

HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE



Bulletin

Pesach 2018



Life can blossom here.

HOLY BLOSSOM CELEBRATES ISRAEL @ 70!

PESACH 2018

at Holy Blossom Temple

KABBALAT SHABBAT & EREV PESACH SERVICE

Friday, March 30 | 6:00 PM

SHABBAT & FIRST DAY PESACH SERVICE

Newlywed Blessing Saturday, March 31 | 10:00 AM

HOLY CHAGI! YOUTH PROGRAM

Saturday, March 31 | 10:00 AM

EREV SEVENTH DAY PESACH SERVICE

Thursday, April 5 | 7:00 PM

SEVENTH DAY PESACH SERVICE & YIZKOR

Friday, April 6 | 10:00 AM

MORE INFORMATION:

www.holyblossom.org/2018/03/pesach/





HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE **Bulletin**
CONTENTS

Rabbinic Reflection.....4
 From the President.....5
 My Loving Memories of Israel.....6
 Holy Blossom Temple Annual Congregational Appeal.....8
 Sisterhood and Kehillat Hashachar.....9
 What's Happening at Holy Blossom.....10
 My Last 70 Years in the Pool.....13
 Life as ShinShinit.....14
 Lay Leadership for Holy Blossom Shinshinim program.....15
 Holy Blossom Temple and Israel.....16
 Israel & Jewish Learning at Holy Blossom.....17
 My Israel at 70.....18
 Israel at the Centre: WUPJ Siddur.....19
 Musicians of Tomorrow.....20
 Our Congregational Family.....21
 Holy Blossom Donors.....22
 Yom HaShoah & Upcoming Festivals.....23



6



9



14



16



20

RAISING THE FIFTH CUP

Pesach, 5778

Rabbi Yael Splansky, Senior Rabbi



RABBINIC REFLECTION

The number four is repeated many times throughout our seder – the four questions, the four children, and the four cups of wine, which stand for the four verbs of redemption. In Exodus 6:6-7, God promises: “I will *bring* you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians and free you from their slavery. I will *deliver* you with a demonstration of My power and with great acts of judgment. I will *take* you to Me as a nation.”

In early editions of the Talmud, however, it is taught that Rabbi Tarfon called for a fifth cup. (*Pesachim* 118a) All the other references in the Mishnah, the Babylonian Talmud, and the Jerusalem Talmud refer only to four cups, so why does he hint at a fifth cup? If we look back in the Torah, we find that there is a fifth verb of redemption, a fifth promise. It is written in the very next verse: “And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the Eternal God.” (Exodus 6: 8)

This is the redemption that was incomplete for two thousand years. Separated from the land of Israel, our joy was diminished, and so we did not dare drink from a fifth cup. Instead, a fifth cup was placed alone at the centre of the seder table, as the Cup of Elijah. We pour the wine for him, but we do not drink of it ourselves. We open the door for Eliyahu HaNavi and

serenade his arrival, but it’s a song of longing. We stand ceremonially, face the door, and wonder: When will peace come to Israel and to the world? When will we get to drink from that cup of promises fulfilled?

Israel at 70

We are so blessed to live in a time when our People of Israel has been restored to our Land of Israel. Israel has grown so strong, so quickly, she is a wonder, a miracle. We delight in Israel’s successes. We are proud to see The Jewish State take her place among the nations of the world. We celebrate the beauty of her landscapes, the taste of her produce, the warmth of her people. We do not take for granted that we can travel to Israel freely, make aliyah tomorrow if we wish, and find a spiritual home among her ancient stones. God’s Exodus promise “to bring” us to the land of our ancestors has been fulfilled millions of times over seven decades now. Israel is once again our “possession” to treasure and protect, our “possession” to maintain and to share.

Surprisingly, there isn’t a call to change the seder ritual now so that we drink from the fifth cup. Instead, we give it another layer of meaning. We gaze at that cup of dignity at the centre of the table and we ask: What more can we do to bring that fifth promise of redemption

to greater fulfillment? With our own “uplifted hands,” how can we further strengthen Israel and her people, bring greater peace among all her citizens and dignity for all her inhabitants? The fifth cup silently challenges us: What more can we do to know our own history, begun with “Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob, Rachel and Leah?” What more can we do to pass on this “possession” as a sacred inheritance to our children and grandchildren? What more can we do to ready them to receive it with confidence and joy?

For seventy years, Holy Blossom Temple has devoted itself to Israel’s growth and development. How many congregational trips were taken? How many Shinshinim hosted? How many speakers from Israel and about Israel? How many dollars raised? How many prayers raised? How many volunteers at work? How many leaders sent? How many of our youth have made aliyah? Our Zionism runs deep and so at this season of redemption, we move from Pesach to Yom HaAtzmaut and celebrate the promise of Israel, which is yet unfolding.

Rabbi Tarfon instructed us: “It is over the fifth cup that we recite the great Hallel.” Yes, over the fifth cup and over all of the potential it stands for, let us offer up praises for the God of Israel who has blessed us with the remarkable little corner of the world we call our spiritual home.

ISRAEL STORIES...WHAT ARE YOURS?

Judy Winberg, President, Holy Blossom Board of Directors



FROM THE PRESIDENT

We all have stories to tell. I am part of the generation who didn't know the world before the State of Israel. The stories that I learned as a child were about an exciting new country called Israel. I learned about children growing up together in communities known as kibbutzim, and of the backbreaking work of building new homes on parched, arid land. The JNF blue box sat on the kitchen counter in our home and in most of the homes I knew. As a child, the words Zionism and Judaism were synonymous to me.

My first visit to Israel as a teenager was marked by visits to the Hadassah Hospital to see the Chagall windows, the then new Israel Museum and Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit and to wander freely throughout all four quarters of the Old City of Jerusalem. We floated in the Dead Sea and traveled to a dunam of land outside of Beersheba where a plaque honouring my grandfather was dedicated to mark his efforts as a pioneer fundraiser for the new state.

Many years later, and on subsequent visits, I had the privilege of touring Yad Vashem, the Weizmann Institute of Science, and the Hebrew University. On UJA Federation and Canadian Hadassah WIZO missions I learned more and more about this remarkable country.

One of the most memorable trips was when our family travelled together. We attended a meaningful bat mitzvah service early one morning atop Masada and days later spent the evening on a boat on the Sea of Galilee. We visited the offices of One Family Fund and the Ayalon munitions factory used during the Second World War and the War of Independence.

And, on the most recent trip on the Holy Blossom Temple Social Justice Tour I learned about the growing Reform movement in the country, the complexities of life in Israel for new immigrants, and the tireless efforts of the Women of the Wall to gain access for all Jews to pray at the kotel.

We may not all travel to Israel, but as Jews in the Diaspora it is incumbent upon us to find a way to support the Jewish homeland.

We can take great pride in the State of Israel. The technological and medical advances made by Israeli scientists and researchers across many disciplines are celebrated around the world. We can show our collective pride by serving as ambassadors for the only democratic country in the Middle East.

We can study the history of our people and attend lectures and

courses on Israeli life and politics. We can encourage our young people to participate on Birthright trips, summer camp experience or perhaps to spend an exchange year at school in Israel. We can support Jewish youth on university and college campuses and give them confidence to speak up and counter anti-Israeli and anti-Semitic rhetoric.

Through Holy Blossom Temple's affiliation with organizations like ARZA Canada, the World Union for Progressive Judaism and the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) we can better understand how we are part of a much larger group sharing the imperative of a strong Israel.

Israel is celebrating 70 years. Won't you join me in sharing your Israel stories and if you don't have one yet, consider creating your own.

Let's come together as a congregation to celebrate Israel at services and programs to mark Yom Hashoah, Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Holy Blossom Temple I wish you all a Chag Pesach Sameach.

MY LOVING MEMORIES OF ISRAEL CELEBRATING A MILESTONE BIRTHDAY

article by: Cantor Beny Maissner

May 5th 1948: my earliest memories, sirens are howling, Tel Aviv is bombed by the Egyptian air force just one day after my 4th Birthday. All is dark no lights are allowed. My father is carrying me on his shoulders down into the cellar at the bottom of our apartment building. Uncertainty is all around. I did not understand much until much later that we are surrounded by eighty million people who want us out. To say that it hindered my childhood, growing up in the most loving, warm, and close family environment, is far from the truth.

Israel, my beloved homeland calls and cries out to me. She has burned inside me since my birth, as I carry this sacred fire with me to this day.

I often wonder if the path of destiny would have been different and my parents had not made it to Israel when escaping the fires of the Shoah. For who am I without **Eretz Yisrael**, those noisy roaring streets of early Tel Aviv of the 50s and 60s of my formative years? Walking the heart of the city from **Dizengoff St**, uphill toward the **Mann Auditorium**, approaching my elementary "**BILU**" school building still stands proudly these days. Is it a dream? It feels like fifty years are but a fleeting shadow.

I was born into a modern Orthodox family and was raised with strong, religious, and national Zionist values: *Love of the Land, the People Israel, and God were one principal.*

The religious youth movement, **Bnei Akiva**, engraved and strengthened my identity during

those early years. My parents, of European background instilled in me a strict discipline and a serious outlook on life. I grew up with two streams of consciousness, which defined my identity and helped shape my personality. Religious Zionist ideology, bonding with the circle of friends on the one hand, and my serious investment in Musical education, on the other which lead to aspiration for a musical career. I mastered the violin for over fourteen years and attended the **TEL AVIV** conservatory of music from the age of eight. I joined the Youth Pre-military Symphony Orchestra and enjoyed its classic repertoire.

My musical education both, playing a musical instrument as well as singing in the boys choir, naturally drove me to pursue my life's dream to become a Chazan, and follow in the footsteps of my uncle, the famous Grand German Oberkantor Israel Alter of Hannover Germany,

before Kristahlnacht.

Our home, though very small in physical space, was comfortable and filled with warmth, passion, and love for family and friends. My family, who nourished and cherished me to this day, are the strongest of unbreakable bonds. The rush of the sea water, the smell of long Tel Aviv beaches is as strong as ever within my senses when I revisit my "Tel Aviv HAKTANAH h," the little Tel Aviv of my youth.

The most nostalgic memories of those early years are my IDF duty service. At the age of eighteen, I was called to serve my country. Together, with my childhood friends we joined the IDF. On November 29th 1962, we broke ground and established an IDF/JNF settlement on Mount GILBOA, just at the border between what was then Jordan and Israel, over the valley of Beit Sh'an on Israel side and the city of Jenin in Jordan.



My little Polish Synagogue ("Shtible"). Standing at the Pulpit and Ark where I lead services as a child in Tel Aviv



1962 breaking ground Mt Gilboa. Cantor Maissner (left) marches with Israel IDF/JNF settlement, inaugurating the Torah into our new home

This settlement, is now one of the most prosperous Kibbutzim of the B'NEI AKIVAH movement and is famous for its high technological dairy farms.

For six months we toiled, clearing rocks from the arid soil, planting trees part of the JNF project. Now, with pride of my own sweat, the landscape is lush with green forests covering the slopes of the mountain. We more than occasionally celebrate reunions with our comrades, where over seventy families of our friends share memories and life stories with one another. I cannot wait to be there whenever I can, and relive the olden days.

Over half a century has passed since I left my beloved country, which I still yearn for every day and every night. Nonetheless, my life and destiny brought me to these shores, to this blessed country, Canada. I have tried to instill into my daily life the passion and love I possess for my homeland, Israel. I have tried to teach and lead whomever I come in contact with, both young and old, the values, traditions, and culture of our people.

I have shared my passion for Israel in leading many successful trips to Israel on the sixtieth and sixty fifth anniversary of the State. One can get the feeling of the trip participants from the endless positive reflections and gratitude my wife Hope and I have received over the years.

In our music at Holy Blossom Temple, both in worship as in our concert series, I have tried to instill the depth of our musical tradition both in Jewish and, in particular, Israeli culture of Pop Art and its Religious flavors.

There is much to do in the future as the fire and passion for Israel still burns inside me, because it's still who I am today: an Israeli, wherever I am, whatever I do.

Yom HaAtzmaur Sameach Israel - FOR EVER



1960, aged 16, playing at a concert studio in Tel Aviv

Holy Blossom Temple Annual Congregational Appeal

MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS TOGETHER, WE BLOSSOM



article by: Jonathan Ain, Director of Development

A wonderful spirit is alive at Holy Blossom. Here you will find warmth and joy, community and purpose, a place of openness to all – where each member can engage, where comfort and caring matter. We are proud of our 160-year-old Congregation and of the Liberal Jewish values we espouse.

Holy Blossom Temple is also a place to grow. With our hearts, our minds, our souls and our might, we evolve individually and as a congregation, together creating a *kehillah k'doshah*, a sacred community, of which we are all a part.

But imagine if Holy Blossom were suddenly out of reach for you and your family.

Unexpected situations such as family tragedies, job losses, and changes in marital situation can all greatly and abruptly affect our members' personal finances. At Holy Blossom Temple, these cherished congregants are never left behind.

"I've been a member for many years," says one Congregant who agreed to share her experiences of receiving community support. "Of course, I paid the dues and was very happy to. Then a few years ago, I became ill and was suddenly unable to work. In so many of areas of my life I felt lost. But one source of support and encouragement was my Holy Blossom Temple family. Thank God for this incredibly compassionate congregation where I always feel welcome and included."

In any given year, 40% of our members require community support to ensure they are able to participate at Temple, with dignity and confidentiality.

This is where all of us, and the **Holy Blossom Temple Annual Congregational Appeal (Annual Appeal)**, can play a crucial role. Each year, we ask our members with financial ability to contribute above and beyond the sustaining membership donation to assist those who are struggling. By putting forth this "members helping members" Campaign, we live up to our promise of ensuring everyone can participate with equity and pride.

Last year, the Annual Appeal raised \$575,000 help maintain and enhance life at Holy Blossom. In 2018, we are hoping for a 10% increase over last year's results to help ensure that we can continue to provide

our unique and varied array of Temple programs and services, 365 days per year.

Holy Blossom Temple's ability to serve our members depends solely on your generosity. Please consider making your gift now.

Strict confidentiality dictates that you will never know which members you are helping. However, you can remain confident that through your generosity, you are enhancing life at Holy Blossom Temple for a wide array of members who could well be your friends, business associates, and even members of your own family.

"Looking at me and my family, you would never know we once had hard times," says a Toronto-area businessperson and regular donor who shared his experiences of once having needed community support. "But in the early 1980's my business went bankrupt. Times were suddenly very tight. I went to the Temple for help, and they accepted us with no questions asked. We felt so kindly treated. Of course, now we are in a much better position and **give back as much as we can**. I would never say no to Holy Blossom which was so good to us."

Gifts of all sizes are valued by the entire congregation. Donors who contribute \$600 or more will be listed on our Annual Congregational Appeal Donor Wall which will be ready in time for Rosh Hashanah 2018. All donors will be listed on the Website and in our Temple Bulletin.

Please make your gift by May 18, 2018, to ensure that you are included in our **Early Donors Listing** which will be distributed in this summer's Temple Membership Package.

Thank you so much for your loyalty and dedication to the Congregation. Your generosity provides a strong and inclusive Holy Blossom, now and for generations to come.

To make your gift to the 2018 Holy Blossom Temple Annual Appeal, please contact Tuula Heinar, Development Associate, at 416.789-3291 ext. 227 or email theinar@holyblossom.org.

To see our **Virtual Wall**, a listing of our Annual Appeal Donors online, please visit www.holyblossom.org/donor-wall-online

"The whole value of a benevolent deed lies in the love that inspires it." ~ Talmud, Sukkah 49B



SISTERHOOD AND KEHILLAT HASHACHAR

article by: Jill Kamin & Corinne Black

Our Holy Blossom ties to Israel are deep. We study about Israel, we visit, we support financially and significantly contribute to our Reform organizations that build our Israel relationships.

Our Sisterhood connection to Israel began as a promise to twin with a woman's group through the Women of Reform Judaism's Twinning program. We met Anna Kislanski, a member of Kehilat Hashachar in Even Yehuda at the WRJ Assembly in 2013 and were so excited to move forward twinning with their congregation.

The connection that began with Sisterhood has now grown to involve our entire congregation and theirs.

As it happened, one of the Israeli liaisons for Kehilat Hashachar was born and raised in Toronto. Rita Gvili had made Aliyah 35 years before and was visiting her mother in the summer of 2013 when we met with her to exchange thoughts and ideas of how we could make this "twinning" work. We connected immediately and since then have been working together to keep our bond strong. There were challenges such as language, time differences and mostly about how we would continue to grow the idea that two communities so far away could be as close as we have become.

From our first congregational skype conversation with Even Yehuda on Yom Ha'atzmaut in 2014, to shared Chanukah Candle Lighting

ceremonies over the past three years, each one of our connections has become a special moment for many in our Holy Blossom community and in Even Yehuda.

Kehillat Hashachar, a warm, welcoming congregation of about 40 families is very eager to be part of this growing idea of community connection and shared ideology about Reform Judaism. Living in a country that struggles to accept Reform Judaism, the families of Kehilat Hashachar embrace our connection, our love of Reform Judaism and shared support. Many of us have had the wonderful opportunity to spend Kabbalat Shabbat at Kehillat Hashachar, learn from Rita on Tisha B'av in Toronto and participate in a Shacharit service and study session on Yom Ha'atzmaut in Israel when Rabbi Splansky led a Holy Blossom trip in 2016.

We have had two study sessions via skype with Rabbi Satz and Rabbi Gili Zidkiyahu and Yael Vurgan. These joint study sessions have bridged our two congregations through shared study, stories of community and laughter. We hope to build on this tradition and perhaps do a book and film review together. We are collaborating on a musical project with our two Benys (Bennys) – Cantor Beny Maissner and Cantor Benny Hendel and want to encourage "pen pals" among our students.

We never thought that we would find a home so far away and yet so close to our hearts. However, Kehillat Hashachar, this small, strong congregation, opened their minds, their hearts and their homes to make sure that we always feel welcome. We have found community and family with them, and we hope that they feel that same bond with us.



Holy Blossom Temple Sisterhood gather together with the Kehilat Hashachar via Skype to study and celebrate Shabbat

What's happening at Holy Blossom: April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wedn
<p>1</p> <p>Shacharit Service (9:00 AM) </p> <p>You Can Ukulele! with Susan Baskin (12:15 PM)</p> <p><i>Chag Pesach Sameach!</i></p>	<p>2</p> <p>Shacharit Service (7:30 AM) </p> <p>Teen Volunteer/Community Service: Ve'ahavta Third Seder (5:30 PM)</p> <p>Ve'ahavta Third Seder (5:30 PM)</p> <p>Mincha Service (6:00 PM)</p> <p><i>Chag Pesach Sameach!</i></p>	<p>3</p> <p>Shacharit Service (7:30 AM) </p> <p>Understanding Your Bereavement & Healing (6:30 PM)</p> <p>A Season of Mussar II (7:30 PM)</p> <p>Mincha Service (6:00 PM)</p> <p><i>Chag Pesach Sameach!</i></p>	<p>4</p> <p>Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)</p> <p>Sisterhood Torah Study with Mark Goodman</p> <p>Rabbi Goldfarb's Yiddish Mincha Service (6:00 PM)</p> <p><i>Chag Pesach Sameach!</i></p>
<p>8</p> <p>Shacharit Service (9:00 AM)</p> <p>Sunday Book Club with Sharon Singer</p> <p>You Can Ukulele! with Susan Baskin (12:15 PM)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)</p> <p>Mondays@theTemple...for seniors (10:00 AM)</p> <p>Plato and the Talmud (10:30 AM)</p> <p>Mincha Service (6:00 PM)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)</p> <p>Understanding Your Bereavement & Healing (6:30 PM)</p> <p>Alley-Oop to Aliyah: African American Hoopsters in the Holy Land</p> <p>Mincha Service (6:00 PM)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)</p> <p>Sisterhood Torah Study with Mark Goodman</p> <p>Rabbi Goldfarb's Yiddish Mincha Service (6:00 PM)</p> <p>Jewish Communities Around the World</p> <p>Communities of Zimbabwe</p> <p>Mincha Service (6:00 PM)</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Shacharit Service (9:00 AM)</p> <p>You Can Ukulele! with Susan Baskin (12:15 PM)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)</p> <p>Mondays@theTemple...for seniors (10:00 AM)</p> <p>Plato and the Talmud (10:30 AM)</p> <p>Mincha Service (6:00 PM)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)</p> <p>Understanding Your Bereavement & Healing (6:30 PM)</p> <p>A Season of Mussar II (7:30 PM)</p> <p>Jews of the Pale: Yesterday and Today (7:30 PM)</p> <p>Mincha Service (6:00 PM)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)</p> <p>Sisterhood Torah Study with Mark Goodman</p> <p>Rabbi Goldfarb's Yiddish Mincha Service (6:00 PM)</p> <p>Yom HaZikaron Service (6:00 PM)</p> <p>Erev Yom HaAtzmaut Celebration</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Shacharit Service (9:00 AM)</p> <p>Grade 4 Parent Program (9:30 AM)</p> <p>You Can Ukulele! with Susan Baskin (12:15 PM)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)</p> <p>Mondays@theTemple...for seniors (10:00 AM)</p> <p>Plato and the Talmud (10:30 AM)</p> <p>Mincha Service (6:00 PM)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)</p> <p>Downtown Lunch and Learn: Jewish Business Ethics</p> <p>Understanding Your Bereavement & Healing (6:30 PM)</p> <p>Jews of the Pale: Yesterday and Today (7:30 PM)</p> <p>Mincha Service (6:00 PM)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)</p> <p>Sisterhood Torah Study with Mark Goodman</p> <p>Rabbi Goldfarb's Yiddish Mincha Service (6:00 PM)</p> <p>HBTeen Mitzvah Bake</p> <p>Mincha Service (6:00 PM)</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Shacharit Service (9:00 AM)</p> <p>You Can Ukulele! with Susan Baskin (12:15 PM)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)</p> <p>Mondays@theTemple...for seniors (10:00 AM)</p> <p>Plato and the Talmud (10:30 AM)</p> <p>Mincha Service (6:00 PM)</p>	<p>For more information on programs, please contact:</p>	

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>9:30 AM)</p> <p>Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)</p> <p>Sisterhood Torah Study with Mark Goodman (8:20 AM)</p> <p>Mincha Service (6:00 PM)</p> <p>Erev 7th Day Pesach: Hallel of all Hallel's – A Celebration: "Glory to God" (7:00 PM)</p> <p><i>Chag Pesach Sameach!</i></p>	<p>5</p> <p>Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)</p> <p>Sisterhood Torah Study with Mark Goodman (8:20 AM)</p> <p>Mincha Service (6:00 PM)</p> <p>Erev 7th Day Pesach: Hallel of all Hallel's – A Celebration: "Glory to God" (7:00 PM)</p> <p><i>Chag Pesach Sameach!</i></p>	<p>6</p> <p>Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)</p> <p>7th Day Pesach Service & Yizkor (10:00 AM)</p> <p>Family First Fridays Kabbalat Shabbat Service and Semi-Potluck Dinner (5:30 PM)</p> <p><i>Chag Pesach Sameach!</i></p>	<p>7</p> <p>Shabbat Torah Study (9:00 AM)</p> <p>Shabbat Service (10:30 AM)</p> <p>A Night of Gaming with YEAH! (5:30 PM)</p> <p>Pyjama Havdallah Night with PJ Library (5:30 PM)</p>
<p>9:30 AM)</p> <p>Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)</p> <p>Sisterhood Torah Study with Mark Goodman (8:20 AM)</p> <p>Mincha Service (6:00 PM)</p> <p>David Grossman in Conversation with Michael Enright (6:30 PM)</p> <p>Yom HaShoah Service & Commemoration (7:00 PM)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)</p> <p>Sisterhood Torah Study with Mark Goodman (8:20 AM)</p> <p>Mincha Service (6:00 PM)</p> <p>David Grossman in Conversation with Michael Enright (6:30 PM)</p> <p>Yom HaShoah Service & Commemoration (7:00 PM)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)</p> <p>Shabbat Service & N'ginah Band (6:00 PM)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Shabbat Torah Study (9:00 AM)</p> <p>Shabbat Service (10:30 AM)</p> <p>20s and 30s: Jewish-Muslim Comedy Night</p>
<p>9:30 AM)</p> <p>Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)</p> <p>Sisterhood Torah Study with Mark Goodman (8:20 AM)</p> <p>Mincha Service (6:00 PM)</p> <p>Yom HaAtzmaut</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)</p> <p>Sisterhood Torah Study with Mark Goodman (8:20 AM)</p> <p>Mincha Service (6:00 PM)</p> <p><i>Yom HaAtzmaut</i></p>	<p>20</p> <p>Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)</p> <p>Kabbalat Shabbat Service (6:00 PM)</p> <p>20s and 30s Shabbat Dinner with Rabbi Tanya (Nottingham)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Shabbat Torah Study (9:00 AM)</p> <p>Shabbat at the Barns (9:30 AM)</p> <p>Shabbat Service (10:30 AM)</p> <p>Israeli Folk Dancing with Paula Warren (1:00 PM)</p>
<p>9:30 AM)</p> <p>Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)</p> <p>Sisterhood Torah Study with Mark Goodman (8:20 AM)</p> <p>Mincha Service (6:00 PM)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)</p> <p>Sisterhood Torah Study with Mark Goodman (8:20 AM)</p> <p>Mincha Service (6:00 PM)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)</p> <p>Shabbat Service & N'ginah Band (6:00 PM)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Shabbat Torah Study (9:00 AM)</p> <p>Shabbat Service (10:30 AM)</p>

Programs & events at Holy Blossom, please visit our website at: www.holyblossom.org

What's happening at Holy Blossom: May 2018

Tuesday, May 1

Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)
Understanding Your Bereavement & Healing (6:30 PM)
A Season of Mussar II (7:30 PM)
Mincha Service (6:00 PM)

Wednesday, May 2

Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)
Sisterhood Torah Study – Crisis & Continuity with Mark Goodman (9:30 AM)
Rabbi Goldfarb's Yiddish Class (11:00 AM)
Mincha Service (6:00 PM)

Thursday, May 3

Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)
Thursday Shacharit, Breakfast and Talmud Study (8:20 AM)
Mincha Service (6:00 PM)

Friday, May 4

Sisterhood Retreat - Bayview Wildwood Resort (4:00 PM)
Family First Fridays Kabbalat Shabbat Service and Semi-Potluck Dinner (6:00 PM)

Saturday, May 5

Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Yael Splansky (9:00 AM)
Shabbat Service (10:30 AM)

Sunday, May 6

Shacharit Service (9:00 AM)
Sunday Book Club with Sharon Singer (10:00 AM)
You Can Ukulele! with Susan Baskin (12:15 PM)

Monday, May 7

Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)
Mondays@theTemple...for Seniors (10:00 AM)
Mincha Service (6:00 PM)

Tuesday, May 8

Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)
Understanding Your Bereavement & Healing (6:30 PM)
Mincha Service (6:00 PM)

Wednesday, May 9

Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)
Sisterhood Torah Study – Crisis & Continuity with Mark Goodman (9:30 AM)
Rabbi Goldfarb's Yiddish Class (11:00 AM)
Mincha Service (6:00 PM)

Thursday, May 10

Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)
Thursday Shacharit, Breakfast and Talmud Study (8:20 AM)
Mincha Service (6:00 PM)

Friday, May 11

Kabbalat Shabbat & N'ginah Band (6:00 PM)

Saturday, May 12

Shabbat Torah Study (9:00 AM)
Shabbat Service (10:30 AM)

Sunday, May 13

Shacharit Service (9:00 AM)
HBTeen/HABSTY Bagel Project
You Can Ukulele! with Susan Baskin (12:15 PM)

Yom Yerushalayim Choral Celebration (7:30 PM)

Happy Mothers' Day! 

Monday, May 14

Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)
Mondays@theTemple...for Seniors (10:00 AM)
Young Rabbis Speak:  Metoo
Mincha Service (6:00 PM)

Tuesday, May 15

Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)
Understanding Your Bereavement & Healing (6:30 PM)
A Season of Mussar II (7:30 PM)
Mincha Service (6:00 PM)

Wednesday, May 16

Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)
Sisterhood Torah Study – Crisis & Continuity with Mark Goodman (9:30 AM)
Rabbi Goldfarb's Yiddish Class (11:00 AM)
Harry & Blanche Posen Memorial Lecture, Professor Gabi Ben-Dor (7:30 PM)
Mincha Service (6:00 PM)

Thursday, May 17

Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)
Thursday Shacharit, Breakfast and Talmud Study (8:20 AM)
Mincha Service (6:00 PM)

Friday, May 18

Kabbalat Shabbat Service (6:00 PM)
Shabbat @ Home 20s and 30s Dinner

Saturday, May 19

Shabbat Torah Study (9:00 AM)
Shabbat Service (10:30 AM)
Erev Shavuot Service & Tikun Leil Shavuot (8:00 PM)

Sunday, May 20

Shacharit Service (9:00 AM)
Shavuot Service, Baby Blessing & Yizkor Service (10:00 AM) 
Holy Chag! (11:00 AM)
You Can Ukulele! with Susan Baskin (12:15 PM)

Monday, May 21

Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)
Mincha Service (6:00 PM)

Tuesday, May 22

Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)

Downtown Lunch and Learn: Jewish Business Ethics (12:15 PM)
Understanding Your Bereavement & Healing (6:30 PM)

Mincha Service (6:00 PM)

Wednesday, May 23

Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)
Sisterhood Torah Study – Crisis & Continuity with Mark Goodman (9:30 AM)
Rabbi Goldfarb's Yiddish Class (11:00 AM)
HBTeen Mitzvah Bakers! (6:30 PM)
Mincha Service (6:00 PM)

Thursday, May 24

Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)
Thursday Shacharit, Breakfast and Talmud Study (8:20 AM)
Mincha Service (6:00 PM)

Friday, May 25

"No Shush" Shabbat (6:00 PM)
Kabbalat Shabbat & N'ginah Band (6:00 PM)

Saturday, May 26

Shabbat Torah Study (9:00 AM)
Shabbat at the Barns (9:30 AM)
Shabbat Service (10:30 AM)
Israeli Folk Dancing with Paula Warren (1:00 PM)

Sunday, May 27

Shacharit Service (9:00 AM)
You Can Ukulele! with Susan Baskin (12:15 PM)

Monday, May 28

Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)
Mondays@theTemple...for Seniors (10:00 AM)
Mincha Service (6:00 PM)

Tuesday, May 29

Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)
Understanding Your Bereavement & Healing (6:30 PM)
A Season of Mussar II (7:30 PM)
Mincha Service (6:00 PM)

Wednesday, May 30

Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)
Sisterhood Torah Study – Crisis & Continuity with Mark Goodman (9:30 am)
Rabbi Goldfarb's Yiddish Class (11:00 AM)
Holy Blossom Temple Music Heritage Series: Musicians of Tomorrow (7:30 PM)
Mincha Service (6:00 PM)

Thursday, May 31

Shacharit Service (7:30 AM)
Thursday Shacharit, Breakfast and Talmud Study (8:20 AM)
Mincha Service (6:00 PM)

For more information on programs & events at Holy Blossom, visit www.holyblossom.org



My Last 70 Years In The Pool

article by: Ami Trauber, Master Canadian Swimmer

I was taught swimming in the Mediterranean by my parents. When I was old enough, I joined Maccabi, and we swam in the only pool in Tel Aviv. As a child, I participated in, and won, a key competition; 50 meters for youth under 14 years old. The trophy I brought home was my incentive and push to continue my swimming efforts and improve my results.

In High School, my less than average school grades were offset by my successful swimming results. I became, what one sport newspaper called “a rising swimming star.”

The summer of 1956, my swimming club competed in Europe. I won most of my races in Belgium, Holland, and Ireland. It was the first Israeli swimming club to compete outside Israel.

In 1959, the Israeli national Team left Israel to compete in Greece. The first international swimming competition for Israel. Surprisingly, Israel won by a large margin. I won my 3 individual events and set three Israeli records as well as participated in the winning relay. That year, I won all my events in the National Championship races and “controlled” the 50 meters through 1500 meters races with individual national records. The press titled me “The swimming Star.”

What am I to do after my military service?

On April 21, 1960, I landed in New York and headed to Yale University where the famous swimming coach Bob Kiputh was training a group of elite American and Cuban swimmers for the 1960 Olympics. For the next two and a half months, I was his guest sleeping in the large open gym on a cot. Bob was a guest teaching coach in Israel several times and that is where we made our acquaintance.

One July day, I was informed by Bob that my whole body is to be shaved and I am to have a time trial in the 100 and 400 meters events. I followed his instructions. After being shaved by Jeff Ferrell, the fastest swimmer in the world, I entered the pool.

The results surprised all of us. In the 100 meters, I was the first Israeli to break the one minute mark. For several years, several Israelis have tried to break that one minute mark and failed. Also, I broke the 400 meters national record by several seconds. These results caused a “splash” in the various Israeli Medias and I was recalled back to Israel to represent the country in the second Israel -Greece swimming competition in Tel Aviv and then continue to the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome.

After my retirement and “transplant” to Toronto from Connecticut, I searched for new challenges. In 2011 during Marsha and my visit to Israel, while in

the Wingate Institute’s swimming pool observing the Israeli Masters Swimming Championship, I was challenged by my Israeli friends and “old” competitors to participate and race the 50 meters free style. Initially I declined the offer but I agreed to compete in that race. Surprisingly, I won the championship. That event, a subsequent visit to the Rome Olympic Pool, and a gentle push by Tommy Becher, President - Maccabi Canada as well as Marsha’s support and encouragement, initiated a new chapter in my life. At the young age of 72 I decided to train and represent Canada in the 2013 Maccabiah in Israel. My previous participation in the Maccabiah was in 1957 representing Israel.

In the last 4-5 years, I have been recognized several times as a “Top Ten” swimmer in the USA, Canada and the world.

My return to competitive swimming, after retirement, motivated me to set new goals, keeps me fit and satisfies my competitive nature.

The future, in addition to the Canadian and USA championships, may be the forthcoming 2018 Pan American Championship this summer in Orlando Florida and the 2019 World Championship in Korea. Regardless, Marsha and the family always come first.



LIFE AS A SHINSHINIT

article by: Noa Gordon, Holy Blossom ShinShinim 2018

People often ask me here “is this year what you expected?” And honestly, I didn’t know what to expect.

As much as we were trained and prepared by the Jewish Agency and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto beforehand, and since I had never experienced anything like this experience; living with another family, taking part in a Diaspora Jewish community, being in Canada and speaking English all the time -- it is not really possible to have a picture of the life as a Shinshinit.

So I can tell now, after a number of months in our Holy Blossom Temple/Leo Baeck community, beyond our activities and relationships and other great fun things we do, to me, the life of the Shinshinit is about learning. We get to learn and explore so much about the

Jews in the Diaspora, about Canadians, about our country from Canadian-Jewish eyes, and also, about ourselves and our Israeli-Jewish identity.

Two main thoughts going through my mind over this year are:

1. Why is there such a big difference between the Canadian culture and the Israeli culture? And in general, how do cultures become cultures? (*I usually blame the weather*)
2. I wish the Jewish life in Israel would be remotely as pluralistic and liberal as I feel they are here. To me, Israel has a lot to learn from the Jewish community here about unity, acceptance of the other, and collaboration.

I see the Israeli secular culture as one more stream of Judaism. Just like there are Orthodox, Reform, Conservative etc., there is being Israeli. It means that we have different rituals and traditions, different songs and melodies, different Jewish priorities and different point of view or points of interest. Naturally, there is a lot to bridge when we talk and educate about Israel, but our purpose being here is not only bringing Israel to the Diaspora, but bringing the Diaspora - the Jewish pluralistic culture, back to Israel. Bringing the two or more different streams of Judaism closer together, because after all, we are one people.

Almost every day, I either learn a new thing, or stretch my comfort zone. I didn’t know this is what the life of the Shinshinit would be, but it is great and everything I hoped it would be.

LIFE OF A SHINSHIN

article by: Ido Mordechay, Holy Blossom ShinShinim 2018

When we were first asked to write an article for the Bulletin about our life as ShinShinim, it was hard for me to find the right words for such an incredible experience, but then I understood that the best way to explain it, is by sharing with you some of our special and exciting moments.

I still remember the first day when we arrived in Toronto, when we were a bunch of shocked teenagers...with no understanding of the potential of the year ahead. The anticipation of adventure and challenge was exciting! Now, more than half a year later, I truly understand how big it is.

At the beginning of the year, it felt different than what I expected. I expected and hoped to change the world, to try to do big and crazy things, but it was just too big of a goal.

As the time passed, I understood that it’s not about changing the whole world, but it’s about changing individual people’s worlds, and about them changing my world and perspective.

Being a ShinShin is to go to a Bar Mitzvah of a student from our school during the winter break because I, the ShinShin was in Israel. It didn’t matter that it was a two-and-a-half-hour drive from my home! We

were in the same place! It’s just not that bad! It’s about families that talk to you about the trip they are planning in Israel and what advice can be given about places to go on their trip. It’s about having a dinner with your host family.

The ShinShinim program and Israel engagement are not only about teaching about Israel, but it’s about a deep personal connection to Israel, that starts with those small things. Having a coffee with a ShinShin, suddenly gives the opportunity to have a friend in Israel, a real connection, a real Israel engagement, because at the end of the day, that’s what its all about.

LAY LEADERSHIP FOR HOLY BLOSSOM SHINSHINIM PROGRAM

article by: Gillian Helfield

In a few months, my three-year tour-of-duty as Holy Blossom's lay leader for the ShinShinim comes to an end. We will welcome a new lay leader, Jeff Baker, who brings to the role great enthusiasm, and a warm connection to the ShinShinim who've been with us at HBT.

Jeff and I share something else in common: both our families have hosted ShinShinim. In fact, we both hosted Tal Yitzhaki (of 'Tal and Aviv') in the same year.

Three years prior to that, we also hosted Or Shalem (of 'Or and May'). Our experiences were made all the more meaningful by the time we spent with our ShinShinim, the simchas we shared, and the visits to Israel, where we were warmly welcomed in return. They became a part of our families, but we also became a part of theirs – relationships that continue to this day.

For me, this experience also forged a very strong connection to Israel. Soon after we hosted Or, we traveled to Israel as a family for the first time. And I've been fortunate to have the opportunity to return several times, as part of Israel Engagement's annual ShinShinim recruitment mission. I not only get to meet the incredible candidates, but am also re-united with 'the Shevet' – our amazing alumni, now proudly serving in the IDF, attending university, working, or in some cases, married and starting their own families! Needless to say these inspirational trips to Israel have been huge highlights in my life.

It's hard to describe the magic in the air when the ShinShinim are 'in the house.' Their energy, enthusiasm and spirit are infectious and magical. These young adults are so special, and leave a lasting and positive impact wherever they go. If you haven't already done so (and even if you have) you should seriously consider hosting.

It will change your life.



THOUGHTS ON BEING A SHINSHINIM HOST FAMILY

article by: Jeffrey Baker

What a great experience it was hosting a "ShinShin" from Israel. My daughter's Bat Mitzvah year at Holy Blossom was already going to be full of excitement but having Tal (*pictured above*) stay with us was one of the highlights!

Introducing Tal to life in Canada provided some challenges. She was immediately struck by how different Jewish life is outside of Israel.

Every part of Judaism that is "automatic" in the Jewish homeland must be distinctly recognized and celebrated each and every time. This reality had both positive and negative effects but making the effort and time to celebrate holidays and attend services made a meaningful impression on her. (*Trying to convince her to prepare for winter was much trickier!*) As long as we had time in the evening to talk to her, met some of her friends and kept feeding her sushi we knew she'd be alright!

Being a host family is an important responsibility. These ShinShinim are only 18 years old. We are their families for the year. My daughters loved having a big sister and are still in touch today, especially now that Tal has finished her army service. We hope to be a host family again soon and become an important part of the life of another Israeli youth.

HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE AND ISRAEL MANY YEARS OF SUPPORT AND FRIENDSHIP

article by: Michael Cole & Sheila Smolkin, Temple Archives

These days at Holy Blossom, we include prayers for the State of Israel in our services, we celebrate Yom HaAtzmaut (Israel Independence Day), we run trips to Israel, and we host ShinShinim (Israeli teens) to teach our youth about Israel.

It was not always so. Until the Second World War, the Reform movement generally was officially lukewarm or even hostile to the idea a Jewish state. However, it must be said that the membership of Holy Blossom, like Toronto Jewry in general, was more favourable to Zionism than the Reform leadership and even the Temple's own rabbi during the 1930s.

Any ambivalence to Zionism disappeared with establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. Along

with Jews everywhere, we celebrated the emergence of the new Jewish state. During the 1950s and 1960s, the students in our Religious School helped raise money for the Leo Baeck School in Haifa, one of the very first Reform institutions in Israel.

Our deep connection to Israel began during the Six Day War in 1967. It was our own Rabbi Plaut who galvanized the Jews of Toronto in support of their fellow Jews in Israel with his speeches to the congregation and to the community.

After 1967, we at Temple showed our support for Israel in a number of ways. The first trip to Israel, arranged by our Brotherhood and led by Rabbi Plaut, occurred in 1969. Other trips followed, including a memorable journey

together with the clergy and members of Timothy Eaton Memorial Church in 1979.

Kol Nidre services became a time when an appeal was made for our congregants to invest in Israel Bonds. Yom HaAtzmaut, Israel Independence Day, became an event in our calendar. Our first ShinShinim came to Holy Blossom in 2007.

Over the years, we have welcomed many famous Israelis to speak from our pulpit, including Abba Eban, Amos Oz, A.B. Yehoshua, Michael Oren, and Yossi Klein Halevi.

As Israel prepares to celebrate its 70th anniversary, we at Holy Blossom Temple look forward to many more years of close connection to the Jewish state.

Shalom! Holy Blossom members, led by Rabbi Plaut celebrate their arrival at Ben-Gurion Airport on one of Holy Blossom's early Israel trips





ISRAEL & JEWISH LEARNING AT HOLY BLOSSOM

article by: Les Rothschild, Chair, Adult Education, Debbie Spiegel, Director of Education,
& Rabbi Michael Satz, Associate Rabbi

In 1999, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Reform rabbinical association, produced a platform enumerating the values that give shape to Reform Judaism. In the section of the platform devoted to Israel we read in part:

We affirm that both Israeli and Diaspora Jewry should remain vibrant and interdependent communities. As we urge Jews who reside outside Israel to learn Hebrew as a living language and to make periodic visits to Israel to study and to deepen their relationship to the Land and its people, so do we affirm that Israeli Jews have much to learn from the religious life of Diaspora Jewish communities.

We are committed to furthering Progressive Judaism throughout the world as a meaningful religious way of life for the Jewish people.

At Holy Blossom Temple, we take these words very seriously, and we echo these words in a section of our Statement of Identity:

We recognize and celebrate Israel as the centre of the Jewish world. The relationship between Israel and Diaspora Jewry is one of partnership and shared destiny. We feel close to Israel and its growing Reform movement. We share in Israel's joys and sorrows; we are proud of her many accomplishments and worry for her security. We hold a wide range of views on her social, religious, and political issues and encourage the expression and respectful exchange of these views. We encourage our congregants to provide tangible support for Israel through investments and donations. We also encourage our congregants to travel to Israel for tourism, study, volunteerism, leadership, and Aliyah.

This is why one of the five pillars of Schwartz/Reisman Centre for Jewish Learning at Holy Blossom is the study of Israel--its culture, history, literature, and politics, and through this study, we hope to create connections and relationships that deepen our lived Jewish experience.

If one were to peruse our website, one would be hard pressed to find a month without some sort of adult learning about Israel. We try to vary the program with continuing series like the ones we have done in partnership with the Shalom Hartman Institute, to cooking demonstrations at congregants' houses, to Israeli movie nights, to lectures on the Middle East political situation with the Posen Lecture from Prof. Gabi Ben-Dor and leaders of the Reform Movement in Israel. In March we had an information and organizing night about African asylum seekers in Israel, and in April we will learn about African Americans and Israeli basketball. As well we will celebrate Yom HaAtzmaut, Israel's 70th birthday together.

We try to bring to Holy Blossom different kinds of programs that help us to make connections to Israel through different aspects of life because our main goal is help congregants make personal connections. It doesn't matter one's politics, if one has been to Israel fifteen times or not (yet), connecting to Israel is about deepening one's Jewish story by experiencing the complex Jewish story in the contemporary State of Israel.

For more information on The Schwartz/Reisman Adult Education Programs at Holy Blossom please visit our website: www.holyblossom.org



MY ISRAEL AT 70

article by: Harley Jonatan, 4th Generation Holy Blossom Member

Five months ago, guitar in hand, I headed for Israel wanting to adventure, to have fun and expecting to meet people from around the world. I got a lot more than I asked for! In these last five months I've come to realize how much more there is to this incredible and controversial country and how much it's developed in just 70 years.

Before I elaborate, here's a little bit about me: I'm 18 years old and I'm on a gap year program called Shnat (year) Netzer (organization) - a reform Jewish program that teaches participants leadership skills while we travel, work and volunteer around Israel, learning about the country, Judaism, Zionism, politics, economics, Hebrew and loads of other important topics. We are nicknamed "Shnatties" for convenience and banter (as the Brits say). Right now I'm studying in Jerusalem with 15 Shnatties from the UK, Australia, Germany and the U.S. studying these subjects every weekday.

Before the study portion of the program, we lived on an eco-farm, worked on Kibbutz Lotan in the south, and volunteered in the vibrant city of Tel Aviv. On Kibbutz Lotan, we worked in the beautiful date plantations, waking up everyday at 5:30 in the morning and working for eight hours straight. It sounds tough, but it was an amazing experience because it taught me to appreciate the world around

me. In Tel Aviv we volunteered in the community and learned what it's like to live in urban Israel.

Before my trip to Israel, I didn't realize how young the state really was (70 isn't old!). From the outside, you can see its incredible maturity and sophistication on serious issues and its ability to understand and act on those issues. But on the inside, you can see its struggles with challenges that young nations face, like how it makes the best use of its tiny physical land and the rules and principles that its society lives by.

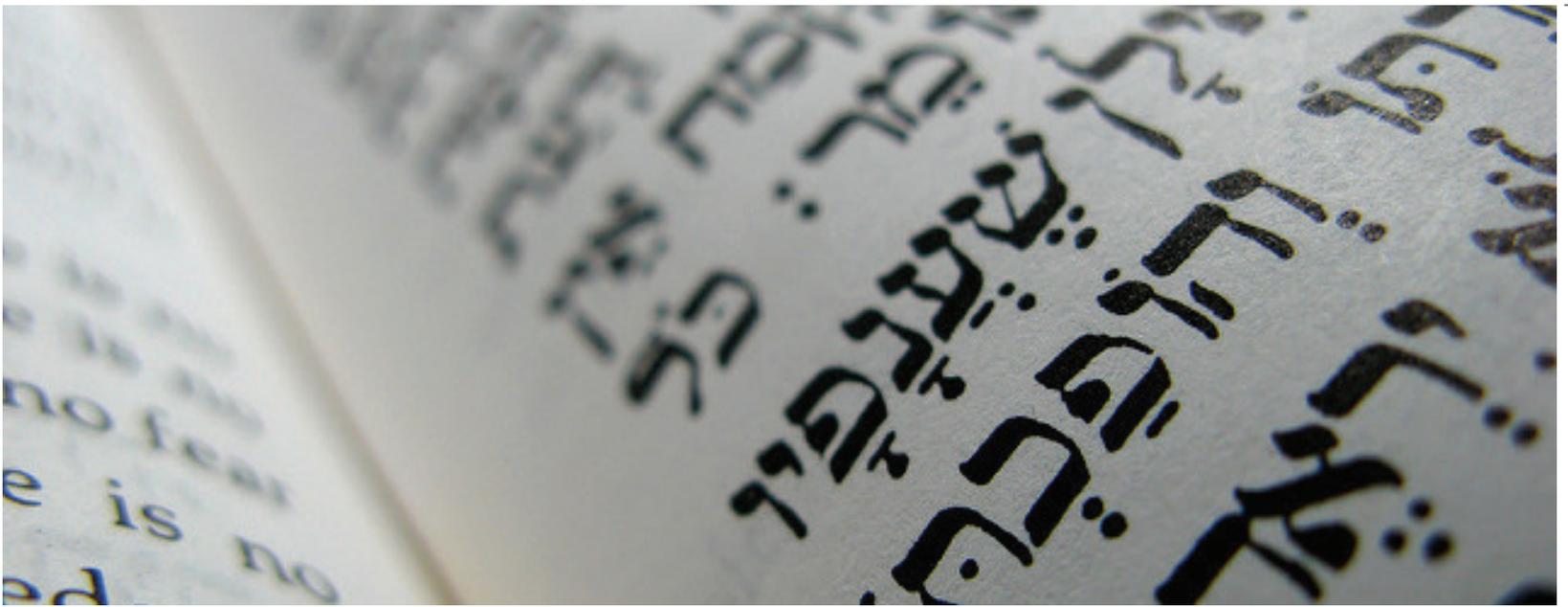
For example, Israel is facing controversy right now: one of the most impactful topics we studied was about African immigrants in Israel. We learned that Israel never really had an immigration policy, so people would show up in the country with no money or belongings and just stay on the streets hardly making a life for themselves. Recently, the Israeli government decided that having them crowd the streets of Israel wasn't good for the country and that sending them back to their Africa was best for everyone. We decided to support the Africans at one of the rallies in Jerusalem. Although we didn't know what they were saying most of the time (because it was in Hebrew), I felt like we were really a part of Israeli society.

It's interesting to see such a strong defense system and also see such a low minimum wage. This is an example of a struggle young nations may have. Slowly but surely, I think Israel will pull through on a lot of these important inner issues and become an even stronger nation altogether.

"How's the Holy Land?" My friends always ask me. "A Jew in the Holy Land... You must be a Super-Jew!" Well, I'm no Super-Jew. I find my Judaism in my community because every time I feel most Jewish, I'm there with my community. In Jerusalem, there's a community called Nava Tehila. They lead a musical, spiritual Kabbalat Shabbat service every month, but since they're such a small group, they rent out a room in the basement of another congregation. And still, in all of Israel, in all of Jerusalem, that basement with that community is where I feel most Jewish. Singing and dancing all together. Of all the places to see, people to meet, things to do, that is the one must on my Israel to-do list that most visitors wouldn't know about.

Israel is one of the most controversial places in the world. But it's full of history, innovation, incredibly passionate communities and thirst for peace. If I couldn't live in Canada, Israel would be my go-to-place.

Happy birthday Israel and thanks for experiences I'll remember forever.



ISRAEL AT THE CENTRE: WUPJ SIDDUR

article by: Rabbi Jordan Helfman, Assistant Rabbi

Just about a year ago, the World Union of Progressive Judaism unveiled a new prayer book, which continues to put Israel at the centre of our world-wide movement.

I had the honour of being the main editor of this prayer-book, and I worked closely with Baruch Sienna in its design. As Israel turns 70, we reflect how our Jewish world has reoriented itself around the creation of a Jewish state.

One of the interesting lines in this siddur, which uses the draft Hebrew from our Israeli movement, is that it includes the following words in the prayer for the State of Israel:

לִכְפֹּל לְאֶרֶץ תִּיב וּנְיִתוּיָחָאָו וּנְיָחָא תָא הַקְּרָבֵל אָנּוּ דְקַפּ
לְכַמּ סְהָב יָמוּ וְיִצַּ תְּבָהָא פְּבִלְבַּ עֵט. סְהִירוּזְפּ תּוּצְרָא
אֶרְקַנּ רֶשָׁא, הַרְיַע סִלְשׁוּרִיל לְעִיּוּ וּמַע וְהִלְאָ יְהִי וּנְמַע
הִילְעַ הַמְזַשׁ

May God please remember for a blessing our brothers and sisters, the House of Israel, in all the lands of their dispersion. Plant in their hearts a love of Zion, and may God be with all of them as they go up to Jerusalem Your holy city.

These words, designated for residents of the State of Israel to say, reminds us that our Reform Jewish sisters and brothers in the land of Israel pray on our behalf even as we pray for theirs. There is a reciprocity here which is unexpected and yet holy expected, as they pray that we will once again return to a holy Jerusalem.



This siddur honours and reflects many of the liturgical and worship innovations that have become 'traditional' in our congregations.

The strength of our movement is its diversity: Reform, Progressive and Liberal Judaism reflect the intersection of our inherited traditions and the cultures of the countries in which we live (WUPJ).

MUSICIANS OF TOMORROW

article by: Wendy Eisen

Dr. Anna Rosnovsky served as first violinist with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, (IPO) under the baton of Zubin Mehta, from 1979-2006.

One would think that after a 14-year struggle to get her family out of the Soviet Union, during which time Anna's mother was imprisoned for smuggling Anna's violin to her in Israel, that when retiring from the IPO she would settle into a quiet life in Tel Aviv.

Instead, she moved to Rosh Pina in northern Israel and began to teach musically-gifted children in her home. The few students who Anna began to teach in 2006 grew and soon developed into a group of talented young musicians who became known as the *Musicians of Tomorrow*.

A few years ago, a generous benefactor purchased a home in Rosh Pina, which, in 2017, after extensive renovations, has become a ten-room Music Studio for the *Musicians of Tomorrow*. There is now ample space for a number of

music teachers to teach 18 young musicians, between the ages of 4 to 18, and a spacious foyer is ideal for small concerts.

The youngsters come after school during the week and on Fridays to study Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Guitar, Clarinet and Piano. In addition to the instruments, the students receive a complete musical education including voice, improvisation, composition and chamber music.

Families who are able, pay a nominal monthly fee — but no child with talent is turned away for financial reasons.

Anna Rosnovsky volunteers her time, energy and expertise to this remarkable project. In her words:

Musicians of Tomorrow is an opportunity for me to give back to this country with love — for music, for children and for the future. Today, these children are not amateurs. They have performed in concerts throughout Israel and in many other countries —

in Europe and in Canada — including having played with the internationally-acclaimed pianist, Danill Trifonov."

Two summers ago, three young members of the *Musicians of Tomorrow* performed private concerts in Montreal and Toronto. Today, two of the boys, though presently serving in the army, are still practicing daily and hoping to pursue careers in violin and piano, and the third, while studying at Tel Aviv University, is playing cello and double bass with the Young Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.

It was the extraordinary talent of those young musicians that prompted Holy Blossom Temple's Cantor Benjamin Maissner to invite Anna Rosnovsky to select another young trio to come to Toronto to perform during Jewish Music Week.

The Musicians of Tomorrow will enthral audiences of all ages.

HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE MUSIC HERITAGE SERIES

MUSICIANS OF TOMORROW

A unique musical project which nurtures musically talented children from the northern periphery of Israel

**Jewish Music Week:
Wednesday May 30, 2018 at 7:30 PM**

This Jewish classical music program will feature an eclectic repertoire of classical works by renowned composers, as well as Klezmer music, performed by an exceptionally talented trio of young Israelis.

Manya Suissa: Piano — age 13

Ronnie Arbitman: Violin — age 11

Lavi Zarfati: Clarinet — age 14



Tickets: Adults \$36 • Students (18 and under) \$18

For more information, please contact Mari Lynn Rusak at: 416-789-3291 x 224

mlrusak@holyblossom.org

www.jewishmusicweek.com



WELCOME TO OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY

We are delighted to welcome the following new members to Holy Blossom Temple:
Eli & Robyn Mogil

WEDDINGS & ENGAGEMENTS

Sidney Troister & Claudia Blumberger on the upcoming marriage of their daughter, Bryna Troister to Michael Wilder, son of Candice & Stanley Wilder

Esther Zeller Cooper & Morris Cooper on the upcoming marriage of their daughter, Andrea Cooper to Alex Gertner, son of Rosanne & David Gertner

Corinne & Neil Berinstein on the upcoming wedding of their son, Jeffrey Berinstein to Ellery Greenberg, daughter of Hannah & Mitchell Greenberg

BIRTHS

Debra Bennett, on the birth of a grandson, Warren Atlas Bartram (Wrennie). Proud parents are Sarah Chisholm & Drew Bartram and brother for Nia. Other proud grandparents are Michele Berlyne & Rick Chisholm. Proud great grandparents are Barbara Bennett; Shanti Blum; and Edith Chisholm

Kayla Boigon & Jonathan Corbin on the birth of a son, Aiden Brody Corbin. Proud grandparents are Ruth & Barry Corbin. Other proud grandparents are Fern Rotstein & Stan Boigon.

B'NEI MITZVAH



Lauren Adelson
 Daughter of Andrea Himel & Eric Adelson
 Saturday, March 24, 2018



Miles Merkur
 Son of Samantha Bederman and Darcy Merkur
 Saturday, April 14, 2018



AJ Shulman
 Son of Deborah Dalfen & Jamie Shulman
 Saturday, April 14, 2018



Justin Goodman
 Son of Lauren & Mark Goodman
 Saturday, April 21, 2018



Lila Offman
 Daughter of Randi Rose & Craig Offman
 Saturday, April 21, 2018

Robyn Lewis
 Daughter of Kelly Grant & Michael Lewis
 Saturday, April 28, 2018

Proud great grandparents are Rose & Jack Rotstein

Lynda & Ken Davis on the birth of twin grandsons, Phoenix Soberman and Blake Soberman. Proud parents are Sara Davis & Andrew Soberman. Other proud grandparents are Jacquie & Allan Soberman

Stephanie Harris & Daniel Winberg on the birth of a daughter, Cameron Bea Winberg. Proud grandparents are Judy & Jack Winberg; and Diane & Gary Harris. Proud great grandmothers are Marilyn Winberg; and Adele Rolin

Caitlin & Yotam Dor, on the birth of a son, Coan Victor Bruce Dor. Proud grandparents are Jane & Bruce MacLeod; and Irit & Boaz Dor

Iris & Harold Rosenfield on the birth of a granddaughter, Abigail Rose Magnin. Proud parents are Robyn Rosenfield & Aaron Magnin. Other proud grandparents are Pat & Dale Magnin. Proud great grandmothers are Sonia Rosenfield; and Sylvia Goldman

Arlene Roth, on the birth of twin granddaughters, Adina & Rochel Zelikovich. Proud parents are Jessica & Yuriy Zelikovich. Other proud grandparents are Ronnie Hershfield; Galina & Boris Zelikovich

IN MEMORIAM...

Phyllis Benjamin, mother of Anthony Benjamin, Gavin Benjamin and Darryl Benjamin; sister of Eda Millner

Clara (Clare) Denaburg, wife of Monte Denaburg; mother of Jeffrey Denaburg and Donald Denaburg

Roey Kert, husband of Wendy Kert; father of Amanda Kert, Daniel Kert and Sydney Kert; brother of Robin Kert and Ellen Kert

Joyce Pezim, mother of Steven Pezim and Howard Pezim; sister of Mervin Kerman

Helen Raphael, mother of Alexandra Raphael, Simon Raphael and Ruth Berger

Ronald Howard Urman, father of Levy Urman and LLuvia Urman; brother of Tina Urman and Sharyn Lewis

Ingeborg (Inga) Waldman, mother of Susane Waldman, Dieane Waldman, Sender Waldman, Lisa Waldman, and Petra Bauer

Jonathan Wolfe, husband of Amal Wolfe; father of Rachel Wolfe and Michael Wolfe; brother of Elizabeth Wolfe

Herbert Wolfson, husband of Joy Wolfson; father of Carol Wolfson, Norman Wolfson, Steven Wolfson, and Lauren Wolfson; brother of William (Bill) Wolfson

Ernest Zucker, husband of Marion Zucker; father of Stephen Zucker, Lynne Zucker and Brian Zucker

We thank our generous donors

Samuel & Carol Braun Memorial Fund

Rita Sacks, In Honour:
Marcia & Kenny Cohen

Sami and James Cooper Youth Award Fund

Alma Rosen, In Memory:
Sami Cooper

Herb Wolfson, In Memory:
Sami Cooper

Maxine & Jack Fedder Youth Award Fund

Ian Fedder, In Memory:
Robert Gagne

Jean Fine Seniors Fund

Herb Wolfson, In Memory:
Sheila Smolkin

Floral Fund

Andrea Himel & Eric Adelson
on the occasion of the Bat-
Mitzvah of their daughter
Lauren

**Samantha Bederman
and Darcy Merkur** on the
occasion of the Bar Mitzvah
of their son Miles

**Deborah Dalfen & Jamie
Shulman** on the occasion of
the Bar Mitzvah of their son
AJ

Lauren & Mark Goodman
on the occasion of the Bar
Mitzvah of their son Justin

Randi Rose & Craig Offman
on the occasion of the Bat
Mitzvah of their daughter Lila

Kelly Grant & Michael Lewis
on the occasion of the Bat
Mitzvah of their daughter
Robyn

Rabbi Edward & Fagi Goldfarb Fund for Jewish Literacy

Rabbi Goldfarb, In Honour:
Gordie Arbess & Sharon
Neiss-Arbess and Family;
Doreen Manly

Holy Blossom Adult Education Fund

Alan Morinis, In Honour:
Cheryl Sylvester

Holy Blossom Temple Foundation

Chris Hoffman, Yahrzeit:
Norm & Diana Shiffman

Chello Sittambalam, In
Honour: Ellen Karabanow

Holy Blossom Temple Renewal Project

Phyllis Benjamin, In Memory:
Bev Rodd

Sara Charney, In Honour:
Joan Garson & David Baskin

Arnold Cohen, Yahrzeit: Joy
Cohen

Clara (Clare) Denaburg, In
Memory: Catherine Litner

Anne Freeman, In Honour:
Dr. Martin Stern

Chris Hoffman, Yahrzeit:
Norm & Diana Shiffman

Thuy & Mike Morgulis, In
Honour: Judy Winberg

Lionel Rubin, Yahrzeit: Ronna
Rubin & Phil Smith and
Family

Ruth Strach, In Memory:
Carmen Horvath

Ron Urman, In Memory:
Esther & Marvin Tile and
Family

Burt Winberg, In Memory:
Jonathan Ain; Barry Borden;
Larry & Janice Babins; Lisa &
Philip Draper; Joan Garson;
Marvin & Diana Goodman;
Donald & Lorraine Loeb

Jonathan Wolfe, In Memory:
Wendy Eisen

Herb Wolfson, In Memory:
Toby Ciglen; Joy Cohen;
Brenda Conway; Marilyn
Feldman; Lois & George
Fine; Goldberg Family; Ardith
Grant; Nora Lanning; Lloyd
Lavine; Catherine Litner;
Mark May; Merle & Ted
Rachlin; Brooky & Hartley
Robins; Toby Rose & Les
Klein; Gail & Rick Ross; Susan
& Michael Schenker; Carol &
Lionel Schipper; John & Chris
Szold; Marlene & Stan Stein
& Family; Barbara & Bert Stitt;
Tema Title; Wendy Winberg
& Don Shelton

Jacob's Tower Fund

Sam Bloch, In Memory:
Marilyn Shesko

Burton Winberg, In Memory:
Jill Hertzman

Sydney Jacobs Live Streaming Technology Fund

Rose & Stan Strauch,
Yahrzeit: Daisy Jacobs

Joan Kerbel Leadership Development Fund

Mary Seldon, In Honour:
Arieh Waldman

Musical Heritage Fund

Clara (Clare) Denaburg,
In Memory: Fern & Paul
and Charlie Cohen; Joan
Garson and David Baskin;
Naomi & Sandy Horodezky;
Ellen Karabanow; Shirley
Kline; Jack & Esther Kirsh;
David Matlow; Kate & Neil
Raibinovitch; Bev Rodd;
Schwartz Family; Gayla &
Ken Schwartz; Mary Seldon;
Dorothy Shoom; Paula
& Jeffrey Silverberg and
Family; Bernice & Gordon
Starkman; Taylor Family;
Judy & Jack Winberg; Linda
Wolfe; Marlene & Stan
Zeidenberg

Cantor Beny Maissner,
In Appreciation: Gerry
Prendergast; Judy Nyman

Marty & Rachel Steinhouse,
In Honour: Mary Seldon

Out of the Cold Fund

Chippy Ezer, In Honour:
Etienne & Aubrey Kaplan

Bernie Herman, Yahrzeit:
Sharon Herman and Family

Lior Morgulis, In Honour:
Judy Malkin & Elliott
Jacobson

Barbara Verbain, In Memory:
Anonymous

Rabbi's Discretionary Funds

Rabbi Yael Splansky, In
Appreciation: Sara Clodman
and Jo Mira Clodman

Rabbi Yael Splansky, In
Honour: Ruth Greisman;
Karen & David Mock; Susan
& Peter Segal and Family;
Judy Winberg

Rabbi Jordan Helfman, In
Appreciation: Sara Clodman

Rabbi Jordan Helfman, In
Honour: Karen & David
Mock

Cantor Benjamin Z. Maissner,
In Appreciation: Sara
Clodman and Jo Mira
Clodman

Cantor Benjamin Z. Maissner,
In Honour: Judy & Jack
Winberg

Cantorial Soloist Lindi Rivers,
In Honour: Ruth Greisman;
Karen & David Mock; Susan
& Peter Segal and Family

Shacharit Fund

David Dunkelmann, Yahrzeit:
Evelyn Gardner

Toby Dunkelmann, Yahrzeit:
Evelyn Gardner

Anna Flancman, Yahrzeit:
Sharon Herman

Joel Greisman, Yahrzeit:
Susan & Peter Segal and
Family

Betty Halperin, Yahrzeit: Ruth
Halperin and Family

Bernie Herman, Yahrzeit:
Sharon Herman and Family

Charles Hershfield, Yahrzeit:
Ruth Ellen Greenwood

Leo Klausner, Yahrzeit: Estee
Klausner

Ruth Koblin, Yahrzeit: The
Koblin Family

Mary Kugelmass, Yahrzeit:
Jack Kugelmass

Joy Ruth Mickelson, Yahrzeit:
Joel Mickelson and Family

Harold Minden, Yahrzeit:
Karen Minden

Drs. Karen and David Mock,
In Honour: Kathy and
Maurice Green

Ted Moses, In Memory: Larry
Babins

Samuel Sax, Yahrzeit:
Michael & Julia Sax

Deborah Troister, Yahrzeit:
**Sid Troister & Claudia
Blumberger**

Harry Uster, In Memory: The
Uster Family

Youth Awards Fund

General Donation: Adellina
Kogut

Livia Barto, Yahrzeit: Helene
Barto

Maxine & Jack Fedder Youth Award Fund

Ian Fedder, In Memory:
Robert Gagne

Donations from February 1, 2018 to March 13, 2018



Yom HaShoah & Upcoming Festivals at Holy Blossom

YOM HASHOAH

Service & Commemoration | Thursday, April 12, 7:00 PM

YOM HAZIKARON/YOM HA'ATZMAUT

Yom HaZikaron Service & Commemoration | Wednesday, April 18, 6:00 PM

Erev Yom HaAtzmaut Celebration | Wednesday, April 18, 6:30 PM

YOM YERUSHALAYIM

Community Choral Celebration | Saturday, May 13, 7:30 PM

SHAVUOT

Erev Shavuot Service & Tikun Leil Shavuot | Saturday, May 19, 8:00 PM

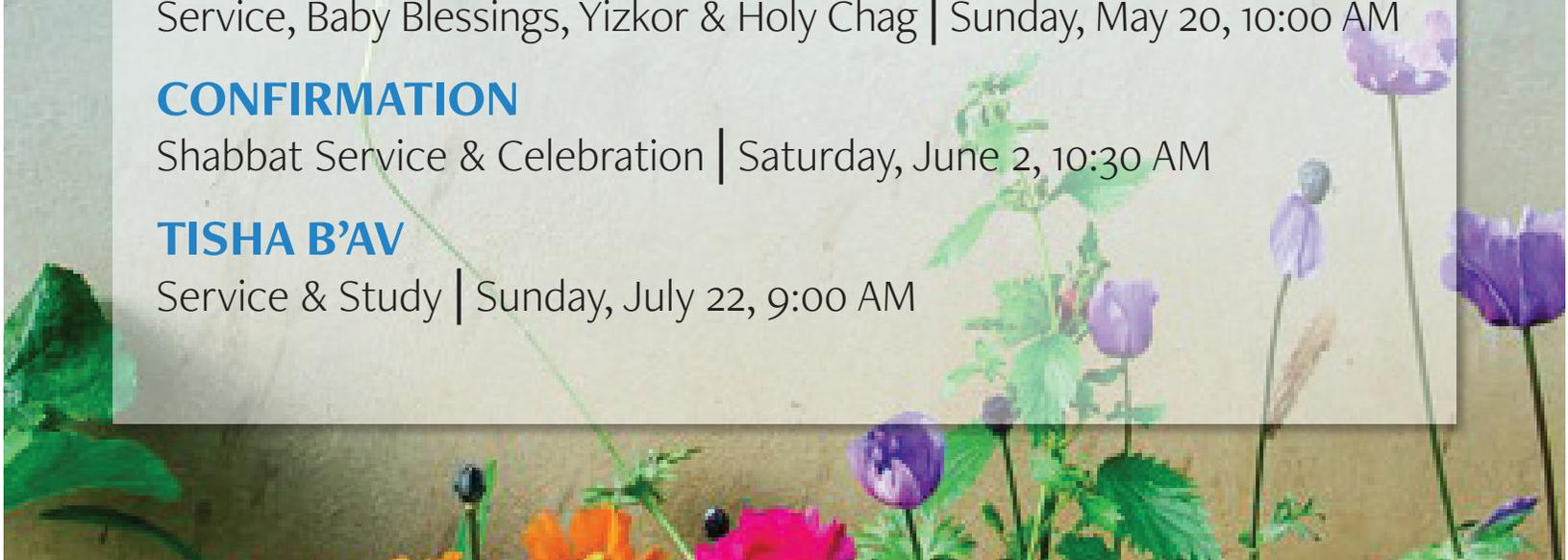
Service, Baby Blessings, Yizkor & Holy Chag | Sunday, May 20, 10:00 AM

CONFIRMATION

Shabbat Service & Celebration | Saturday, June 2, 10:30 AM

TISHA B'AV

Service & Study | Sunday, July 22, 9:00 AM



HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE BULLETIN PESACH 2018



Holy Blossom Temple

1950 Bathurst Street,
Toronto, Ontario M5P 3K9

T: 416.789.3291 E: stories@holyblossom.org

www.holyblossom.org



www.holyblossom.org