

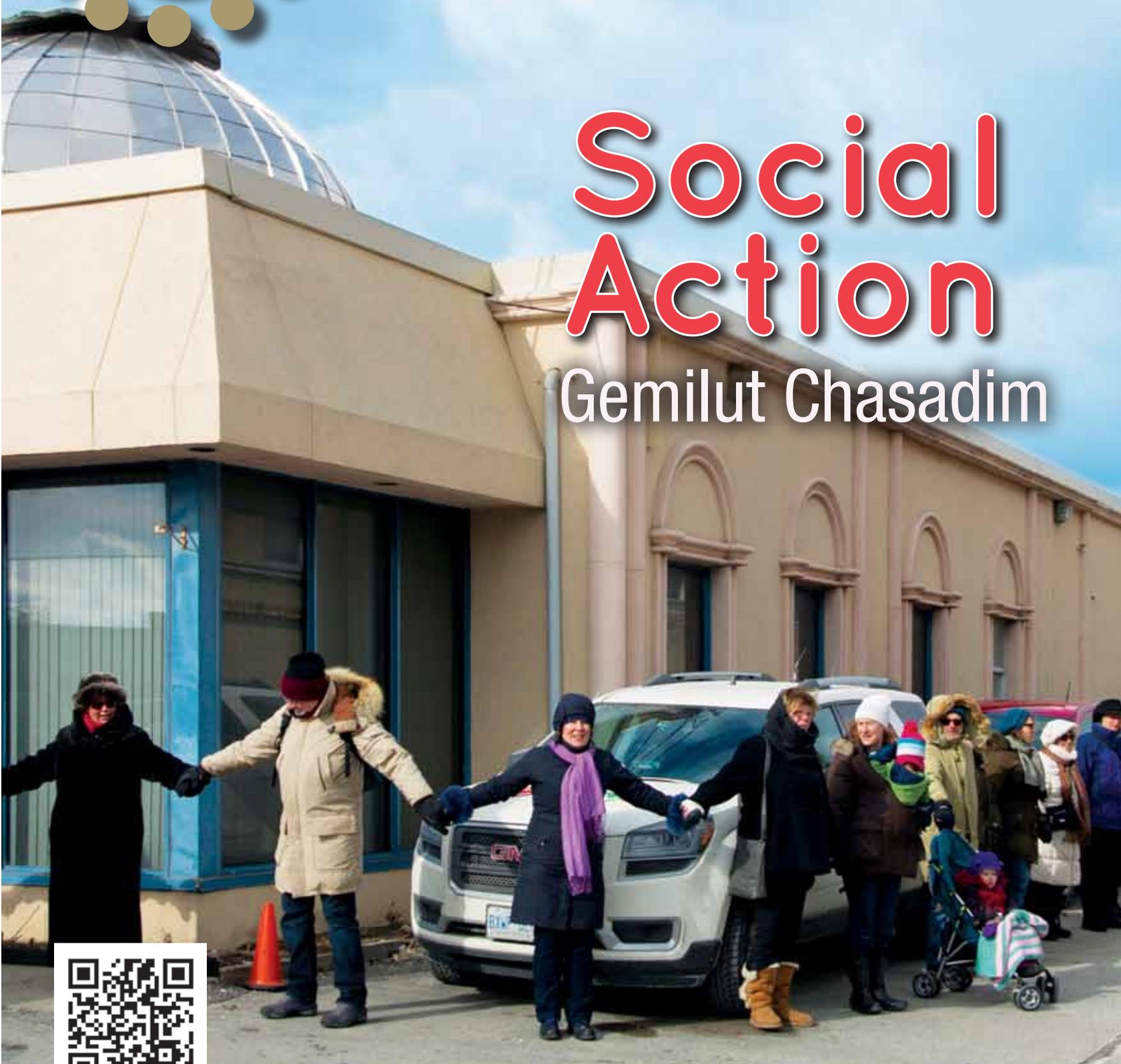
HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE



Bulletin

March 2017

Social Action Gemilut Chasadim



COMING SOON

HBT PURIM VARIETY SHOW

We have a guest Magician, Musical Acts and more.
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SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2017 - 7:30 pm

For people 13 and older.

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visit: holyblossom.org/purim2017 for more details!

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SUPERMAN
vs.
BATMAN

WONDER ESTHER
vs.
HER OWN FEAR

RABBI SPLANSKY
vs.
AN UNOPENABLE JAR
OF KOSHER DILL PICKLES

MORDECHAI
vs.
ACHASHVEROSH

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SUNDAY, MARCH 12 - 10 am

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March 2017

HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE **Bulletin**

CONTENTS

Come Healing - HBT: a Community of Healing	4
We Learn, We Inspire	5
Holy Blossom Resonates Worldwide	
Clothing the Poor	6
Bikur Cholim - Receiving More Than I Give	8
Bikur Cholim - Keeping Our Community Connected	9
Ring of Peace - Thank You	10
HBTeens go to Washington	12
The Joys of Volunteering	14
Charles Pachter	15
Renewal Project Update	16
Our Congregational Family	18
Welcome to our New Members	20

Cover photo and pages 10-11, 16-17 photos taken by Dr. Harvey Schipper



Life can blossom here.





“Come Healing”

Holy Blossom Temple is a community of healing

Rabbi Michael Satz

msatz@holyblossom.org

*O troubled dust concealing
An undivided love
The heart beneath is teaching
To the broken heart above
Let the heavens falter
Let the earth proclaim
Come healing of the alter
Come healing of the name*

These are words of the Leonard Cohen song “Come Healing” from his album “Old Ideas.” I think speaks a very Jewish notion healing. When we work to heal—bodies, society, the earth—we are healing God. God needs us as co-workers in creation to bring repair to our shattered selves and broken world.

Many of us (or many of you tell me) are thinking that the world seems to be falling apart. Whether this is true or not does not negate the Jewish obligation to be engaged in the world. Through our relationships with others and through our actions in our community and beyond. Holy Blossom Temple has a long history of striving to bring healing. Our shiva service leaders who rearrange their evenings to bring comfort to the bereaved, our Out of the Cold volunteers who serve the vulnerable population of Toronto, our Bikkur Cholim volunteers who visit our elderly members, our volunteers who have helped settle Syrian refugees, our kids with all of their “mitzvah projects” . . . I could go on and on. Holy Blossom Temple is a community of healing.

I would like to focus on one new healing initiative that Holy Blossom has recently embarked on with the generous support of our congregant Elen Steinberg. On Tuesday evenings after services a drop in class for dealing with grief is led by the therapist Helen Levin and a member of our clergy. It is an opportunity for people to share their experiences and ways of coping with loss in a supportive and encouraging environment. To quote Elen: “When I was faced with my own bereavement there

was nowhere to turn for help - the various bereavement programs only operated on specific time schedules and I didn't fit into the time frame. I felt it was extremely important that there was help for all those who needed it, all year round, and knew that Helen Levin was the right person to lead such a program. I'm so glad that my contribution is truly helping people- that is the most important outcome.”

One of the participants explained the class this way: “It is coming together with community to share in grief and to grow together. We sit together in suffering and try to move forward.” Helen, the facilitator, says, “As painful as the journey through grief is, it can also be a revealing experience and present opportunity for self-awareness, growth and generosity.” This is healing.

Healing is not about a return to the past, it is about moving forward—through sickness, grief, trouble—and creating something new. This issue of the Holy Blossom Temple Bulletin will be focused on our communities healing work, the amazing individuals, committees, and initiatives that are transformative.

I pray that God, the One we call Healer—Healer of Souls and Repairer of the World—continues to be present as we continue our work in the world. When there is a person in need, Holy Blossom is there with comfort. When society needs justice, Holy Blossom is there to strive for justice. As we engage in our roles as God's healing hands, may we be strengthened.

Leonard Cohen:

*And let the heavens hear it, the penitential hymn
Come healing of the spirit
Come healing of the limb
O let the heavens hear it, the penitential hymn
Come healing of the spirit
Come healing of the limb*



We Learn We Inspire – Holy Blossom Resonates Worldwide

Joan Garson

President
president@holyblossom.org

On February 3, 2017, Holy Blossom Temple provided inspiration that reached far beyond Toronto. The emotional wisdom and the powerful call to shared action of “Ring of Peace” resonated worldwide. While international events may seem beyond our influence, when we were feeling passive and dismayed in the face of murder and racism, and uncertain about the future, our congregation led by Rabbi Splansky created an alternative to inaction. We became a community which empowered its members and many beyond our membership, with a response to hate and intolerance, based on mitzvah and our values. That model moved and inspired around the world.

As I write, I am aware that this week we read Parsha Yitro and relive the seminal moment when Moses led our people to its encounter with God at Sinai. The Jews accepted the Torah with the statement *naaseh v'nishma* – we will do and we will hear. From our earliest moments, Jews have been about doing.

The international impact of “Ring of Peace” became clear when we saw major media coverage in print, TV and online, including CTV, CityTV, CBC, The Huffington Post, The Guardian UK, The Times of Israel, and The Algemeiner – to name but a few. Online articles were published in Germany, the Ukraine, India, France, and even in several different languages including Mandarin and Indonesian.

Through Holy Blossom’s own digital channels alone, our action was shared more than 100,000 times on social media and trended #1 in Toronto for a few hours on Twitter during the event. Much of what was covered by the media, copy and images, originated at holyblossom.org.

Most recently, the entire Reform world learned the story as it was broadcast by the World Union of Progressive Judaism before Shabbat, and our member Carole Sterling, Chair of the World Union, shared her experience as a participant in “Ring of Peace”.

This remarkable attention makes clear that people want to do good, but often lack an idea of what to do, will act with generosity of spirit if provided with the opportunity, and will support those who take positive action on behalf of the community. At a time when the world may not seem like a friendly place, common humanity as demonstrated by our support for other communities under attack, and our commitment to religious tolerance, resonate widely. And we, here at Holy Blossom, are able to provide the outlet for that common humanity, and to inspire, motivated by our values and with wise leadership.

We can do more. As we led all Jewish communities in Toronto with Out of the Cold, as we model engagement with the Indigenous community in partnership with other organizations, as we reach out in interfaith actions, and with the commitment of members of our community to adopting Syrian refugees, we learn we inspire others in a broader sphere than we might have imagined. And we can build on this, beginning with the breadth of our own dreams. Together we can continue to meet the challenge to repair the world: “Tikkun Olam”.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



CLOTHING THE POOR: HBT'S OUT OF THE COLD CLOTHING PROGRAM

article by **Greg Coleman**
Clothing Co-Organizer,
Out of the Cold Clothing Program

The Out of the Cold Clothing Program at Holy Blossom is an example of Tzedakah – fulfilling one's obligation to give aid and assistance to the poor and needy – at its very best. At the same time, the Clothing Program also highlights one of the significant challenges that face any organization whose goal is to provide assistance to those in need: how to decide who should be the recipient of your good works.

Out of the Cold was first started more than thirty years ago by Sister Susan Moran, a Catholic nun and school teacher, whose goal was to provide food and shelter to the homeless and poor in the St. Clair West neighbourhood. HBT operates one of the 16 OOTC operations in Toronto, providing dinner to 150 guests every Thursday night during the fall, winter and spring, and also providing overnight shelter for up to 30 guests every week.

Over the years, providing clothing has come to play an important role in the HBT OOTC program. During the year, OOTC solicits clothing donations from HBT members, and also works with clothing manufacturers and retailers (such as McGregor) to secure donations of surplus winter clothing. Member volunteers help sort the clothing donations, and six nights per season, OOTC gives away

clothing to its guests. OOTC typically announces its “clothing nights” in advance, and on those nights, attendance at OOTC is always very strong, reflecting how important clothing is to our guests. On non-clothing nights, OOTC still provides clothing to its guests on a case by case basis as needed.

On the donation side, the response to this year's HBT clothing drive has been incredible. Over the past several months, the program has received hundreds of bags of clothing, and donations have included everything from winter coats to warm boots to dress shirts and suits.

Not only has the volume of donations been huge, but the quality of donations has also been excellent. HBT OOTC recently hosted the organizer of another OOTC program in Toronto, who told us that “every time someone walks into her program wearing a sheepskin jacket or an Armani overcoat, she knows that they have recently visited OOTC at Holy Blossom”. Keep it coming please!!

But while the OOTC Clothing Program at HBT reflects many of the best qualities of the synagogue and its members, the program also demonstrates some of the challenges associated with delivering assistance programs to the poor and needy. OOTC's operating philosophy is that we do not question whether our guests should be allowed to eat and stay with us. Guests are not required to prove that they are poor; we do not

impose a needs test and we do not screen for annual income or net

worth. And contrary to the popular perception that programs like OOTC cater mainly to the needs of the homeless, it is quite clear that the majority of our guests are more likely classified as “working poor”: people who live below the poverty line, surviving on minimum wages and/or social assistance.

For the most part, this philosophy works fine – people do not typically show up at a soup kitchen or shelter unless they genuinely need a meal and a place to sleep. At the same time, we often see guests who are clean, well-fed and nicely clothed before they ever walk in our doors. Some of our guests drive their own cars to the program, and more than a few guests have smart phones. This raises an important question: should we really serve whoever walks in the door, without determining whether they really need the assistance?



6

This issue is particular acute when it comes to clothing. How do we distinguish one guest who genuinely needs a new winter coat from another guest who is looking for a winter coat that he or she might sell for money to buy other necessities? Should a guest wearing a perfectly acceptable pair of winter boots be allowed to take home another pair? How many pairs of new socks is the right number for any guest? This is not only an issue for us as organizers, by the way – some of our guests get quite offended when other guests who don't "need" clothing still take it.

In the end, perhaps the simple answer is that, as the givers of tzedakah, we can't spend too much time worrying about how deserving of assistance any particular guest might be. Certain kinds of tzedakah are considered more meritorious than others, and according to at least one well-regarded scholar, near the very top of the list is giving when you do not know the identity

of the recipient and they do not know yours. And interestingly, at the very top of the list of tzedakah is giving which enables the recipient to become self-reliant. So if one of our guests ends up selling the winter coat we gave him or her, perhaps that is not such a bad thing after all ...

In the end, these questions, while interesting, must not divert us from our ultimate objective, which is to do our best to help those in need. Doing good works is both our privilege and our obligation, one that is being fulfilled by HBT members every week through the donation, sorting and distribution of clothing. So please keep donating! We continue to need warm winter coats, winter shoes and boots, and other adult winter clothing as well. And please know that your kind donations are distributed to the needy with warm hearts and big smiles.

Before ...
... and after



HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE

LEGACY GIVING

For decades, you have been devoted to Holy Blossom. Through simchas and sorrows, Planned Gifts are known as such because they form an integral part of an individual's financial or estate planning. The Hebrew word, kadima which means forward is an appropriate name for our planned giving society. Your gift will help Holy Blossom and our community to benefit from your generosity for decades to come.

To learn more about making a creating a Holy Blossom Legacy Fund in your name, through a bequest in your will, life insurance or any of the other flexible options available, please contact Jonathan Ain, Director of Development at 416.789.3291 ext. 249 or jain@holyblossom.org.

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BIKUR CHOLIM

I have received much more than I have given.

article by **Shoshana Paice**

There are many opportunities to volunteer at Holy Blossom. One is the Bikur Cholim committee which pairs volunteers with members who would appreciate and benefit from a visit or a phone call, either just once or twice or for a longer term commitment.

I have been part of this committee for many years. Early on, I was paired with Albert, a man who was living in Baycrest and had no close family. Our visits turned into a friendship that lasted

until he passed away, several years later. I got to know him well and enjoyed hearing many wonderful stories about his life. Some of those stories were about growing up at Holy Blossom, religious school and confirmation at Bond Street in the 30's and playing for the Toronto Argos in the 40's. He was always interested in hearing about my family, my work and my interests as well.

When I first met Rose, she was 91 and, in spite of many physical challenges, she lived in her own apartment, cooked and cleaned for herself, maintained close connections with old friends and family and still managed to make new friends. Our friendship lasted ten years and during that time I visited her at home, in the hospital, in rehab and in the nursing home where she eventually lived until she passed away at 101. We became close friends and I got to know her family. We shared our joys along with our problems, worries and complaints, often in ways quite different from how we were able to talk to our own family and friends. Rose's friendship was a very special gift to me. In hindsight, I see that part of what was so valuable to me in my relationships with both Rose and Albert was to have a close connection to someone of their generation at a time when my parents, aunts and uncles were long gone.

I started to volunteer because I wanted to do something for other people. I saw Bikur Cholim, visiting the sick, as one of the important mitzvot listed prominently in our morning prayers. In the end, it has been a truly rewarding experience where I feel I have received much more than I have given.



BIKUR CHOLIM

Keeping Our Community Connected

article by **Andrew Cohen**

Several years ago, one of our rabbis asked if I could pay occasional visits to a temple member who had recently moved to an assisted living facility. As it turned out, I already knew Mathilda Bigio before I began our regular visits. Mathilda was an enthusiastic participant and volunteer at Holy Blossom for many years. She sang in the temple choir for over 20 years, and she was actively engaged in the Sisterhood. From her new home at Baycrest, she continued her community efforts by knitting sweaters for newborns.

Mathilda lived a fascinating life that was punctuated by tragedy. She was born into a prosperous merchant family from France that had settled in Egypt. Her comfortable Egyptian life changed irrevocably with the eruption of pan-Arab nationalism after the founding of the State of Israel. Mathilda and her family made their way to Toronto where they began a new life. For years, the Bigio family was active in a neighbourhood conservative synagogue. After Mathilda lost a son and then her husband, her surviving son suggested that Holy Blossom Temple might provide opportunities for a new beginning. At Holy Blossom, Mathilda developed new friendships, renewed her spiritual journey, and contributed enormously to our community. Her kindly, generous nature and beautiful smile touched many of us. It is a privilege to be one of the temple volunteers who visits Mathilda now that she can no longer visit us. Mathilda values the visits and phone calls, especially those from Linda Neufeld and Cantor Beny Maissner.



#RingofPeace -

article by Rabbi
Yael Splansky

Thank you!

On Friday, February 3, 2017 we stood for Jewish values and Canadian values. We put our prayers into motion. And we held true to our promise to be, as we have always been, a congregation that leads others in compassion and courage.

Seven Rings of Peace were created around seven mosques across the Greater Toronto Area. Hundreds joined hands in common cause to show Muslim Canadians that they and their sanctuaries are protected from violence and hatred. Rings of Peace spontaneously grew across five other Canadian cities and is still growing beyond our borders now. It is a simple act, but the impact has been profound.

So many people came that we were able to create an entire Ring of Peace around the Imdadul Islamic Centre. And then we did what Jews do — the circle started to move like a hora and there were quiet songs of peace. Oseh Shalom and Sim Shalom and Od Yavo Shalom.

I was not at all surprised by the response of our congregation. But I was proud. Some parents took their children out of school to teach a lesson for a lifetime. Older congregants made great physical efforts in order to participate. It was cold, but as one leader of the mosque said: “Our hearts were warm.” One moment did surprise me — a spontaneous invitation to address the congregation.



I took off my shoes and covered my hair with my scarf. Hundreds of men sat shoulder to shoulder on the floor. The women were gathered behind a wall at the back. I brought expressions of condolences, spoke of how blessed we are to live in this good country which provides and protects religious freedom for all, and I asked that when we leave the sanctuary, we leave ready to put our prayers of hope and peace into action by getting to know our neighbours and co-workers and by teaching our children to be compassionate and generous to others, no matter who “the other” may be. Only after I left the sanctuary was I told

Holy Blossom Temple



this was the first time a woman (let alone a Jew) was ever invited to address the congregation.

When the prayers were over and the worshippers came out from the mosque we saw the gratitude on their faces. We stood outside the doors and greeted them with songs of "Salaam." They will not forget this expression of solidarity and kindness. And neither will we.

Kol HaKavod to those who joined in the Ring of Peace, a true mitzvah.

HBTeens Go to Washington

In December, Rabbi Michael Satz and our Director of Youth Engagement Lisa Isen Baumal brought some of our teens to participate in the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism's L'Taken Seminar in Washington, DC. They learned about social issues and how our Jewish values inform our responses to them. Our teens got the opportunity to speak about issues of their choosing to officials at the Canadian embassy in DC. These are three of the speeches:

Avishai Sol: Two months ago I was told that my synagogue was privately hosting a Syrian refugee family. Two months ago I basically knew what the war in Syria was fought over, power, religion, control. I knew more than most Canadian teenagers. Maybe because, as a Jew, I pay closer attention to any country in Israel's immediate neighborhood, maybe because the intensity of the conflict could draw the eye of even the most

conservative of critics, maybe because us as Jews, have been refugees longer than we've been nearly anything else. Two months ago I knew a lot about what, when, where, but I knew nearly nothing about "who". Maybe, the most important pronoun of the bunch. I knew no exception to the ignorance that was my personal relationship with Syrians, so I was able to brush off the conflict with little consequence.

Three and a half weeks after I was told that refugees were coming to Toronto, to my city, and my synagogue, I first met them in maybe the most Jewish way possible. We invited them to Brunch. Between the bagels and lox, and the Halloween decorations, it must have seemed so North American to the Syrian family of five. And how strange it must have been for them to see that Jews are not what their government tells them we are. I and my two brothers ended up getting along famously with the three younger boys. But I think the most important thing I took away that day was not teaching the boys to carve pumpkins, but was



my new personal connection to the refugee crisis. That refugees are not numbers on a page, but people, children, with everything in common with you or me. I think we often hesitate to bring in refugees because we only ever seem to see them in the news or on tv, we never really see the kind of happiness we can give these people, or how, with a little insight, we can easily put ourselves in their shoes. Not that I presume to understand Christmas, but wouldn't a chance at a new life be the greatest holiday gift you could give? And not just to them but to yourself and your family. And last of all, if three little boys can change be my entire perspective on an international crisis think about what two million could do to yours. Two months have gone by since I first heard that refugees were coming to my community, and I pride myself in being able to count myself among the lucky few who understand the "who" of the refugee crisis.

Jacob Crawford Ritchie: My family has had the privilege to be able to privately sponsor a syrian refugee family. Being able to help a family of 6 in need has been an extremely enriching experience. With the aid of a translator and the canadian government, my family was successfully able to complete immigration, housing, and medical forms. Another resource that was helpful in resettling the Sullyman family came to a surprise to me. The app "whats App" was able to provide communication between us, the "rising tide sponsorship group" and our refugee family the Sullymans. This was only possible because their family members were settled in toronto a few weeks before. Using these resources, we were able to find out medical information which turned out being crucial when we found out one of the children "Rame" had a pacemaker under her skin for several weeks that she received at a refugee camp in turkey. The area had gotten infected during their travels. The information we received was able to give us a chance to find a specialist appointment for the day after arrival into canada. The sullymans bounced around camps in Jordan, lebanon, and turkey finally arriving in canada on may 27, 2016. The sullyman family had an apartment in aleppo which is one of the major fighting points, The father named ahmed worked in a kitchen, he was the sole provider for the family. The mother Iman was

high school educated and was going into colleges before she had kids. The family had decided to leave when they witnessed their cousin/ nephew blown out of an apartment window. This sight was a shock and forced them to take action. After being in Toronto for 6 or so months, the sullyman family continues to settle in. The kids Rame age 12, Muhamed age 11, Osmen age 8 are all enrolled in school doing ESL courses learning english at an astonishing rate. The youngest ayes age 2 is still at home with her parents Iman the mom, and the dad ahmed who both also take ESL courses. Settling into a new environment has been a challenge for all refugees. Canada has done an amazing job supporting syrian refugees and i hope that the government will continue to support people in need around the world.

Adam Oaknine: As a jewish Canadian, with ancestors who have been thrown out of just about everywhere, it's not hard to relate with the current refugee crisis. My grandparents and great grandparents on both sides of my family arrived in Canada as refugees fleeing from anti semitism in Morocco and Poland. Jewish tradition is clear on the treatment of immigrants. Our own people's history as strangers living in others' lands reminds us of the many struggles faced by immigrants today, and we are committed to creating the same opportunities for today's refugees that were valuable to our own community not so many years ago. Central jewish teachings include principles such as Piddyon Shevuyim (redeeming the captive), Chesed (kindness), and Hachnasat Orchim (hospitality). Further, "welcoming the stranger" is the most repeated commandment in our torah. Many of our people came to the United States and to Canada as refugees from religious prosecution. Having struggled to adjust to a society that did not always welcome our arrival, we appreciate the problems faced by today's refugees. In 1985, the Union for Reform judaism affirmed a resolution supporting refugee resettlement. The torah teaches us to reach out to and care for vulnerable populations; "You shall neither mistreat a stranger nor oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." (Exodus 22:21). Our jewish values inform our democratic values in Canada, and how we react to the present refugee epidemic.



THE JOYS OF VOLUNTEERING: WELCOMING OUR SYRIAN COUSINS

by Alan Heavenrich

Holy Blossom Temple is currently sponsoring, or helping to sponsor, more than nine different Syrian refugees, all of them part of a larger family. Temple members and staff began organizing for this purpose back in September 2015.

Early efforts involved fund-raising, networking with the Jewish Immigration Aid Services (JIAS), as well as physically collecting and storing donated furniture and housewares. Other than a modest financial contribution, I played no part in this early phase of the project and was even absent from the country while numerous other members toiled to “get our house in order”, so to speak. Then a period of waiting ensued, as the families we were hoping to welcome sought clearance from government and health officials to fly to Toronto.

My real involvement started in early August, when I and others picked up and delivered beds and furniture to the anchor family, a young couple and their two boys, who have been in Canada for almost 20 years. The related families arrived in three sets. The host’s parents arrived in August and were able to stay in the basement apartment of the host’s small home. A month or so later,

a family of five composed of the niece of our anchor host, her husband and their three young boys arrived from Turkey, where they had sought shelter for several years. They were followed at last by their grandparents in late November.

As one of a number of other volunteers, I have been privileged to meet these family members on many occasions, often while acting as a sort of “Go-fer”; helping them register for adult English courses, shopping, accompanying them to dental and medical appointments and engaging in warm and lively conversations with both adults and children, playing with the kids and helping to watch them when the parents were engaged during these activities. I feel so lucky: To have the opportunity to interact with these wonderful people, to be part of the team here at Holy Blossom that has pulled together to make them feel welcome and to ensure that their initial needs are met. It is certainly not easy -- adjusting to a new home, not to mention a new language, new climate, and new friends. Especially after the dangers and challenges they have left behind, but not entirely, as other family members are still in Syria. Nevertheless, these families have embraced their new settings cheerfully and enthusiastically and have opened their arms in friendship in response. Besides my time with the young ones (I’m a big kid at heart), one of my particular joys is exchanging help on English usage for some basic instruction in Arabic.

Much of my involvement has been made possible because I have the time, being recently retired, and am geographically closer to the families, who live near the North York/Scarborough border, further east than most congregants... My heart swells a bit each time I meet these people and we manage to expand both our worlds just a little further.

Should anyone wish to join in supporting the Syrian Family initiative you can contact Jacque Friedland at stories@holyblossom.org.



Holy Blossom Temple

What... is the only Jewish Congregation in Toronto that is older than Canada...160 years old? Holy Blossom Temple

What... is the only synagogue in Toronto that is about to receive a magnificent painting called *Side by Side* by Charles Pachter? Holy Blossom Temple

What... is the only place you want to be on Wednesday, April 26, 2017 Holy Blossom Temple

Please join us to celebrate both these occasions... wonderful food, precious memories, and an opportunity to meet and hear acclaimed artist and former Temple student Charles Pachter

Single Ticket - \$50 per person Sponsorship - \$250 (includes 2 tickets and a \$150 tax receipt)
For tickets, please contact Elana Fehler at 416.789.3291 ext. 221

— In celebration of our 160th —



with CHARLES PACHTER

Wednesday, April 26, 2017 - 7:30pm

by Bonnie Lawrence Shear

When I was asked to write about Charles Pachter, I went to the internet and what an enormous amount of information I found! I read it all and it tells what he has accomplished, but I didn't feel that these accomplishments reflected his essence. The list of achievements are wonderful, but there is more to Charles than the list of achievements.

Charlie was born in Toronto in 1942, and is certainly filling up his life "between the dashes."

What is it about Charles that draws so many people to him?

Mainly from what I can see, it is his generosity of spirit. He is blessed with a great sense of fun and wonderful sense of humour. He is obviously talented." Charlie" is charismatic and has a spontaneous side that is definitely an asset. And yet he has a real interest people and getting to know who they are.

His mother Sara was also a force to be reckoned with and I imagine genetics played a big part in Charles' development. Sara led innumerable trips to Israel. No one who went on a trip with her will ever forget her. Sara was awarded the key to the city of Jerusalem from Mayor Teddy Kolleck for all her tourism initiatives. She and her husband Harry were active members of Holy Blossom. Harry was a member of the Temple Players and acted in several of their productions. In honour of his parents, Charles is generously gifting his newest magnificent painting, "*Side by Side*" to our temple.

Charles is one of Canada's leading artists and is a painter, printmaker, sculptor, designer and historian. His quick mind and wide interests have caused his influence to be widespread and his talent in art has earned him the Order of Canada, Chevalier

of France's Ordre des Artes et des Lettres, Queen's Golden and Diamond Jubilee Medals, and the Order of Ontario. He is represented in private and public collections around the world. His work has been exhibited in The Art Gallery of Ontario, the Royal Ontario Museum and the McMichael Gallery. His images of the queen, the maple leaf flag, the streetcar and the moose have become instantly recognizable contemporary icons in Canada.

Charles' interest in architecture and design have produced an award winning studio and gallery in downtown Toronto. He also has built amazing studios, for 12 years in a converted Ice House on Lake Simcoe, and currently in downtown Orillia.

Charles' paintings are on display in the Portrait Gallery of Canada, the Canadian Embassy in Washington, Canada House in London, the Parliament Buildings, the Prime Minister's residence, and the Embassy of France in Ottawa.

Pachter's steel and granite moose sculptures have been installed across Canada.

And in addition, he has produced best-selling children's books... "*M is for Moose*", "Canada Counts" and his acclaimed collaboration with poet Margaret Atwood, "*The Illustrated Journals of Susanna Moodie*".

I hope that you will join us on Wednesday, April 26th at 7:30 pm to meet Charles, as we unveil "*Side by Side*", which depicts the twinning of the Canadian and Israeli flags. What better way to celebrate the close links between our two countries as we celebrate the 160th Anniversary of Holy Blossom Temple?

For ticket information, please see above.





RENEWAL PROJECT UPDATE

MORE THAN A CONSTRUCTION PROJECT. HOW MOMENTUM BUILDS ON FUNDRAISING, TOO!

We've typically used this space to share regular construction updates. But an equal amount of terrific work goes into the fundraising aspect of our project and we're resolved to keep you just as up to date on that topic, too. So from here on in, watch this space, and our bi-weekly Life at Holy Blossom eblast for current news on our fundraising activity and stories from our generous donors about why they were moved to give... as well as your regular dose of construction activity.

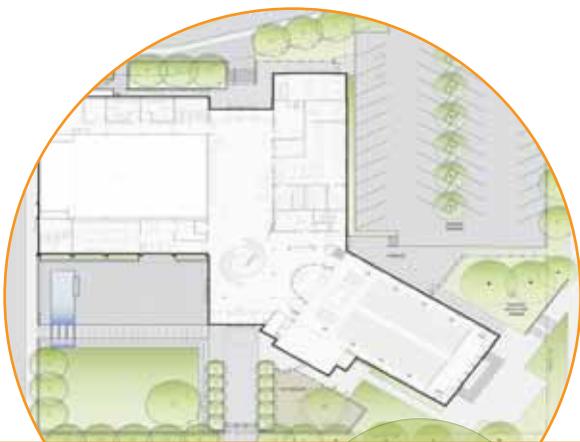
So here's the latest on the fundraising front. We've now passed the \$22.35 million raised mark, out of the \$29.5 million total budget to complete Phase 1 of the project. Phase 1, as you know, includes our beautiful, light-filled central Atrium, Library, Café, Youth Lounge, Family Chapel and other spaces, all in a LEED Silver Certified, environmentally-friendly building.

There is sense of renewed spirit at Holy Blossom, and with that comes an ever-increasing sense of momentum for our project. Over 250 Temple donors and families have stepped up thus far, which is wonderful news. Simply put, we need every congregant to participate generously in Renewal. Our project succeeds best when all of us make a (fully tax-deductible) gift that is meaningful, each according to our means.

Right now, we're in the process of reaching out to each of you on a one-by-one basis, for discrete personal meetings about your family's gift to Renewal, and how you can be honoured for your generosity to Holy Blossom. If you're interested in holding this discussion sooner, please contact our Director of Development, Jonathan Ain, at jain@holyblossom.org to schedule your meeting.

On the construction side of things, over these past few weeks our contractor, Pomerleau, has been installing structural support columns, designed to hold up portions of the building once certain floor sections have been removed. For example, some of these columns will support the administration area as the space below is excavated to create a new mechanical room, as well as badly-needed storage space. This shoring has also enabled the crew to begin excavating new spaces on the lower level, while demolition proceeds in other areas.





To read all our bi-weekly Life at Holy Blossom Renewal Updates, and to see the latest photos and videos, including our live-stream cam, visit holyblossom.org/renewal

Please enjoy the construction photos that accompany this update. They were taken by Dr. Harvey Schipper, (along with the cover of this bulletin!) We invite you to visit holyblossom.org/renewal for the latest updates, stories, photos, videos, and for our TWO live-stream construction cams. We continue to do our best to capture the progress and excitement of our Renewal Project, and as you can see on these pages, so much is happening and changing every couple weeks!

As always, we thank you for your continued readership and support (financial and otherwise) of our Renewal Project at Holy Blossom.





Welcome to Our Congregational Family

Mazal Tov

- Doris Sommer-Rotenberg on receiving the Meritorious Service Medal for outstanding accomplishments.

Births

- Dana & Jordan Rosenbaum, on the birth of a son, **Ryan David Rosenbaum**. Proud grandparents are Karin & Yoel Abells and Susan & Sam Rosenbaum. Proud great grandparents are Dafna Abells and Mary Seldon.
- Alison & Matthew Toffolo, on the birth of a daughter, **Irene Luciana Toffolo**. Proud grandparents are Ellen & Andrew Kampfparents are Sarah & Aron Brager. Other proud grandparents are Linda & Mark Brager. Great Grandmothers are Sylvia Alter; Fannie Greenbum; and Esther Cole.



Weddings & Engagements

- Ben Hertzman, son of Jill Hertzman; and David Hertzman to Danna Goldlist, daughter of Rosylin & Gerold Goldlist, who were married on February 4, 2017.
- Daniel Axelrod, son of Heather Shapiro & Terry Axelrod, to Andrea Copeland, daughter of Rhonda Reid & Charles Copeland, who will be married on June 4, 2017.
- Nicole, Inwentash, daughter of Lynn Factor & Sheldon Inwentash to Philip Pollack, son of Andrea Pollack and the late Gary Pollack on their upcoming marriage.
- Joi Cole, daughter of Farrel and Rhoda Cole to Richard Goldberger, son of Barbara & Ernest Goldberger, who will be married on May 25, 2017
- Laura Brodie, daughter of Shari & Joel Brodie to Andrew Herman, son of Marci & Rick Herman who will be married on September 3, 2017.
- Carly Cohen, daughter of Susan & Stephen Cohen, to Jordan Epstein, son of Cindy & Michael Epstein who will be married on November 4, 2017.
- To Daniel Winberg and Stephanie Harris on their December 10, 2016 marriage. Proud parents are Jack and Judy Winberg and Gary and Diane Harris, and grandparents, Bert and Marilyn Winberg and Adele Rolin.
- Lisa Winberg and Zachary Fishman on their November 12, 2016 marriage. Proud parents are Jack and Judy Winberg and Fred and Ruth Fishman, and grandparents, Bert and Marilyn Winberg, Rose Fishman and Orah Buck.

B'nei Mitzvah

Jacob Lewis
Son of Kelly Grant & Michael Lewis
Sat. Jan 14, 2017



Phoebe Rotman
Daughter of Amy Kaiser & Ken Rotman
Sat. Jan. 21, 2017



Paige Weiner
Daughter of Courtney & Steven Weiner
Sat. Feb.25, 2017



Danielle Lester
Daughter of Eva Ingber & Michael Lester
Sun. Feb. 26, 2017

In Memoriam..

- **Dr. Scarlet Albright**, husband of Shirley Albright; father of Lou Dale, John Albright and Ken Albright
- **Marvin Barnett**, husband of Linda Barnett; father of Kelly Barnett, Reggie Barnett and Tessa Barnett; brother of Sid Barnett, Harold Barnett and David Barnett
- **Goldie Berg**, mother of Judy Newman, Kathy Greenstein, Joanne Berg and Ira Berg
- **Dr. Irvin Broder**, father of Dr. Rebecca Broder, Dr. Sarah Broder and David Broder; brother of Harold Broder; step-brother of Murray Rubin
- **David Cappe**, husband of Lyle Cappe; father of Barbara Dalgorf, Malki Abrams, Maria Gosselin and Sherry Weiss
- **Aaron Cohen**, father of Kenneth Cohen and Miriam Cohen
- **Frances Cohen**, mother of Rhonda Cohen and Lionel Cohen
- **Eunice Davis**, mother of Jack Davis and Lynne Lieberman
- **Iris Drache**, step-mother of Miriam Dryer, Daniel Drache and Michael Drache
- **Debbi Gordon**, mother of Jennifer Gordon and Mathew Gordon; sister of Ellen Greenwood and Janet Rosenberg
- **Fannie Greenbaum**, mother of Lorne Greenbaum, Dr. Robert Greenbaum and Marilyn Feldman
- **Jyl Johnson Leslie**, mother of Ingrid Johnson and Sally-Ann Johnson, sister of Jacquie Johnson and Bill Johnson
- **Tamara Ashley Levine**, daughter of Michael Levine and Carol Cowan; sister of Elizabeth Levine, Alexis Levine, Peter Levine and Josh Levine
- **Ruth Rosen**, wife of Hank Rosen; mother of Dr. Cheryl Rosen, Susan Speigel and Michael Rosen; Sister of Goldie Burstein
- **Marvin Jay Rothschild**, husband of Sybil Rothschild; father of Barbara Alter, John Rothschild and Doug Rothschild
- **Isabel Schwartz**
- **Sylvia Silver**, mother of Dr. David Silver, Dr. Ivan Silver and Dr. Robert Silver; sister of Joyce Milrod and Marilyn Gross
- **Pauline Spence**, mother of Robert Spence, Ted Herman, Rob Herman and Peter Spence; sister of Joe Goldenberg
- **Dr. Manuel Morton Spivak**, husband of Phyllis Spivak; father of Jonathan Spivak and Sari Weinstein; brother of Ida Abrams
- **Allan Weiss**, husband of Lila Weiss; father of Jason Weiss, Cari Weiss, Gerald Weiss and Russell Weiss; brother of Nathan Weiss
- **Rose Wolfe**, mother of Elizabeth Wolfe and Jonathan Wolfe



#RingofPeace

On Friday, February 3, 2017 we stood for Jewish values and Canadian values. We put our prayers into motion. And we held true to our promise to be, as we have always been, a congregation that leads others in compassion and courage.

We thank our generous donors

The Bernard, Carol & Samuel Braun Memorial Fund

Aaron Cohen, In Memory: Tema Title
Heidi & Manny Meirovich, In Appreciation: Marcia & Kenneth Cohen
Bert Raphael, In Memory: Marcia & Kenneth Cohen
Larry & Nina Ungerman, In Memory: Marcia & Kenneth Cohen

Sami and James Cooper Youth Award Fund

Sami & Jimmy Cooper, In Honour: The Albert Family

Jean Fine Seniors Fund

General Donation: Janis Rotman
Scarlat Albright, In Memory: Sheila Smolkin
Frances Cohen, In Memory: Raisa & Stan Marchand; Sheila Zane
Ruth Rosen, In Memory: Sheila Smolkin
Seniors Group, In Appreciation: Dr. David Kaplamsky
Rabbi Michael Stroh, In Honour: Mondays @ the Temple
Allan Weiss, In Memory: Sheila Smolkin
Rose Wolfe, In Memory: Bev Rodd

Floral Fund

Kelly Grant & Michael Lewis on the occasion of the Bar-Mitzvah of their son Jacob
Courtney and Steven Weiner on the occasion of the Bat-Mitzvah of their daughter Paige
Amy Kaiser & Ken Rotman on the occasion of the Bat-Mitzvah of their daughter Phoebe
Eva Ingber & Michael Lester on the occasion of the Bat-Mitzvah of their daughter Danielle

Gardner Family Fund

Zita Gardner, In Honour: Gillian & David Rosenberg and Family

Holy Blossom Adult Education Fund

Dr. Manny Spivak, In Memory: Roslyn Avery

Holy Blossom Temple Foundation

General Donation: Marta & Sydney Collins; Ann MacPherson & Earl Bederman
Dr. Scarlet Albright, In Memory: Sylvia & Harvey Naftolin
Mary Jean Carty, In Memory: Lorraine Pollack
Maxine Drevnig, In Memory: Victor Drevnig
Philip Eisenberg, Yahrzeit: Mildred Eisenberg
Ruth Rosen, In Memory: Esther & Marvin Tile

Holy Blossom Temple Renewal Project

General Donation: Nada Simon-Hara
Howard Adelman, In Honour: Joan Garson & David Baskin
Robert (Bobby) Burke, In Memory: Marilyn Hahn
Joan Garson, In Honour: Etta

Ginsberg McEwan
Pearl Ginsberg, Yahrzeit: Etta Ginsberg McEwan
Rabbi Helfman, In Honour: Holy Blossom Temple Sisterhood
Peter Mandell, In Honour: Irene & Bernard Frolic; Frances & Paul Hellen; Paula Kirsh; Carol & Alan Lavine
Joy Rosen, In Honour: Joan Garson & David Baskin
Ruth Rosen, In Memory: Esther Hersh and Family
Rabbi Michael Satz, In Honour: Holy Blossom Temple Sisterhood
Rabbi Mark Shapiro, In Appreciation: Diane & Gary Harris; Judy & Jack Winberg
Dr. Manny Spivak, In Memory: Diana & Marvin Goodman; Brenda & Fred Saunders
Rabbi Yael Splansky, In Honour: Holy Blossom Temple Sisterhood
Lionel Waldman, In Honour: Wendy & Elliott Eisen
Rose Wolfe, In Memory: Ann & Gary Posen; Brenda & Fred Saunders; Judy & Jack Winberg

Jacob's Tower Fund

Larry Balaban, In Memory: Marilyn Shesko & David Hertzman
Sheila Libfeld, In Memory: Marilyn Shesko & David Hertzman
George Munot, In Memory: Marilyn Shesko & David Hertzman

Kiddish Fund

General Donation: Judy Malkin & Elliott Jacobson

Library Fund

Lyle Stanway, In Memory: Debby Vigoda

Rabbi Dow & Fredzia Marmor Program for Educational Excellence

Aaron Zelik Kuperblum, In Memory: The Kuper Family
Rabbi Dow Marmor, In Honour: Marty Goldberg
Harold Rosnick, In Memory: Thelma Rosen Berris

Musical Heritage Fund

Marion Hershoran Cassel, In Memory: Anne Freeman
Ruth Rosen, In Memory: Marion Kazdan
Gail & Barry Silver, In Honour: Phyllis Wintraub
Manny Spivak, In Memory: Mary Seldon and Family
Marvin Tameanko, In Memory: Barbara & Floyd Stern

Musical Legacy Fund

General Donation: Nancy Gelber/The Nathan Fund

Out of the Cold Fund

General Donation: Ann MacPherson & Earl Bederman; Susan Fleisher; Hidden Cove Productions; Ann & Gary Posen; Madison Rosenberg; The Philip Smith Foundation; Griffin Stapley; TCL Asset Group Inc.

Grete Adler, Yahrzeit: Ellen Karabanow
Scarlat Albright, In Memory: Clare & Monte Denaburg
Caryl & Bert Barruch, In Honour: Ann & Gary Posen
Mary Jean Carty, In Memory: Renee & Elliot Roseman; Debby Vigoda
Bonnie Goldman Master, In Memory: Fran & Bernie Goldman and Family
Ellen Hochberger, In Memory: Brenda & Fred Saunders
Yvette & Jordan Ison, In Honour: Nadine & Bob Charendoff
Arthur Jacques, In Memory: Debby Vigoda
Jean London, In Memory: Virginia & Carl Solomon
Carmelo Materia, In Memory: Marsha & Harry Glicksman
Jerry Panet, In Memory: Debby Vigoda
Ms. Bernie Riley, In Honour: Linda & Allan Gold
Ruth Rosen, In Memory: Nadine & Bob Charendoff; Ann & Gary Posen; Helen & Edward Sheffman
Anne Schwartz, In Memory: Debby Vigoda

Irving Shoichet, In Memory: Shirley & Leon Tesler

Wolfe Shoichet, In Memory: Shirley & Leon Tesler

Robert Smolkin, In Memory: Sheila Smolkin and Family

Manny Spivak, In Memory: Helen & Edward Sheffman

Marcus Tessler, In Memory: Shirley & Leon Tessler

Judy & Jack Winberg, In Honour: Bonnie Croll & Robert Henry

Lauren Zeileg, In Honour: Judith & Michael Aiken; Zeld & Len Melamed

Prayer Book Fund

General Donation: Joanne & Ronald Schwarz

Ruth Rosen, In Memory: Brenda & Fred Saunders

Anne Schwartz, In Memory: Eleanor London

Rabbis' Discretionary Funds

Rabbi Yael Splansky, In Appreciation: Miriam Dryer and Family

Rabbi Yael Splansky, In Honour: Karen Fainman and Family; The Goldlist and Hertzman Families; Carole Paul

Rabbi Michael Satz, In Honour: Holy Blossom Temple Chavurah; Susan Jackson & Larry Rosen; Kate & Ian Rosen

Cantor Benjamin Z. Maissner, In Honour: The Goldlist and Hertzman Families

Cantorial Soloist Lindi Rivers, In Appreciation: Miriam Dryer and Family

Cantorial Soloist Lindi Rivers, In Honour: Susan Jackson & Larry Rosen; Kate & Ian Rosen

Goldie Berg, In Memory: (Rabbi Yael Splansky's discretionary fund): The Family of Goldie Berg

Goldie Berg, In Memory: (Cantorial Soloist Lindi Rivers' discretionary fund):

The Family of Goldie Berg
Iris Drache, In Memory (Rabbi Yael Splansky's discretionary fund): Rosalie & Brian Antman and Family; Patti & John Colomby; Gilda & Mel Katz and Family; Merle & Ted Rachlin; Marsha & Fred Rosen; Lisa Scriver; Linda Wolfe
Iris Drache, In Memory (Rabbi Michael Satz's discretionary fund): Bev Rodd; Mary Wilson
Debbi Gordon, In Memory: (Rabbi Yael Splansky's discretionary fund): Toby Rose & Les Klein
Dr. Harold Hamer, In Memory: (Rabbi Yael Splansky's discretionary fund): Rene Tarantino and Family
Dorothy Hasinoff & Kalle Vaga, In Honour (Rabbi Yael Splansky's discretionary fund): Arlene Roth
Harry Samuel Mandell, Yahrzeit (Rabbi Yael Splansky's discretionary fund): Patty & Marcel Himel and Family
Frieda Pheske, Yahrzeit (Rabbi Yael Splansky's discretionary fund): Carole Paul

Nancy Ruth Educational Fund

Nancy Ruth, In Memory: Joan Garson

Shacharit Fund

David Abells, Yahrzeit: Karen & Yoel Abells and Family
Sheila Berkowitz, In Memory: Carol Kassel and Family
Jason Cash, In Memory: Lillian & Dr. Stanley Cash
Arthur Cole, Yahrzeit: Michael Cole and Family
Vernon Dewitt, Yahrzeit: Susan Davis & David Dewitt and Family
Stephen Eisen, In Memory: Robin Silverstein and Family
Robert Fishman, In Honour: Susan & Brian Fishman
Jack Geller, Yahrzeit: Dana & Jonathan Lampe and Family
Kalman Geller, Yahrzeit: Dana & Jonathan Lampe and Family
Katy Geller, Yahrzeit: Dana & Jonathan Lampe and Family
Sybil Geller, Yahrzeit: Dana & Jonathan Lampe and Family
Ada Greenwood, Yahrzeit: Ruth Ellen & Sheldon Greenwood and Family
David Levine, Yahrzeit: Shelley & Martin Levine
Dr. Sam Linzon, Yahrzeit: Dr. Charlene Linzon and Family
Lou London, Yahrzeit: Eleanor London and Family
Sarah Marshall, In Memory: Marie Knau and Family
Arthur Miller, In Memory: Mark Miller and Family
Sylvia Miller, In Memory: Mark Miller and Family
Yitz Penciner, Yahrzeit: Bernice Penciner and Family
Stella Rodd, Yahrzeit: Beverley Rodd
Anna Schafer, In Memory: Mary Seldon and Family
Anne Schleissner, In Memory: Mary Seldon and Family
Samuel Shain, Yahrzeit: Michael Shain
Dorothy Shekter, In Memory: Mark

Shekter; Richard Shekter; Rhona Shekter Muirhead; Lori Shekter-Wolfson

Harry Silver, Yahrzeit: Eleanor Steinberg and Joyce Spiegel

Kelly Silverstein, In Memory: Robin Silverstein and Family

Lou Sloan, Yahrzeit: Carol & William Kassel

Robert Smolkin, Yahrzeit: Sheila Smolkin and Family

Manny Spivak, In Memory: Cynthia & Peter Samu

Dr. Sidney Steinberg, In Memory: Ellen & Alan Levine and Family

Samuel Sterling, In Memory: The Sterling Family

Betty & Barney Wolfe, Yahrzeit: Carol Abugov

Frank Wolfe, In Memory: Alison & Gary Polan and Family

Syrian Refugee Fund

General donation: Gwendolyn L. Adrian; Sara & Richard Charney; Jacqueline Cohen; Carol D. Garson; Miriam Kagan; Linda & Roy Wise; Joseph Young; Denise Zarn & Jim Shenkman

Leonard Wolfe Memorial Education Fund

General Donation: Carol Dale, Honey Wolfe and Myron J. Wolfe

Honey Wolfe, In Honour: Richard Wolfe

Youth Awards Fund

Livia Barto, In Memory: Helene Barto



Welcome

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

Steven Aranibar

Sarah & James Deitcher

Jane Knop

Adella Kogut

Moshe Morris & Karen Jalon

Kelly Sennet Razmoff & Mark Razmoff

Ari & Laura Rowland

Alexander Segovia

Allison & Matthew Toffolo

Life can blossom here.



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