fund

Brenda Orser, acknowledging **Elaine** and **Joey Steiner** in memory of **Jonathan Steiner**.

Kosher Food Bank

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

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

Bettina and Ian Morris and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Etta Gross**.

Esterita Rajsky, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Saul Alexander Rajsky**.

Little Minyan Fund

Judy and Mark Libman, honouring **Rabbi Fryer-Bodzin** on the 20th anniversary of her ordination and on receiving a Doctor of Divinities from the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies.

Out-of-the-Cold Fund

Eleanor Baker, honouring **Barbara and Marvin Miller** on their 70th anniversary. Bella and Leonard Brody, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Abraham Jacobs**.

Leonard Brody, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Aaron Brody**.

Dorothy Tessis, honouring **Ricky Goldenberg** on her retirement.

Prayer Book Dedications: Siddur

Rabbi Robyn Fryer Bodzin, honouring **Rabbi Lara Rodin** on receiving her ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Rabbi Lara Rodin Discretionary Fund

Shirley Brazer, honouring **Rabbi Lara Rodin** on receiving her ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Sam and Melissa Glazer, honouring **Rabbi Lara Rodin** on receiving her ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Wally Levitt and Beth Gamulka, commemorating the yahrzeit of **Harvey Levitt**.

Aiden Pink, honouring **Rabbi Lara Rodin**. Millie Pollock, honouring **Rabbi Lara Rodin** on receiving her ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Andria and Greg Rodin, honouring **Rabbi Lara Rodin** on receiving her ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary and on her installation as the new Rabbi at Beth Tzedec.

Rabbi Robyn Fryer Bodzin Discretionary Fund

Art and Carole Andrews, honouring **Rabbi Fryer Bodzin** on receiving an honourary Doctor of Divinity from the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies.

Ellen and Jerry Babbin, honouring **Rabbi Fryer Bodzin** on receiving an honourary Doctor of Divinity from the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies.

Rosalee Berlin, honouring **Rabbi Fryer Bodzin** on receiving an honourary
Doctor of Divinity from the Ziegler
School of Rabbinic Studies.

Shirley Brazer, honouring **Rabbi Fryer Bodzin** on receiving an honourary Doctor of Divinity from the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies.

Aviva Chernick, honouring **Rabbi Fryer Bodzin** on receiving an honourary Doctor of Divinity from the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies.

Bruce and Nancy Elman, honouring **Rabbi Fryer Bodzin** on receiving an honourary Doctor of Divinity from the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies.

Jan and Gary Elman, honouring **Rabbi Fryer Bodzin** on receiving an honourary Doctor of Divinity from the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies.

Pearl Elman, honouring **Rabbi Fryer Bodzin** on receiving an honourary Doctor of Divinity from the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies.

Shael Fryer, Dani Lurie, Hallie and Avery, honouring **Rabbi Fryer Bodzin** on receiving an honourary Doctor of Divinity from the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies.

Melissa and Sam Glazer, honouring **Rabbi Fryer Bodzin** for leading the funeral service of **Evelyn Dorfman**.

Sam and Melissa Glazer, honouring **Rabbi Fryer Bodzin** on receiving an honourary Doctor of Divinity from the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies.

Adrienne Levinter, honouring **Rabbi Fryer Bodzin** on receiving an honourary Doctor of Divinity from the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies.
Phyllis and Jeffrey Miller, honouring **Rabbi Fryer Bodzin** on her 20th anniversary in the rabbinate.

Millia Palle of the program **Palle France**

Millie Pollock, honouring **Rabbi Fryer Bodzin** on receiving an honourary
Doctor of Divinity from the Ziegler
School of Rabbinic Studies.

Debbie Rothstein and Michael Friedman, honouring **Rabbi Fryer Bodzin** on receiving an honourary Doctor of Divinity from the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies. Irving and Jeanne Salit, honouring **Rabbi Fryer Bodzin** on receiving an honourary Doctor of Divinity from the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies.

Toby Saltzman, honouring **Rabbi Fryer Bodzin** on receiving an honourary Doctor of Divinity from the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies.

Josh and Samantha Spatz, honouring **Rabbi Fryer Bodzin**.

Deborah Staiman, honouring **Rabbi Fryer Bodzin** on receiving an honourary
Doctor of Divinity from the Ziegler
School of Rabbinic Studies.

Elaine and Joseph Steiner, honouring **Rabbi Fryer Bodzin** on receiving an honourary Doctor of Divinity from the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies.

Barbra Walters, honouring **Rabbi Fryer Bodzin** on receiving an honourary Doctor of Divinity from the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies.

Debra and Gary Walters, honouring **Rabbi Fryer Bodzin** on her 20th anniversary in the rabbinate and on receiving an honourary Doctor of Divinity from the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies.

Harold and Carole Wolfe and family, honouring **Rabbi Fryer Bodzin** on receiving an honourary Doctor of Divinity from the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies.

Rabbi Steven Wernick Discretionary Fund

Karen and Howard Conter, acknowledging the **Baker Family** in memory of **Nick Baker**.

Alison Himel, Sharon and Andrew Himel, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Malka Green**.

Rayna Jolley, wishing **Rabbi Steven Wernick** a happy birthday.

Jerome and Pearl Kazdan, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Jeanette Schwartz**.

Sheldon Levy, honouring **Rabbi Steven Wernick** for officiating the **Levy-Solomon** wedding.

Susan Muskat, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Isaac Berneman**.

Petra Newton and family, honouring **Rabbi Steve Wernick**.

Refugee Program

Elise Orenstein, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Joseph Norman Orenstein**.

The Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl Endowment Fund

Michelle Collis and Alan Abrams, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Murray Collis**.

Rochelle Citron, honouring **Marvin and Barbara Miller** on their 70th anniversary. Maxine Gallander Wintre and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Helaine Gallander**.

Judith Kostman, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Charles Sternberg**. Irving and Jeanne Salit, honouring **Irving Gold** on his 95th birthday. Dot Whitehouse, honouring **Yacov Fruchter** for the caring, compassion and generosity of spirit.

The "To 120" Club Fund

Elaine Campbell, wishing **Shirley Brazer** Shanah Tovah.

Torah Through the Ages Fund

Jan and Gary Elman, honouring **Rabbi** Lara Rodin on receiving her ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary. Zina and Kenny Greene, honouring **Rabbi Lara Rodin** on receiving her ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Victims of Terror Fund

Ackerman, Frances, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Bella Einstoss**.

Lisa Balfour Bowen, wishing **Flory Cohen** a happy birthday.

The Brown Family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Gina Brown**.

Pearl Elman, honouring **Rabbi Lara Rodin** on receiving her ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Maxine Gallander Wintre, acknowledging the **Little Family** in memory of **Bernie Little**.

Maxine Gallander Wintre, acknowledging **Sandi Florence and family** in memory of **Mike Florence**.

Maxine Gallander Wintre, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Harold Gallander**.

Lana Kerzner, honouring **Rabbi Lara Rodin** on receiving her ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Pauling Veryiger, commencerating the

Pauline Konviser, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Arthur Konviser**.

Pauline Konviser, commemorating the vahrtzeit of **Rachel Sarah Konviser**.

Malki Lazar, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Evelyn Lazar**.

Malki Lazar, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Lazer Lazar**.

Malki Lazar, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Regina Lazar**.

Gaynor and Ivor Levin, honouring **Lori Merson**.

Sheila Rubinoff and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of

Geraldine Rubinoff. Sheila Rubinoff and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Gary**

Brian Rubinoff.

Sheila Rubinoff and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Melvyn Paul Rubinoff QC**.

Sheila Rubinoff and family, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Rose Langer**.

Elaine and Joseph Steiner, honouring **Marvin and Barbara Miller** on their special anniversary.

Arlene Travis, commemorating the yahrtzeit of **Sheva Brandes**.

Jerry Weingarden, acknowledging Sen. Jerry Grafstein in memory of Carole Grafstein.

Carole and Bernie Zucker, acknowledging **Phil Markel** in memory of **Elaine Haupt**.

Website Redevelopment Fund, honouring Lorne Hanick

Dr. Michael Tenenbaum, commemorating the *yahrtzeiten* of **Abram Tenenbaum** and **Helia Tenenbaum**.

Carole Salomon and family, honouring **Lorne Hanick**.

Yom Hashoah Candle Fund, in memory of Jules and Pearl Surdin

Steven G. Kelman, honouring **Karen Rachlin** for her multiple volunteer sessions in Israel since October 7, 2023.

Young Professionals Fund

Leslie and Joel Flatt and Baryl and Derek Erdman, honouring **Yacov Fruchter**.

Youth Initiatives Fund, honouring Adam Kruger

Chaim Cutler and Rebecca Starkman, honouring **Penina Hoffnung**.



Lishma Jewish Learning Project for 20s and 30s

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

For information, contact Yacov Fruchter at yfruchter@beth-tzedec.org.

Condolences

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

Irving Boxer Cantor Paul Kowarsky
Samuel Cohen Sandy Lefton
Dr. Leo Chaikof Yvette Lerner
Mark Cohen Beatrice Levine
Evelyn Dorfman Miriam Liberman
Manuel Elkind Marlene Rabinovitch
Carole Grafstein Rachel Radomski Silver

Elaine Haupt Irving Rayman Harvey Kalles Marilyn Rosenberg

Harvey Melville Kerbel

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

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, **click here** or call 416-781-3511.

If you are interested in leaving a legacy for the Congregation to name a special project, youth program or adult education seminar, we would be pleased to help you plan today for tomorrow. Email our Executive Director, **Phil David** at 416-781-3514 ext. 211 to discuss these opportunities in confidence.

Bring the Conversation to Life VIP Premium Sponsorship Packages

Join us in presenting an evening with bestselling author Dan Senor. Your sponsorship helps bring meaningful dialogue to our community—and gives you great visibility.

EVENT SPONSORS—\$25,000

- Your name/logo on prominent signage/event slide at event and on all printed and electronic material
- Social media publicity before and after event
- 12 tickets to Main Event. Premium Seating plus 6 tickets to VIP Reception.
- Full page ad in Bulletin
- Reserved parking and seating at event
- Private Shabbat Dinner with Rabbi for you and 8 guests
- \$500 gift card for Apex Kosher Catering

GOLD SPONSORS—\$5,000

- Your name/logo on prominent signage/event slide at event and on all printed and electronic material
- Social media publicity before and after event
- 8 tickets to Main Event. Premium Seating plus 4 tickets to VIP Reception
- Reserved parking and seating at event
- Full page ad in Bulletin

PLATINUM SPONSORS—\$10,000

- Your name/logo on prominent signage/event slide at event and on all printed and electronic material
- 10 tickets to Main Event. Premium Seating plus 4 tickets to VIP Reception
- Social media publicity before and after event
- Reserved parking and seating at event
- Full page ad in Bulletin
- \$250 gift card for Apex Kosher Catering

SILVER SPONSORS—\$2,500

- Your name/logo on prominent signage/event slide at event and on all printed and electronic material
- 4 tickets to Main Event. Premium Seating plus 2 tickets to VIP Reception
- Reserved seating
- Bulletin listing

Event Fundraising Chairs: Joel & Leslie Flatt

Ready to sponsor?

Contact Jonathan Ain, Director of Development, at 416-781-3514 ext. 229 or jain@beth-tzedec.org.

Thank you for your support!

We are grateful to our current sponsors*.

70TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SPONSORS

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