



HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE Bulletin

HIGH HOLY DAYS 5780



CELEBRATING OUR MILESTONES

HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE

High Holy Days

5780



SELICHOT, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2019

Study Session & Dessert Reception in honour of Cantor Maissner 9:00 PM
Service Service to follow, Sanctuary

KEVER AVOT

Sunday, September 22, 2019 10:00 AM, Pardes Shalom, Holy Blossom Section
Sunday, September 29, 2019 10:00 AM, Holy Blossom Memorial Park, Brimley Road

Rosh HaShanah

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2019

Erev Rosh HaShanah

1st Adult Service 6:00 PM, Sanctuary
Family Service 6:00 PM, Mishkan
2nd Adult Service 8:00 PM, Sanctuary

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

First Day Rosh HaShanah

1st Adult Service 8:30 AM, Sanctuary
1st Family Service 9:00 AM, PSCH
1st Family Service 9:00 AM, Mishkan
2nd Adult Service 11:30 AM, Sanctuary
2nd Family Service 11:30 AM, PSCH
Little Blossoms (age 5 & under) 3:30 PM, Mishkan
Young Readers (age 6-8) 3:30 PM, Youth Chapel
Tashlich & Picnic 4:45 PM, Cedarvale Ravine

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2019

Second Day Rosh HaShanah

Adult Service 9:30 AM, Sanctuary
Family Service 10:30 AM, Mishkan

Yom Kippur

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2019

Kol Nidre

1st Adult Service 6:00 PM, Sanctuary
Family Service 6:00 PM, Mishkan
2nd Adult Service 8:30 PM, Sanctuary
2nd Adult Service 8:30 PM, Mishkan
Teen Service 8:30 PM, Youth Chapel

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2019

Morning Services

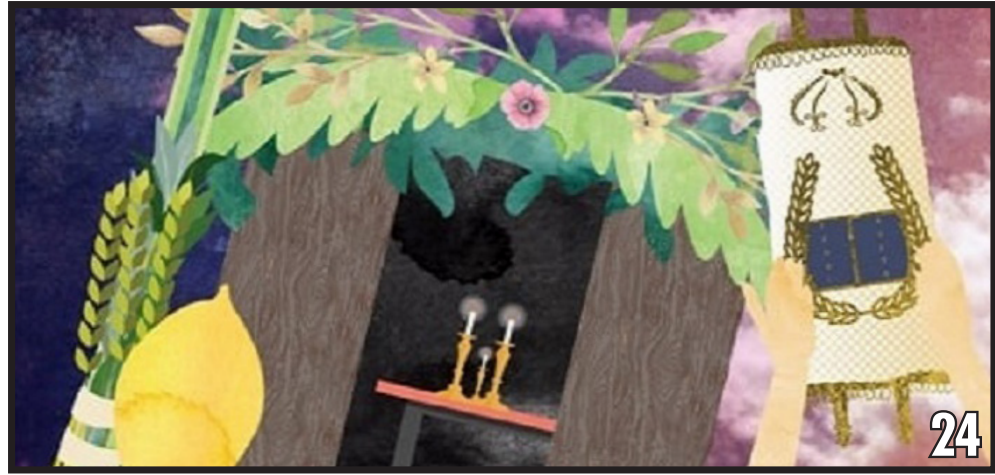
1st Family Service 9:00 AM, PSCH
YAD: 20s & 30s 9:30 AM, Youth Chapel
Adult Service 10:00 AM, Sanctuary
Adult Service 10:00 AM, Mishkan
2nd Family Service 11:30 AM, PSCH
Quiet Meditation 12:30 PM, Sanctuary
Study Sessions 1:30 PM, Various Locations

Afternoon Services

Little Blossoms (age 5 & under) 2:15 PM, Mishkan
Young Readers (age 6-8) 2:15 PM, Youth Chapel
Mincha 3:30 PM, Sanctuary & Mishkan
Yizkor 5:10 PM (approx), Sanctuary & Mishkan
Neilah 6:15 PM (approx), Sanctuary & Mishkan

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www.holyblossom.org



HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE **Bulletin**

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On the cover: The Freedman Family celebrates at the Bris for their 3rd son. As a 5th Generation Holy Blossom Family, they have found a real community here, formed friendships, and made countless memories within these walls. And it's only the beginning! *L'Chaim* to many more milestones celebrated with Holy Blossom.

SIMCHAS!

Rabbi Yael Splansky, Senior Rabbi

RABBINIC REFLECTION



I write to you from my annual family reunion on the Rhode Island shore, gin and tonic at my side. Life is good. Three generations gather. Grandparents take long walks. Young cousins ride the waves. We all eat too much ice cream. What a wonderful world.

And just an hour and half from here is the ICE Detention Centre where illegal migrants are being illegally caged. Jews and their allies gathered for peaceful protest and were mowed down by a pick-up truck driven by a hired thug who'd been given the title "Captain." Our world is broken.

Both things are simultaneously true. For many, thank God, life is very good. And our world is more broken in more ways than we can count. These are some of the themes we will grapple with throughout the upcoming High Holy Day season.

One of the blessings of Jewish life is that we are given rituals and language to name these dual truths and even sanctify them. When parents are divorcing they rise above all the emotion to stand proudly at the side of their child who is called to the Torah as a Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Through this simple and profound ritual, the child learns that his parents will remain at his side no matter what. When a woman struggles with infertility for years and her congregation gathers around her to say Amen to her *Shehechyanu* at the baby naming ceremony, she learns that we will be her "village," ready, willing, and able to help her raise her child. When the father of the groom has received a fatal prognosis, his tears of joy under the *chuppah*, his shout of "*L'Chayim!*" when he raises his glass at the end of his toast, and the *horah* he dances with more gusto than anyone knew he had left in him, are the strongest medicine. When a couple comes to the bima with a cane and a walker to receive a blessing on the occasion of their 70th anniversary they are transformed to the young bride and groom they were when he was a courageous soldier returning from war and she was the beautiful face that taught him to have faith in the world again.

Such life cycle occasions do not deny the brokenness of our world, but affirm our place in it. Such rare and sacred moments do not pretend away the fragility of life, but express our gratitude for it.

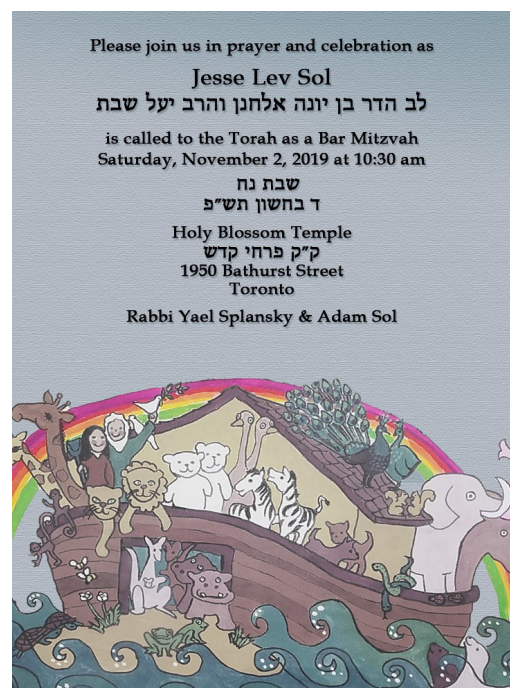
This bulletin is a celebration of the Jewish Life Cycle and the many ways Holy Blossom can provide meaningful moments for you and your loved ones to honour the passage of time, to sanctify the highlights and heartbreaks that inevitably come with it. That is what congregants do with one another, for one another. We witness each other's simchas and sorrows and unite in the spoken and silent prayers which accompany them.

With all this in mind, Adam and I take great pleasure in inviting the entire congregation to join us when our youngest son, Jesse Sol, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Shabbat Morning, November 2, 2019. Jesse will read the words from God's promise to Noah: "And as for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants after you." (Genesis 9:9) My father will give the sermon. I will likely fight through tears when I give Jesse my blessing. And there will be bagels for everyone!

Please no gifts. Your presence is the best present. If you'd like to make a donation in Jesse's honour, he'd be pleased to know that Holy Blossom's Renewal Project is supported at this time of simcha. He and his friends are loving the new Youth Lounge!

What milestone moment do you have on the horizon? Let's make a memory together. It will fortify us to face the world that awaits us outside the sanctuary we create here at Holy Blossom Temple.

L'Shanah Tovah!



CELEBRATE A MILESTONE... SUPPORT OUR TEMPLE

Judy Winberg, President, Holy Blossom Board of Directors

FROM THE PRESIDENT



There are some events in our lives important enough to be considered 'milestones.'

As a congregation we have witnessed several: the historic move from Bond to Bathurst Street in 1938; the addition of the school wing in 1960; and just this past year, the opening of our magnificent Schwartz/Reisman Atrium. These are all major milestones in our development.

So too are some significant events in our personal and family lives considered 'milestones.' We come together for *brit milah* and baby namings, for *b'nei mitzvah*, confirmation, *afrufs* and marriages, and sadly for funerals and annual *yahrzeit* prayers.

And how do we celebrate these milestones? Temple families are always invited to mark special occasions right here at 1950 Bathurst Street. The beautiful new spaces allow us to welcome guests with renewed pride to the Temple. Over the past months the new Mishkan has been the warm and inviting home for Kabbalat and Shabbat morning prayer, early morning *brit milah* breakfasts, and *b'nei mitzvah* celebrations.

As hosts for our special events we can further enhance the celebration by making contributions to a Temple fund or by sponsoring a congregational meal. We can invite guests to honour us on our special milestones by making donations to an existing Temple fund or we can initiate a new one.

The awe inspiring Schwartz/Reisman Atrium has been the site for Sunday afternoon concerts and wedding receptions. Just this past spring and summer The State of Israel Bonds and JNF Toronto held events that brought members from the wider Toronto Jewish community into Holy Blossom.

As Temple members we can encourage friends and event planners who are looking for venues to consider rental space at Holy Blossom for special celebrations,

concerts, business gatherings or charity events.

For more information on availability and rates please contact our new Simcha Coordinator, Lindsay Mockler at 416.789.3291 ext. 255. For all other rental inquiries please contact Judy Amsterdam at 416.789.3291 ext 233.

Holy Blossom Temple has always held an important place in the city of Toronto. Our esteemed clergy and meaningful worship experiences, rich educational offerings and commitment to providing a warm and welcoming home for our diverse and growing membership are all reasons to feel tremendous pride in being members of the Temple.

This Bulletin highlights some of the recent milestones that have been celebrated at Holy Blossom. We truly are a remarkable congregation. Read and be inspired.

This Bulletin marks an important milestone for me personally as it is the last time I will pen the President's Remarks. In November a new Board President and new Board members will be installed.

Plan to attend the Annual General Meeting on Sunday, November 17 at 10:00 am to hear more about some of the exciting plans for the coming year. It has been an honour for me to serve and to work with my fellow Board members and the professionals at Holy Blossom. It has been a true pleasure getting to know so many Temple members whose support is always greatly appreciated. I thank you all.

On behalf of the Board, I wish you *שנה טובה ומתוקה* *Shanah Tovah u'Metukah*, a good and sweet year!

Judy Winberg,
President, Holy Blossom Board of Directors

SECURITY UPDATE

By: Ron Polster, Executive Director

Whether Holy Blossom Temple is your destination for Early Childhood Education or for Religious School, for services or for programs, or for celebrating lifecycle events with family and friends, rest assured that the safety and security of our congregants and our community is at the forefront of all of our planning. In the spirit of sharing, of helping to ensure that you, as a congregant, are not only safe but that you also feel safe, I offer the following security update.

Our Security Committee, under the leadership of Andrew Kirsch, and with critical input from our Building committee, Diamond Schmitt architects, and a world-renown security consultant, has:

- Updated our Security Manual, including incorporating best practices from other community organizations, creating protocols and procedures for security personnel, and designing a communication plan for staff and clergy
- Updated access controls as part of our renewal efforts
- Established clear lines of communication with the greater community, both with CIJA and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, as well as with 13 Division police force. (If you should see more police patrolling in the area, it's a direct result of our Security Committee's efforts.)
- Made training a priority - for clergy and staff, for teachers, as well as a mandatory training for Greeters and Ushers and Gabbaim prior to the High Holy Days

What YOU can do. Please:

- Enter Holy Blossom Temple from the Schwartz/Reisman Atrium (Ava Road) entrance only. *(The exception: during the High Holy Days, when uniformed security representatives will be present at each entry point of the Temple.)*

- Listen to security personnel. We have employed a combination of security guards and police officers. Their primary responsibility is to ensure that our premises and property are protected in an appropriate and effective fashion, preventing, detecting, and reacting to any security-related issues. Please be responsive to their directives.
- No "Tailgating" - Don't open doors for someone you don't know.
- If you see something, say something.

If you have any security questions or concerns, please be in touch with me directly at 416-789-3291 x226 or at rpolster@holyblossom.org. I meet with Andrew and the Security Committee regularly to share feedback and discuss ways we can refine and improve our security protocols and practices.



Andrew Kirsch served as an Intelligence Officer with the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) for almost a decade. After leaving CSIS Andrew was a founding member and first ever Department Security Officer (DSO) in the Ontario Office of the Provincial Security Advisor

(OPSA) with a mandate to enhance physical, personnel, information and network security across the Ontario Public Service. Andrew currently works as a security consultant conducting threat risk assessments and designing physical and information security programs for corporate clients. He is a member of Holy Blossom Temple and lives in Cedarvale with his wife and two young sons, one of whom is a recent graduate of the Holy Blossom Early Childhood education program.

HELENA AND DAVID FINE PROUD TO DONATE TO HOLY BLOSSOM'S RENEWAL

By: Jonathan Ain, Director, Capital Campaign



David and Helena Fine first met in Israel while studying for their BAs. Each of them had moved from their respective countries of birth (Helena grew up in communist Czechoslovakia and David came from South Africa).

“Where I grew up, there were about forty Jewish families,” says Helena, “and while we lived a relatively safe Jewish life, religion was not accepted in the communist society. I always knew that we would move to Israel. Finally my family succeeded in making *aliya* after the Prague spring in 1969.

Eventually, the couple became engaged, and Helena and David ended up in Winnipeg where they married and began their family. A few short years later, David’s career took him to Toronto. It was there that they found their congregation in Holy Blossom Temple.

“I grew up in quite a traditional – almost Orthodox – household,” explains Helena. “But my first job in Toronto was as a Hebrew teacher at the Leo Baeck Day School. I loved the way Reform celebrated traditions – with women having all the same rights and obligations as men. It felt right.”

For David, the selection of a Reform Temple was a more natural continuation of his Judaism.

“I was raised in a Reform congregation in Johannesburg,” says David. “Even though many Jews of South Africa worshipped in the Orthodox tradition, my family did not. As such, I was quite comfortable in the Reform movement.”

The selection of Holy Blossom as their congregation came partially out of practicality but mostly out of an attraction for the communal and social atmosphere provided by Temple.

“We didn’t know anyone when we came to Toronto, but we decided to buy a home near the Temple” explains David. “Once we experienced Holy Blossom, we were introduced to one couple who invited us to join their *Chavurah*. This group of friends became the basis of our social life in Toronto. We found an open and welcoming community.”

Helena agrees and adds that Holy Blossom’s music program was also a main influence in their decision to join.

“I walked in the first day and Cantor Maissner was playing the guitar,” says Helena. “Everyone was singing, and I was singing too. That day, Cantor Maissner invited me to join the choir. I agreed, and from there, we were part of Temple.”

Today the Fines and their two married children Ben and Ariella and five grandchildren all live within 5 minutes of the Temple.

As the Renewal program got underway, the Fines started to consider what role they could play. While they had always practiced *tzedakah*, they had never considered a major, multi-year pledge. “At first, we walked by the donor wall, and thought, we’re not in the category of those large donors. But after meeting with Rabbi Splansky and others, we realized we needed to play a more significant role in the renewal of the Temple. And that in fact, almost all donors pay their pledges over a number of years.

The Fines initially committed to \$100,000 and have since increased their donation to \$250,000 to name the Second Floor Atrium Walkway.

A combination of motivating factors went into their Holy Blossom gift which, by far, is the largest the couple have ever committed. According to the Fines, the decision to give was based on a number of considerations.

“First, Holy Blossom is our community,” says David. “We have received so much from Holy Blossom, it is time to give back. Second, the building is an inheritance from a prior generation who contributed in earlier and more difficult times. It is the obligation of our generation to step up and take responsibility for renewing the building for the next generation. And third, quite simply, there is a certain joy and satisfaction in giving back.”

“Besides,” says Helena with a smile, “another consideration is priorities -- we’ve been talking about redoing our kitchen for years, but I seem to be spending more time at Holy Blossom than in the kitchen. So I figured that Holy Blossom would make far better use of the money.”

“Now that people see what we have done with our new building, we feel very proud at being part of this congregation. And we feel honoured to do our part.”

The Renewal Campaign, Canada’s largest-ever synagogue capital campaign, has raised over \$30.2 million towards the final Phase 1 goal. To join Helena and David, as well as the hundreds of Temple families who have already made their Renewal commitments, please contact Jonathan Ain at 416.789.3291 ext. 249 or jain@holyblossom.org.



GROWTH, UNDER GLASS

By: David Rosenberg, Renewal Project Steering Committee

We are now just completing our first summer under the glass-paneled roof of our beautiful Atrium. To say that the sunlight and new spaces have brought an enhanced feeling of warmth to Temple, and growth to our congregation, is no exaggeration. Yes, the number of new members has increased consistently this year, most of them young families. Which is wonderful. But we have grown in other ways, too.

As we know, our living spaces, and how they're designed, affect how we think, do and feel in those spaces. And whether we know it or not, they reflect what we value. But by their very design, they also have the ability to *enhance* our values. To make them more powerful in their manifestation.

Our Phase 1 new and renewed spaces have been purpose-built to foster a revitalized sense of spirit, community and leadership in our congregation. We can actually *feel it*, just by being here. How our Atrium, quite literally, pulls us together – embracing one another, chatting, schmoozing, lingering – before and after services and programs. It happens every day at Holy Blossom. (If you haven't yet experienced it for yourself, you will in a couple of weeks – the effect is powerfully amplified during the High Holy Days.)

But it's about far more than a hug and a chat, and kiddush after services. To borrow (and slightly twist) a phrase – *with great space comes great responsibility*. Again, as a physical manifestation of what we value, our renewed spaces have sparked so many valuable initiatives at Holy Blossom.

We are coming together in whole new ways – to celebrate, to pray, to lead, to learn, to give, to heal, to help others less fortunate. We see it in how families have better opportunities

to celebrate their simchas in new spaces. Or, in how we're attracting thousands from the wider community, who want to learn and participate in events like the David Frum lecture, The Tailor Project and The Luke Sklar Mental Health Initiative. How we joyously welcome Shabbat in the beauty of our new Mishkan, and then how we all *STAY*, to linger over kiddush with friends old and new, in our Atrium.

And we see it in so many small and different ways, too. How we stop in for coffee, just because. Or grab one of the many open (and comfortable) nooks throughout Temple, to sit down and read, or get a little work done. How our Temple Youth has their own space to hang out, plan and do their good work. How we spend special Sunday afternoons in the Atrium, with the Royal Conservatory of Music. Even how we gathered with one another to celebrate the Raptors run to the championship in our very own "Jewrassic Park." And of course, there's the literal growth we see in our Green Wall every day.

But the best thing about all of this renewed spirit and growth within our new spaces? We've only just begun to explore what we're capable of. What *can* be.

And just a reminder, still on the theme of – *with great space comes great responsibility* – we still need to finish our job of Renewal fundraising, together. So that this sacred project of many, becomes a project of *all*. To that end, Jonathan Ain, Director of our Capital Campaign, would love to speak with you about making a personally meaningful gift. He can be reached at jain@holyblossom.org or 416.789.3291 ext. 249.

Shanah Tovah - we can't wait to see all of us coming together in just a couple of weeks.

LIKE THE DAUGHTERS

By: Cynthia Good, Professor Emeritus, Humber College



From left to right: (back row) Joanne Rose, Jill Kamin, Cantor Benjamin Z. Maissner, Susan Stronell, Joel Rose, Barbara Klein and Tanya Rumney (front row) Carol Lavine, Ellen Rosenfeld, Wendy Paul, Valerie Fish, Phyllis Wintraub, Virginia Reh, Cynthia Good, Rabbi John Moscovitz, and Annie Appleby

When I began the adult Bat Mitzvah class in 1994, I knew next to no one at Holy Blossom. Although my family celebrated the High Holidays at home, I had never studied Hebrew or read the Torah, and had rarely been in synagogues, but for the occasional Bar Mitzvah or funeral. I did not know the liturgy, or many of the core beliefs of Judaism.

I began the class with trepidation, but quickly realized I had joined not only a course of study but a nurturing, inquiring group of women, (we did start with one man, but he dropped out) all of whom had chosen to be there for different, but important reasons. Over the course of the year we learned prayers together, studied Jewish practice together, told our stories and shared the ups and downs of our lives. Together we experienced great joy (pregnancies, the success of children), and great sadness as one of our members (Pearl) died. And ultimately we prepared our *dvar Torah* and *parashah* in an environment of serious devotion to Jewish study coupled with enormous encouragement from Rabbi Moscovitz, our Hebrew teachers (Dalia and Debbie), Beny, and most of all, each other.

We all felt the significance of what we were doing in our lives as strong, curious, committed Jewish women. My portion was from Pinchas, Number 27; 1-7 – the Daughters of Zelophehad. I was so proud to have such a feminist portion to study and chant. I thought much about the strength of those women, and their courage.

When the day of our group B'not Mitzvah finally arrived, we were all moved to tears as we observed how far we had come together. Like the Daughters, we stood together with independent spirits, dedication and belief. I left

that experience with greater confidence to participate in services, to continue chanting Torah and to become a Lay Cantor.

One day, looking at the framed bulletin from July 2nd, 1994, I realized that twenty-five years had passed. I wanted to acknowledge the 'anniversary' and to reunite with my classmates. With the help of Phyllis Wintraub, and with Debbie Spiegel's support, I reached out.

On Saturday August 27, 2019, some of us gathered again. Twenty-five years older and still proud of our accomplishment. With my teachers and classmates beside me I repeated my Bat Mitzvah parashah with more confidence now, but with the same awe for the honour of being at the bima and admiration for the Daughters of Zelophehad. Jill Kamin, another 'graduate', read Haftorah an indication of how some of us continued with participation at the bima.



From left to right: Carol Lavine, Cynthia Good, Wendy Paul, Jill Kamin, Phyllis Wintraub, Valerie Fish

At kiddush, we sat together and laughed over the photo of our younger selves, updated each other on our lives, told the stories of how we had come to take that class so many years before. Each one repeated how memorable and impactful the study, the companionship and the chanting Torah was in our lives.

Whenever I am called to the bima, I remember all the Daughters before me - those who challenged authority and loved their family, those who sought equality and believed in continuity, those who dared to insist on their rights and loved and trusted in God. I am grateful to them, and I am proud to take my place as one of them - to stand as a woman and a Jew in my community, and in the world.

GOTTA GET TO GEORGE

By: Karen Kollins, member & HBTogether Co-Chair



As a Religious School student growing up at Holy Blossom Temple, I did my fair share of learning about Jewish life cycle events. One major event that wasn't included in the formal curriculum but was for me, and for so many others, one of the most life changing was the experience of Jewish

summer camp. Looking back today, I credit Holy Blossom (and my parents!) for the experience of camp which ignited my love of Judaism, my personal journey, and my professional path.

My story begins in the mid '80s when the then Director of Education Rabbi Steve Garten 'tapped' my brother Garry to participate at the UAHC's Goldman Union Camp (GUCI). After one summer he was hooked, and I soon followed. My family was supported by the generous Youth Awards program. I will always be grateful to the Holy Blossom families whose generosity made it possible for me to experience camp.

At GUCI we were part of a Judaism that came alive through learning, singing, and the most incredible friendships. It certainly helped that we were mentored by thoughtful and caring staff including one of my very first counselors, Yael Splansky. I came home from GUCI more connected to my Judaism and seeking opportunities to stay engaged. I found a connection through HABSTY - our temple youth group, through NELFTY - our regional youth group, and through student teaching and eventually teaching in our Religious School. These opportunities helped define my understanding of Reform Judaism and of the importance of staying connected to the community.

I feel blessed that my personal and professional life became intertwined when the Reform movement opened its first Canadian Camp, Camp George, during the summer of 1999. Having just graduated from teacher's college and about to begin my teaching career, I spent that inaugural summer at camp. Just as camp had been a place of transformation for me in the '80s and early '90s, my Camp George experience was similar. This time it was still about learning, singing and friendships but now also about

the professional growth offered. It helped that it was also the summer where I met Daniel Abramson, my husband.

While teaching during the year and spending my summers at camp was wonderful, things fell into place during the summer of 2001 when I left teaching to join the full-time professional team at Camp George where I serve as the Associate Director. The experience has given me more than I could ever ask for. As an educator I am able to dedicate myself to a love of teaching. In addition, I help create a space where youth love and connect to their Judaism through values of inclusion, active living, and social justice. I of course also don't take for granted that Camp George has given me my family - Daniel and our two children Ruby and Lev who love Camp George as much as they love Holy Blossom Temple.



My family is a testament to what I learned so many years ago at camp, that Reform Jewish living and being connected to a community is vital to a meaningful life. While it might be unusual to have your camp counselor play a role beyond the cabin, like officiating at your wedding and your children's naming ceremonies, it is not uncommon for Camp to provide such long term connections.

While I will always look back at my family's and my own lifecycle events and celebrations with pride and gratitude, I will forever commemorate the milestone of Jewish Camp for me and for my children. There is no better moment of holiness than singing the *Shechianu* with your camp family as the sun sets across the lake each summer.

THE TILES AT HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE (1954-2019)

By: Dr. Marvin Tile, C.M.,M.D.,B.Sc.(Med),FRCSC



The entire Tile family celebrates the 85th birthdays of Esther and Marvin Tile at Holy Blossom

Because we were both children of Eastern European immigrants, and lived in the Ward, a mainly Jewish area in downtown Toronto, we knew very little about the Holy Blossom Temple during our formative years. Our parents came from very strict Orthodox Jewish families, mine from Poland and Esther's from Romania and Belarus, but they were all secular, rejecting the orthodoxy of their parents.

My parents felt Jewish to the core, but followed no Jewish rituals. Esther's family, also secular, was more traditional, and celebrated weekly Shabbat, all the high holidays; the Passover Seder was a special event in the Gold household.

How then did we become involved at the Temple?

After I graduated from Harbord Collegiate in 1951, I entered University of Toronto Medical School. Esther graduated from Harbord in 1952 and enrolled in "Normal School" (Ecole Normale) or Teacher's College as it was subsequently called. Also at Normal School at that time was Ben Steinberg who would become a well-known cantor and composer of Jewish music. At coffee one day, Ben asked Esther what she would do in her spare time, she already had a full time job teaching at Leslie St. School, but since we were planning to marry in 1954, he knew she would need extra cash to help with our expenses, since my own income as a student and even later as an intern was zero. She said, "Ben, I've always worked at Eaton's on Saturdays, I'll continue."

Ben replied that she was now a professional teacher and should pursue a teaching job. He said he would call Heinz Warschauer, the legendary head of Education at Holy Blossom Temple about her working at their religious school, which at that time was on Saturday morning. Heinz called Esther and arranged to meet her in the sanctuary. Esther replied, "What's a sanctuary?"

Undeterred by that response, they did meet in the sanctuary. Heinz learned that many of the education leaders at Temple were friends through a Zionist organization and he hired her to start immediately.

The following year, Esther told me that Heinz and her colleagues wanted her to join the Temple, since she had become active in the education program. We had married on June 27, 1954, she told me about the proposal to join; I said "join as you wish, but leave my name off." To this day, I am so grateful that she ignored me; her decision to join Temple would be one of the most important decisions in our lives together.

As our family grew, all our family life cycle events took place at Temple, all the Bar and Bat Mitzvahs of my children and most of our grandchildren; the last, Caya, only weeks ago. At that same service, we were honoured on our 65th wedding anniversary, corresponding to our years at Temple. Many of our family have had roles in education, in worship and on the Board.



Dr. Marvin Tile and granddaughter Caya stand at the bima at her Bat Mitzvah

Esther was asked by Rabbi Dow Marmur to start "Mazon" and the "Out of the Cold" program at Temple, one of the earliest such programs in the city. She was in the choir and served on the Board.

When I retired from surgical practice and had just completed a three year term as Chair of the Sunnybrook Foundation, I was asked to assume the Role of Chair at the Temple Foundation. This was a turbulent time of Renewal at Temple; I am so delighted that the project has come to fruition, the new space is outstanding, and a source of great pride to our very united Temple community and also the greater community in Toronto.

Now in our aging years, we try and attend the wonderful Shabbat, High Holy Days and Festival services; we love the outstanding music, the stimulating sermons and the community spirit at the kiddush. We also attend as many of the educational programs that we can. We can look back and now truly say; that decision to join this congregation in 1954 was an important decision in our lives; Holy Blossom is our Jewish community home, enhancing our rich Jewish family life; so important in the survival of Judaism. Truly, our family life has blossomed here.

MOMENTS THAT BROUGHT ME JOY AS VP MEMBERSHIP

By: Cheryl Sylvester, Vice President, Membership



As my time as Vice President of Membership on the Temple Board is winding down, I've been reflecting on these five years. I have had the pleasure of working with so many wonderful, dedicated people who want to build community within Holy Blossom.

I'm remembering the heartwarming sound of young parents and their children singing and praying joyfully in our Little Blossoms High Holy Day services, many for their first time. We've welcomed more than 100 families with children up to age 8 with our Terumah membership model launched three years ago. And they are not just joining, but are happy to be here and are staying with us. I'm so honoured to have worked with our creative and strategic clergy and our Board and volunteers who provided input and guidance in the development of this program.

Sometimes as a leader you learn from those who previously walked in your shoes. And sometimes, you have the pleasure of learning from those who will follow in yours. One of the joyful moments for me was engaging young adults as we defined membership for their life-stage, and as they've stepped into leadership of YAD (Young Adult Division) and positions on the Temple Board and other Temple committees. The future is shining brightly.

In a congregation of 1800+ members, we all want to feel like we've found our "peeps". For some that comes naturally from family and friends who are also members. For some, that comes from their activities within Temple life. Over the past couple of years we've set about to more consciously create community — HBTogether — where we intentionally spawn and support small groups, sometimes known as chavurot, as a way of bringing members together to create deeper bonds with each other and Temple.

Did you know that there's a group of Holy Blossom members in the Manulife Centre, who now gather to learn and keep up with each other? My heart sings when I think about them and our other small groups like the day-time Moms who meet for coffee to talk about Jewish parenting, the Arts & Culture chavurah who explore a Jewish artist or theme at galleries around town, the women's leadership group, in their 20s to 70s, who gathered this spring, and more — all deepening their Jewish lives, their relationships with each other and with Holy Blossom.



Have you ever been to a gathering where there was such warmth that no one wanted to leave? I've had the pleasure of attending these, hosted by Temple members, where our newest members meet seasoned members to share a nosh and a glass of wine through the New Member Navigator program we created in my first year. Each new member is offered a Navigator to welcome them and support them in becoming part of our community.



My favourite volunteer role at Holy Blossom is being a Greeter! I love meeting people who come to services, especially guests to a Bat/Bar Mitzvah, showing with a smile and a warm welcome that at Holy Blossom we honour the value of *hachnasat orchim* — welcoming guests. I love making kids feel like they're at the right place to celebrate with their friends. Each week, and at the High Holy Days, we are blessed by our team of volunteer Greeters, who give a warm Holy Blossom welcome to everyone.

GET INVOLVED:

Start a small group with HBTogether:
Email hbtogether@holyblossom.org

Volunteer as a greeter or navigator
Email volunteer@holyblossom.org

Tell us your story
Email stories@holyblossom.org



Speaking of volunteering, over these five years, I've learned that virtually everything that happens at Holy Blossom grows out of the sacred partnership of Clergy, Professionals and Volunteers. I'm so pleased that over the past year, we've built a great team working to match volunteers with opportunities in the Temple departments. If you didn't yet fill out the volunteer interest sheet that came with your Membership Renewal Package, then you can fill it in online in the Members Portal.

And have you seen us on social media? You may have seen our campaign called #MyMembership, with moving member stories, many of which I had never heard, about what has brought and kept our members at Holy Blossom. If you see one, please "like" and "share" it and help us tell the broader community what makes Holy Blossom so special.

Today, I have one request of you. For all the reasons I've shared, and all the other wonderful reasons it's the best time ever to be a member – our gorgeous Renewed Spaces among them – if you have friends or family looking for a synagogue to call home, invite them to join you at Holy Blossom Temple.

L'Shanah Tovah



YAD LEEDERSHIP

A conversation with Rabbi Zachary Goodman, Adam Sniderman and Maddie Axelrod, Young Adult Division (YAD)



From left to right: Rabbi Jordan Helfman, Carina Newton, Rabbi Zachary Goodman, Adam Sniderman, and Rabbi Yael Splansky

The Young Adult Division (YAD) is proud to be a part of the renewal of space and spirit here at Holy Blossom. We are proud that the environmental standards of the Renewal Project have been high enough to apply for LEED Silver certification. While this has come with extra costs upfront, we know that the investment will pay off many times over – in terms of the health of our planet and its people. Recently, Rabbi Goodman sat down with Adam Sniderman and Maddie Axelrod, to talk about how YAD is making a difference at Holy Blossom!

RZG: Thank you so much for coming in and talking with me today! We don't actually know each other so well, would you mind telling me a little bit about yourselves?

Maddie: Sure! I am Maddie, I am working as a lawyer now, and I grew up through Holy Blossom. I am now just starting to transition from the YAD programming to the young family things and growing my own family here.

Adam: I am Adam, I'm an aero-space engineer by trade. I have also been at Holy Blossom my whole life; my parents and grandparents were members. I am firmly still in the YAD group - the young cohort - and I also sit on the Board and always looking to get more involved!

RZG: Well thank you both for being with me today! We are sitting in the Schwartz/Reisman Atrium, and as we look behind us, does this resemble the Holy Blossom you grew up with?

Maddie: It feels the same, but it looks much different!

RZG: That's wonderful; same warm community, new home! We are so fortunate to have this beautiful space and we are really thankful to our many donors who have made this possible. I wanted to speak with both of you regarding the new YAD fundraising that we are undertaking! Could you tell me a little bit about this campaign that YAD is kicking off?

Adam: Absolutely! What we were thinking was that the more established members and older generations of Holy Blossom have been so generous in their giving. They really got this space up and running and have really gotten us where we need to be. We wanted to show that we are thankful for that, because we recognize that the older generations really did this for us. This space is a part of the legacy they are leaving us, just as their parents and grandparents

left them the school wing. So we are doing this partially to show our thanks to those who came before us and also to show our thanks to the people who spearheaded this campaign, because in designing this space, they really have taken into account things that are important to us. Things like sustainability and environmentalism. Specifically what we are raising money for is the LEED Certification for this building and the confirmation that this space will be environmentally friendly and will contribute to a sustainable future.

RZG: I love it! Maddie, was sustainability one of the reasons you have been moved to give your own dollars as well as raise money in your networks?

Maddie: Yeah, that's definitely part of it. I think for me, one of the big drivers is the idea of giving back to the community and Holy Blossom. As Adam said, the people who came before us have really given a lot to me through the community here. It is about time we start taking more ownership of it and contribute to the community ourselves. So that theme of sustainability is both literal and metaphorical, in that we want to contribute to our community and the physical building so that it will be there for future generations as well. So certainly, sustainability is a key consideration.

RZG: I also think it is important to note that while we are trying to raise as much money as possible, we care significantly more about how many people are taking part in this fundraising. It is less about funds and more about participation. We want our young folks to get involved and be a part of this culture of engagement and giving back. I am really grateful to both of you for coming in and talking, but more importantly, for your involvement and leadership in this campaign.

Adam: I really like what you said, because that was really one of the central themes when we started planning this initiative. We know that a lot of us in the YAD cohort don't have quite the same means as other members of the Temple. We wanted to make sure that what we were really focused on was being thankful for every gift, no matter what people are able to contribute.

Maddie: I think we've done a good job of keeping that in mind when we are building the nature of the campaign. We are comfortable deviating from the models of traditional fundraising; it is not just asking for big whacks of money. Like you said, there are different ways that people can contribute and ways that we can recognize them for those contributions. We are trying to keep that in mind and keeping people engaged in a way that is appropriate for our cohort.

RZG: We have officially begun our fundraising and are very grateful to our member, Michael Bernstein, who is going to be *matching every donation up to \$30,000 dollars!* We held a kick-off casino night event celebrating the launch of the YAD LEEDership Campaign on Saturday, September 14th for our YAD members and friends! We honoured Rabbi Helfman for his incredible work with this cohort over the last handful of years and had success in creating a culture of giving. It was an incredible night! Thank you both for talking with me today and I look forward to getting to know you both better!

For more information about the YAD LEEDership Campaign, please visit www.holyblossom.org.



CELEBRATING OUR MUSICAL LEGACY

By: Helena Fine and Susan Cohen, Co-Chairs, Cantor's Celebrations Committee

In 41 years of service at Holy Blossom Temple, Cantor Beny Maissner has taught congregants that music is another form of prayer, of speaking to the Divine. Selichot study and services, on September 21, will begin a year of honouring that contribution before he assumes his new position as Cantor Emeritus.

Our Celebrations Committee has been hard at work since December planning the best way to honour his influence on our congregation. The nine members of the committee represent the whole synagogue membership and all joined because of personal stories about how the cantor has enriched their worship, their love of Israel or their Jewish knowledge.

Cantor Maissner has helped to transform worship and turned Holy Blossom into a singing congregation that expresses our core Jewish values through music. His music programs have illuminated Jewish history, his personal mentoring and teaching has trained a generation of cantors and lay leaders, he is devoted to visiting congregants in need, and he has represented Holy Blossom and Jewish music internationally with distinction.

Holy Blossom is a synagogue, that as Rabbi Splansky described in her introduction to the *Siddur Pirchei Kodesh*, responds to the "sometimes-competing calls of tradition and modernity." The cantor's transformation of music in worship reflects that core Holy Blossom value.

There are three major events to illuminate different aspects of his contributions and there will be other opportunities throughout the year to express our thanks for his service.

We'll start at Selichot on September 21st, honouring Cantor Maissner as teacher in a Selichot like no other. He will lead the study session, congregants have put forward their favourites of the High Holy Day season, and together we will all learn traditional melodies, newly and beautifully arranged by composer Stephen Glass. Singing them for the first time at the exquisite Selichot service that follows. Join us for an unforgettable evening and for a special champagne toast to say thank you.

There will be other special events throughout the year – online and in person, involving the whole congregation. But we're not going to reveal everything immediately. Some things are better as a surprise.

Susan Cohen and Helena Fine
Co-chairs, Cantor's Celebrations Committee



WELCOME TO OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY

We are delighted to welcome the following new & returning members to Holy Blossom Temple:

Andrea Aster & Charles Granek	Elisabeth & Marc Demone	Karly Hachohen	Dorit & Oren Ogniewicz
Alexis & Thomas Beale	Robin Drutz-Cole	Jessica & Andrew Halton	Deniza Robinson
Vivian Berman	Susanne Egier	Erin Higgins & Fraser Roberts	Ethan Ruderman
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Shira Brym & Benjamin Friedland	Brian Fenton & Heidi Steinberg-Fenton	Sheila Katz & Philip Levine	Ronit Soroksky & David Stulberg
Sarah & Andrew Chris	Corey Fraiberg & Joy Ellick	Andrea Katz & Jamie Croatin	Mitchell Toker
Adam Clark & Federico Fancellu	Bleema Getz	Zoe Margolis & Mel Spiegel	Jessica Weiss & Aaron Laurito
Peter Collins	Susan & Arthur Gitajn	Ronald McCloskey & Faryl Hausman	Mary Weinrib
Ralph Coram & Anita Lerek	Reney Gitajn	Edward McCloskey & Tara Disenhouse	Joseph Zeller
Sarah Coram & David Baillieul	Jill & Mark Glazer	Katarina Mucke	
	Tara Glazer & John Çakim	Ruth Noel	

July 1, 2019 - September 10, 2019

Mazel Tov to...

ENGAGEMENTS

Debbi Charendoff Moses & Robert Moses, on the engagement of their son, Jonah Moses to Megan Hanley, daughter of Karen & Grant Hanley on April 1, 2019.

Hersh & Shawnee Glickman and Paul Slan on the engagement of their son Lucas Benjamin to Shanna Erin, daughter of Perri and Elliot Kirshenblatt. Proud grandmothers are Roz Halbert and Esther Kirshenblatt.

Avra Rosen & Mark Goodman, on the engagement of their daughter, Sarah Michele Rosen to Alex Kolodkin, son of Ella Kolodkina. Proud grandparents are Laz Rosen and Yetta Goodman.

MARRIAGE

Jeff Dicker & Sandi Smith, on the marriage of their son, Matthew Dicker to Emily Abrams, daughter of Tara & David Abrams on June 15, 2019.

Mira Goldfarb, daughter of Rabbi Edward Goldfarb & Fagi Goldfarb & Harry Blum, son of the late Berel & Ida Blum, on their wedding on June 2, 2019.

Cary Solomon & Lisa Heidman, on the occasion of their wedding on July 25, 2019.

BIRTHS

Kimberly & Tal Batalion, on the birth of a son, Jordan Rami Batalion, and brother to Ezra. Proud grandparents are Syndie Geller, Mary Batalion and Steven Geller. Proud great-grandparents are Jack Olin and Marta Goldschmied.

Chloe & Daniel Banach, on the birth of a son, Remington Clark Banach, and brother to Cole. Proud grandparents are Rita & Steve Banach and Susan & Barry Greenberg.

Arieh & Vallry Waldman, on the birth of a granddaughter, Eden Victoria Waldman. Proud parents are Evelyn & Eitan Waldman, sister to Ellen. Other proud grandparent is Emelita Epino.

Max Laskin & Alexandra Fidler-Wener, on the birth of a son, Charlie Fidler-Laskin. Proud grandparents are Holly Goren Laskin & John Laskin and Dr. Barbara Fidler & Norval Wener. Proud great-grandmother is Bernice Goren.

Jenna Laskin Glina & Michael Glina, on the birth of a son, Kyle Seth Glina. Proud grandparents are Holly Goren Laskin & John Laskin and Zana & Charles Glina. Proud great-grandmother is Bernice Goren.

Eileen & David Berger and Mindy & Howard Goodman, on the birth of a grandson, Jonah Ya'ar Goodman-Berger. Proud parents are Ilana & Josh Goodman-Berger, and brother to Louise. Proud great-grandmothers are Claire Goodman and Gertie Selick.

Karen & Sarah Kugelmass, on the birth of daughters Parker Adina Kugelmass and Elliot Hannah Kugelmass. Proud grandparents are Gayle McWilliams and Helene & Jack Kugelmass.

Karen & Larry Hausman, on the birth of a great-grandson, Jacob George Freddie McCloskey. Proud parents are Justin McCloskey & Devin Skurka. Proud

grandparents are Ron McCloskey & Faryl Hausman, Gillian McCloskey, and Jeff & Debi Skurka.

Stefanie & David Getz, on the birth of a son, Brayden Hunter Getz. Proud grandparents are Bleema & Arnold Getz and Debbie & Sheldon Danis.

Erin Higgins & Fraser Roberts, on the birth of a son, Logan Moishe Roberts. Proud grandparents are Susan & Arthur Gitajn and Janet & Rory Roberts. Proud great-grandmother is Mary Weinrib.

Kim Kozloff & Jeremy Nusinowitz on the birth of a daughter, Dylan Rose Nusinowitz. Proud grandparents are Susan Himel & Neil Kozloff, Sid Nusinowitz & Marilyn Tweyman, Judy Nusinowitz & David Kopel.

Dale & Stan Joffe on the birth of a granddaughter, Karly Helena Joffe Hersh. Proud parents are Rebecca Erin Joffe & Josh Hersh, and sister to Meghan Hersh. Proud grandmother is Rachel Hersh.



B'NEI MITZVAH



Leah Corlett
Daughter of Kari Abrams & Charles Corlett
May 4, 2019



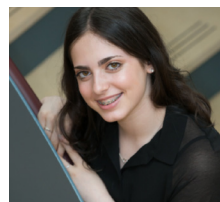
Mia Klayman
Daughter of Gillian Aiken & Blair Klayman
May 5, 2019



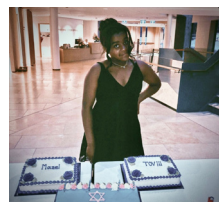
Samuel Korman
Son of Genevieve & Mark Korman
May 18, 2019



Leah Sherman
Daughter of Elda & Jonathan Sherman
May 25, 2019



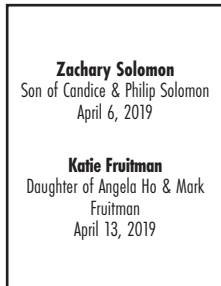
Leah Dan
Daughter of Melanie & Steven Dan
June 15, 2019



Caya Tile
Daughter of Candy Rambersingh
& Andrew Tile
June 22, 2019



James Dermer
Son of Amanda & Jordan Dermer
June 24, 2019



Zachary Solomon
Son of Candice & Philip Solomon
April 6, 2019

Katie Fruitman
Daughter of Angela Ho & Mark
Fruitman
April 13, 2019

IN MEMORIAM

Stanley Adelman, father of Ari Lesniak; brother of Howard Adelman

Norma Appleby, mother of Kim Bernbaum and Danielle Appleby; sister of Larry Rumack, Joan Waxman, Minda Tward, and Tolsa Greenberg

Bertram Barruch, husband of Caryl Barruch; father of Diane Gladstone and Meryl Solomon

Geraldine Blatt, wife of Clarence Blatt; mother of Warren Blatt and Gregory Blatt; sister of Ben Sulsky

David Richard Caplan, husband of Leigh Caplan; father of Benjamin Caplan and Jacob Caplan; son of Wilfred and Elinor Caplan; brother of Mark Caplan, Zane Caplansky and Meredith Caplan Jamieson

Sharon Clavir, mother of Robin Mirsky; sister of Dr. Brian Hands

Sydney Collins, husband of Marta Collins; father of Peter Collins, Paul Collins, Evan Collins, and Marisa Collins; brother of Billy Collins

Ary Dotan, husband of Ruti Dotan; father of Emmy Shiffman and Sharon Facella; brother of Xavier Fischman

George Fleischmann, husband of Rienne Fleischmann; father of Ora Leese, Eli Fleischmann and Yonah Fleischmann

Ruth Gishman, mother Anita Rachlis and Dana Colson

Kejla Goldman, mother of Jose Goldman, Isaac Goldman, Jacob Goldman, and Pedrinho Goldman

Pearl Golomb, mother of Hillary Selby and Terry Yanowski; sister of Philip Perelgut

Godfrey Goodman, husband of Cecile Goodman; father of Stacey Newman, Kimberley Goodman Adams and Kathryn Goodman

Ralph Steven Grabenheimer, father of Steven Grabenheimer and Michael Grabenheimer

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Shirley Kofman, mother of Martin Kofman and Kathy Kofman (Moscoe)

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Shirley Morris, mother of Marsha Goldberg, Rhonda Ellis, Jerry Goldberg, and Lora Goldberg; sister of Charles Tabachnick and Bernice White

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Rachel Silver, daughter of Graham & Ruth Silver; sister of Jason Silver

(Abraham) Harry Snitman, father of Janine Grossman and Steven Snitman

Anne Steinberg, wife of Joe Steinberg; mother of Wendy Himmel, Bella Steinberg Sinukoff and Evelyn (Evy) Sugar

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March 20, 2019 to August 12, 2019

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Susan Hershfield, Yahrzeit: Ruth Ellen & Sheldon Greenwood

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YOM KIPPUR AFTERNOON STUDY SESSIONS

Wednesday, October 9, 2019, 1:30-3:00 pm

"JUSTICE, JUSTICE SHALL YOU PURSUE" WITH SUPREME COURT JUSTICE ROSALIE ABELLA

On Yom Kippur we read: *"Cry out with a full throat, do not hold back, let your voice resound like a shofar! ...If you remove lawlessness from your midst, the pointing finger, the malicious word... then your light shall shine in the darkness and your night become bright as noon. (Isaiah 58)"*

Hear one of Canada's leading voices for justice reflect on these ancient words and on what they demand of us today. Justice Abella will receive the Rabbi W. Gunter Plaut Humanitarian Award.

"SHEPHERD AND SHEEP" WITH PROFESSOR JUDITH BASKIN

The haunting and often misunderstood High Holy Day prayer, *Unetaneh Tokef*, personifies God as a Shepherd and the Jewish people as sheep. Where does this imagery come from and what meanings does it have for us today?

"THE FEDERAL ELECTION, THE JEWISH COMMUNITY, AND YOU" WITH CJPAC AND CIJA

Mark Waldman from CJPAC, the Canadian Jewish Political Affairs Committee, will cover **how to get involved in an election campaign**. Sophie Helpard from CIJA, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, will cover the **public policy issues that matter most to the Jewish community**.

"WHEN A TURN TAKES YOU BY SURPRISE: ONCE WOKE BUT NO LONGER"

A rabbi and former Leftist reflects on his unexpected departure from the Left, including the role Judaism played in his transformation —and what it all means for Jews today.

"SEARCHING FOR THE SECRETS TO LONG LIFE: A CARTOONIST'S JOURNEY" WITH CARTOONIST REBECCA ROHER

Interviews of European one-hundred-year-olds reveal the secrets of life and first-hand accounts of the past century. Come for a sneak peek into Roher's upcoming graphic novel, *One Hundred Year-old Wisdom*. Join the discussion on the meaning of longevity, regret, forgiveness, courage, and love.

"WHAT DID THEY SAY WHEN...?" WITH RABBI BILL TEPPER

We've seen harder times than these. Discover excerpts of Yom Kippur sermons by noted Reform rabbis of our past. What was happening in the world then? How did they urge Jews to respond? And if you were writing a sermon today, what would you say?



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SUKKOT

Sukkah Decorating & Fall Fair: Sunday, September 23, 9:30 AM

Erev Sukkot Service: Sunday, October 13, 6:00 PM

First Day Sukkot Service & Holy Chag: Monday, October 14, 10:00 AM

To order your Lulav & Etrog, please contact Reception: 416.789.3291 ext. 221 or aanthony@holyblossom.org

SHEMINI ATZERET

Erev Shemini Atzeret Service: Sunday, October 20, 2019, 6:00 pm

Shemini Atzeret Service and Yizkor: Monday, October 21, 2019, 10:00 am

SIMCHAT TORAH

Consecration: Monday, October 21, 2019, 6:00 pm

Flagmaking: Monday, October 21, 2019, 6:15 pm

Simchat Torah Service and Celebration: Monday, October 21, 2019, 7:00 pm



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