

HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE



Bulletin

March 2016



Life can blossom here.



PURIM 2016

- **Sunday, March 20** - join us for a Game Show Themed Purim Carnival! Especially for families with children 6 and younger. Volunteers needed!
- **Monday March 21** - Teen Purim Pre-Party: Another Murder Mystery! Come for a fun murder mystery party, with snacks and fun.
- **Wednesday March 23** - Family Jewpardy and Megillah Reading! Especially for children 6-12. What is Family Jewpardy? Our children will show their silliness and skill as we sing, dance, read Megillah, and play Jewpardy! I'm hoping that Esther's team wins this year!
- **Wednesday March 23** - Adult Megillah Reading and Jewpardy. Trivia, Music, Laughs, Hamantaschen, Champagne!!!
- **Wednesday, March 23** - Purim @ Pravda, for 20s and 30s. Contact Angie Shiffman at angie@shiffman.ca to purchase your \$36 early-bird ticket! Our MC for the evening will be our member, the fabulous Atmos Fierce.

Children's Purim Carnival 6+ under	Teen Purim Murder Mystery Students Grades 7-12	Family Purim Jewpardy+ Megilah Reading 6-12 Year olds	Adult Purim Jewpardy+ Megilah Reading 18+	20s-30s Purim Party 20s - 30s
Sunday March 20 11:30-1:30 pm	Monday March 21 7:30-8:30 pm	Wednesday March 23 5.45-6:45 pm	Wednesday March 23 7:30 pm	Wednesday March 23 7:00 pm
Philip Smith Hall	Youth Chapel	Youth Chapel	Eisendrath	Pravda Vodka House 44 Wellington E
\$5 members \$18 non-members Under 2 Free sberenbaum@holyblossom.org	No Charge jhelfman@holyblossom.org	No Charge jbieman@holyblossom.org	No Charge hmcadam@holyblossom.org	\$36 Early Bird by March 9 angie@shiffman.ca

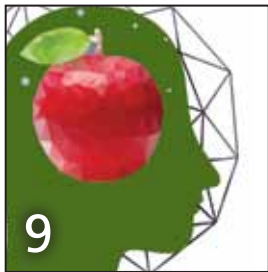
For all your Purim information, please visit www.holyblossom.org/purim

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Conscious Community

Rabbi Yael Splansky
ysplansky@holyblossom.org

The Ladder

In the winter of 1942/1943 when the Warsaw Ghetto was doomed, Rabbi Kalonymus Kalman Shapira wrote a little Hebrew book, entitled *B'nei Machshavah Tovah*. He buried the manuscript in the stones of the ghetto. The cover letter instructs whoever discovers the writings to send them to his younger brother in Israel. The instructions come with a prayer and a blessing: “Now that we are in danger every day, God help us, I hereby request of you, my precious loved ones, that if God should help...[these manuscripts]...make their way into your hands, do what you can to publish them... and spread their distribution among the Jewish People... I hope and trust that everyone who studies these texts will find blessings of our holy ancestors supporting them in this world and in the next.” By way of this article, we can fulfill Rabbi Shapira’s last prayer, that the Jewish People be strengthened by his teaching.

Born in 1889 to a Chasidic dynasty, Rabbi Shapira’s last effort was this instruction manual for how to create a community that is conscious of God and the sacred in daily life, a community that is thoughtful and determined in its pursuit of mitzvot. One section is entitled, “The Ladder.” He writes: “Every Jew, if not a prophet, is the descendent of prophets. Even among the prophets there are levels... Do not give up hope, even if you feel incapable and unworthy... We know your situation very well and even so we trust. We trust in God and in the sacred spark within each Jew. This is the spark with which you will come to perceive, as long as you meet the criteria of membership [of the conscious community]. You may not have this perception at all times, but you will have moments of clarity... with God’s help.”

Us

While we are worlds away from the pre-war Chasidic communities of Poland, this little book – hidden and found – speaks to the Holy Blossom Temple community as well. I see how congregants climb the ladder. Some ascend in moments of prayer, others in learning, others in acts of compassion and social justice. Rabbis and Cantors, too, we are all constantly ascending and descending the ladder like the angels of Jacob’s dream. I also see how leaders, teachers, and donors take turns positioning themselves at the foot of the ladder, securing the base, enabling others to climb. Some days we are graceful and well-coordinated; other days we can be clumsy and miss our footing, but nevertheless we carry on with determination and curiosity in what we might yet become.

Whether the metaphor is a ladder, an orchestra or a holy blossom, our congregation strives to be such a community. **We know our mission – lifelong learning, prayer, social justice, community, and Israel. These are the building blocks for a Jewish life of meaning and purpose.** We take inspiration from one another in the pursuit. We are willing to experiment, eager to hear new voices, ready to redefine what success looks like, and consistently building partnerships with other organizations to further our reach.

Renewal of Spirit

Renewal of Space is easy to see. The physical changes to our campus are noticeable and soon will become even more so. Renewal of Spirit is harder to see, but it is real and even measurable. See President Garson’s article with an impressive (and only partial) list of the innovations that have recently come to renew the spirit of our congregation.



A Conscious Community is perceptive and discerning when it comes to matters of the spirit. I hear parents say how much they appreciate the changes they see in our open and flexible approach to education and Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebrations. I hear congregants and guests say how joyful our services are. I hear visitors to our website from across North America and Israel comment on the breadth of our programming. I hear professionals and lay leaders express how energized they feel by our common cause. I see young leaders emerging to help shape Holy Blossom for the next generation.

If you wish we could speed up the pace of our Renewal, I agree with you! Part of community work is knowing when to be patient and when to be impatient. We welcome your input and we welcome your participation in helping Holy Blossom Temple to

grow larger in its aspirations and smaller in its attention to each congregant, each family.

The name of Rabbi Shapira's book, *B'nei Machshavah Tovah* can be translated in many ways. It can mean "Descendants of Optimism," "A Mindful People," "Inheritors of Good Perception." Translator Rabbi Andrea Cohen-Kiener chooses "Conscious Community." That is a good title for a congregation at work, a community conscious of its calling for courageous and compassionate leadership. Rabbi Shapira encourages us. From the horrors of the ghetto, he writes a hopeful little book to address future generations of Jews who create communities in which one person reinforces another's deliberate efforts to do good in this world and to draw nearer to our God.



Our Success as a Community Depends on our Members

Joan Garson
President
president@holyblossom.org

A commitment to each member's experience, "one by one", underlies and unites the extraordinary number of projects being undertaken by the members of our Temple community today. Through that very individually-specific lens, the lay and professional leadership of Temple are boldly, courageously, and with extraordinary personal commitment, leading the congregation to explore and empower the big ideas and small moments that are needed to ensure Holy Blossom's continuing growth and success.

Each of us connects with Temple very personally, whether because of a generations-long history or because a young one is in Little Blossoms (itself a program developed with the leadership of a volunteer more than a decade ago). Each of us actively chooses to be and remain a part of our community. I honour each decision to do so, made at a time when the range of demands on our time has never been larger. The job of leadership is to enable each connection to our community to flourish and blossom, to nourish the relationships upon which each member's experience depends, and to make the choice to be with us personally meaningful. When we succeed, we at Holy Blossom enrich our community, and ensure our future.

Over the past 15 months I have been President of this extraordinary synagogue, a remarkable range of initiatives and programs is strengthening our community. Together with our cornerstone Renewal of Space, they contribute to our Renewal of Spirit. Here are some of them.

* **Young Professionals.** Last spring our board made a bold change to our membership model. Each young adult 19 and over is now, himself or herself, responsible for membership in our community. The

total number of our members has expanded as a result, and the programs which are taking place in this age cohort are varied and powerful. My favourite moment: two members of our young professional volunteer leadership team speaking to our board this fall, and explaining their personal commitment to building a stronger Temple.

- **Syrian Refugees.** I sat in the Philip Smith Congregational Hall during the first meeting of the lay leaders who were driven by their own outrage at the suffering of Syrians refugees. That determined group went on to lead our community in an extraordinary and ongoing outpouring of compassion and kindness that has now gathered many more supporters along the way.
- **The Youth Education Task Force.** One of the very first projects approved by the new board more than a year ago, this task force of members and professional staff, led by a professional education consultant, took a big look at our education program. Now our department of education and its lay and professional leadership are implementing, assessing, and building on that work. Our commitment to building a first class educational program, while meeting the very diverse needs of our community, is itself very bold. Its success will be assessed over the coming years. In the meantime many one on one conversations are taking place as we hear the ways our students are experiencing our school and embarking on the lifelong exploration of his or her Jewish identity.
- **Our Mourners and the Daily Minyanim.** On the Monday of Ontarians with Disabilities



Week, I attended a remarkable service. Led by a congregant with disabilities, the service included mourners and those who come often for the comfort and community that service unfailingly provides. We all kvelled at the skills of Robert Fishman and also at the wisdom and kindness of a community within our community which enabled this service and its young leader that Monday, to thrive.

- **The Navigator Program of our Membership Department.** A group of volunteers is helping each new member navigate the first few months of Temple membership. I attended a new member Chanukah celebration with many new members and volunteers and on behalf of all of us, thanked the generous and committed lay leaders who make this program work.
- **First Fridays.** We welcome families with children at Holy Blossom. One marvellous way we do so now is at the Kabbalat Shabbat Service on the first Friday of every month, when the Youth Chapel embraces parents, young children, service regulars and new attendees. Together we greet Shabbat with a warm and joyful musical service, with dinner to follow. I simply love it, every month.
- **Ukelele.** Not every success is pre-planned; sometimes our best work is to enable our members. The weekly ukulele classes initiated by a member have attracted a wide range of participants to a program of musical growth. I have attended two concerts, performed by musicians from the ages of perhaps 10 to 65. Don't miss the next, whenever it may be.
- **Jewish Leadership Institute.** Its graduates are changing the face of our community. This program, the initiative of a lay leader in partnership with Rabbi Splansky, reached out to a cohort of younger members. A new JLI will be taking

place next fall. Since the first Institute was completed, its graduates have established a new sustainability committee, an inspiring holocaust history program, have become board members, a member of the nominating committee and so much more. Each graduate demonstrates that the grounding in Jewish values which that class provided, and the openness of our community to new participants, enables meaningful contributions and enriches our community.

- **Exploration of our Guiding Values.** These remarkable snapshots did not all happen simply randomly. In one of my most treasured pictures from the last 15 months, a group of lay leaders led our board through a discussion of the values of our community. These remarkable congregants had volunteered their invaluable professional skills, in partnership with Rabbi Splansky, members of the board, and professional staff, to articulate and then share with our board the values which unite, inspire and guide our community. Over the next months we will build on this work together, as we work to enhance the experience of each member and our relationships with each other.

Each of these examples depended on our members stepping into leadership in their own ways, and on a warm partnership with staff and clergy. Each has contributed to the fabric of our community and the web of relationships which knits us together. A next step: looking at membership for the next cohort of families with children, from a creative and open perspective. Our future together can be inspiring. Holy Blossom Temple. Life can blossom here.



Congregation Connect — better connecting with you!



Tali Katz, CRM Co-ordinator
Yael Scutaru, Director of Membership
Cheryl Sylvester, Chair, Department of Membership

We are very excited to have our new Congregation Connect relationship management system up and running. Also known as a CRM system, it is a database system customized for synagogues, based on software platforms used by companies all over the world for customer service. So how will that improve the life of our congregation and our congregants?

First, it's a much more useful and accurate way of keeping track of you, our members and all the information we have about you – everything from the ages of your children, your simchas, your yahrzeits, your contributions to Temple, and more. Some of you may have had the experience of wondering why the Temple staff didn't always seem to have up to date information about you or your family.

The new CRM gives us a clearer picture of our congregants both as individual members, and by various groupings, which we have not easily been able to do up until now.

The CRM allows us to see more of your relationships with the Temple, the way you touch us and the way we touch you, for example as being a member of the Choir, the Sisterhood or Brotherhood, or other groups and programs. It will also allow us to see and recognize your relationships to each other – we will be more able to see who among us are intergenerational families, for example.

There will be an ease of creating reports that we didn't have before to allow us to connect to our congregants in more customized ways that we couldn't before, or couldn't without difficulty.

8 As an example, for the first time in 2015, if you have children and teens in your family, we sent you, our members, a more customized membership renewal package that included information more relevant to your stage of life. What that meant was in addition to your membership renewal request, you also received an information from Rabbi Helfman about our exciting programs for your children's age group.

To customize these packages so that families received the best information for their family required a great deal of manual work plus some serious data programming by volunteer Earl Lipson, to help us achieve this with the antiquated database. According to Yael Scutaru, Director of Membership who oversaw this project, it would have been so much more helpful to have the CRM when we were putting these membership renewal packages together – to be able to group the congregation by life stage and provide the most relevant information.

So what does the future look like with the Congregation Connect CRM in place?

We will begin to be able track our programs, uploading that information into the CRM so that we can analyze, evaluate and offer more customized programming for our members. As a congregant, you will be able to engage with Holy Blossom Temple in a modern and easily accessible way through a Member Portal, where you will be able to update your personal information, and eventually register for events at Temple, make your contributions to Temple and more. Of course, you can always email or call us, but many of our congregants have been requesting to be able to participate with Temple in the ways they do with other organizations with whom they are members or customers.

Holy Blossom Temple is really a community of communities, and with the CRM, we will be able to better track who is involved with what community, help you stay connected to each other, to identify volunteer opportunities and needs within our communities.

And finally, a note about privacy – in addition to compliance with government and privacy standards, the CRM has been set up with your privacy in mind among our staff, as well. All access to information by staff based on their need to know specific information, with certain information, such as financial information blocked, except for those staff who require that information to interact with you directly.

Volunteering as a Madricha

article by **Carly Baldachin**
stories@holyblossom.org

Since about September I have been working in the Youth Education Centre with Ariella Markus, the teacher in one of the Grade 1 classes on Sunday morning. Opposite to what many people would think, Sunday is one of my favorite days of the week! When I walk in the classroom, the kids that are there before me yell my name and run for a hug.

Volunteering as a Madricha (student teacher) makes me feel so useful and it is one of the most rewarding things one can ever do. All 10 of our kids are so unique, energetic and bring something different to the classroom. This makes every class different and I never get bored. Although I am 15 and most of the kids are 6, I never notice the age difference. I can have conversations with them as though they are my best friends. They already know so much more about me than half the people in my school! When not talking about music (One Direction mostly) or sports, I help out with activities, help plan lessons, supervise the kids and run a get materials if they are not in the class.

I remember when I was younger and going to Sunday school, I looked up to the older kids and now I hope that I can have the same influence on them, as my student teachers did me.



YOU@HBT

I remember the first 20s and 30s event I programmed at Holy Blossom. The cold nights had been pushed away by the warm breeze, and our courtyard was open and in bloom.

I sent out an e-mail to everyone in this age group whose e-mail I could find, and posted in our on-line newsletter advertising a Havdallah in the Courtyard – having heard of other successful events like this at this time in years past.

Excited to meet the group, I showed up early and set up the courtyard. I pre-poured the wine. And then, with my guitar ready, spices and candle in front of me, I waited for the 20s and 30s community to show.

One person did – he had attended a Shabbat Fusion once, and wanted to meet the new rabbi. And then, the two of us sitting there, wine in my hand but not his, it quickly became awkward. When I investigated who my e-mail had gone out to, I realized

membership. (Thank you, parents!) Yet often we were also lacking their contact information, and even if we had it, they didn't know they were members and deleted e-mails from HBT.

- 3) There were a silent yet powerful group of individuals who saw themselves as members and invested in HBT's future.

Finding this third group was hard, but through parents, friends, and letters mailed to every single 19-36 year old member's home mailing address, some amazing leaders stepped forward.

Through their hard work, Holy Blossom Temple's 20s and 30s group is now in a completely different place than where it was when I first arrived.

With the help Cheryl Sylvester and Russ Joseph, our young professionals – Pavle Levkovic, Avram Musafija and Sarah Rosen made their voices heard and helped bring to the board our "You@HBT" membership campaign which was a wild success. As Cheryl Sylvester recently reported to the board, by working to build a relationship with these fantastic individuals, we had a 40% increase in the 26-30 year-old age group. For those that made a membership contribution, the average contribution dropped from around \$360 to around \$60, yet because of the number of new members, the entire program ended up doing slightly better than the year before.

Now we have correct contact information, and individuals know that they are members because they made the choice themselves to join HBT (Thank you to all of the parents who helped their children make the choice to sign up!).

Partly because of this campaign, and partly because we've brought Angie Shiffman onboard to help organize our 20s and 30s work, the group is as active as it has been in recent memory. From volunteering with Habitat for Humanity and Out of the Cold, to monthly Shabbat dinners in member's homes, there is a real core of individuals who have stepped forward as leaders. Many of the names mentioned above, plus Zach Roher and Maddie Axelrod met recently to discuss the group's future. They came up with the following language to describe who they are and their role at HBT:

We are a collection of congregants in their 20s and 30s with



that while HBT had members in their 20s and 30s, it didn't really have members in the sense of people that knew that they were members. Mostly. I found three groups:

- 1) We had hundreds and hundreds of members up until the age of 26. But because these were children of members, and not really members, we had no contact information for them other than parents' home address.
- 2) We had a few members 26-36 whose parents paid their

a vested interest in the success of Holy Blossom Temple and its congregation. We support the synagogue financially by paying membership dues and are excited about the prospect of becoming future leaders at HBT. As a cohort, we are networking-conscious, career-conscious, and community-conscious. We are a diverse group comprised of both generational members and new members. Our future programming goals are oriented towards those affiliated with HBT and bringing in those who are not yet affiliated. We aim to increase member involvement in programming and attract new members through various events that will emphasize the progressive, inclusive nature of HBT's Reform community and that lines up with today's young community. We also will demonstrate to generational members the value in HBT's vibrant community and garner a sentiment of belonging.

I am excited to see where these leaders bring the group as it grows – both in numbers and in connection. It is so much better than sitting out in the courtyard, waiting.

Thank you to the HBT board for passing this innovative new membership model which is breathing new life into our community. And a special thank you to all who have been involved in spreading news of this expanding group.

If you are interested in staying in touch (or your 22-36 year old child, grandchild, friend in book-club's step-child or third cousin twice removed may be interested) please e-mail Angie Shiffman at angie@shiffman.ca to get on our mailing list and to set up a coffee date!



Photo taken at recent OOTC 20s & 30s volunteer evening.



HBCA: IMPROVING LIVES... ONE MEMBER AT A TIME

For 160 years, Holy Blossom has been rooted in the cause of social justice or *Tikkun Olam*, to use the Hebrew word. From the Depression years of the 1930s, when Temple was renowned for its outreach to the underprivileged and under-represented segments of Canadian society, to our strong voice in the civil rights movements of the 1960s, to present-day efforts to assist Syrian refugees in finding homes in Toronto, Holy Blossom has stood at the forefront of helping the vulnerable.

One crucial way to support our fellow congregants is by making meaningful donations to the Holy Blossom Congregational Appeal (HBCA).

Many of us are surprised to learn that amongst the Congregation, 40% of households cannot afford our full membership dues or school fees. For Vanessa Jakobson, Chair of the Department of Development, this statistic is a strong motivator for her continued personal philanthropy and volunteer efforts.

"I've been a member of Holy Blossom for over 10 years," says Vanessa. "My children were born here and are celebrating their *B'nei Mitzvah* here. For a long time, I was under the impression that people who were at Holy Blossom could afford to be here. What an eye-opener it was to me to learn that so many of our families can't afford the costs of Temple."

This expression of surprise at the Holy Blossom membership's socioeconomic diversity is a sentiment often repeated by other Temple members. Part of the reason for this is the Temple's determination to ensure that those who receive financial assistance do so in full confidentiality and with full dignity.

"The 40% number is a bit of a shocker to many," says Jonathan Ain, Director of Development at Holy Blossom. "Seniors and single-parent households make up many of those who require subsidies, but they are far from the whole story."

Jonathan adds that sudden job losses, illnesses or even death can unexpectedly cause a family to lose their financial footing. He also points out the particular challenges faced by young families who are often struggling to cover a variety of expenses associated with raising children in Toronto – a city with one of the highest costs of living in Canada.

For Vanessa, the need to do all she can to ensure her fellow congregants can fully participate in life at Holy Blossom is a major factor in continuing to contribute.

"My family contributes to the HBCA because we recognize the importance of helping ensure others have what they need too," says Vanessa. "Our community is stronger when we come together, and Holy Blossom helps make that happen. That's why it is so important that no one should face any barriers that prevent them from participating in life at Holy Blossom. By supporting the HBCA, we eliminate those barriers and strengthen our community."

According to Jonathan, Vanessa's sentiments are shared by many other members and donors with whom he speaks on a regular basis. "Our donors are mostly concerned that their dollars are going to good use and to helping their fellow members. Overall, there is an understanding of the growing financial pressures on certain groups such as young families. Everyone seems to realize the importance of ensuring that the younger cohorts and their children have an inviting home at Holy Blossom."

Last year, through the generosity of our members, \$550,000 was raised through the HBCA. Although results exceeded the stated goal, Jonathan says that the needs continue to rise. The hope for this year is that more members will make their first HBCA gifts while past donors will consider increasing their gifts or even by moving up to the next level. It is Jonathan's hope that the combination of these two drivers will see the HBCA break through the \$580,000 mark, possibly reaching even \$600,000 by December 2016.

"We all know from our lives that expenses go up every year," says Vanessa. "This is no different at Temple. We also know that we ask a great deal of our members on an annual basis. The heartwarming part is that our Congregation always rises to the challenge."

While we are officially launching HBCA 2016 just before Pesach, if you would like to make an early gift to HBCA 2016, please contact Cindy Zimmer, Holy Blossom Foundation Manager, at 416.789.3291 ext. 229 or email czimmer@holyblossom.org.

Ben brought his class project “Nobody” for a visit

Ben Mansoor is a student in the JK class at Leo Baeck Day School, and additionally attends our Youth Education Centre JK class. Ben brought his class project “Nobody” for a visit. Nobody arrives to the Leo Baeck class barren, even bereft of body parts! Each week a family in the class adds either a body part or piece of clothing and that item reflects a good deed done in conjunction with the addition.

As a part of the project, Nobody does something related to Tikkun Olam – making the world a better place. The Mansoors gave Nobody a Jewish identity because they wanted Nobody to know how fortunate it is to have a Jewish identity and Jewish education. In order to assist in others receiving a Jewish education, they donated their full tzedakah box to Holy Blossom.

Ben donated \$113.86 to help other children in our program.
Thanks so much Ben!





RENEWAL PROJECT UPDATE

MOVING DAY AND A HANDY

Final preparations are being completed to pave the way for ALL of our staff to move into their temporary spaces in the school wing for the balance of Phase 1 construction. So we'd like to take this opportunity to give you a glimpse of where all your favourite Temple people will be located. And, perhaps more importantly, how you will get there.

Bell has now completed its work and our telephone supplier is in the process of installing our new system. Our mover will be here on March 10th and we anticipate that everything will be finished the next day. **From March 11th onward, we will begin using our new entrance to Temple** – a new accessible ramp from the Ava Road parking lot leading to a new set of doors (just slightly west of the old doors) and then directly into the Boardroom foyer.

Once inside this bright new space (it will also be the temporary home of our Sisterhood gift shop) you'll be able to move throughout the school wing either via our brand new elevator, which you can access right beside our new temporary security desk (relocated from its old location), or by way of the stairs

at the south-west corner of the building. These stairs can be accessed directly by walking through the Boardroom and using new temporary door on the west side of the space.

- All of our Clergy and their support staff, as well as the Foundation and Membership offices, will be temporarily located on the north and west sides of the 3rd floor.
- All of our Education offices (including the Early Childhood Centre and Religious School professionals) will be housed on the south side of the 2nd floor.
- Our general Administration offices (including our Executive Director) can be found on the north wing of the ground floor. You can access these offices by going down to the lower level and coming up the new, north stairwell ... OR ... by going up to the 2nd floor via the south-west stairs (or the elevator) and coming back down the new north staircase, to the 1st floor.

During the first few weeks following the move, members of our admin staff will take turns helping congregants and guests find their way from the security desk to their destinations. And simple



LOCATION GUIDE!

wayfinding signage will be installed soon, to help you get to where you're going.

We encourage you to stop in once we get settled and visit us in our new spaces. As a reminder, these moves (and all of the preparatory work of Phase 1) will enable us to remain on-site throughout Phase 1 construction so we can continue all of the programs and activities you've come to love. The balance of Phase 1 construction will include the creation of our transformative, sunlit Central Atrium, our new Family Chapel, coffee shop, Youth Lounge and so much more – in a LEED Silver certified, environmentally friendly building.

To that point, our Building Committee, with the guidance of our architect and our cost consultant, has reviewed the bids from the six pre-qualified general contractor firms bidding to oversee construction of the balance of Phase 1 and is engaged in a value-engineering exercise with the contractor that submitted the best bid. As first noted in our mid-December construction update,

this is an ongoing process, which we expect will take another month or so to complete. Our aim is to reduce the cost of the rest of Phase 1 construction, as the bids came in higher than anticipated, when measured against the estimates prepared by our cost consultant.

Once again, thanks to all for your continued support of our Renewal Project. For the most up to date photos and video of construction in progress, a HANDY LOCATION GUIDE, and for all the latest, please visit www.holyblossom.org/renewal.



Passover at Holy Blossom Temple

Kabbalat Shabbat and Erev Yom Tov Services for the First Night of Pesach

Friday, April 22, 2016 6:00 p.m.

Shabbat and Yom Tov Services for the First Day of Pesach

“Kedusha”: Join us for this inaugural performance

Saturday, April 23, 2016 10:00 a.m.

“Kedusha” was commissioned by Cantor Benjamin Maissner at the request of Sara Beth Charney, through the Esther Gelber Fund at the Canadian Music Centre, in memory of her mother, Esther Salomon Gelber, who had great love for the arts and contemporary music. All newlywed and engaged wedding couples are invited for a special blessing on the bima. A festive Kiddush lunch will follow the service.

Holy Chag

Saturday, April 23, 2016 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. JK-Grade 5

Following the kids’ break-out sessions during the Torah service, come for a Passover lunch and fun with friends! Teen volunteers needed. For more information, to volunteer, or to RSVP contact lbaumal@holyblossom.org.

Third Night Pesach

Social Justice Seder: Journeys of Liberation

Presented by Ve’ahavta with Holy Blossom Temple

Sunday, April 24, 2016 Doors Open at 5:30 p.m. Program and Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Young Professional Co-Chairs: Maddie Axelrod and Chloe Snider. The program last year hosted over 175 Ve’ahavta Clients and Out of the Cold guests, and this year we are expecting a similar or greater turnout, so tickets are very limited. \$18 for under 35s, and \$50 for all guests. Your ticket directly subsidizes the costs of those unable to afford the seder. Volunteers needed - please e-mail jhelfman@holyblossom.org for volunteer information. Register online at - thirdnightseder.eventbrite.ca

Erev Yom Tov for the Seventh Night of Pesach

A Different Night: Music for Passover - Haggadah Suite

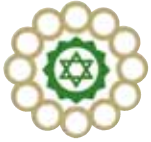
Thursday, April 28, 2016 6:00 p.m.

Celebrate the end of Pesach with music and an inspiring story told through the beautiful art of ancient manuscripts of haggadot. Acclaimed composer Srul Glick’s “Music for Passover—Haggadah Suite” will be performed by our Temple Singers Temple Choir and LACHAN chamber choir and string quartet. Interspersed throughout the music will be the inspiring story told by master teacher Rouhama Danto of the Jewish people’s connection to the Haggadah and how it survived the often tumultuous eras of Jewish history.

Yom Tov and Yizkor/Memorial Services for the Seventh Day of Pesach

Friday, April 29, 2016 10:00 a.m.

At this Congregation-wide Service, we celebrate the last day of Pesach. Following Yizkor Services, there will be a special Kiddush Luncheon sponsored by the Bernard, Carol and Samuel Braun Memorial Fund in memory of Bernard, Carol, and Samuel Braun for all to enjoy.



Welcome to Our Congregational Family

Mazal Tov

- Mazal tov to **Luke Sklar** who was inducted into the Marketing Hall of Legends.
- On February 11, 2016, **Lynn Factor** received from Ryerson University the Alumni Achievement of Distinction award. Lynn Factor has also been honored in the past receiving the Order of Ontario in 2011 and the Arbor Award from the University of Toronto in 2010.

Births

- Janice & Larry Babins on the birth of a granddaughter, **Lilah Jae Choi**. Proud parents are Shira Babins & Ron Choi. Other proud grandparents are Kay & Hoi Choi
- Jennifer Bill & Greg Bell on the birth of a daughter, **Kacie Grace Bell**. Proud grandparents are Barbara Bill; Heather & Peter Bill; and Janet & David Bell.
- Rachel & Justin Cooper on the birth of a daughter, **Matilda Jacqueline Cooper** and sister to Roslyn. Proud grandparents are Gail Cooper and Richard Cooper; Julia & David Sommers. Proud great grandparents are Milton Cooper and Sheila Sommers.
- Cathy & Lorne Greenbaum, on the birth of a granddaughter, **Ellie Samantha Greenbaum**. Proud parents are Carrie Buchwalter & Daniel Greenbaum. Other proud grandparents are Shelli & Phil Buchwalter. Proud great grandparents are Sylvia Alter and Fannie Greenbaum.
- Jerry and Carolin Michaels on the birth of a grandson, **Webster Manny Statton Michaels**. Proud parents are Jesse and Andrea Michaels. Other proud grandparents are Robert Statton and Anne and Bob Browne.
- Marnie & Andrew Mills on the birth of a daughter, **Hanna Savona Mills** and sister to Harrison and Nathan. Proud grandparents are Brenda Gottlieb and Michael Gottlieb; Susan & Cary Mills. Proud great grandparents are Alisa Barns; Shaela Gottlieb; and May Love.
- Marla Powers on the birth of a granddaughter, **Elisheva (Elizabeth) Powers**. Proud parents are Rachel & Ben Powers and sister to Chaya. Other proud grandparents are Ava Peters and Ken Peters. Proud Great grandparents are Bertha & Gordon Murray.
- Suzie Lyon & Jack Kosoff on the birth of a granddaughter, **Sadie Rayne Lyonblum**. Proud parents are Mira & Ely Lyonblum. Other proud grandparents are Dr. Anita Small & Dr Norman Rosenblum; and Gary Wein. Proud great grandmother is Helen Lyons.

B'nei Mitzvah



Devin Horwitz
son of Alix & Warren
Horwitz
Sat., April 9, 2016



Samantha Shulman
daughter of Deborah
Dalfen & Jamie Shulman
Sat., April 16, 2016



Benjamin Greenberg
son of Margot & David
Greenberg
Sat., May 7, 2016



Jay Solomon,
son of Candice & Philip
Solomon
Mon., May 23, 2016



Jonah Mickelson
son of Julie Markel
& Joel Mickelson
Sat., May 28, 2016

Engagements & Weddings

Chase Ison, son of Deborah Jane Loman, Yvette & Jordan Ison, to **Marissa Daniels**, daughter of Robin Daniels and Shauna & Bob Daniels, who will be married in November 2016. Grandparents are Joan & the late Bernie Shapiro, the late Gwen & Mort Ison, the late Joan & Jack Loman, Elayne & the late Tobin Gottlieb, Norine & Allan Rose, and Myrna & John Daniels.

Justin Picov, son of Barry & Robin Picov to, **Abbey Sharp**, daughter of Blake & Deborah Fitzpatrick who will be married in July 2016. Grandparents are Norman & Lynda Picov, Robert & Charna Yasny and Vera Fitzpatrick

Alexander Bien, son of Barry Bien & Eyre Purkin Bien to **Nava Dabby**, daughter of Joseph & Yolande Dabby who will be married on June 30th 2016.

HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE

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For decades, you have been devoted to Holy Blossom. Through simchas and sorrows, through life's celebration's and challenges, Holy Blossom has played a central role in your life. And for all that time, you've been committed to Holy Blossom Temple too. Now you can extend that devotion by making a **legacy gift** that will ensure Holy Blossom remains a vital epicentre of Reform Judaism for our children and grandchildren forever.

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In Memoriam.. The congregation sympathizes with the recently bereaved. We remember:

- **Helen Aaron**, mother of Robert Aaron and Debra Aaron
- **Sandra Banks**, wife of Alan Banks; mother of Nadine Charendoff, Jill Silverstein and Lisa Banks
- **Miriam Berger**, mother of Tobye Sennet, Harvey Berger and Carole Assayav; sister of Elsa Tooberman and Ruth Berman
- **Murray Corlett**, husband of Katherine Corlett; father of Charles Corlett, Deidre MacKay and Bronwyn Halloran
- **Arthur Egier**, father of Stuart Egier, Rebecca Egier and Brian Egier; brother of Shirley Rauscher
- **Earl P. Farber**, husband of Gloria Farber; father of Julie Solomon, Bruce Farber, Diane Litwin and Lisa Farber; brother of Gladys Fogler
- **Dorothy Frydman**, mother of Alan Frydman, Barry Frydman and Jeff Frydman
- **Adele Handelman**, mother of Cheryl Stott and Marc Handelman
- **Harold (Husky) Hamer**, brother of Renee Tarantino and Roz Halman
- **Elliott Koblin**, husband of Peggy Koblin, father of Sandra Korbin and Seymour Koblin; brother of Saul Koblin and Eva Israel.
- **Hilde Kortwich**, mother of Kathy Green
- **Fela Leader**, mother of Rolland Leader and Arthur Leader Larry Levenstein, husband of Mona Levenstein; father of Karen Longert and Susan Levenstein; brother of Harvey Levenstein
- **Leonard Levy**, father of Ellen Reichbaum and Andrew Levy
- **Dr. Louis London**, husband of Eleanor London; father of Lisa Shiffman, Lynne London-Mincer and Lorne London
- **Jay Marin**, husband of Malca Marin; father of Reva Marin, Bayla Marin, Joe Marin and Lorne Marin
- **Shelley Merovitz**, wife of Gerry Merovitz; sister of Ann Posen
- **Paul Newman**, husband of Ellen Newman; father of Harris Newman and Josh Newman; brother of Cathy Newman
- **Don Rafelman**, husband of Elaine Rafelman; father of Marcia Rafelman and Debbi Stern
- **Lottie Rosenstock**, mother of Ted Rosenstock and Sheldon Rosenstock; sister of Ruth Billinkoff
- **Reginald Sellman**, father of Diana Goodman
- **Bernard Shapiro**, husband of Joan Shapiro; father of Yvette Ison
- **Sophie Stransman**, mother of Janice Long and Alan Stransman
- **Shirley Warner**, mother of Brad Warner and Marc Warner; sister of Barbara Wilson and June Bearg
- **Elisabeth Yanowski**, wife of Henry Yanowski; mother of Robert Yanowski and David Yanowski

We thank our generous donors

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Sophie Stransman, In Memory: Annalee & Brian Schnurr

Sami and James Cooper Youth Award Fund

Earl Farber, In Memory: Sami & James Cooper

Jean Fine Seniors Fund

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Clara Fishbein, Yahrzeit: Gloria Pollack

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Jack Kugelmass, In Honour: Mondays @ the Temple

Noa Mendelsohn Aviv, In Honour: Mondays @ the Temple

Mondays @ the Temple, In Honour: Dr. David Kaplansky

Mondays @ the Temple Volunteers, In Honour: Melanie Nesbitt

Rabbi Michael Stroh, In Honour: Mondays @ the Temple

Floral Fund

Deborah Dalfen & Jamie Shulman in honour of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Samantha Shulman

Fern Glowinsky & Ian Sandler in honour of the B'nei Mitzvah of their sons Cole and Leo Sandler

Pam Greenstein & Stuart Baltman in honour of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Katie Baltman

Alix & Warren Horwitz in honour of the Bar Mitzvah of their son Devin Horwitz

Naomi & Alan Kriss in honour of the Bar Mitzvah of their son Noah

The Krongold/Diamond Family in honour of the Bar Mitzvah of their son Jaryd Diamond

Jocelyn & Shaul Kuper in honour of the Bar Mitzvah of their son Josh Kuper

Julie Markle & Joel Mickelson in honour of the Bar Mitzvah of their son Jonah Mickelson

Martin & Farah Perelmuter and family in honour of the Bar Mitzvah of their son Cole

Jennifer Shulman & Bob Starkman

in honour of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Rachael Starkman

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Helen Fogel, In Memory: The Uster Family

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Cantor Benjamin Z. Maissner, In Honour: Harold Lass and Jenny Lass

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Joseph Sonberg, Yahrzeit: June & Byron Sonberg and Family

Sadie Sonberg, Yahrzeit: June & Byron Sonberg and Family

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Welcome

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

Ashley Burke & Richard Behrman
Bruce Sheiner & Sarah McNally
Cheryl Grossman
Daniel Singer
Fabian Barnes

Geoffrey Singer
Jaimie Kerzner
Jennifer & Greg Bell
Kevin & Angie Lewis
Nava Dabby & Alex Bien

Robert Shamis
Stacey Greenbaum

