



HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE

Bulletin

THE COVENANT OF BELONGING

HOLY
GROUNDS
CAFÉ

Beginning Sunday, April 24

from 9-30 each Sunday

Holy Days and Festivals 5783*

Observed at Holy Blossom Temple

Selichot | September 17, 2022

Rosh Hashanah | September 25-27, 2022

Yom Kippur | October 4-5, 2022

Sukkot | October 9-17, 2022

Shemini Atzeret | October 16-17, 2022

Simchat Torah | October 17-18, 2022

Chanukah | December 18-26, 2022

Shabbat Shirah | February 3-4, 2023

Tu BiShvat | February 5-6, 2023

Purim | March 6-7, 2023

Pesach | April 5-12, 2023

Yom HaShoah | April 17-18, 2023

Yom HaZikaron & Yom HaAtzmaut | April 24-26, 2023

Lag BaOmer | May 8-9, 2023

Yom Yerushalayim | May 18-19, 2023

Shavuot | May 25-26, 2023

Tisha B'Av | July 26-27, 2023

**Holidays begin at sundown on the first date listed above*



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**IT'S TIME TO
RENEW
YOUR HBT
MEMBERSHIP!**



HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE **Bulletin**

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On the cover: It's more than just a cup of excellent coffee! Holy Blossom Temple is proud to partner with Rafiken Social Enterprises, an organization that trains and employs neurodiverse individuals, to bring you the Holy Grounds Café. With assistance from Reena, Holy Grounds opened as a pilot project on Sunday mornings from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm in late April and will run until June 26th. Stay tuned for information about the Fall. We hope to see and serve you soon! *The Café is dedicated by Judy Nyman and Harley Mintz.*

RABBINIC REFLECTION



The Mitzvah of Welcoming

Rabbi Yael Splansky,
Senior Rabbi

One thing we have missed throughout the pandemic is hosting and being hosted.

Hospitality reinforces the fabric of family life, communal life, and Jewish life too. Yes, there were some creative outdoor gatherings and “rapid test parties” over the two years, but multi-generational Shabbat dinners were few and far between, Seders were downsized, and Shivas were over Zoom.

Judaism raises hospitality to the level of mitzvah, a sacred obligation. It’s time to consider how we can take up this mitzvah again. Each morning’s prayer service includes the passage from the Mishnah: “*Eilu D’varim*, These are the obligations without measure, whose reward too is without measure in this world and in the World to Come.” On the short list of mitzvot which follows, our Sages include *Hachnassat Orchim*, Welcoming Guests.

Rabbi Menachem ibn Machir of Rotisbon, Germany comments on this passage in his 11th century work, *Seder HaYom*. He identifies five acts of kindness embedded in the mitzvah of hospitality: 1) provide a resting place for travellers; 2) provide food and drink; 3) save people from loneliness; 4) extend fellowship to one you do not know; and 5) following the model of Abraham and Sarah, provide spiritual uplift as well as physical comforts.

When Abraham was recovering from surgery, God came to visit him. (Genesis 18) When three strangers approached Abraham’s tent, he left God’s presence to greet them. Our Talmudic Sages, therefore, deduce: “Hospitality is even greater than receiving the Divine presence.” (Shabbat 127a) That is, according to Jewish law, if you are praying, and a potential guest comes along, you can interrupt your prayers to perform the mitzvah of welcoming a guest. (Maimonides’ *Mishneh Torah*, *Eivel* 14:2)

Holy Blossom’s renewed spaces were built for hospitality. Congregational Shabbat dinners are back. Shabbat Kiddush-lunches and weekday morning

bagel breakfasts are provided again. Holy Grounds Café, dedicated by Judy Nyman and Harley Mintz, welcomes all into our sunlit Schwartz/Reisman Atrium for delicious coffee and comfort. Our spaces – small, medium, and large – are also available for congregants to host their own circles of family and friends for life cycle milestones and more intimate gatherings. If you are looking to host colleagues for a work meeting or host an event for a worthy cause you support, our doors are open to you. For a number of good reasons, congregants may prefer to host at Holy Blossom – your home away from home (to make arrangements, please contact our Simcha Coordinator, Lindsay Mockler).

As we emerge from the pandemic and the isolation it demanded, let us take up the great and joyful mitzvah of hospitality for those we know and for those we don’t yet know, too. We hope the government will allow us to host Out of the Cold again in the fall. Many congregants, in partnership with JIAS, are now forming Welcoming Circles to provide support for newcomers to Canada. And our Interfaith Committee is hosting a series of events this Spring to build bridges among our neighbours. These acts of *chesed* also fall under the mitzvah of hospitality.

The greatest hospitality of all time is shown by God. Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik teaches: “The Almighty is the great Host. God’s hospitality made it possible for humanity to exist, for the world to come into being. ‘To be’ means to share in the infinite being of the Almighty. The Almighty, like Abraham, invites people to partake of God’s boundless existence. Creation is an act of hospitality. Not only does God run the cosmos de facto, but the cosmos is God’s de jure. We are just strangers whom the Almighty has invited into God’s ‘tent’, which is the universe....Infinity steps aside and finitude is born. What is *Hachnassat Orchim*, if not withdrawal by the Master from a part of his home so that a stranger can occupy the empty part he vacates?”

We walk in God’s ways when we say: “Welcome.” It is a sacred and dignity-restoring act to simply open the door and announce: “*Bruchim HaBaim*. May you be blessed upon your arrival.” We look forward to welcoming you and the newcomers you will bring with you to Holy Blossom Temple this season.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Avra Rosen, Temple President

Recently, I was the Gabbai at Shabbat services. It was my first time since late 2019. With our COVID protocols in place, I sat alone on my side of the Bimah, and Rabbi Splansky sat alone on hers. Rabbi Goodman led the first part of the service from the

lectern on the upper Bimah, while Cantor

Rosen and Cantorial Soloist Lindi Rivers sang side by side on the lower Bimah. The music was bursting from them, the choir and the congregation. It was a joyous Shabbat. After we rose to face the Ark, Cantor Rosen and Lindi Rivers began singing Halleluyah from behind me, and I unexpectedly became farklempt. Tears filled my eyes. I was overwhelmed. Why now was I so emotional? Was this a personal spiritual moment because of my proximity to the Ark? Was it because I was hopeful that the days of lockdowns would soon be a distant memory? Was it because Holy Blossom Temple was fully open? Or was it because the main sanctuary was filled with so many of you that I had not seen in over two years? Whatever the reason that brought those tears to my eyes, it was a Halleluyah moment for me.

I closed my eyes and thought of all the changes and accomplishments we had experienced at Holy Blossom Temple since last summer. It was on the eve of the High Holy Days that Rachel Malach, a congregant, stepped into the very big shoes as our Executive Director. Since then, Rachel has caught every curve ball thrown her way, building a strong administrative team including hiring several new staff members, who were introduced to you in the last Bulletin and whom I hope you have had a chance to meet. We have a fabulous clergy team at Holy Blossom and while it is always hard to say goodbye to Rabbis whom we have watched grow and with whom we have built relationships, we said goodbye to Rabbi Helfman and his family in December as they moved to the UK and we now say goodbye to Rabbi Goodman and his family as they move back to Cincinnati. That Shabbat was also a special Shabbat because we met our incoming Associate Rabbi Sam Kaye and Assistant Rabbi Eliza McCarroll, both of whom are introducing themselves to you in this Bulletin. We are so fortunate at Holy Blossom Temple to have such wonderful clergy, senior staff, and staff, each of whom participated in the fabulous video that was sent to the entire congregation just before Passover, welcoming you and new members to our “casita.”

Pre-pandemic, the only way to participate in Shabbat and Yom Tov services was inside Holy Blossom. In those days, we would never have referred to the services as being in-person. We went from moving all our services onto Zoom and later livestream platforms, and then by the time of our second High Holy Days of the pandemic, we were able to extend an invitation to each of you to attend one service in person, pivoting from virtual services to multi-access

services. We even had a tent for our families in the Dewbourne parking lot, another first. Today, we are learning to live with the virus, which some say will always be with us. We are back to having services each day inside of Holy Blossom. The new normal is that services will also continue to be available online. Each time I speak with someone who has returned to services for the first time in-person, we marvel together at the specialness of being back and our newfound appreciation for participating in a worship service with others, in the place of being at home alone. For those who are not yet comfortable to be back inside 1950 Bathurst Street, when you do return, we look forward to sharing your new beginning with you.

Many of our Vice-Presidents have been busy creating new committees, populating those and existing committees, partnering with our staff to create new programs or relaunch prior programs that had to take a hiatus, even online. We are back at work finalizing our strategic plan. We have been busy with many social action causes including interfaith programs, supporting refugees from so many countries including Ukraine and responding to antisemitic events. Thanks to the generous support of the Azrieli-Blanc family, Holy Grounds Café reopened in our Atrium in April on select Sundays. Temple is proud of this new partnership with Rafiken Social Enterprises, Inc., which trains and employs members of the neurodiverse population to animate our café once again.

The Board, with the support of many including the past and current Vice-President of Finance, the finance committee, the alignment committee, and the sponsorship committee, is committed to ensuring our fiscal sustainability. While our June 30, 2021, Financial Statement was delayed in its presentation to the congregation, we balanced our budget, in large part thanks to the generosity of our incredible congregation. Our Foundation is transitioning back to being a fundraising foundation, building endowment funds to secure the future of our congregation for generations to come. In fact, even though we have lost loved ones during the pandemic, new membership has grown in each of these last two years, welcoming many young families, some of whom come to us from our very successful Early Childhood Centre.

I heard Halleluyah building. It was coming to an end. I was not yet ready to make eye contact with Rabbi Splansky, who by now can read me like a book. I knew that if she saw me in my moment, the dam of tears would really open up. I took a few deep breaths and slowly opened my eyes, hiding my smile behind my mask. I thanked God for giving me the courage to accept the nomination of President of Holy Blossom Temple in late 2019, not knowing then that I would have an unforgettable (and sometimes exhausting) presidency during a historic time in our lives. I thanked God for helping all of us at Holy Blossom Temple reach this moment together. We have emerged strong after successfully navigating uncharted waters, we have successfully turned so many corners, we have grown, we were planning, and we were back. Halleluyah and amen.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Looking Back, Looking Forward

Rachel Malach, Executive Director

As I round the bend to finish off my first year as Executive Director at Holy Blossom Temple, there is a lot to reflect on, a lot to be proud of, and a bright future with a lot of hard work ahead.

My professional journey at Temple began precisely one week before High Holy Days 2021 – our first ever multi-access High Holy Days where we had congregants joining both in-person and online. It has been my pleasure to meet and reconnect with many of you over the past 10 months and I look forward to seeing you all again and again. As I learn more and more about the membership as a whole and about each of you individually, I am continually astounded by the incredible makeup of our congregation.

The generosity of the congregation is extremely moving. This year, there were many meaningful sponsorship *shidduchs* made in addition to a successful Annual Congregational Appeal, culminating in an outstanding match campaign toward the end of 2021. Throughout the year, my eyes were opened to the generosity of our amazing volunteers who work tirelessly to enhance everything that happens at Temple. Thank you for your support in the many ways in which you give!

There have been many changes this year at Holy Blossom. In the last Bulletin I introduced you to our new team members and we will welcome two incoming Rabbis in June to add strength to our fantastic clergy team. We continue to work on filling some of the lasting staff vacancies on staff and I will look forward to more introductions in the future.

We have also put many new systems into place behind the scenes. IT upgrades continue to be rolled out, alongside a brand-new accounting system and software that have very recently been put into action. These changes are long overdue and while it will take some time to get fully up and running, these are all positive steps in the right direction. The Holy Blossom Temple staff have embraced and led these changes with an open mind, ready to contribute to the future of Temple. I have challenged our professional team often this year and each time they have risen to the occasion. I am proud of the work they do every day, and especially when on top of our very busy business as usual, the team happily rallies to make an unforgettable Pesach Parody. Whether centre-stage or behind the scenes, the HBT team is made up of stars!

I look forward to continuing to work with my trusted partners – our unbelievably committed President, Avra Rosen and our always inspirational Senior Rabbi, Yael Splansky. I am blessed to work with such a dedicated and creative team of professionals, lay leaders – including our board of directors, and volunteers, who all work together to accomplish something that is larger than the sum of its parts. To make the most of your membership, I encourage you to get involved at Temple in any way that speaks to you. With opportunities throughout the year for worship, learning, programming for all ages and genres, and many meaningful ways to volunteer, the possibilities to give and receive are here for you.

I would like to express my thanks to all of you who are part of the fabric that makes Holy Blossom Temple the truly special place that it is. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to continue to serve our community in such a meaningful way.



MEMBERSHIP

An update from Rachel Saslove, Director of Membership and Community Engagement & Sarah McNally, Vice President, Membership

Another year has passed, and the membership department has been hard at work. This past year, we welcomed 81 households to our congregation, twenty of which were welcomed into our YAD (Young Adult Division). We continue the important work of engaging our members across all life stages – from YAD and our young families – through to our seniors. We are thrilled to be home to a diverse and full community.

HBTogether

Our HBTogether Groups continued to thrive throughout the past year. Under the tremendous leadership of co-chairs Jill Kamin and Karen Kollins, these diverse groups – including Ukulele Group, Poetry and Writing Group, Walking Group, and others flourished and provided a wonderful small community for their members.

We look forward to continuing to build these communities within our broader Holy Blossom community.

Have an idea for a small group? It's easy to start one – Sas, along with Jill and Karen, are here to support you, and our Leaders' Handbook will provide you with tips and tricks to hosting meetings and sustaining your group as it develops.

Pirchei Kodesh Club

Each year on Shavuot, we celebrate the “Chai” anniversaries of our member families. This year, we recognize one member family celebrating their 90th anniversary of membership at Holy Blossom Temple, four celebrating their 72nd anniversary, twenty celebrating their 54th anniversary, twenty-one celebrating their 36th anniversary, and eleven celebrating their 18th anniversary. These inductees into the Pirchei Kodesh Society remind us of the strength of community and connection, and we look forward to continuing this tradition in the years to come.

Terumah – Gifts from the Heart

Each family is unique, and at Holy Blossom Temple, we offer a personalized approach to membership

that lets families whose oldest child is 8 or younger determine a membership contribution that works for them. Our Terumah program allows for our young families to balance the needs of their family with support for our congregation.

If you know someone with children under 8 who is looking for an inclusive, engaging space with accessible and meaningful Jewish experiences, where they can find a strong and supportive Jewish community, please connect them with Sas.

For more information about all Terumah has to offer, please visit our website at www.holyblossom.org/terumah

Members' Portal

Our Members' Portal continues to be an easy and user-friendly system for members to renew membership online, view the Holy Blossom Temple calendar and register for upcoming programs, register for YEC, and manage and update their accounts and personal information. The Members' Portal is also home to the Portal for Meaningful Membership, an on-going opportunity for our congregants to connect with Temple more deeply.

This Portal allows Holy Blossom members to tell us their stories – about their skills and hobbies, their interests and their wants. It also gives members an opportunity to tell us about their families. As we continue to learn from our members in this way, we are better able to know and serve our congregation, and to create connections within our Holy Blossom community.

Haven't had a chance to complete yours yet? Login at holyblossomtemple.congregationconnect.com/ today! If you do not know your login information, please contact the Membership department, who will email you a login link.

Life Can Blossom Here

Over the last two years, we have been reminded of the importance of a strong community. As the world continues to shift and change, we are inspired, motivated, and energized to continue strengthening the Holy Blossom community. If someone you know – a friend, a family member, a neighbour, or a colleague – is looking for a Jewish community, please connect them with Sas. Sometimes a personal invitation makes all the difference.

FRIDAY NIGHT AT HOLY BLOSSOM

Cantor David Rosen, Senior Cantor



The Best Part of Your Week!

As a cantor, I often get asked the question, “What is Your favourite prayer or service?” While singing Kol Nidre on Yom Kippur in our beautiful sanctuary with a glorious choir is an annual highlight, there is one service that happens weekly, which continues to inspire and bring an incredible energy to worship. I am talking about our 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service in the Mishkan.

For those of you who have not experienced Friday Night services at Holy Blossom or have not attended in a while, I can assure you that there is an incredible spiritual experience that is waiting for you at 1950 Bathurst Street. What is it about this particular service that is unique or particularly inspiring you ask? It’s all about the music...

Toronto is blessed to have some of the most incredible and renowned instrumentalists. From the Jazz scene to the Musical theatre stage to the Klezmer world, we have begun to invite some of the most renowned musical artists to be a part of our Friday Night Experience at Holy Blossom. On Friday June 17th, there will be a special Kabbalat Shabbat Service, where we will profile some of these incredible instrumentalists. These musicians elevate our prayer experience in ways that elevate the words in our prayerbook to a new level. Our brilliant Musician-in-Residence, Jason Jestadt leads a pack of some of the city’s most prolific and creative instrumentalists. Whether it’s the smooth silky sounds of the cello, the joyful cry of a clarinet, the steady pulse of percussion, or the ethnic sound of the oud, each of these musicians brings their talent and souls to every prayer experience. They become an integral part of our Tefilah and depending on who is in the musical ensemble that week can change the emotion or feeling of a given prayer.

The service starts promptly at 6:00 pm and is almost always exactly one hour in length. This of course leaves you plenty of time to make it home to enjoy your own Shabbat dinner with family and friend at a reasonable hour. In addition to the elevated musical experience, you will also feel the power of community spanning across the generations. As we continue to re-enter the building, soon you will see the smiling faces of our children from our wonderful Tot Shabbat service on your way into the service. They will have opportunities to join us for candle lighting and a few songs at the beginning of services and, of course, you will make it home in time to put the little ones to bed.

In the weeks and months to come, we will be experimenting with different musicians and Shabbat repertoire that is sure to elevate your heart and create a prayer experience for you that is transformative. On June 17th we welcomed an exceptional ensemble of musicians that will model some of the transformational worship we have been working on for Kabbalat Shabbats to come.

Of course, none of this can happen without your participation and generous support. If you are interested in learning more about this transformational worship and/or sponsoring our musical ensemble, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Wishing you all a safe and joyous summer and can’t wait to see you in the Mishkan on Friday night!



CULMINATION, NOT CONCLUSION

Rabbi Bill S. Tepper, Adjunct Rabbi



As I write this text – and owing to our Temple Bulletin's publication timelines – two and a half months remain in my tenure as Adjunct Rabbi at Holy Blossom Temple. All the same, there is a good deal I have yet to experience during this home stretch of my life as a member of our congregation's clergy team.

In the days ahead, there will be additional learning and teaching, preparation and guidance of Temple programming, opportunities to serve committees, time spent both leading and participating in worship, engagement with membership, and – as we persevere in our emergence from the effects of the COVID pandemic – welcoming of our congregants back into our beautiful building.

Prior to joining Holy Blossom's leadership cohort, I had served as a solo rabbi, and with more modest-sized congregational communities in both the United States and Canada. The size of our support staff had been more limited, as have been the physical dimensions of the Temple buildings themselves.

Coming to Holy Blossom Temple then, is a revelation. I am part of a highly intricate and interrelated professional organization. Our success as rabbis, cantors, cantorial soloists, administrative staff and lay leaders flows from the strength of partnership, collaboration, constant contact with one another, and the sharing of our many skills, resources, and gifts. Not to overlook – in view of the pandemic – maintaining an up-to-date understanding of communication technology! My experience has been broadened. I have been challenged in the best of ways. Besides reaching into my personal and professional toolkit of resources, it has been incumbent upon me to develop new ones. I have endeavoured to rise to the occasion. Time will determine the extent to which I have succeeded.

Holy Blossom Temple has been a part of my life – and the lives of my family – for more than twenty-five years. Beginning as a member in 1995 and proceeding with involvement in the Stagecraft Company, Religious School and – thanks to Holy Blossom – Camp George, the many moments of intellectual, emotional, and spiritual meaning culminated in my decision in 2001, to become a rabbi. A culmination, though not a conclusion. For as I turn the page to the next chapter of my professional life, Holy Blossom remains imbued in – and will continue to help define – my conception of Jewish community.

Thank you, my caring and inspiring partners on Holy Blossom's clergy team. Thank you, our congregation's generous and forever-supportive administrative staff. Thank you, our hall-of-fame custodial and security persons. Thank you, our Temple's lay leadership and membership for your many expressions of kindness. And thank you, my wife Deborah and son Max, for appreciating the early-morning departures and late-evening homecomings as I strove to embrace and fulfill my sacred tasks.

To thank Rabbi Tepper for his leadership and care, please consider making a donation to the Youth Awards Fund, to help send our teens to Camp George.

You can donate online at holyblossom.org/donate/ or contact the Foundation Office at (416) 789-3291 ext. 227 or email Anna at agurevich@holyblossom.org.



Dear Holy Blossom,

I went mezuzah shopping in Sefat a few months ago.

It was the week before Purim and I was leading a trip for young married couples, many of whom had never been to Israel before. There's something about the mystical city of Sefat, and the artist colony, which never fails to capture hearts and imaginations. It is, to me, second only to Jerusalem as a place to feel connected to our Jewish faith and I was overjoyed to be back there after three long years away. As I drifted between shopping couples, one of the brides waved me over and handed me a mezuzah of shiny beaten silver. It was beautiful, small, delicate, with a jeweled pomegranate and Hebrew lettering curling around the front. "What does it say?" she asked me.

"*Baruch atah b'voechah, ooh'varuch atah b'tzeitechah,*" I replied, "Blessed are you coming in, blessed may you be in going out."

While the mezuzah went home with her, that blessing came home with me. It's been waiting to be spoken and shared ever since.

Baruch atah b'voechah, blessed are you coming in. I am so honoured and excited to be joining the amazing clergy and staff of Holy Blossom Temple. Five years ago, I was privileged to spend the summer as your rabbinic intern and Holy Blossom has felt like home ever since. I feel truly blessed to be coming in, to be coming home, once again. Of course, things are different now! Five years ago, we were still at the beginning of our renewal project. The gorgeous atrium, our soulful Mishkan, and all the other inviting spaces of our synagogue were literally just a dream on a page and a sizeable hole in the ground. I'm different too of course, more seasoned, married to my brilliant wife Taylor, and we have a happy little girl. I've spent the four years since my ordination in Atlanta Georgia serving at another beautiful and historic congregation, The Temple.

Which brings me to the second half of the blessing. *Baruch atah b'tzeitechah*, blessed may you be in going out. I feel incredibly lucky to be going from strength to strength, from one amazing mentor, team and community to another. My family and I are so excited for this transition. We can't wait to meet you, learn with you, to pray with you. To see you in our synagogue, to dance with our young people at Camp George, and of course to share the excitement of the journey when we travel home again to Israel. I look forward to every moment that we will have, together, to go out in blessing.

To those of you whom I have met before, it is so good to see you again. To those of you I will meet for the first time, thank you for welcoming us home.

Rabbi Samuel Kaye





Dear Holy Blossom Temple family,

A few weeks ago, when Rabbi Kaye and I visited you all over Shabbat HaGadol, just before Pesach, we were lucky to enjoy a beautiful (COVID-safe) dinner at the Temple together with the search

committee. At the end of our meal, in their kindness and thoughtfulness, the search committee then presented us with a cookie-cake that read: "Welcome home to HBT."

In reflecting on our recent festival of Pesach, it struck me how focused this celebration is on the home, with the Seder, of course, being a ritual meal conducted at our own tables. Having lived in a few homes over my lifetime, I thought I would share some of what I am bringing with, and looking forward to, in my new home at Holy Blossom.

Coming straight from my current home at Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) in Cincinnati, following our upcoming ordination, I am fortunate over the last five years to have had a wide variety of formational experiences. These include serving at student pulpits, teaching at Jewish day school, completing a chaplaincy unit at a hospital, engaging college students at a Hillel, and researching and recruitment work for Jewish organisations.

Prior to rabbinical school, I grew up ensconced in the Reform Jewish community in my hometown of Sydney, Australia, becoming heavily involved in the camp world through Netzer Olami, and working at my home synagogue. Additionally, I lived in Israel, studying at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where I decided that the rabbinate would be the right path to pursue.

With an eye keenly on the future, words cannot express my delight at the prospect of making Holy Blossom Temple home. I am so looking forward to joining a community who have been extraordinarily warm and welcoming, who love to learn, who take their Judaism to heart, and who are so eager to contribute to the world in meaningful, positive ways through their many gifts and talents. Moreover, I look forward to being part of the phenomenal team of clergy and professionals who work hard and work together to bring you the standard of excellence you expect and deserve.

When not at the Temple, I make a place home by spending time with loved ones, reading a good book, watching comedy, cooking, and petting every dog possible (including my family dog, Billy - pictured). I also enjoy going for long walks or meeting for coffee, so please reach out as I would love for you to join me for one (or both) of those endeavours!

At the conclusion of the Seder, we say "next year in Jerusalem," as we eagerly anticipate that which is to come. Now, however, it might be more apt to say *L'Shana Ha'ba'ah b'Toronto* – next year in Toronto, as I am filled with excitement at the many good things ahead, in our amazing new home. I can't wait to see you in June!

With best wishes,
Rabbi Eliza McCarroll



YAD RETENTION TASKFORCE

Avram Musafija, Board Member & Rabbi Zachary Goodman, Assistant Rabbi



Holy Blossom Temple is deeply committed to its YAD community, which captures ages 19 through to 35. We have and continue to organize multiple levels of engagement and provide many opportunities for connecting. Over the years, we have developed programs aimed at professional development, social justice, community building, religious learning, and good ol' socializing. Our engagement initiatives have varied in size as well, from hosting small Shabbat dinners to full-on cocktail mixers with live entertainment. These events have created opportunities for members to step up as leaders and run programs that make a difference in our community. They also provide non-congregants a chance to see some of the advantages of being a member. We at Holy Blossom Temple are lucky to have such a deep bench – as they say – of great YAD members.

Over the last 10 years, however, we have also had consistent issues with the retention of the members in this demographic. This represents a major trend in synagogue life around the globe. Everyone is asking, how do we keep our 20s and 30s connected?

To address this question, the YAD Retention Taskforce was created. We quickly noted that the range of 19 to 35 is as broad and transitional of an age group as you can imagine. It captures everyone from individuals starting out at university to folks well established in their careers. There are single YAD students living out on their own for the first time and there are YAD members who are getting married and starting families – and everything in between.

In this stage of life, with so many important life events happening in relatively quick succession, engagement with the synagogue is understandably not at the top of everyone's priority list. So we, like so many Jewish communities, have had trouble with establishing and *maintaining* open channels of communication. An early attempt to address this trend was to create a scaled contribution schedule that would make membership entirely free from the ages of 19-22, and increase modestly over time.

Looking back at the last few years, we found that it was often the case that when a member turns 19, they did not take agency over their own membership, but instead continued to let their parents renew it for them. Subsequently, when parents handed the responsibility of renewal on to their kids, it was often forgotten and left to lapse. We believe this is not due to laziness or lack of connection to Holy Blossom, but rather, because the renewal process has been a passive occurrence for most YAD members all their lives.

Our next idea is so crazy that it just might work! Although seemingly counterintuitive, we have developed a 'Contribution Model' where payments for YAD members begin earlier, structured as a nominal \$18 annual subscription payment, and acts as a way of closing the communication gaps, allowing us to communicate events and programs more clearly, and further assist with onboarding. Our YAD Retention Taskforce wants to connect to people sooner rather than waiting for them to be finished university.

Finally, we want to help our YAD members really mark the occasion and highlight the significance of becoming an independent congregant of Holy Blossom Temple! Just like any new member, each new YAD member should be contacted by a "YAD Navigator." It is important for someone to reach out to you, welcome you in, and help you get integrated. Consistent engagement is what we believe will be the cornerstone of strengthening our YAD base.



DISPATCHES FROM THE ADULT EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Sharoni Sibony, Adult Education Coordinator on behalf of Gillian Helfield
and the Adult Education Committee

This is an invitation.

Our Adult Education programming at Temple, as in so many other synagogues and Jewish organizations, favours a certain type of learner. We know this. We know that the people who form our learning communities are people who generally liked school and its structures, who liked reading and picking apart a text, who liked classrooms and discussions. And we program really well for this kind of learner. We offer outstanding [Melton](#) and [Hartman](#) classes, opportunities to sit with our clergy team in contemplative conversation for [Shabbat Torah study](#), lectures and panels, chevruta (paired) learning, weekly [small group study](#) with [Mark Goodman](#), book and film discussions that bring an analytical lens to Jewish creativity.

Our Rabbis of old built these educational structures when the Temple was destroyed, centering Jewish learning in the Beit Midrash – the rabbinic houses of study alive with discussion and debate. But they also recorded accounts of students who needed to learn in other ways, by observation, by mimicry, by embodied practice, not only by book or by analysis. To these moments, they said, “This, too, is Torah!”

As Jews, there’s “Torah” in everything we do: there’s Torah in our kitchen, in our foodways, in our cooking; there’s Torah on our baseball diamonds, and in our bleachers, and when we go for a run; there’s Torah when you play guitar, sing, dance; there’s Torah, too, when you engage in stim practices, when you give your body the rest it needs, when you make things, and when you disrupt patterns. There’s Torah in our brain fog, in our blurs, and in our disrupted thoughts. There’s Torah in both the positive and negative spaces around these very letters. How can we find it and connect with it?

As we continue to offer exceptional lectures with experts in their fields, and outstanding courses built from Melton, Hartman, and other curriculum resources, we also want to create more expansive, inclusive learning communities that allow you to connect with Torah and Jewish life in different ways.

Our invitation to you is this: help us reimagine what a robust, multi-faceted, and inclusive buffet of adult Jewish learning looks like at Temple. Tell us about your own questions, or the questions of those close to you. Tell us about how you like to learn, and what kind of activities you like to participate in. And let’s discover what we can build together because this endeavour, too, is Torah.

Reach out to Sharoni at: ssibony@holyblossom.org to share your thoughts.



HBT WITHOUT BORDERS: THE REMARKABLE RELATIONSHIP OF JENNIFER MALVIN AND HOLY BLOSSOM

Rabbi Bill S. Tepper and Jennifer Malvin

The Holy Blossom community has moved me in ways I cannot explain...it is a community founded upon kindness, infused with both compassion and curiosity, and rooted in prayer.

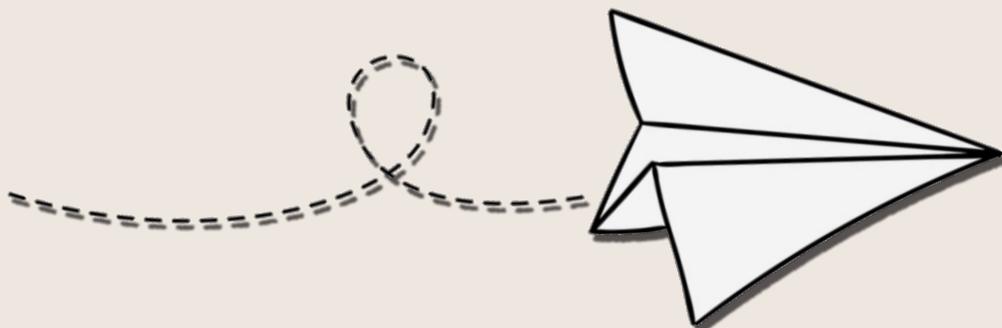
- Jennifer Malvin

Since I began attending and – in my position as Adjunct Rabbi – supporting our Temple’s shacharit services, I have come to know Jennifer Malvin. Given that many of our worshippers – owing to the effect of the COVID pandemic – continue to attend services virtually, Jennifer is a fixture on our shacharit ZOOM screen. And as I have discovered, Jennifer is a regular participant in other Holy Blossom programs: music, film, literature, Torah Study, bereavement support and Israel Dialogue, among others. She is in love with learning and the experience of prayer.

But now comes something extraordinary: not only does Jennifer Malvin engage with Holy Blossom by way of virtual platforms, but she does so entirely from her home in Los Angeles. A native of New York, and a long-time resident of Los Angeles, Jennifer is teacher of piano at a Montessori School in her city, as well as for private students. Together with Holy Blossom, she maintains an enduring relationship with Sinai Temple of Los Angeles.

In Holy Blossom, Jennifer has found a beautifully welcoming community. She loves our people and moments of study and worship. She has developed friendships with our congregants. She writes: “I am indebted to [those who] continue to welcome me to this day. They instantly made me feel a part of their circle and have long since become dear friends.” And though Jennifer rises each morning well before the sun is up to accommodate the difference in time zones, she would not have it any other way. Notwithstanding the continental divide, she is very much at home with our Holy Blossom community.

May Holy Blossom Temple continue to be blessed with the dynamic presence, enthusiasm, and spirit of Jennifer Malvin.



HBT BY THE NUMBERS

From 2021 to 2022 | 5781 to 5782

- 10** Baby Namings/Brit Milah (bris)
- 20** Consecrations
- 46** B'nei Mitzvah
- 22** Conversions
- 16** Weddings
- 55** Funerals

- 73** Early Childhood Centre Students
- 132** Youth Education Centre Students
- 400+** Muffins and cookies baked through virtual mitzvah bakers
- 45** HBT campers & staff at Camp George



1674

Member Households, including...

- 253** Households Members for 50+ years
- 483** Households Members for 25-50 years
- 261** Households Members for 15-25 years
- 387** Households Members for 5-15 years
- 290** Households Members less than 5 years
- 101** Terumah Households
- 247** YAD (Young Adult Division) designations

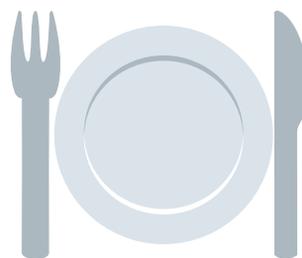
27

Little Blossoms joined us IN PERSON for our winter session



191

Cups of coffee served at Holy Grounds Café in five Sundays!



40+

Members attended the *first* congregational Shabbat dinner in over 2 years!



127

Livestreamed services & concerts



43.2 THOUSAND

Engagements, reactions, comments, and shares on "We Don't Talk About Pharaoh"

FROM THE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Your 2022/2023 Fundraising Team:

Development and fundraising are an integral part of Holy Blossom Temple. Our Annual Appeal supports so much of what makes Holy Blossom unique. Philanthropy, at all levels of giving, meaningfully connects our congregation to our Temple and to each other.

All this good work only happens because of the profound commitment and stellar leadership of our exceptional Annual Campaign volunteers. I am proud and delighted to introduce you to your 2022/2023 Annual Campaign Team!



MARLA SPIEGEL

I joined Holy Blossom Temple in 2005, the year I was married. Although I grew up at a Conservative shul, we chose Holy Blossom as the place to raise our family because we found the congregation and clergy to be welcoming and inclusive.

Holy Blossom continues to be a wonderful, accepting community. We appreciate the diversity of events, programs and activities that engage people with various interests and at various stages of life. In 2020, I joined the HBT Board and immediately got involved with the fundraising team, where I met other members who are passionate about ensuring a strong foundation and future for HBT. The importance of volunteering and fundraising was impressed upon me at a young age by watching my mother's contributions to support women and children in Israel through Canadian Hadassah-WIZO. In fact, my earliest experiences as a fundraiser were at the legendary Hadassah Bazaar.

There are so many amazing offerings at HBT, and I look forward to reconnecting with members within the synagogue space over the coming months. As VP of Development, I invite you all to get involved in synagogue life – and feel the benefit of being a part of this special community.



ELLEN COLE

I have been at Holy Blossom Temple all my life. I was consecrated, confirmed and married at Holy Blossom. My parents were Temple Singers in the 'fifties and 'sixties and now I am a Temple Singer. I even taught at the religious school for a time. When I returned to Toronto after some years in Europe and rejoined Holy Blossom, I became very active as a volunteer. I worked on fundraisers, shared my professional expertise in marketing and fundraising and ultimately was invited to become a Board member. I continue to sit on the Board as VP of Administration.

Music is my passion and I am particularly excited about the creation of the Cantor's Chorus which will provide opportunities for us to reach out to people who love music and work towards endowing music at Holy Blossom Temple.



JOAN GARSON

Neither my husband David, nor I were members of Holy Blossom Temple before we had a family. Our children's Jewish identity began at Holy Blossom nursery school. We picked the school because it was around the corner from where we lived and we quickly became engaged in Temple life. Our children now live outside Toronto and belong to other shuls so we stay committed to Holy Blossom to make sure we can take care of other people's children and our Jewish future.

I am very lucky to be a fundraiser in such an extraordinary community that cares deeply about making a better world. Together, we are performing a Mitzvah. I also take great pleasure in supporting our outstanding staff who are working so hard to write the next chapter for Holy Blossom Temple. Fundraising is a joyful experience. I have the privilege of working to ensure that our big dreams as a congregation come true.



ELANA PAICE LIDSKY

My family joined Holy Blossom Temple when I was seven years old. My mother and I became very active at Temple and it's where I learned to love community. I especially loved the

Reform movement youth group – it was particularly nurturing and lovely and it is what led me to Jewish communal work.

Two areas of Temple are important to me: education and fundraising. By increasing funding of our educational endeavours, we increase excellence. Fundraising for me is comfortable and exciting. It's both an honour and a pleasure to help our community members achieve their philanthropic goals. I would like to work on making our Annual Campaign more engaging for our congregation so that everyone feels connected and appreciated. It is important for everyone to know that every single gift is meaningful and each one makes the Holy Blossom Campaign stronger.



SAM SAPERA

I have been a member of Holy Blossom all my life as were my parents and grandparents. I grew up in this shul and I have raised my family at Holy Blossom. I feel very connected to the wonderful

clergy and meaningful worship at our Temple and it holds a special place in my heart.

I have always been a very active volunteer fundraiser. I have run the Lymphoma Golf Tournament since 2015 and I am currently the Chair of The Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation, and it is my pleasure to bring my experience to Holy Blossom.

I am looking forward to being part of the reinvigoration of our Foundation, realizing our collective dream of a new educational wing and continuing to professionalize the development team. Let us continue to go from strength to strength to strength.



SHIRA LESTER, Director of Development & Donor Engagement

I have worked in development in the Jewish Community for almost 20 years. I believe in fostering a culture of philanthropy by

building strong, lasting relationships with donors and providing “concierge service” as part of donor cultivation and stewardship. I deeply understand the importance of synagogue life and I am privileged to be part of securing the future for Holy Blossom Temple.

I would love to hear from you so please contact me at anytime at slester@holyblossom.org or by phone at 416-789-3291 x 261.

Philanthropy was crucial in helping us meet the financial challenges of COVID and because of your generosity and support, we are in a strong position to move forward together. Your annual gift is essential to ensure that Holy Blossom Temple can do it all; deliver excellence in programming, lead meaningful worship, provide a beautiful space to celebrate together and fulfill our mission as a leading congregation of the Reform Movement.

Your annual gift is crucial to the brilliant future of our beloved Temple. Please give as generously as you can. Every donation has an impact.

Let us breathe a collective sigh of relief and say to each other with confidence, welcome back!

To give online: holyblossom.org/donate/

To give by phone: 416-789-3291 ext. 261

To give with your membership contribution please complete the pledge in your membership renewal package.



HABSTY'S YEAR IN REVIEW

Danielle Lester & Zoey Wallhouse, HABSTY Co-Presidents

HABSTY had an amazing 2021/2022 school year. From in person to online and back in person, it has been so much fun to get to know the teens at Holy Blossom. Every Monday night, we have had the amazing privilege to gather in our beautiful HABSTY lounge. Some of our favourite activities have been hide-and-go-seek, Kahoot and Jeopardy games, water games, tree planting, and even a fashion show! Being back in person for lounge nights has given us the opportunity to bond and reconnect as a group, and to our building! Even though our more extravagant lounge nights were a blast, the best nights have been simply hanging out in our new billiards room and talking about our days.

We are excited about the new Teen Outdoor Club that kicked off this spring! Sophie Rivers, our Youth Engagement Coordinator, has led walks through the Brickworks and Cedarvale Ravine to promote healthy outlooks and taking a break from the busy lives we lead. There is an overnight camping Shabbat in June!

It has been a great year and while many of our HABSTY board is graduating this year, we cannot wait to see what the future brings, and we wish the best of luck to the incoming board.

Thank you all for the past four years! Onward and upward.



HABSTY members had a strong turnout at NFTY-NEL's Spring Kallah in April @ Camp George. This was the first in-person event in three years! Eli Sol ended his term as Regional President, and Ruby Abramson was installed as a Regional Board member!

MILESTONES AND MARKERS: SHEHECHEYANU

Lisa Isen Bauml, Principal of Youth Education and Family Engagement



The Youth Education Centre's 2021-2022 Year in Review

The *Shehecheyanu* is often recited at a milestone – the blessing thanking God for enabling us to reach a particular moment or experience something for the first time. As I look back over this past year, there have been many *shehecheyanu* moments to celebrate, both for individual students, and for our YEC community. In addition to celebrating milestones that naturally occur during the year – Consecration outside and in person once again, children starting to learn the Aleph Bet, celebrating Purim in person as a community, b'nei mitzvah students each taking their place on the bimah for their special day, young children learning the *Ma Nishtanah*, and Confirmation of our Grade 10 students, there are many more to recognize and mark. These milestones include students learning something new or accomplishing a task, a teacher achieving a goal, individuals participating in an event together, making new friends, families celebrating together, special programs, trips and events for classes, and, most significantly this year, the ability for many of these things to happen once again together and in person.

Here are a few milestones and markers that took place this year in the YEC both online and in person:

Our youngest students in Kindergarten and Grade 1 began their Jewish learning journey, learning about holidays, Shabbat, and mitzvot. They became familiar with *T'fillah* and their melodies and started to recognize Holy Blossom as a place that is an important part of their lives.

Here are a few things our youngest learners have shared about their year in the YEC:

“I learned about Passover, Chanukah and Holy Blossom Temple,” “I learned to be kind and I helped too,” “I learned about...mitzvahs...a kind of thing you do for another person.”

Older students were once again able to learn together, working in chevruta – small groups – partnering and helping each other, reconnecting, and strengthening relationships. Grade 4 and 5 students created projects on Israel and prophets, teaching their peers and classmates. Grade 6 students ‘graduated’ to Monday nights for their classes and are getting ready to embark on their preparations for b'nei mitzvah. Grade 7 students were able to take field trips and invite guest speakers into their class once again. These have always been memorable and meaningful experiences for students.

JTEM – our post b'nei mitzvah class for teens, grew and flourished. Reuniting fully in-person, this group bonded and became a strong, supportive community. In addition to learning, discussion and debate, these teens created and ran programs for each other and for the senior school, learning and practicing valuable leadership skills.

Hebrew learning continued exclusively online this year in small groups or one-on-one. Some of our older students learned conversational skills and had basic conversations with one another about the weather, family, and foods they like and dislike. Some individual students who struggled with Hebrew in the past, were able to overcome their hurdles and can now read.

The YEC gathered each week for hybrid *T'fillah*, including the online learners in our community. We created and hung special *mezzuzot* throughout the school wing of our building as part of our Chanukah celebrations, we sang and danced through the building to re-create the exodus in the Pesach story, we welcomed back our *shinshinit* Aviv, who created wonderful Israel programming throughout the year, senior school was able to resume snack sales for *Tzedakah* in the ‘food zone’ of our building, YEC families helped celebrate the opening of the Holy Grounds Café, HABSTY resumed weekly lounge nights, Junior Mitzvah Bakers had its first in-person baking event, and more! Each of these happenings is a milestone, worthy of a *Shehecheyanu*.



**WHEN YOU ARE AN ECC
FAMILY YOU ALSO BELONG
TO THE HOLY BLOSSOM
TEMPLE COMMUNITY**

Wendy Steinberg Himmel,
Director, Early Childhood
Centre

At the Early Childhood Centre, our primary objective is to present a well-balanced program. The children make transitions between active and quiet time, group and individual activities, creative and more structured play. Although there is underlying consistency, organization and routine, much flexibility exists in daily activities allowing for optimal creative learning experiences.

Our wide, rich Jewish experiences aim to develop a positive Jewish identity. The Judaic curriculum provides enriched programming around holidays, Shabbat and Israel. The children are guided through Reform Jewish traditions, values and rituals enabling them to see the world through “Jewish eyes.” These activities may include visits with Temple clergy, visits to the Temple sanctuary, Mishkan, Sukkah and beautiful Temple library, or a weekly Kabbalat Shabbat, learning to do *mitzvot*, as well as continuous opportunities to perform acts of *Tzedakah* and *Tikun Olam*.

Our ECC families are part of the Holy Blossom Temple community and we engage in Temple holiday celebrations and family learning and engagement programming.

We are committed to embracing the entire family through family celebrations and parent participation. We are also very committed to learning from each other. Parents and teachers are partners in education. In this way, we best support all interests and concerns, highlight the learning, and focus our attention on a positive continuum of growth.

Sarah Brager: *When I think of the concept of belonging, I am immediately drawn to the word community. More specifically, being a part of a Jewish community. Holy Blossom Temple has contributed to that feeling for me - as a young girl attending the Early Childhood Centre myself, to religious school, Judy and David services, Hebrew school and eventually completing my Bat Mitzvah. As a young adult I volunteered at Out of the Cold and was married at Holy Blossom Temple. Now as an “older” adult I am an ECC parent. Our three young children have attended Nursery School at Holy Blossom Temple and have had incredible*

early childhood education experiences - just like I had! It is important to my husband and me that our children experience belonging. In an ever changing, and at times, confusing world we know our kids will embrace their Jewish community and feel a sense of belonging being members of Holy Blossom. Our kids are fourth generation members - how incredibly special is that?!

Sylvia Papernick: *As a member of the Temple and part of the teaching team in the Early Childhood Centre, I appreciate all the efforts that go into the school program. When the children are paid a visit by the Rabbi or Cantor, join in a holiday celebration with the Temple or enjoy the space in the Mishkan, they are surrounded by the warmth and community that is Holy Blossom. I feel proud knowing that I am a part of their early Jewish education, and such a long-standing tradition of engagement. At this time when we celebrate our freedom, it is liberating to know that as educators we are supported by the staff, clergy and congregation as a whole.*

Kim Kozloff and Jeremy Nusinowitz: *My parents have been members of HBT for more than 35 years. My sister and I both attended the nursery school and Hebrew school, and we both celebrated our Bat Mitzvahs at Holy Blossom Temple. Both of my children have also attended the Early Childhood Centre at Holy Blossom. Holy Blossom Temple is a warm, dynamic, and significant place for my family, and has been for many years. It has allowed us to feel a sense of belonging to our Jewish community, and has reaffirmed the importance of being Jewish and celebrating Jewish traditions in our daily lives. The ECC has been a wonderful place to begin the education journeys of our children, teaching them foundational skills about being Jewish and celebrating Judaism and Jewish traditions. Sending our children to the ECC has allowed us to continue and strengthen our connection with HB even further. It is so special to have the kids come home singing Jewish songs. And it is one of the most heartwarming things to watch our children welcome in the Shabbat each week by singing the blessings with their grandparents. We are grateful for the learning opportunities the ECC has provided to our children and feel honoured to carry on our family traditions as members of Holy Blossom Temple.*

Ian & Kate Rosen: *It's very exciting to see our kids share in so many of the same experiences I enjoyed when I was in Pre-Nursery and Nursery at Holy Blossom! As HBT members, it is rewarding to know our kids are getting to become a part of such a strong community early on in their lives and already begin to understand so many of the Jewish traditions such as Passover, Purim and Chanukah - knowing the same songs also makes for some fun dinners at home too!*

WELCOME TO OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY



A VERY WARM WELCOME TO NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

Paul & Mylene Meister, and their child Noah

Michael Daly & Jennifer Decan, and their child Riley Daly

Lindsay Dworkin & Neil Whitford, and their child Mira Whitford

Sydney Caminetsky & Russell Shaul

Aaron Levine & Yasemin Tari, and their children Josh & Abe Levine

James Karrel

Dayna Mailach & Shaiel Dukerker

Aron & Sarah Brager, and their children Isabelle, Frances, & Samuel

Norman & Marilyn Freedman

Alex & Sharon Mazelow, and their children Jack, Liv, & Dylan

Jennifer & Richard Bloch, and their child Allison

Johanna Busch & Jacob Goldman

Eli Newman

Hannah & Cameron O'Neil, and their child Fisher

BIRTHS

Mazel Tov to Edward and Tara McCloskey on the birth of their daughter, Milly Liv McCloskey. Proud grandparents are Ron McCloskey and Faryl Hausman, Gillian McCloskey and Nathan and Elaine Disenhouse. Proud great-grandparents are Larry and Karen Hausman.

Judy and Allan Borodin are thrilled to announce the birth of their granddaughter, Izzy Chai Borodin on March 24, 2022. Izzy is the daughter of Talia Borodin and the sister of Bronx Borodin.

Mazel tov to Paul Meister & Mylene Bechard Meister on the birth of their son, Noah.

Mazel tov to Rabbi Zachary and Katie Goodman on the birth of their son, Ira Benjamin. Proud grandparents are Bobby & Alissa, Rob & Anne, and Judie.

Mazel tov to Lindsay Dworkin and Neil Whitford on the naming of their daughter, Mira.

Mazel tov to Jeff Dicker and Sandi Smith on the birth of their grandson, Cole Marlow. Proud parents are Matthew Dicker and Emily Abrams. Proud grandparents are David and Tara Abrams.

WEDDINGS & ENGAGEMENTS

Mazel tov to Ian Harris Swift & Samantha Swift on their wedding on April 3, 2022.

Mazel tov to Jennifer Rissover and Aaron Cincinatus on their aufruf on May 14th and their wedding on May 22nd. Proud parents are Michael & Phyllis Cincinatus and Jay & Janalee Rissover.

Mazel tov to Rebecca Howard and Mitchell Pichosky on their wedding on May 22nd. Proud parents are Richard & Ellen Howard, and Mark & Suzanne Pichosky.

Mazel tov to Task and Falan Ison on their wedding on May 19th. Proud parents are Jordan & Yvette Ison, Deborah Jane Loman, Harley & Linda Turner.

B'NEI MITZVAH



Seraphina Feldmann
February 5, 2022
Daughter of Diana Solomon
& Adam Feldmann



Jonathan Freedman
February 12, 2022
Son of Dana Chaiton
& Lee Freedman



Chloe Fruitman
February 26, 2022
Daughter of Angela Ho and
Mark Fruitman



Jack Ispanovic
March 5, 2022
Son of Katy Pitch
and Eric Ispanovic



Abigail Ross
March 12, 2022
Daughter of Rachel
& Jehred Ross



Harlan Bongard
March 26, 2022
Son of Kelly
& Warren Bongard



Ryan Bockner
April 2, 2022
Son of Leslie Gelfand
& Richard Bockner



Abigail Pollack
April 9, 2022
Daughter of Jennifer
& Daniel Pollack

IN MEMORIAM

Elizabeth Bromstein, wife of Reuben Bromstein; mother of Steven Bromstein and Ruth Bromstein

Leslie Bulkin, husband of Gertie Bulkin; father of Elana Fehler, Ron Fehler, Howard Bulkin, Carol Poplak, and Lionel Bulkin

Charles Bram Cadsby, husband of Fei Song; father of Mia Cadsby and Benjamin Cadsby; son of Maxine Cadsby; brother of Catherine Silver and Susan Morissette

Marsha Cohen, mother of Robin Cohen and Aaron Cohen; sister of Linda Kisluk and Jerry Michaels

Anne Eisenberg, mother of Helene Smagala and Morty Eisenberg

Larry Enkin, father of Peri Enkin, James Enkin and Marc Enkin

Marie Knaul, mother of Dr. Jonathan Knaul and Dr. Felicia Knaul

Malcolm Lester, brother of Brian Lester, Judy Godfrey and Michael Cole

Fanika Lucic, mother of Branka Jovicic and Dragan Lucic

Placido Madeira, husband of Olga Madeira; father of Cheryl Madeira and Daryl Madeira

Leon Platt, husband of Rhona Platt; father of Elliott Platt; brother of Delilah DeRose, Aviva Geist and Elizabeth Dorman.

Anna Cecille Ratney

Paul Richmond, father of Darren Richmond, Carrie Assaraf and Cheryl Aeni; brother of Ted Richmond

Judy Simmonds, mother of Jill Cherniak, Cathy Perlmutter, Joy Simmonds, and Anne Simmonds

Laura Wallace, mother of Sarah Morgenthau and Rachel Beckerman; sister of Erin Wallace, Tony Wallace and Sean Wallace

Bernice Wilson, mother of Jonathan Wilson and Joel Wilson

February 12, 2022 to April 14, 2022

WE THANK OUR GENEROUS DONORS

RABBI Yael SPLANSKY DISCRETIONARY FUND

Prakash Singh
Seymour & Gloria Temkin

Rabbi Yael Splansky, In
Appreciation
The Brott Family
Holy Blossom Temple Chavurah
Brian Lester
Ellen & Mel Little
Anonymous

Rabbi Yael Splansky, In Honour
Francie, Stuart and Sherri Klein
Iris Spitz

David Rigler, Yahrzeit
Bonnie & Sheldon Hoppe and
family

**Sidney & Laura Schipper,
Yahrzeit**
Robert Schipper and family

Judy Simmonds, In Memory
Jill Cherniak, Cathy Perlmutter, Joy
Simmonds, Anne Simmonds

RABBI BILL TEPPER DISCRETIONARY FUND

Sara & Nolan Bederman

RABBI ZACHARY GOODMAN DISCRETIONARY FUND

Rabbi Zachary Goodman, In
Appreciation
The Brott Family
Robert Fishman
Arlene Roth

CANTOR DAVID ROSEN DISCRETIONARY FUND

Cantor Rosen, In Appreciation
The Brott Family

Robert Fishman
Harriette Laing

Roger Gozlan, In Memory
Catherine Mayers

RABBI JOHN MOSCOWITZ DISCRETIONARY FUND

Anonymous

ADULT EDUCATION

Bob Cooper
Anne Freeman
Lee Weisser
Anonymous*2

Adult Education, In Appreciation
Shelley Birenbaum

Elizabeth Bromstein, In Memory
Sandra & Jerry Chapnik

Michael Davis, In Memory
Anonymous

Kay Drache, In Memory
Miriam Dryer

Larry Enkin, In Memory
Carol Abugov

Marvin Givertz, Yahrzeit
Elaine Givertz

Cynthia Good, In Appreciation
Judy & Allan Borodin

Mark Goodman, In Appreciation
Judy & Allan Borodin

Rabbi Zachary Goodman, In
Appreciation
Judy Adler

Gillian Helfield, In Appreciation
Judy & Allan Borodin

Jack Kugelmass, In Appreciation
Judy & Allan Borodin
Jennifer Malvin

Morris & Bernice Saunders, In
Memory
Robert Saunders

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DISCRETIONARY FUND

Mr. Placido Madeira, In Memory
Cheryl Sylvester & Robert Schenk

EARLY CHILD CENTER

Rachael Grad & David Setton

FAMILY PROGRAMMING

Joyce & Sidney Aster
Bonnie Lawrence
Marc & Cheryl Newburgh
Albert & Bonnie Oppenheimer
Jill & Sol Wein
Ken Wyman
Anonymous*4

JEAN FINE SENIORS FUND

Morris Kirsch, Yahrzeit
Ruth Green

David Lloyd Rose, Yahrzeit
Ruth Green

HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE ANNUAL CAMPAIGN 2022 / GREATEST NEED

Bernard H. Ornstein

Lucy Bella Baskin, In Honour
Lesley Offman

David Bernstein, Yahrzeit
Anonymous

Elizabeth Bromstein, In Memory
Michelle Fremont and family
Mel & Marlyn Horowitz
Julia & Michael Sax
Anonymous*3

WE THANK OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Ethel Davis, In Memory

Joan Garson & David Baskin

Larry Enkin, In Memory

Anonymous

Nat & Lillian Finkelstein, In Memory

Sarah Finkelstein & Daniel Beiles

Murray Roger Halpren, In Memory

Joan Garson & David Baskin

Lorraine Himmel, In Memory

Anonymous

Jack Kugelmass, In Appreciation

Jennifer Malvin

Dr. Bernard Langer, In Memory

Elinor Borsook & Dr. Cathi Freedman

Benjamin & Rachel Markovich, Yahrzeit

Helena & David Fine

Norman May, Yahrzeit

Gloria May

Our Prayer Service Leaders and Community, In Appreciation

Jennifer Malvin

Robyn Perlmutter, In Memory

Anonymous

Hy Rotchtin, Yahrzeit

Anonymous

Lionel Rubin, Yahrzeit

Ronna Rubin, Phil Smith, Jill Smith & Hailey Smith

Marty Steinhouse, In

Appreciation

Jennifer Malvin

Pauline Toker, In Honour

Peter & Susan Segal

HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE FOUNDATION

Elizabeth Bromstein, In Memory

Mel & Marlyn Horowitz

HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE RENEWAL FUND

Anonymous

Larry Enkin, In Memory

Jane & Rob Herman

HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE SPONSORSHIP

Shinshinim 2022

Phyllis & Jeffrey Denaburg
Janette & Michael Diamond
Joan Garson & David Baskin
Judy Nyman & Harley Mintz
Rivanne Sandler

Choir Sponsorship

February 26

Chloe Fruitman, In honour
Angela Ho & Mark Fruitman

Three sustaining memberships Marie & Raphael Philosophe, In Memory

Isidore Philosophe

Additional appliances for the Mishkan kitchen

Azrieli-Blanc Family

Contemporary Jewish Fiction with Cynthia Good- Spring Season

March 10, 2022

Bonnie Lawrence Shear

Good Books

March 1

Judy Malkin & Elliott Jacobson

March 15, 2022

Frances Gruber

April 6, 2022

Dorothy & Eddie Stossel, In Memory

Joni Stossel

April 26, 2022

Anonymous

Israel Dialogues Winter Series January 14-March 25, 2022

Helena & David Fine

Holy Blossom's Family Purim Carnival

March 13, 2022

Carole & Jay Sterling and family

Purim Shpiel/Megillah Reading March 16, 2022

Carole & Jay Sterling and family

Megillah reading and Shpiel – Treats on the Go

March 16, 2022

Holy Blossom Temple
Brotherhood

Mamma Mia Megillah – Livestream

March 16, 2022

Saul & Viviane Ship

“Our Song” – Musical Influences of the Cantorate

April 4, 2022

Pianist and Livestream

Janet & Michael Ryval

Dessert

Anita & Michael Greenstein

Coping with the new rules for COVID – Will you be coming to Seder?

April 6, 2022

Luke Sklar Mental Health

Initiative:

Shelley Birenbaum

Tabitha Grove

Pamela Hamovitch
David Rosenberg
Doreen Saskin
Lise Sklar
Julie Solomon
Cheryl Sylvester
Shari Wilson
Jill Witkin

**First Day Passover
Congregational Lunch
April 16, 2022**

Raphael Philosophe, Yahrzeit
Isidore Philosophe

**First Day Passover Service
Livestream
April 16, 2022**

Raphael Philosophe, Yahrzeit
Isidore Philosophe

**Interfaith Seder
April 20, 2022**
Sheila Smolkin

**Leading Voices From Israel
Anat Hoffman-Women of the
Wall
April 25, 2022**
Alberto & Teresa Quiroz

**Congregational Shabbat Dinner
April 29, 2022**
Sarah & David Kaufman and family

**Orly Erez-Likhovski – Israel
Religious Action Center
May 9, 2022**
Shay Menuchin & Yonit
Landskroner

**Anna Kislanski – Israel
Movement for Progressive
Judaism
May 16, 2022**
Les & Beverley Rothschild

**Yom Hashoah Commemorative
Service
April 27, 2022**
**Max & Sarah Zeller, Ida & Zvi
Kuper, In Memory**
Esther Zeller Cooper & Morris
Cooper

**Film Talks: What I'm Watching
April 19, 2022**
Jennifer Malvin

May 17, 2022
Ryan Stossel-Stairs, In Memory
Joni Stossel

**One Suicide Is Too Many
Webinar
May 9, 2022**
Lise Sklar

**Breakfast
Renee Browne, In Memory**
Elissa & David L. Fingold

Anna Flancman, Yahrzeit
Sharon Herman

Marvin Givertz, Yahrzeit
Elaine Givertz

Philip Good, Yahrzeit
Cynthia Good

Magda Letai, Yahrzeit
Robert Lantos

Charles Palef, Yahrzeit
Barbara & John Greenberg

Harry Uster, In Memory
John & Rosie Uster

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Angela Ho & Mark Fruitman

SHABBAT KIDDUSH LUNCH

March 19, 2022
COVID Cabinet: Joan Garson,
Tom Friedland, Ava Rosen, and
Darren Sukonick

March 25, 2022
Lucy Bella Baskin, In Honour
Joan Garson & David Baskin

April 2, 2022
Ryan Bockner, In Honour
Carolyn & Howard Gelfand

April 9, 2022
Rabbinical Search Committee:
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David Malinowicz.
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Robert Fishman

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