

**Holy Blossom Temple Brotherhood Report** by Mike Morgulis, HBT Brotherhood president

Brotherhood is pleased to announce that it continues to help send our young members to URJ Camp George with a \$500 bursary per camper. As in-person camp was cancelled for 2020, many parents received their fees back. Brotherhood did not request a refund and instead requested that Camp George keep the bursaries as a donation.

Our Grade 7 B'nei Mitzvah students each continue to receive a gift of a personalized Plaut Torah Commentary as the start of their Jewish library, a program that Brotherhood has been proudly running for over 20 years.

The Yartzheit candle initiative from Brotherhood continues to provide candles and prayer cards for congregants to take home to help them celebrate the memory of their loved ones. As the Temple building has been closed for services, these candles and cards were made available to those members who came in person to pick up or drop off their membership packages.

Brotherhood made a donation of \$15,000 towards the redevelopment of the Holy Blossom Temple website. As our world has become more digital, this work became crucial in keeping all of our congregants more connected and informed.

Cantor Emeritus Beny Maissner was honoured at his retirement and Brotherhood made a donation towards his retirement via the digital program book.

The Breakfast-by-Brotherhood program was restarted in the renewed Philip Smith Foyer last October 20th with a presentation by Elisa Hategan who spoke about her past involvement in the Heritage Front and later helped put their leaders behind bars while also pursuing her Jewish roots. Simeon Olsberg taught willing participants about Krav Maga on December 15<sup>th</sup>. On February 9<sup>th</sup> we hosted the play "I'm Still Here" which educated everyone about Alzheimer's and dementia. It was very informative, moving and meaningful. A personal thank-you to Judy Malkin who made the suggestion as she was one of the performers in the troupe and knew it would be perfect for one of our programs.

Looking forward to the next months we have Rabbi Michael Stroh returning for his winter series, which will be via Zoom this year. And our new Cantor, David Rosen, is revealing his hidden talents with the men of Holy Blossom. The details will be released soon. If men need to reach out for help, advice, friendship, camaraderie or wish to offer their talents, please contact Brotherhood by email at [brotherhood@holyblossom.org](mailto:brotherhood@holyblossom.org) or by phone at 416 789 3291 ext 530.