

# 404

Error HBTPurim5783/BulletinCover  
not found

# Pesach 5783 @ HBT

## Let all Come and Eat!

If you would like to be hosted by a fellow congregant for seder or if you have place at your table to welcome others to join you for the holyday, please contact Abigail Nemzer, our Director of Membership and Community Engagement ([anemzer@holyblossom.org](mailto:anemzer@holyblossom.org)) so we can make some joyful matches. There's nothing like home hospitality and there's always room for one more at the table.

## Parent & Grandparent Workshop: The Haggadah as a Model of the Parent-Child Relationship

With Rabbi Eliza McCarroll  
Sunday, March 26, 11:15 am

## Fun Family Learning Together: Who Done It? A Mitzvah Mystery

With Rabbi Yael Splansky and Friends  
Sunday, April 2, 10:30 am  
All are welcome. Bring a friend or a family looking for a synagogue community to call home.

## Teen Pre-Pesach Chocolate Seder with Reena

With Rabbi Sam Kaye and Sophie Rivers,  
Youth Engagement Coordinator  
Monday, April 3, 6:30 pm

## A Brief Service, Study & Siyum for the Firstborn

With Rabbi Yael Splansky  
Wednesday, April 5, 7:30 am

## Erev First Day Yom Tov Service

Wednesday, April 5, 6:00 pm

## First Day Yom Tov Morning Service

Thursday, April 6, 10:00 am

*Celebrate our freedom, with Songs of Hallel. A festive Kiddush-Lunch for all will follow.*

## Erev Seventh Day Yom Tov Service

Tuesday, April 11, 6:00 pm

## Seventh Day Yom Tov and Yizkor (Memorial) Services

Wednesday, April 12, 10:00 am

*We'll conclude the Festival of Pesach together while remembering loved ones whose absence is felt at the seder table and every day. New memorial tablets will be dedicated in the sanctuary and their lights will be lit for the first time. Kiddush-lunch for all following the service.*

## Post-Pesach Pizza Party/Shabbat Dinner for YAD (Young Adult Division)

Friday, April 14

- 6:00 pm: Kabbalat Shabbat
- 7:00 pm: Rabbi McCarroll invites all 20 and 30 Somethings to fill up on chametz with old friends and new

## Shabbat Morning Family Service

Saturday, April 15, 11:00 am

## It's time to get ready for Passover!

Consider buying *A Passover Haggadah* from the Judaica & Art Shop (\$25). Drop in to get your copy and see what else we have for Pesach. Bulk orders must be placed by March 14. Visit [holyblossom.org/judaica-and-art-shop/](http://holyblossom.org/judaica-and-art-shop/) for contact & more information.

[holyblossom.org/pesach-5783/](http://holyblossom.org/pesach-5783/)



HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE **Bulletin**  
CONTENTS

Rabbinic Reflection ..... 4

From the President ..... 5

From the Executive Director ..... 6

Sacred Action at Holy Blossom Temple ..... 7

Stocking the Pantries ..... 8

It takes a Village to Care: Kugel Kindness at HBT ..... 9

The Birth of a New Organization ..... 10

The Journey Through the YEC ..... 11

Shinshinim: Bringing Israel to Life ..... 14

Life Continues to Blossom at the ECC ..... 15

Celebrating Rabbi Yael Splansky ..... 16

In Memoriam ..... 18

Our Congregational Family ..... 19

HBTF: Embracing and Ensuring Our Future ..... 22

Renewal Project Capital Campaign Donors ..... 24

Our Generous Donors ..... 26

**Getting into the spirit of Purim:** While the cover couldn't be found, how many hilarious headshots can you find in this bulletin? Don't forget to check the back cover for all the Purim festivities happening at Holy Blossom.

*Chag Purim Sameach!*

# RABBINIC REFLECTION



## *The Jewish Self: Hidden and Revealed*

Rabbi Yael Splansky,  
Senior Rabbi

When Esther is new to the throne, she conceals her Jewish identity. “Esther did not reveal her people or her kindred, for Mordecai charged her that she should not speak of it.” (Esther 2:10). The tragedy of Esther’s early character is that she hides her true self away. Mordechai must have believed he was protecting her, when in fact, he was putting her at risk. Young people need to know who they are as Jews and must be able to express it. When they do, they can rise to the occasion of life and do extraordinary things. We learn this from Esther.

Chapter 5 of the Megillah begins: “Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther dressed herself in royalty, and stood in the inner court of the king’s house.” The Rabbis of the Talmud ask: “Shouldn’t it say that she dressed herself ‘in *garments* of royalty’? What was the ‘royalty’ she wore to address King Achashvarosh and lay out the plan to protect her people? Our Sages answer: “She dressed herself in *ruach hakodesh*, in the spirit of holiness.” (Megillah 14b) Esther did not adorn herself in a queen’s costume, she proudly donned her Jewish identity. She wore it like a suit of armour. Knowing who she was, where she came from, and what she ought to do, there was no challenge she could not face. Knowing where she came from and that she was a part of a much larger story, she could walk with newfound confidence and purpose.

In the Pesach narrative God’s strength is revealed through supernatural miracles. In the Purim narrative, God’s strength is revealed through the extraordinary deeds of ordinary people. Both are stories of redemption. In the book of Exodus, God’s name appears everywhere for all to see. Even Pharaoh and Egypt’s taskmasters are able to see God’s hand at work in the world. In the Megillah of Esther, by stark contrast, God’s name is completely absent, although everywhere, hidden just beneath the surface, in the deeds of our human heroes at work in the world. Esther’s very name means ‘hidden.’

In his book, *Masking and Unmasking Ourselves: Interpreting Biblical Texts on Clothing & Identity*, Rabbi Professor Norman Cohen teaches that Purim celebrates the holy “sparks which are hidden beneath the surface of our lives, and our task to sew those sparks into a full garment of splendor to enhance the majesty of our souls.”

## **The Masks We Wear**

Purim calls attention to the masks we wear and the people we pretend to be. At the end of the day of carnivals and costumes, when the hamantashen are gone and the schnapps has worn off, we remove the mask to reveal who we really are. And then there is one more layer beneath. Still waiting to be revealed is the person we ought to become, but are not yet! Judaism is the way to that innermost self. Judaism is the way for Divine sparks, too often concealed in this world, to be uncovered.

This bulletin is dedicated to the children and teens of Holy Blossom Temple. It is a celebration of the joy they bring to our congregation and of the great potential we see in them. We honour their parents, their grandparents, and their teachers for nurturing the *ruach hakodesh*, the spirit of holiness in each of them. Too often, the world tells them to cover up the fullness of their Jewish identity and ignore the inner life of the *neshamah*. But here at Holy Blossom, through study, prayer, and belonging, they are able to remove the masks, discover something that was hidden within. And here, where we see each and every one of them as absolutely necessary for the Jewish future and the world, they are encouraged to imagine the person they will yet become.

## **One More Mask**

What do we learn from the airplane instructions before take-off? Place the oxygen mask on yourself before assisting your children. What is true about Jewish learning for our children, is true for their guardians. What is true about tending to the child’s *neshamah*, is true for their parent’s spiritual life, too. What is true about a teenager’s need to give expression to their Jewish identity, is true for those who love them, too.

Wishing you a Chag Sameach!

# FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Phyllis Denaburg, Temple President**

In the last bulletin, I shared information about the HBT Strategic Plan that was shared at our Annual General Meeting in early December. In mid-

January, at a day-long Board and Staff retreat we delved deeper into a few of the 10 strategic initiatives that we are focussing on this year, relating specifically to membership, youth education and young families. I am happy to report that the strategic initiatives are being fleshed out into realistic and timebound actions to be implemented.

I am increasingly aware of the challenges faced by synagogues to attract and retain young families as religious affiliation is declining, the number of “Jews of no religion” is increasing, and young Jews are said to be looking for alternative ways to experience Judaism. At Holy Blossom our congregation is growing younger. We’ve had success welcoming and supporting young families through our Terumah program, where families make a membership contribution according to their ability. As well our schools (YEC and Early Childhood) are growing to accommodate increased demand, and our Summer Blossoms camp is already full! The continued vitality and strength of the Jewish community depends on our providing meaningful experiences for families with young children.

My children are now in their 30s, and I have fond memories of Holy Blossom being the place where I had no worries when they were ‘wandering’ (running) around without parental supervision. They felt so much at home here having attended Religious School three times a week, in addition to Shabbat Family services. We celebrated the Jewish holy days and festivals together with many other young families whose children have grown up together at HBT. We attended Family Camp together when our children were young, until they were old enough to attend summer camps such as URJ Camp George. We volunteered at family-friendly Temple events and took on increasing leadership roles. We were involved in creating and leading the young family community.

Holy Blossom is a hidden jewel, a sacred flower. Holy Blossom Temple is over 165 years old, and we have a gorgeous, renovated building that is increasingly bursting with activity. The busiest and most boisterous services during the High Holy Days this year were downstairs in the Philip Smith Hall, where many gathered for Family Services – young families, and grandparents too. If you have been at HBT hanging out at the Holy Grounds Cafe in the Schwartz/Reisman Atrium on a weekday morning, as I do, you will witness the parade of pre-school children and adults, arriving or departing. On Sunday mornings, there is a similar and louder parade of school-aged children.

What else can we offer to help families on their Jewish parenting journey - for both the adults and the children? Lay leaders and professional staff are always striving to create a stronger sense of community among our young families. We do it by involving young families in creating and leading the community. Now that many of us are back at Holy Blossom in person, there are more opportunities to involve parents and grandparents in supporting the Early Childhood Centre (ECC) and the Youth Education Centre (YEC) by participating on parent committees, and as ambassadors and helping to lead the family related activities of our festivals. Attending Tot Shabbat on Fridays and Family Services on Saturdays is a great way for parents and grandparents to celebrate Shabbat and socialize. For dates and times, please visit [holyblossom.org/calendar-2/](https://holyblossom.org/calendar-2/).

It’s gratifying to see that some activities that my partner and I did with our children are still relevant. And there is always room for new traditions to create and sustain a warm and welcoming community where we all feel that we belong. Please reach out to our clergy, professional staff or lay leadership with your ideas, and to volunteer in creating and leading our Holy Blossom community.

# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**Rachel Malach,**  
Executive Director

There is much to celebrate here at Holy Blossom Temple, and I hope you will join us for upcoming services, programs, and events. I am looking forward to the return of our family Purim Carnival to the Lower Level, in both the Gallery and Philip Smith Congregational Hall. I hope that all of you have had the chance to see the renovated hall that reopened this past fall and had the opportunity to visit the Lower Level Gallery's ongoing and rotating art exhibitions curated by Elizabeth Greisman. After Purim, and before we know it, Pesach will be here and shortly thereafter our celebration of Rabbi Splansky's 25th anniversary at Holy Blossom Temple. It is an exciting time!

Looking back, we recently experienced something completely different for Shabbat Shira, thanks to Cantor Rosen's creativity and vision. I had the pleasure of participating in song as a member of the Levite Circle for this special Shabbat. It was a beautiful reminder that while we root ourselves strongly in our traditions at Holy Blossom Temple, it is also meaningful and interesting to push the boundaries and step out of our comfort zone every once in a while. Though we will not be completely "in the round" as per Shabbat Shira, you will notice some moderate seating adjustments for services in the Mishkan that were inspired by this notion.

I have also been encouraging and requiring Temple clergy and staff to step outside of their respective comfort zones over the past several weeks to undertake a detailed review of our budget results to date and to forecast to fiscal year-end. Our dedicated and amazing Financial Controller, Prakash Singh, has been leading this charge. My thanks go to the entire team for their continued hard work and rigour in this critical area of the organization.



**Introducing Pavel Gurvich, AV Manager**

As we continue to enjoy our physical spaces at Holy Blossom Temple, we know that many of our congregants are connecting with us online for our services and programs, both regularly and situationally, as needed. It became clear that engaging with Temple virtually is no longer a temporary measure, but is a meaningful area that needed commitment and consistency to continue to serve our members well into the future. I am delighted to introduce you to Pavel Gurvich, who joined the Holy Blossom Professional Team in mid-December in the role of Audio-Visual Manager. Pavel comes to Temple most recently having served as the Operations Manager and Head Music Teacher at Footprints Music. He brings a wealth of experience to Temple in AV operations, project management, live event production, studio recording, performance, client services, and systems administration. Pavel studied Independent Music Production at Seneca College and holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in classical guitar performance and composition from York University. Please join me in giving Pavel an official warm welcome to Holy Blossom Temple! Pavel can be reached at [pgurvich@holyblossom.org](mailto:pgurvich@holyblossom.org).

I hope you will join in the fun and silliness of Purim at Temple and best wishes for a Happy Passover. Chag Sameach!

# SACRED ACTION AT HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE

Rabbi Samuel Kaye, Associate Rabbi



In Sifrei Devarim, our sages asked “How is it possible to cleave to God?” Can one ascend the heights of heaven? Instead, they reply, cleave to the sacred action and the attributes of God you hold most dear. Be kind as God is kind, be generous as God is generous, and be patient as God is patient. In doing so, you will find that you are very close to God indeed. Sacred action at Holy Blossom Temple comes in so many forms and ways, but in this bulletin, it’s a pleasure to highlight two actions that our community has taken to care for the stranger. Sometimes that person comes to us from far away, drawn by friends and our good name, and finds a new home for themselves in the process. Other times we are simply acting out of love and channeling the act of generosity. Giving and supporting those whom we will never see or meet; but who need us just the same.

Growing up in the Jewish community of Istanbul, our community numbered around 20,000 when I had my Bar Mitzvah and it was very close knit. One where almost everybody knew everybody and supported each other. The Jewish youth clubs were important places where we were taught about our religion, and then taken on a tour of Israel. For two weeks we would travel to see the holy sites, as well as to visit Israel from Tiberias to Eilat, to understand our roots and where we have come from.

Sadly, due to the many wars in the last few years, our region is no longer as friendly a place for Jews as when I was growing up. When my wife became pregnant, we decided to come to Toronto for the birth. We knew that there was a very large and very welcoming Jewish community. We wanted our child to become Canadian so that he would always have the option to come to Canada in the future to live.

It was a very nice surprise to find out that my childhood friend Axel Goldenberg had already been living here for 3 years. Axel assisted us in every way during our stay in Toronto. I told him that I wanted to be a part of a synagogue here, and when I asked him to introduce me to his synagogue, he told me about Holy Blossom. He said he was very happy to be a part of its community and that Holy Blossom received him with affection and made him and his family right at home.

I felt the same way the day I visited Holy Blossom and met with Rabbi Kaye who told me about this special place. He explained that my entire family could be part of this community, and it was a place where they would love to have us. He also organized the bris for our son, Jeremi, and we were delighted to have the beautiful ceremony at the Holy Blossom 8 days after my son was born.

I had talked with Rabbi McCarroll on the phone before the bris where she told me about the ceremony and the proceedings. Then, when we met her in the morning, she told us all about how the ceremony would take place. She introduced us to the congregation, and we immediately felt that we were already a part of the Holy Blossom community. Rabbi McCarroll also invited me to read a passage from the Torah during the morning prayer, which I was delighted to do.

Being a part of the minyan on Monday morning was amazing. We truly felt the embrace of the Jewish community so far from home. I am overjoyed to see my son enter the covenant of the Jewish people knowing that we will raise him as a Jew. Just like me, just like how my family raised me, where I have embraced all the teachings of my religion, culture and traditions all my life, and being Jewish has always made me proud.

I can’t wait to bring my son Jeremi to Mikveh knowing that we have a Jewish home in Toronto. Holy Blossom will always be special to me because it is where Jeremi has taken the first steps toward becoming a part of the Jewish people. I know that this place will always welcome him with affection, compassion and open arms.

I know that it is many years away, but we also want Jeremi to have his Bar Mitzvah at Holy Blossom!

# STOCKING THE PANTRIES

Gerry Prendergast, VP Worship

Starting in the early summer a group of volunteers, including myself, agreed to stock the “little pantries” that are set up on Dewbourne Avenue just near the parking lot.

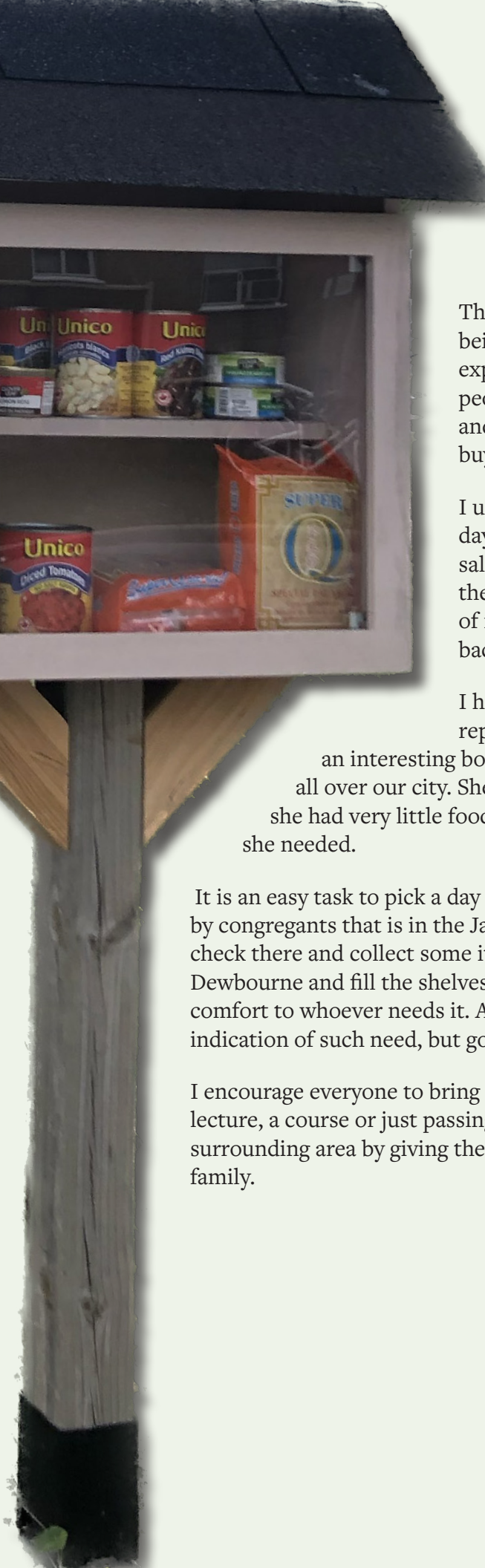
The reason I decided to volunteer is that I am troubled by what I hear being reported in the news regarding so many families and people experiencing food insecurity. I think that it must be very terrifying for people to wonder and worry “How will I manage to feed my family and myself?” I realized that being able to plan some tasty meals and buy all the ingredients was not so easy for many people.

I usually go to a supermarket and pick up some nutritious food the day before I am scheduled to stock the pantry. I try to see what is on sale and what is safe to leave in a pantry. Let me be clear, what is in the little pantry is retrieved very quickly by people who are in need of it. One time, I left a dozen eggs on a very hot summer’s day. I went back an hour later, and they were gone.

I have met a few lovely people on some occasions when I am replenishing the pantries. One lady said she thought she would find an interesting book as the pantries do resemble the little libraries that can be found all over our city. She shyly told me that she was so relieved to find food in the pantry as she had very little food in her house. She was hesitant but I encouraged her to take what she needed.

It is an easy task to pick a day every week and decide to help with stocking. There is food brought by congregants that is in the Janis Rotman Tzedakah Centre just inside the Ava Road doors. I check there and collect some items, then I add my few items and make my way to the Pantries on Dewbourne and fill the shelves. I am hoping what is in the pantry will be a nice surprise and bring comfort to whoever needs it. As I say the shelves are emptied very quickly. This is both sad and an indication of such need, but good that the need can be met in a small way.

I encourage everyone to bring non-perishable items to Temple if they are attending services, a lecture, a course or just passing by. Your donation will have an impact on people who live in the surrounding area by giving them the means to put a meal on the table for themselves and their family.





# IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO CARE: KUGEL KINDNESS AT HBT

Les Rothschild, VP Kehilah Kedoshah and Rabbi Eliza McCarroll



This past December the Bikkur Cholim committee began their Kugel Kindness Initiative, in which volunteers bake kugels and deliver them to those within our congregational family who find themselves at a moment where some extra support is appreciated. For now, we are delivering to those who are ill, to those who need some outreach and to some mourning families.

It is based on an initiative from Bet Shalom Congregation, one of our sister synagogues just outside Minneapolis, Minnesota. Its goal is to create community and make connections between our members, as drivers are encouraged to make a visit, whether a brief drop-off at the door, or even staying for a cup of tea. It is a way for us as a Holy Blossom Temple family to be warm and welcoming to one another, and to also give back to and catch up with each other.

In response, there have been several phone calls and messages in which our congregants have expressed their appreciation for the kugels and the care they signify. One recipient enjoyed the company of the deliverer and was delighted to share the kugel with their grandsons. Some of the other touching gestures have included members who haven't needed the kugel but expressed the wish that the kindness be passed along, and for their kugel to be given to the next family who needs it instead.

To date, the amazing team of volunteers has baked about 36 kugels, led by Sandi Smith. She has done an incredible job of organizing dates, times, and ingredients, and has pulled the team together with enthusiasm and dedication. Sandi runs a tight ship and is deeply grateful to her volunteers: Bambi Katz, Anne Freeman, Debra Merowitz, Nada Simon-Hara, Susan Bookbinder, Miriam Kreiger, Michael Ryval, and Audrey Birenbaum.

It has been a fantastic bonding experience for the kugel makers, too, many of whom have brought their expert skills into the Mishkan kitchen and are working hard to perfect the recipe and baking procedures. In fact, we have even engaged new members, and look forward to welcoming Audrey Birenbaum, who is new to Holy Blossom, as she comes on board to coordinate the delivery side of the initiative, after having such a wonderful time getting to know her fellow volunteers.

As another volunteer baker writes:

*"To date I have had three opportunities to make kugels for the new initiative Kugel Kindness. This has been a great experience to be able to participate in a worthwhile cause. I look forward to continuing to be part of this amazing initiative."*

To sum it all up, as one member wrote:

*"Please let Les and the committee know how touched we were by this thoughtful gesture. There is truly no community better than HBT. With much appreciation to you and the volunteers that are involved. It definitely takes a village and we are so proud to be part of this village at HBT."*

If you would like to be involved in this initiative, please contact [hbtkugelkindness@gmail.com](mailto:hbtkugelkindness@gmail.com).

*Kugel Kindness is generously sponsored by Beverley and Les Rothschild.*



# THE BIRTH OF A NEW ORGANIZATION

Cantor David Rosen, Senior Cantor



In Judaism, we value the idea of community in multiple ways. We require a minyan of 10 people to say our prayers. We celebrate Brit Milah, baby namings, B'nei Mitzvah and weddings in community and we are stronger when we are supported by others.

As a Reform congregation, we connect with community by being part of Reform Jewish Communities of Canada and more broadly, the Union for Reform Judaism.

As clergy, we are also part of larger organizations within our movement. Rabbis are members of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and Cantors and Cantorial Soloists are members of the American Conference of Cantors and Guild of Temple Musicians respectively. I have been blessed to be a member of the American Conference of Cantors for the past 20 years and a member of the Executive Board for the past 14 years. In my years on the Executive Board, I have served in various roles and currently serve as the Chair of the Ethics Committee. This is work that I take very seriously, and ethics practices have come forefront to many organizations in recent years.

It is important that these organizations exist as they not only support their membership but also help to build continuity, integrity, and strength for our movement. Since I moved back to Toronto in 2020, one of the things I have missed about my last community is a local Reform cantors network. It is one thing to see my colleagues at a convention or a Board meeting 1-2 times a year or monthly on Zoom and it is another to work together in making a difference in your local Reform community. This is something that did not exist in Canada until now.... And so, it is with great pride that I decided to take matters into my own hands, and with the support of Canadian Colleagues, launch the RCCC or Reform Cantors and Cantorial Soloists of Canada.

After a few meetings I am pleased to tell you that we have representation from Reform communities across the country and we will be producing our first initiative on Thursday, April 20th as Holy Blossom will host our inaugural concert. With 16 participants, we will be raising money to both help bolster our new association and to also raise money for Israel's 75th birthday by supporting the IMPJ or Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism. The time has never been so important for such a cause, and we will be partnering with the IMPJ in their International outreach campaign that was launched this month.

I hope that all of you will consider attending this historic concert happening at Holy Blossom Temple on April 20th. Aside from being an evening of wonderful music and celebration, we will be raising money for a most urgent cause. The concert will also be our final concert for the season, as part of our Musical Heritage Series.

If you wish to learn more about the concert or support Musical Heritage at Holy Blossom, please visit our website.

Wishing all of you a Zissen Pesach!



# THE JOURNEY THROUGH THE YEC...

Lisa Isen Baomal, Principal of Youth Education and Family Engagement



...At five years of age the study of Scripture; At ten the study of Mishnah; At thirteen subject to the commandments; At fifteen the study of Talmud; ...  
Pirkei Avot 5:21

Our tradition creates a natural educational journey for our children to follow, offering milestones that allow us to mark their growth, and celebrate their achievements along the way. Our Youth Education Centre is built around this framework and takes pride in preparing our students for these life cycle events, and celebrating with families along the way. One need only look in the back stairwell at our Confirmation and Consecration Wall of Fame to see the rich tradition these life cycle events have and the importance they continue to play in the growth and education of our children.

One's Jewish educational journey begins with Consecration in Grade 1. Consecration marks the start of one's formal Jewish education and is acknowledged with the receiving of a miniature Torah – literally the gift of Torah. The YEC prepares consecrands and their parents, who learn all about what makes the Torah special, how we honour the Torah, and they make their own Aron Hakodesh for their Torah to rest in at home. Parents enclose a special blessing for their children. It is a moment that the congregation as a whole celebrates with these young families.

Jessica Cooper's son Miles was a member of this year's Consecration class and shares:

*It was so special to see Miles participate in the consecration*



*ceremony at Holy Blossom, to come full circle from my own childhood consecration ceremony. Before the ceremony, we were able to make an ark and inscribe it with the same inscription my parents had written to me before my ceremony. The building and the community have come such a long way,*

*but in many respects Holy Blossom is the same place I grew up with. And it's so gratifying to see our kids embrace the Holy Blossom space, ceremonies and programming.*

During the formative years between Consecration and Confirmation, students in the YEC reach many milestones as they make their way to B'nei Mitzvah, and then beyond. Siyyum Hasefer to mark the learning of the Aleph Bet; buying snack at breaktime; attending YEAH activities; being Shaliach B'Tzibur in weekly T'fillah; Grade 4 Israel projects; graduating to Monday night classes; grade 6/7 retreat; entering HABSTY, and so many more.

Halfway through one's high school career Confirmation looks and feels like a graduation, but is also a significant milestone that represents a teen's affirmation and commitment to their own Jewish life. Our Confirmation students are the pride and joy of the YEC. Making the choice and commitment to continue involvement in regular Jewish studies, these teens learn with members of our clergy team, and other leaders and teachers in the congregation, giving them a wide scope of themes and topics. Confirmation students become natural leaders in the YEC, serving as Madrichim in our younger grades, and often leading special events and activities for the rest of the Monday night 'teen scene.' The entire congregation shares their pride with families on Confirmation day, when the students take the bimah and lead part of the service.

Carly Steinman, a current Confirmation parent, and a



past confirmand herself reflects on this meaningful life cycle moment:

*When I was confirmed, as the 2023 Holy Blossom class will experience this spring, we had a private service with the rabbi*

*and participated in the congregational Shavuot service. I loved that my class was celebrating this lifecycle event together as a group, after years of Hebrew school together, rather than individually as it was for our b'nai mitzvah.*

*What I especially recall is the rabbi gave us each an individual blessing on the bima at the private service. He told me he hoped I would be a rabbi, that Judaism would continue to be part of my life, and 15-year old me wrote in my diary, "And I know it will".*

*My Confirmation diary entry concludes: 'I felt very proud to be a Jew today, for my friends to see me, and my family. (Mom cried behind her sunglasses).*

*My oldest child is part of the 2023 Holy Blossom Confirmation class, and I will be crying behind my sunglasses. To this wonderful group of teens, as you reach this season and beyond, may you continue to grow and learn together as members of our shul and your communities, and let us say, Amen.*

The Youth Education Centre takes great pride and joy in watching our students travel along their Jewish educational journey, celebrating each of these milestones and more along the way. We know that our students are developing the necessary building blocks for maintaining Jewish values and practices in their lives and finding their own place within our congregational community. We look forward to continuing to partner with families on this important path.

Train a lad in the way he ought to go;  
He will not swerve from it even in old age.  
Proverbs 22:6



Since September, HABSTY has packed a full year's worth of events into a few months. In addition to weekly fun programs in the HABSTY lounge, we have hosted fundraisers, carried Torahs, lit menorahs, and played hungry hungry hippos. However, this doesn't mean the coming months won't be filled with fun. In March alone HABSTY members will help run Holy Blossom's Purim Carnival, we will host other Toronto youth groups for the upcoming NFTY event, and for March break our Israel trip takes flight, after many years of anticipation. All Holy Blossomites from grade 8-12 are encouraged to sign up for any and all of these exciting opportunities, and the HABSTY board will happily welcome you into our community.





I grew up at Holy Blossom Temple. My parents were married by Rabbi Feinberg. My Bar Mitzvah was with Rabbi Marmur. And then years later...my Dad's funeral. After my Dad passed, I became dispirited and disinterested. For many years afterwards I seemed to be shul-

shopping for a place that could feel like a good fit. Then I had a son, Asher. His eyes sparkle like my Dad's when he smiles.

One Saturday a friend of mine invited me to join her for a service at Holy Blossom Temple. I hadn't been back in twenty years. The building has changed. I've changed. But the sanctuary is the same. During the service my mind wandered back to years ago. I thought about my Dad, as my son leaned against me the same way I used to do to him. It was very emotional for me, and I didn't know if I wanted that.

As we walked out into the atrium, I watched Asher run around with a friend he had only just met. Then I saw old friends of mine. Rabbi Splansky approached us and with a smile like a warm embrace, she said, "Welcome." From that moment, I felt like I belonged somewhere. I was amongst friends. No longer nostalgic, but present.

I immediately re-registered myself as a member and enrolled Asher in the Holy Blossom religious school. He loves it — the activities and interactions. He's not bored. He's made friends, and he wants to be there. That's a big deal. On the long car rides home, Asher enthusiastically shares with me that he's learning about his parsha, and that he's having fun and becoming more confident in knowing what it means to be Jewish. "There's a lot going on for us kids," he tells me. I love that. What more could I ask for my son's enrollment and participation in a religious school program.

For me, I've never felt more of a sense of community than I do now at Holy Blossom. For each holiday, major and minor, I can count on Holy Blossom Temple to provide the sense of Jewishness that I've always wanted. The sense of inclusion I feel, the values Asher is being taught, the Channukah choir in which he participated and the "Latka Bar"—which was a brilliant idea (who ever heard of putting peanut butter on a latka?!) The staff at Holy Blossom seem to do a lot to bring members together, and I'm truly grateful for that. More than a place to go, it's a place to be.

Adam Waxman



# SHINSHINIM: BRINGING ISRAEL TO LIFE

Ella Payorski, Holy Blossom Shinshinit, 2023



My name is Ella Payorski, and I am the UJA Shinshinit this year at Holy Blossom Temple. The UJA Shinshinim program was established 16 years ago to strengthen ties between the Toronto Jewish community and the State of Israel. Young Israelis such as myself, 18-year-olds who just graduated from high school in Israel, do a year of volunteer service in Toronto's Jewish community.

We work in a variety of Jewish institutions around the GTA, establishing stronger connections to Israel within the community through a variety of activities and programs. Being assigned to the Holy Blossom community makes me feel very fortunate.

Here at Holy Blossom, I work with people of all ages. I place a high priority on personal connections with children, youth and families. I can see the impact it has on the connection to Israel.

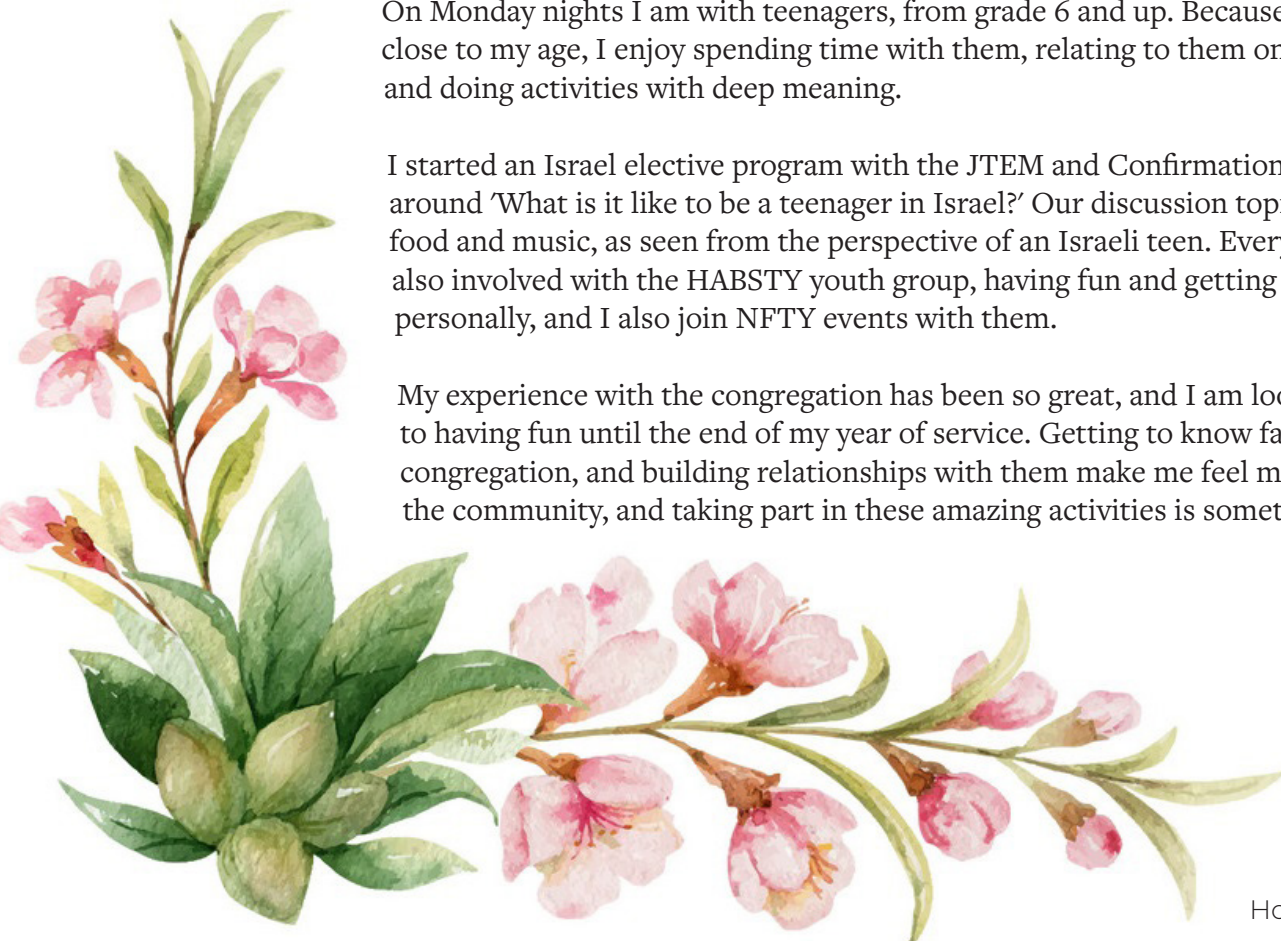
On Sundays, I help with activities for all ages at the YEC, and on Mondays, I run activities for B'nei Mitzvah, JTEM, and Confirmation students, and I'm involved with HABSTY too. I also share D'var Israel at the Shabbat family and main sanctuary services, as well as break-out activities for kids.

During YEC on Sunday mornings, my main goal is to do fun and meaningful activities with students. I work with kindergarten to grade 5 classes, and I love spending time with them. My activities with the children are based on my own connections to Israel. For example, I did an activity with grade 3 about the Moshavs in Israel, as I grew up in moshav Kfar Monash myself. In addition, it is a shinshinim tradition to announce a new Hebrew word every Sunday morning during t'filah, which is something the kids really enjoy, and it is a great way to engage them in Hebrew and Israel.

On Monday nights I am with teenagers, from grade 6 and up. Because the teenagers are close to my age, I enjoy spending time with them, relating to them on a personal level, and doing activities with deep meaning.

I started an Israel elective program with the JTEM and Confirmation teens, revolving around 'What is it like to be a teenager in Israel?' Our discussion topics included Israeli food and music, as seen from the perspective of an Israeli teen. Every Monday night I'm also involved with the HABSTY youth group, having fun and getting to know the teens personally, and I also join NFTY events with them.

My experience with the congregation has been so great, and I am looking forward to having fun until the end of my year of service. Getting to know families in the congregation, and building relationships with them make me feel more connected to the community, and taking part in these amazing activities is something I really enjoy.





# LIFE CONTINUES TO BLOSSOM AT THE ECC

Wendy Steinberg Himmel, Director, Early Childhood Centre



There are so many opportunities to foster a sense of Jewish identity throughout the year. We can take advantage of this incredible opportunity to create lasting Jewish memories for our students.

As a preschool, espousing Jewish values and traditions from a liberal traditional perspective, a great deal of planning and enriched programming around the Holidays, Shabbat and a Jewish way of living permeates the school. Just as traditional Jewish ethics reflect morality, decency, respect, kindness, understanding, charity, continuous learning and responsibility, the teaching staff reflect these values in their behaviour towards one another, the children and the parents. Hopefully gentleness of spirit and a rich work ethic emanates from the principal to the teachers to the children and then their families, creating the reputation that the school enjoys in the community.

Our classrooms are transformed to welcome in Shabbat weekly, Jewish holiday celebrations, and, at this time of the year, Purim and Pesach. Our incredible teachers prepare and deliver meaningful experiences and creative activities that anticipate the holidays and help to generate excitement and add to the children's appreciation and enjoyment. We strive to instill a sense of pride and share traditions.

L'dor V'dor, the bond between generations, and the importance of community is reinforced with the involvement and participation of families, parents and grandparents, Temple Clergy and professionals. We are committed to embracing the entire family and learning from each other. Temple Clergy, 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.

The desire and commitment to be involved were evident in the number of parents and grandparents who attended our most recent Pre-Shabbat assembly with Rabbi McCarroll and Cantor Rosen. The Sanctuary abounded in song and joy.

Participating with Rabbi McCarroll in the Dorot program, and our very popular Little Blossoms with Dr. Marky Weinstock on Friday mornings are additional opportunities to foster the bond between generations.

*Dear Wendy*

*Writing with profound thanks for the absolute adorable and perfect performance of the ECC Children at the recent Dorot program Tuesday. As soon as they walked into the Mishkan there was an audible gasp. Their sweetness added so much light to all of us for the upcoming season of light. It was very special and a true testament for Dorot mixing the Wisdom Generation with the children.*

*Thank you again in gratitude to all the team involved and all the very sweet children.*

*Best Regards,  
Barbara Glaser, Chairperson Dorot*

*Dear Wendy,*

*A big thank you to you and your staff for today's visit. We thoroughly enjoyed our time with everyone, particularly the singing in the sanctuary. Our granddaughter enjoyed it as well. We were also able to connect with other grandparents and share in our nachas.*

*We look forward to other get togethers.*

*Thanks again.  
Norine and Michael Wilson*

*Wishing you Chag Kasher V'sameach.*

# Celebrating Rabbi Yael Splansky 25 Years & Counting

Martha Cass & Phyllis Cincinatus

## SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, May 7 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm  
for a Congregational Celebration of  
Rabbi Yael Splansky's 25th Anniversary  
at Holy Blossom Temple

For many of us, it feels like only yesterday that a newly ordained, but very poised young Rabbi Yael Splansky arrived at our synagogue. For others, her leadership and presence on the bimah have been a constant throughout their entire Temple life. For all of us, it is time to reflect, recognize and celebrate a quarter century of Rabbi Yael Splansky's leadership at Holy Blossom Temple.



*(photo from 1998)*

Her Rabbinate has been historic (she is the only fourth generation Reform Rabbi in the world) and is marked by innumerable accomplishments. But if you were to ask her, her Rabbinate is defined by us – the individuals and over 1,700 families who call Holy Blossom Temple our spiritual home – her congregational family.



*Rabbi Splansky with her parents at her installation as Senior Rabbi in 2014.*

For us, Rabbi Splansky is many things.

She is a teacher who inspires us to seek knowledge and deepen our learning.

She is a leader who guides us and provides meaning for our ancient rituals in our modern lives.

She is a healer who helps us find comfort in prayer and acts of kindness.

She is a connector who holds our community in her hands and helps us find belonging in a divided and disconnected world.

She is our Rabbi.



*Rabbi Splansky today.*

When she was installed as our Senior Rabbi in 2014, she told us, "It is humbling to be a Rabbi. It is humbling to be called Rabbi of this congregation and it is humbling to be named Senior Rabbi of this great temple. I am ready to begin."

She was more than ready. With determined humility and commitment to us, she has built on the foundation of our great temple – nurturing our spirits, navigating our challenges, and yes, even constructing our beautiful new building. She has never stopped looking forward for us and never faltered in working on our behalf.





*Rabbi Splansky and her family at son Jesse's Bar Mitzvah at Holy Blossom Temple.*

Now, after a quarter century of service and with a bright future ahead, it is our time to recognize and celebrate Rabbi Splansky.

Here are the three ways you can be a part of our celebration of this wonderful anniversary:

1. Volunteer to be part of our celebratory event by sending an email to [RYS25@holyblossom.org](mailto:RYS25@holyblossom.org).
2. Contribute to the congregational tribute book by sending us photos of Rabbi Splansky from your simchas and letters to her, sharing your favorite moments and most appreciated memories. Photos and letters can be emailed to [RYS25@holyblossom.org](mailto:RYS25@holyblossom.org) or mailed to Temple to the attention of Deanna Levy.
3. Participate in our celebration at Temple on Sunday, May 7. We have many surprises planned for Rabbi Splansky and updates about the event will be shared at [holyblossom.org/rys25](http://holyblossom.org/rys25)

As co-chairs of the committee formed to commemorate and celebrate her two-and-a-half decades of leadership, we have chosen the rimon (pomegranate) as the symbol of our Senior Rabbi and the theme of our tribute.

Jewish legend sees the rimon as a symbol of virtue because it holds 613 seeds, corresponding to the number of mitzvot of the Torah. It is no wonder rimonim (pomegranates) have endured as a deeply meaningful symbol in our Jewish lives – they are beautiful and strong. As anyone who has ever tried to release the delicious seeds from a pomegranate knows, their vibrant exterior is remarkably durable and the perfect vessel for securely, but gently holding its many seeds together.

We can think of no better symbol for our wonderful Rabbi, who has kept us all in her beautiful, yet firm care through the wonderful years, the difficult years, and the ever-evolving years. She has created Holy Blossom as not only a place of meaningful belonging for all of us, but as a place that is always working to become our community's sacred place for many generations to come.

We are excited to come together in May to celebrate Rabbi Splansky – 25 years and counting!

*Celebrating  
Rabbi Yael Splansky*

*25 Years &  
Counting*



# IN MEMORIAM

**Rabbi Bernard Baskin**, father of David Baskin, Susan Baskin and Dr. Judith Baskin

**Sheila (Joy) Cohen**, mother of Devra Cohen, Laurence Cohen and Shari Cohen; sister of Stephen Posen, David Posen and Karen Davidson

**June Dennis**, mother of Paul Dennis and David Dennis; sister of Mona Ruttan

**Lyle Fraiman**, husband of Lynn Fraiman; father of Joshua Fraiman and Michael Fraiman; brother of Hassya Ganz and Carol Weisberg

**Rhoda Gilbert**, mother of Marsha Shapiro, Ellen Newman and Ken Gilbert

**Mendel Green**, husband of Helen Green; father of Stephen Green, Evan Green and Shoshana Green; brother of Rochelle Green and Beryl Green

**Herbert Greenstein**, husband of Alice Greenstein; father of Pam Greenstein and Mark Greenstein; brother of Carol (Randi) Marrus, Beanie Eckler and Helen Casse

**Anna Gurvich**, wife of Benjamin Keppler; mother of Pavel Gurvich, Gabriel Dorfman and Sarah Dorfman

**Cheryl Handelman-Stott**, mother of Rachel Stott, Shayna Stott and Reuven Stott; sister of Mark Handelman

**Grigory Kanovich**, husband of Olga Kanovich; father of Dmitri Kanovich and Sergey Kanovich

**Marion Kazdan**, mother of Natalie Gangbar, Ken Gangbar and Ruth Gangbar

**Mary Leston**, mother of Susan Leston

**Dr. Joseph Leventhal**, father of Ian Leventhal and Susan Leventhal

**Blanche Lipski**, mother of Doris Rosenstock and Fran Meyers

**Michael Marrus**, husband of Carol (Randi) Marrus; father of Naomi Kriss, Jeremy Marrus and Adam Marrus; brother of Judy Slan and Lesley Barsky

**Betty Minden**, mother of Sharon Tarshis, Ted Minden and Debbie Minden

**Robert Moscowwitz**, brother of Rabbi John Moscowwitz and James Moscowwitz

**Bernie Rubin**, husband of Ava Rubin; father of Elana Rubin, Miriam Sidway and Avi Rubin; stepfather of Noah Schipper and Terry Schipper

**Rivka Sagi Buchvalter**, mother of Lior Sagi, Maayan Raz and Sarit Nevo; sister of Rachel Russo and Nachum Sagi

**Lee Shapiro**, partner of John Henson; daughter of Annette & Cecil Yolles; mother of Stacey Shapiro and Cory Shapiro; step-mother of Jenifer Henson, Jermaine Hendrickson, Jessica Henson Natland, and John Henson Jr.; sister of Marilyn Goldberg

**Stanley Shenkman**, husband of Donna Shenkman; father of James Shenkman; brother of Joy Perlow

**Eva Silver**, mother of Ellen Rosenfeld, Deanna Model and Michael Silver

**Joan Simkins**, sister of Sari Simkins and Howard Simkins

**Pearl Smith**, mother of Philip Smith, Sharon Quickfall and Margo Levine

**Muriel Steinberg**, mother of Lynn Factor, David Factor and Ron Factor

**Paul James Stott**, husband of Kelly Baldwin; father of Rachel Stott, Shayna Stott, Reuven Stott, Michelle Funston, David Funston, and Joe Stott; brother of Teresa Stott, Anne Marie Stott, Julie Stott, and Daniel Stott

**Nancy Theimer**, mother of Lisa Theimer, Paul Theimer, Brian Theimer, and Karen Theimer

**Sandra Trehub Matthews**, mother of Andrew Cohen, Ira Cohen and Dana Cohen; sister of Estelle Ebert and Maxine Seidman

**Freda Tobe**, mother of Judy Tobe, Stephen Tobe, Rebecca Barsky, and Naomi Oelbaum

**Ransom Vrooman**, father of Richard Vrooman, Don Vrooman, Mary Ann Bailey, and Douglas Vrooman

*December 1, 2022 to February 7, 2023*

# WELCOME TO OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY

## WELCOME TO...

Alex Parkhouse & Jennifer Czobel and child Addison

Amy Burke and children Lexie and Halle

Andrew Gordon & Ailsa Bristow and child Marianne

Carol Dale

Cem Margunato & Mehtap Gökçe Margunato and child  
Jeremi

Denise & Ralph Newstadt

Iolanda Formoso & Daniel Silverstein

Jacqui Willinsky and children Mara and Eva

Karen Burke

Karen Willinsky

Laurie Morgan Silver

Loren Ackerman & Samantha Fuss Ackerman and  
children Ray and Dylan

Lynda Kahn & Jack Pearpoint

Michelle Holzapfel & Aaron Kronenfeld

Myron Wolfe

Pavel Gurvich & Hallie Sinclair

Phyllis & Hyman Ackerman

Sylvia Dinkin

Yoniah Zeigler

## Mazel tov to...

### BIRTHS

Mazel tov to Daniel Axelrod & Andrea Copeland on the birth of their daughter Naomi Molly. Proud family includes brother Reid, grandparents Terry Axelrod & Heather Shapiro, Charles Copeland & Rhonda Reid, and great-grandparent Muriel Randell.

Mazel tov to Maddie Axelrod & David Kogan on the birth of their daughter, Amelia Perre Axelrod Kogan. Proud family includes Zephie Kogan and grandparents Heather Shapiro & Terry Axelrod and Lilya Levitan & Naum Kogan.

Mazel tov to Hannah & Robert Eisenberg on the birth of their daughter Miriam Hallie Eisenberg. Proud family includes brother Samuel, grandparents Joni & Eric Eisenberg, Susan & David Pinsky, and great-grandparents Roz Shrier, Mildred Eisenberg, Marcia Waters, and Diane Rosenberg.

Mazel tov to Jessica & Matthew Librach on birth of their daughter Riley Abigail Librach. Proud grandparents are Matt & Aviva Gottlieb and Mark & Heather Librach.

Mazel tov to Ali & Alex Richardson on the birth of Jake Miles Richardson. Proud grandparents are Joan & Brian Mirsky and Debi Lawson Wynston & Sandy Richardson. Proud great-grandparents are Linda & Michael Wynston and Norma Richardson.

Mazel tov to Allie Kalifer Silverstein & Oliver Silverstein on the birth of their son Kai Levi Silverstein. Proud grandparents are Jill Silverstein, Kelly Silverstein z"l and Ronnie & Nancy Kalifer. Proud great-grandparents are Alan Banks, Marvin & Bernyce Kalifer and Loraine.

Mazel tov to Jessica Stern & Mark Greenberg on the birth of their son Nathaniel Sebastian Greenberg on December 9, 2022. Proud family includes grandparents Barbara & John Greenberg and Jill & Allen Stern.

Mazel tov to Tiffany Tanz & Josh Howard on the birth of their son Ace Mason Tanz Howard. Proud grandparents are Rick & Ellen Howard and Russell & Robyn Tanz. Proud great grandparents are Gloria Howard, Richard & Jean Lorie, Lila Halberstadt, and Gilda Tanz & Marty Kelman.

Mazel tov to Caylee & Boris Zipilevich on the birth of their daughter Liel Zipilevich. Proud family includes Shondra Wiener, Howard Kalisky, Tania & Leonid Zipilevich, Allan Chapnik, Sheila Singer, Morton Wiener, and Svetlana Berman.

## WEDDINGS & ENGAGEMENTS

Mazel tov to Jamie Crawford-Ritchie and Zachary Dloomy on their engagement. Proud parents are Heather Crawford & Larry Ritchie and Susie & Ephraim Dloomy. Proud grandparents are Judy & Carl Ritchie and Beatrice Crawford.

Mazel tov to Leah Sack & Lior Valitsky on their engagement. Proud parents are Susan Sack Liss & Howard Liss, Mark & Sidra Sack and Gregory & Nataly Valitsky. Proud grandparents are Elaine Sack, Neli & Boris Feigin.

Mazel tov to Kelly Marie Shillington & Aaron Kamin Hart on their engagement. Proud parents are Kathryn Benson, John & Johanne Shillington, and Murray Hart & Jill Kamin. Proud grandparents are David & Margaret Hart, Harold & Norma Kamin, Harold & Doreen Benson, and Phyllis Kenyon.

## OTHER SMACHOT

Mazel tov to Dr. Allan Borodin on being named for the Order of Canada, with the official ceremony on December 1, 2022.

Immediate Past President, Avra Rosen, and Rabbi Yael Splansky received the Queen's Jubilee Award for steering Holy Blossom Temple through the trials of the pandemic.

Bob Charendoff received the Queen's Jubilee Award for his leadership in providing for the hungry and vulnerable of Toronto.

Kalman Green received the Queen's Jubilee Award for his leadership in interfaith work.



*On Sunday March 6, 2022, we had the honour of attending our granddaughter Tali's baby naming. Our family chose to have a private ceremony with Rabbi Splansky in the Enkin Library. This was a very intimate way of introducing Tali to her Jewish community. She was surrounded by her parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncle.*

*We were all touched by Rabbi Splansky's enthusiasm, warmth, passion and dedication. When she sang the prayers, the expression on Tali's face warmed our hearts and reminded us of why Jewish traditions are so important to our family. We also learned that Rabbi Splansky has a beautiful voice.*

*Every time we see the picture of Tali wearing her beautiful hand-knitted pink sweater, we will think of the generosity of the Women of Holy Blossom. She even has a matching hat. The Temple registered Tali and her parents to receive a monthly book with a Jewish theme from PJ Library. A beautiful certificate was given to Michael and*

*Jordana as a keepsake to mark this special occasion.*

*Mel and I would like to thank Rabbi Splansky, Lindsay Mockler, and the Women of Holy Blossom for making this day so memorable for our family.*

*Ellen & Mel Little*

# MAZEL TOV! B'NEI MITZVAH



**Noa Morris**  
December 10, 2022  
Daughter of Karen Jalon & Moshe Morris



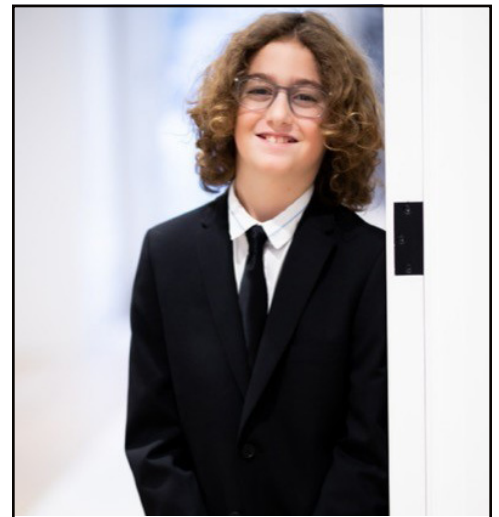
**Isabel Goldman**  
December 10, 2022  
Daughter of Alison & Corey Goldman



**Mattan Thompson- Berger**  
December 17, 2022  
Son of Samara Thompson & Shai Berger



**Ethan Steen**  
January 14, 2023  
Son of Alana & Ady Steen



**Nolan Ross**  
January 21, 2023  
Son of Jessica & Tyler Ross



**Austen Warwick**  
January 28, 2023  
Son of Lisi Teshler & Rob Warwick



**Micah Petersiel**  
February 11, 2023  
Son of Tami Moscoe & Eric Petersiel



**Cara Foster**  
March 18, 2023  
Daughter of Cheryl & Eric Foster

# HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE FOUNDATION: EMBRACING AND ENSURING OUR FUTURE

Joan Garson, HBT Foundation Chair and Shira Lester, Director of Development and Donor Engagement



Holy Blossom Temple is always challenging itself to improve, to achieve, and to lead. Our community – congregants, Rabbis, Cantors and staff – aspire together to shape our shared future. We are in an exciting time at Temple as our community has expanded by more than 175 members this year including many young families. We are poised to do great things together.

The extraordinary generosity of Holy Blossom Temple's members has empowered our congregation. Now with great excitement, we announce the relaunch of the fundraising Foundation of Holy Blossom Temple. Its mandate is to enable the achievement of our shared vision: to secure a future of constant improvement, and to maintain our achievements to date in all aspects of Temple life: in education, in celebration, in worship, in welcome, in tikkun olam, in kindness and support of each other.

The Annual Campaign is just as important as ever, generating critical, unrestricted funds each year to enable the operation of Temple. Temple is now adding to and enhancing the range of ways to support Holy Blossom: donations to Foundation can be directed to specific areas of Temple life that inspire individual donors, and these gifts can be made over several years or through legacy commitments.

Over the past 9 months, the new Board of the Foundation has been meeting, planning, and working hard. Shortly, generous donors who have established funds in Foundation will be receiving updated reporting. The opportunities to remember Holy Blossom at times of joys and sorrows and in estate plans will be broadened and publicized. We will be sharing a full, new range of donation opportunities for gifts large and small including meaningful ways to celebrate Rabbi Splansky and her 25th anniversary at Temple and to build our future together.

The Board of the Foundation currently includes 7 elected voting members and the Immediate Past Chair, chaired by Joan Garson. These dedicated volunteers are featured below.

The Board of Foundation also includes members of the Temple Board, and in honorary capacities, all past chairs of the Foundation and presidents of the Temple, as well as Rabbis and Cantors. Staff support is provided by the Director of Development and Donor Engagement, Shira Lester.

We are a community that is always striving to create the finest expression of a Reform Jewish way of life...driven to lead, continually challenging ourselves and questioning accepted ways of thinking. Foundation as reenvisioned becomes a key component in meeting this challenge year by year, with the support and inspiration of our congregation.

Our Holy Blossom Temple Foundation Website is coming soon!

## Meet our HBT Foundation Board members



**Ilisa Blidner** has extensive experience consulting in the health and social services sectors. She is an experienced facilitator and has lectured and presented workshops on various topics. Prior to developing her independent consulting practice, Ilisa held an academic position at the University of Toronto in the Faculty of Medicine; and initiated her career conducting clinical research in Neonatology. She has filled various governance roles and continues to serve on Boards and committees. She has served as Board Chair, Vice Chair and lead of task forces in the health sector and with professional associations. Currently, Ilisa chairs the Baycrest Foundation Board. Ilisa serves on advisory and governance bodies at the provincial level with Ontario Health-CorHealth, and at the regional level with Ontario's Stroke System. She is currently Chair of the Toronto Stroke Networks Steering Committee and is Chair of the Toronto West Stroke Network.

Ilisa and her husband, Jeff Blidner, have been Holy Blossom Temple members for more than 35 years. Ilisa has been involved with family programming at Holy Blossom Temple, has volunteered with the Out of the Cold Program and has participated in adult learning offerings at Holy Blossom Temple.



**Sara Charney** is the 1st Canadian to hold the office of President of Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ), an affiliate of the Union for Reform Judaism. Sara enjoys connecting with Reform Jewish women and our grantees throughout our vast network across North America, in Israel and in Europe. Locally, Sara is active in the Holy Blossom Temple women's group and the Reform Jewish Community of Canada's Tikkun Olam Steering Committee. Sara holds a Ph.D. in Italian language and literature from the University of Toronto where she taught for several years.



**Nancy Cohen** is a lifelong member of Holy Blossom Temple. She has a wealth of volunteer leadership experience in the community. This includes a very active role at Toronto French School including the Board and Foundation Board. Other community volunteer leadership roles over the years include CHW, Brazilian Ball, Koffler Centre of the Arts, UJA Women's Venture Philanthropy Fund. Nancy is excited to bring this experience to help build our Foundation and to contribute to the continued growth of Temple.



**Joan Garson (President)**

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.



**Axel Goldenberg**

Axel and his family moved to Toronto from Istanbul four years ago. Axel has three children aged 15, and 14 and is married to Nazli. Axel has 20 years of experience in Energy markets and in alternative Green fuels. He started his career as the co-founder of and general manager of Dem-al Autogas where he created a new market as Turkey's first alternative fuels. Later, as a Green Entrepreneur, he founded Naturelgaz A.S., Turkey's first compressed natural gas distribution and logistics firm where he acted as the CEO for 10 years and fully exited in 2021. Currently, Axel is the Chair of Canna-pharma Investments based in Toronto. He is a member of the Young Presidents' Organization and a Holy Blossom Temple Foundation board member. It is important for younger generations to understand the collective importance won collaboration and cooperation- making something that is bigger than they are. That's who we are that's how we survived and thrived as a Jewish people. I am honoured to sit on the board of the Foundation, working to build something wonderful for future generations.



**Elliott Jacobson (Immediate Past Chair)** has been an HBT Foundation Board member since 1989. Holy Blossom is a truly vital Canadian Jewish institution and I always felt that giving back to my community is important. So I did and always, to the best of my capabilities, answered the call and was pleased, proud, and humbled to serve.



**Lesley Offman**

One of my cherished childhood memories is of standing on a table at the Hadassah Bazaar, helping my mother's Chapter sell used clothing to raise money for Israel. This early experience was just the beginning of my lifelong commitment to the Jewish community and philanthropy. Volunteer leadership has played a central role in my life. Among many other leadership roles, I sat on the Women's Auxiliaries at Baycrest and Mt. Sinai Hospital. I chaired UJA's Women's Philanthropy in 2001 and co-chaired UJA's Annual Campaign In 2006. I am the Immediate Past Chair of the Past Women's Chairs Council, also of UJA. I am currently on the Executive Cabinet at UJA. At Holy Blossom Temple, I was a member of the Renewal Committee and I am delighted to currently hold the position of Secretary of the Holy Blossom Temple Foundation. I am deeply committed to Jewish continuity and Holy Blossom Temple exemplifies that for me. It is the place where my children grew up and Temple was pivotal in forming their Jewish identities. Their children are seventh-generation Canadian Jews. I have taken on this role at Foundation because I believe passionately in the strengthening of our Temple home for our Jewish future.



**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.

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT TO THE RENEWAL PROJECT CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

## COMPLETED PLEDGES

Bob & Dorothy Aaron  
 Karen & Yoel Abells and Family  
 Jonathan Ain & Sam Gershkovich  
 Naomi Akler  
 Jean Anderson & Randall Friedland  
 Sara & Michael Angel  
 Evelyn & Ira Applebaum  
 Sandra & Gordon z"l Atlin  
 Terry Axelrod & Heather Shapiro  
 The Baines Family  
 Barbara & Michael Baker  
 Debra & Jeff Baker  
 Julie Banik z"l  
 Susan Baskin  
 Earl Bederman & Ann MacPherson and Family  
 Debra Bennett  
 Janice Bereskin & Ira Barkin  
 Eileen & David Berger  
 Corinne & Neil Berinstein  
 Michael Bernstein & Nandini DasGupta  
 Eric Beutel & Deborah Siegel  
 Rachel Birenbaum & Michael Hyman, in memory of Marilyn Birenbaum  
 Jeff & Ilsa Blidner  
 Peter Block z"l  
 Frances & Lawrence Bloomberg and Family  
 Jim & Susan Bookbinder  
 Barry & Susan Borden  
 In Memory of Ruth & Harvey Borden  
 Andrew & Marlene Borins  
 Richard Borins, Sheryl Brodey and Family  
 Barbara Bregman  
 Judy & Eric Breuer  
 Elizabeth & Reuben Bromstein  
 Paul Cantor & Helen Sinclair  
 Charles Cass  
 Joseph & Marilynne Cass  
 The Hon. Sandra & Dr. Jerry Chapnik  
 Drs. Alice & Ron Charach  
 Henrietta Chesnie  
 Charles & Joy Cohen  
 Andrew Cohen  
 Nat Cohen  
 Michael S. Cole  
 Gloria & Richard Cole  
 Greg Coleman & Jill Witkin  
 Barbara & Richard Conway  
 Morris Cooper, Esther Zeller Cooper and Family  
 Bob Cooper and Bonnie & Mel Shear  
 Bonnie Croll & Robert Henry

Kathleen Crook & James Penturn  
 Richard & Joanne Cummings  
 Susan & Peter Dan  
 Isabel & Barney Danson  
 Michael & Dimitra Davidson and Family  
 Jeff & Phyllis Denaburg  
 Amanda and Jordan Dermer  
 Janette & Michael Diamond and Family  
 Carey Diamond & Tina Urman  
 Miriam & Marvin Dryer  
 Daniel Drucker & Cheryl Rosen  
 Anne Dublin  
 Lloyd Duckman  
 Arnold & Ricky Englander  
 Maxanne Ezer  
 Joseph & Helen Feldmann  
 Joseph Feldman  
 Marc Feldman  
 Francesca Feldman  
 Helena & David Fine and Family  
 George & Lois Fine  
 Jack M. Fine z"l  
 Malka, David L. and Craig Fingold in memory of J. Paul Fingold  
 Mike & Sandi Florence  
 Barbara & Gary Fogler  
 Joanne & Garry Foster  
 Tom, Jacqueline, Michael, David & Elliott Friedland  
 Sam Frum and Barbara Frum  
 Shelley & Arthur Gans  
 Zita Gardner  
 Steven Garmaise & Sue Rebick  
 Nancy Gebel & Jeff Leibel  
 Howard & Carole Gelfand  
 John A. & Sybil Geller z"l  
 The Frank Gerstein Family Foundation  
 Ruth & Frank Gishman  
 Elaine & Marv Givertz  
 Marilyn & David Gluskin  
 Rosemarie & Sheldon Gold  
 Stanley L. & JoAnn Gold  
 Bonnie Goldberg & Adam Abramson, Arly and Remy  
 Fran & Bernie Goldman  
 Brad & Nathalie Goldhar  
 Susan & Marty Goldberg  
 Mary & Jose Goldman  
 Cynthia Good & Dan Aronchick  
 The Goodman Family  
 Mindy & Howard Goodman  
 Diana & Marvin Goodman  
 Denise Gordon, Dennis Chow and Family  
 Sam Gotfrid z"l  
 Kathy & Maurice Green  
 Shelley Greene & Joel Kirsh,  
 Ezra and Seth

Anita & Michael Greenstein  
 Barbara L. Grossman in loving memory of Harry & Ethel Grossman  
 Robert Grundleger  
 William & Janet Gula and Family  
 Dr. Brian & Cynthia Hands;  
 Sharon Clavir z"l  
 E. David Hart  
 Murray Hart & Jill Kamin  
 Dorothy Hasinoff & Kalle Vaga  
 Karen & Larry Hausman  
 Alan & Joan Heavenrich  
 Frances & Paul Hellen  
 Elaine Herer & Stephen Holzapfel  
 W. Bernard Herman, Wendy & Elliott Eisen, Carole & Bernard Zucker  
 Jill Hertzman  
 Harold z"l & Florence Hertzman  
 Robert & Jane Herman  
 Stephanie Hill & Greg Mahon  
 Andrea Himel & Eric, Lauren & Seth Adelson  
 Danielle Himel & Allan, Jonah & Dylan Kates  
 Helen & Joe z"l Hochberg  
 In memory of Katie Hoffman | John & Rose Shulman: Michael & Jackie Shulman, JoAnn & Harold Hoffman, Andrew & Leslie Hoffman  
 Holy Blossom Temple Brotherhood  
 Holy Blossom Temple Fine Arts Committee  
 The family of Ivan Hronsky z"l  
 Steven Hurowitz and Diane Osak  
 Ruth Hussman & Barry Strauss  
 Sydney & Daisy Jacobs z"l  
 Elliott Jacobson & Judy Malkin  
 Jan & Russ z"l Joseph  
 In honour of Etienne Kaplan by her children.  
 Carol & William Kassel  
 Bambi Katz  
 Sarah & David Kaufman  
 Paula Kirsh  
 Dr. Stuart & Francie Klein  
 Laurence Klotz & Ursula Lotz  
 Neil Kozloff & Susan Himel  
 Kriss Family  
 Mimi & Malcolm Kronby  
 Joseph z"l & Doreen Kronick  
 Jack Kugelmass & Helene Brodziak  
 Harriette Laing  
 Yonit Landskroner and Shay Menuchin  
 In memory of Agnes & Laszlo Lantos  
 Leon & Anita Lapidus and Family

Julia & Lloyd Lavine  
 Rolland Leader & Loris Aro  
 Fern Lebo & Alan Budner  
 Gloria & Anthony Leibel  
 Mariam Leitman & Craig Perkins  
 Sally Libman  
 Brian Lidsky & Elana Paice Lidsky  
 Earl & Jordanna Lipson  
 Lisser Family  
 Peter & Eleanor Loebel  
 In loving memory of our parents, Sheila & Sydney Loftus  
 Gay & Gerald Lokash  
 Jean & Richard Lorie  
 Jill & Ben Lustig  
 Eva & Mark Madras  
 Cantor Beny & Hope Maissner  
 Peter & Diane Mandell  
 Les & Wendy Mandelbaum  
 Zoe Margolis & Julian Piper  
 Fredzia & Dow Marmur  
 Sarah McNally and Bruce Sheiner  
 Keith & Suzette Meloff  
 The Melman Family  
 Melman/Pinch Family  
 Rena Mendelson & Allan Detsky  
 David and Ellen Sue Mesbur  
 Fred & Cecile Metrick and Ken & Renee Metrick  
 Carolin & Jerry Michaels  
 David Miller  
 Sharon & Shelley Miller  
 Karen Minden & Harvey Schipper  
 Harley Mintz, Judy Nyman and Family  
 Brian & Joan Mirsky and Family  
 Audrey & David Mirvish  
 David & Karen Mock  
 Larry Mogelonsky & Susan Wright  
 In memory of Meyer Morrow  
 Debbi & Bobby Moses  
 Rabbi John Moscovitz  
 Freda Ariella & Arthur z"l Muscovitch  
 Harvey & Sylvia Naftolin  
 Michelle & Gavin Naimer  
 Sharon Neiss-Arbess & Gordon Arbess and Family  
 Neinstein/Farber Family  
 Erin O'Connor  
 Allan & Lesley Offman  
 Dr. Stephen Pearl  
 Bernice & Yitz z"l Penciner  
 Harvin & Rachel Pitch  
 Alison & Gary Polan and Family  
 Stephen Posen, Robyn Kestenberg, Josh, Daniel, Jordan & Samantha  
 David Posen & Susan McArthur



Wayne & Marlene Pulver  
Teresa & Alberto Quiroz  
Anita & Val Rachlis  
Helen Raphael and Family  
Jane & Russell Rendely  
Donald & Fern Resnick  
Rhonda Richer & Tim Lipa  
Cantorial Soloist Lindi Rivers  
Dr. Peter z"l and Mary  
Rockman  
Beth & Eric Roher  
Judith & Jack Rose  
Stacey & Lewis Rose and  
Family  
Joy Rosen & Lawrence  
Freedman  
Larry Rosen, Susan Jackson  
and Family  
David & Gillian Rosenberg and  
Family  
Joanne Rosenberg & Jerry  
McIntosh  
Kay & William Rosenfeld  
Ann Rosenfield and Family  
Arlene Roth  
Irving & Florence Rother z"l  
Michael Rotsztain & Fay  
Greenholtz  
The Rotman Family  
Erika Rubin & Adam Breslin  
Marlene & Robert Ruderman  
Nancy Ruth z"l and Family  
Janet & Michael Ryval  
Marvin z"l & Victoria Sadowski  
Dr. Mark and Susan Sager  
Sandra & David Sandler  
Rivanne Sandler  
Dr. Ian Sandler, Fern  
Glowinsky and Family  
Brenda & Fred Saunders  
Lula & Irving Saunders  
Memorial Fund  
Robert Saunders  
Lillian Schacter  
Andy & Sandi Schafer, in  
honour of Mary Seldon  
Carol & Lionel Schipper  
and the Mendelson Family  
Foundation  
Ruthe Schipper & Jerry  
Rotstein  
Brian & Annalee Schnurr  
Alison & Alan Schwartz  
Mary Seldon  
Lili & Michael Shain  
Nancy Shanoff  
Lorne & Sharon Shapiro  
Ann Sharp & Vernon Shaw  
Helen & Edward Sheffman  
Ann Shendroff  
Jim Shenkman & Denise Zarn  
Sheiner Mauer Family  
Donna & Stanley Shenkman  
Janet & Norman Shiner and  
Family  
Eliane Shore & Jascha Jabes  
Bella Shupac

Side by Side Event  
Dr. & Mrs. Harvey Silver  
Michael Silver  
Robert & Jan Simonsky  
Sisterhood in honour of Hope  
Maissner, Pnina Margolese,  
Mary Seldon  
Jeannie & Peter Sklar  
Lise & Luke z"l Sklar  
Neri & Peter Slan and Family  
Lynne and Harold Smith  
Jeff Dicker & Sandi Smith  
Sheila Smolkin  
Ken Snider & Deborah Leibow  
Howard Sokolowski & Linda  
Frum Sokolowski  
Michael & Susan Sole  
Carl & Virginia Solomon  
Julie Solomon  
Janis & Gary Soren  
Joseph Soren z"l  
Susan & David Speigel  
Joyce Spiegel  
Dr. Manuel z"l & Phyllis Spivak  
Debbie & Randy Spiegel  
Roy and Karen Splansky  
Leslie & Mel Springman  
Lyle Stanway z"l  
Paul Stein & Beth Weingarden  
Martin Sterling  
Carole & Jay Sterling and  
Family  
Floyd & Barbara Stern  
Hubert & Barbara Stitt  
Francie & Martin Storm  
Roger & Susan Stronell  
Cheryl Sylvester and Robert,  
Aaron, and Nathan Schenk  
The Tabachnick Family  
Renee Tarantino  
Liz Tarshis & Rick Lash  
Gloria & Seymour Temkin  
Ellie Teshler  
TJRJ Fund: Tammy Brown,  
Jodi Bager, Robin Sims,  
Jennifer Godfrey  
Sidney Troister & Claudia  
Blumberger; The Family of  
Deborah Hyla Troister z"l  
The Holy Blossom Temple  
Ukulele Group  
John & Rosie Uster and Family,  
in loving memory of Donna &  
Harry Uster  
Morris & Debby Vigoda  
Nancy Viner & Raymond Stein  
Vally & Arieh Waldman  
Marvin Warsh  
Lila Weiss, Kevin & Joanne  
Roher and Family  
Dr. Rhonda Wilansky & Mr.  
Israel Ben-Ishai  
Diane & Jonathan Wilson and  
Family  
Michael & Shari Wilson  
Stan & Ros Witkin  
Daniel & Michelle Wittlin

Elizabeth Wolfe  
Rose Wolfe and Jonathan &  
Amal Wolfe  
Lorne Wolfson & Lorie  
Shekter-Wolfson  
William & Dorothy Wolfson  
Ellen Yack & Irv Marks  
Susan Yack & Eric Rumack  
YAD Renewal Fundraising  
The Yakobson Family  
Robert & Charna Yasny  
Betty Young  
Joyce & Fred Zemans  
Alvin Zoltan  
Anonymous (17)

### **NEW OR INCREASED GIFTS**

Michael F. Firestone & Carol  
Albert-Firestone  
Senator Irving & Gail Gerstein  
and Family  
Howard Liss & Susan Sack Liss;  
Lana, Charles, Josh, Michael,  
Leah  
Rachel Malach & Dr. Jordan  
Silverman  
Janis Rotman  
Susan & Peter Segal

### **PLEDGE IN PROGRESS**

In memory of Stan Adelman  
Michael & Pam Albert and  
Family  
Mark S. Anshan & Brenda  
Spiegler  
Maddie Axelrod & David Kogan  
Janice & Larry Babins  
Ellen & Murray Blankstein  
Cheryl & David Blinick  
Judith & Allan Borodin  
Michael Bregman  
The Joseph Burnett Family  
Foundation  
In honour of Mitchell Cait-  
Goldenthal's Bar Mitzvah  
Barry & Debra Campbell  
The Carroll Family  
Richard & Sara Charney  
George & Susan Cohon and  
Family  
Ellen T. Cole  
The Crawford-Ritchie Family  
Carol Crystal & Jeff Meilach  
Susan Davis & David Dewitt  
Ron Dembo & Ilana Zylberman  
Dembo, Justine, Ella, Hannah  
and Rachel  
Owen & Nancy Duckman  
Larry Enkin  
Bruce & Jodi Feldman  
Angela & David Feldman  
Lloyd & Gladys Fogler  
Anne Freeman  
Joy & Barry Gales  
Joan Garson & David Baskin  
Mark Goodman & Avra Rosen  
and family

Alex & Janeth Henry  
David Hertzman & Marilyn  
Shesko  
In memory of Katie Hoffman |  
John & Rose Shulman: Michael  
& Jackie Shulman, JoAnn &  
Harold Hoffman, Andrew &  
Leslie Hoffman  
The Howard Family  
Zlata and Ron Huddleston  
Caroline & Nicolas Ingvaldsen  
Eric Klein & Gillian Helfield  
Robert Klotz & Lyn Feldman  
Karine Krieger & Dan Daviau  
and Family  
John B. Laskin & Holly Goren  
Laskin  
Lorraine & Donald Loeb  
Vikki & Michael Lyons and  
Family  
Randi & Michael Marrus  
Lesley & Ron Miller  
Shoshana Paice  
Pilosoph Family  
Ann & Gary Posen  
Suzie & Stephen Pustil and  
Family  
Leslie & Darren Richmond and  
Family, in loving memory of  
Bernard Herman  
Les and Beverley Rothschild  
Maureen, Lorne and Alex  
Saltman  
Judy & Sam Sapera; Darren  
Sukonick & Matthew Sapera  
Julia & Michael Sax  
Gerald Schwartz & Heather  
Reisman  
Mona & Robert Sherkin  
Leonard Simpson & Micki  
Moore Simpson  
Judy & Gerald Slan, in honour  
of Lillian & Elliott Marrus z"l  
Adam Sniderman  
Cary & Lisa Solomon and  
Family  
Marla Spiegel & Joe Donahue  
Rabbi Yael Splansky, Dr. Adam  
Sol, and Family  
Gaye & Andrew Stein, Amy  
Stein & Chris Roach, Gillian  
Stein & Anton Krangle  
Megan Stephens & Daniel Iny  
and Family  
Marvin & Esther Tile  
Joanne Weigen  
Jack & Judy Winberg and  
Family  
Anonymous

If you are interested in  
making a gift to our renewal  
of space and spirit please  
contact

**Shira Lester,**  
[slester@holyblossom.org](mailto:slester@holyblossom.org)  
416-789-3291 x 261

# WE THANK OUR GENEROUS DONORS

## DISCRETIONARY FUNDS

### RABBI YAEL SPLANSKY

Diana Goodman  
Evan Hausman & Carrie Beallor

### In Appreciation/Honour of Rabbi Yael Splansky:

Terry Axelrod & Heather Shapiro  
Eleanor and Miriam Baker  
Barry & Susan Borden  
Carol Cruickshank & Jim Lisser  
Ann MacPherson  
Paisley/Lowenthal Family  
Doris & Ted Rosenstock

### In Honour of the Yahrzeit of Ida Aster:

Prof. Sidney Aster

### In Honour of the Yahrzeit of Bonnie Goldman:

Fran & Bernie Goldman

### On Yahrzeit of Anne Weinstein:

Fran & Bernie Goldman

### RABBI SAMUEL KAYE

Evan Hausman & Carrie Beallor  
Samantha Shulman & Jake Futerfas

### In Appreciation/Honour of Rabbi Samuel Kaye:

Ann MacPherson  
The Marrus family  
Doris & Ted Rosenstock  
Samara Thompson & Shai Berger  
Jack & Judy Winberg

### RABBI ELIZA MCCARROLL

Evan Hausman & Carrie Beallor

### In Appreciation/Honour of Rabbi Eliza McCarroll:

Eleanor and Miriam Baker  
Anne Freeman  
Cynthia Good & Dan Aronchick  
Gail & Gary Goodman  
Elizabeth Maishlish & David Fisher  
Judy Newman  
Les & Beverley Rothschild  
Barbara Thal-Hodes & Robert Hodes

Judith & Jack Winberg

### CANTOR DAVID ROSEN

### In Appreciation/Honour of Cantor David Rosen:

The Brott Family  
Elaine Givertz  
Evan Hausman & Carrie Beallor  
Olga & Dmitri Kanovich  
The Marrus family  
JoAnne Weigen

### CANTORIAL SOLOIST LINDI RIVERS

Diana Goodman  
Evan Hausman & Carrie Beallor

### In Appreciation/Honour of Cantorial Soloist Lindi Rivers:

Robyn Blatt & Jeffrey Freedman  
Karen Cohen  
Susan Cohen  
Carol Cruickshank & Jim Lisser

### In Honour of Cantorial Soloist Lindi Rivers & Tali Weiss:

Dr. Orli Goldberg, Dr. Ari Baratz & Koby Baratz

## ADULT EDUCATION

### In Memory of Rabbi Bernard Baskin:

Michael & Celia Stroh

### In Honour of Cynthia Good:

Charlotte Haber

### In Honour of Mark Goodman:

Charlotte Haber  
Ann MacPherson-Bederman

### In Memory of Herb Greenstein:

Francie & Martin Storm

### In Honour of Gillian Helfield:

GC Bocknek

### In Honour of Jack Kugelmass:

Charlotte Haber

### In Memory of Michael Marrus:

Cynthia Good

Virginia Solomon  
Francie & Martin Storm

## ARCHIVES

### In Honour of Sheila Smolkin:

Bernice Penciner

## BEREAVEMENT FUND

### In Appreciation/Honour of Jack Kugelmass:

Carla Baudot  
Donna Richardson  
Ann Shendroff  
Kim Stairs  
Joni Stossel & Devon Wolch  
Anonymous

### In Appreciation of Tanis Floom:

Carla and Erica Baudot

## CECILE AND HARRY PEARL FUND

### In Memory of Marvin Goodman:

Joyce Zemans

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DISCRETIONARY FUND

Anonymous

## DOROT

### In Honour of Linda Neufeld:

Debra Merowitz

## FAMILY PROGRAMMING

### In Memory of Marvin B. Goodman:

Rosie & John Uster

### In Honour of Phyllis Denaburg:

Sara Clodman and family

## HABSTY

Mark S. Anshan  
Susan R. Baskin  
Jody Berkes  
Jeff Denaburg

Elena & Lance Duke  
Geri Durbin  
Mark Goodman & Avra Rosen  
Lauren Grundland  
S. Hersh & M. Cassidy  
Lisa Isen Baumal  
Richard Kollins  
Roberta & Rich Sol  
The Sol/Splansky Family  
Anonymous

### **HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE ANNUAL CAMPAIGN 2022 / GREATEST NEED**

Howell Gotlieb  
Cem Margunato  
Carole Payne

**In Memory of Fred Baker:**  
The Kagan family

**In Memory of Rabbi Bernard  
Baskin:**  
Barry & Susan Borden

**In Memory of Emory Burke:**  
Amy Burke, Karen Burke and  
Rosanna Honig

**In Memory of Joy Cohen:**  
David Baskin & Joan Garson

**In Memory of Sydney Collins:**  
Marta Collins

**In Honour of Phyllis Denaburg:**  
Joan Garson  
Jill Kamin & Murray Hart  
Jack & Judy Winberg

**In Memory of Jack Diamond:**  
Anonymous

**In Appreciation of Cynthia Good  
& Dan Aronchick:**  
Anonymous

**In Memory of Marvin Goodman:**  
David Baskin & Joan Garson  
Cynthia Good & Dan Aronchick  
Gail & Gary Goodman

Harriette Laing  
Jean & Richard Lorie  
Merle Rachlin  
Jack & Judy Winberg  
Linda Wolfe

**In Memory of Ned Goodman:**  
Sam & Judy Sapera

**In Honour of Matt & Aviva  
Gottlieb:**  
Bernice Penciner and family

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of Ada  
Greenwood:**  
Sheldon & Ruth Ellen Greenwood  
and family

**In Honour of Alan Heavenrich:**  
Anonymous

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of  
Mollie Hoffman and Dobra  
Penciner:**  
Bernice Penciner and family

**In Memory of Sheri Lipson-  
Korn:**  
David Baskin & Joan Garson

**In Honour of Jennifer Malvin:**  
Judy Adler Lotin

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of Yitz  
Penciner:**  
Bernice Penciner and family

**In Appreciation of Harvin &  
Rachel Pitch:**  
Judy & Lauren Zeilig

**In Honour of Avra Rosen:**  
Joan Garson  
Jack & Judy Winberg

**In Memory of Adele Sager:**  
David Baskin & Joan Garson  
Jack & Judy Winberg

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of  
Harry Smith:**  
Ronna Rubin, Phil Smith, Jill and  
Hailey Smith

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of  
Gerald Stein:**  
Gaye & Andrew Stein

**In Memory of Muriel Steinberg:**  
David Baskin & Joan Garson

**In Memory of Charles  
Tabachnik:**  
Sam & Judy Sapera

**In Memory of Sandra Trehub  
Matthews:**  
David Baskin & Joan Garson  
Bernice Penciner and family

**In Memory of Ransom Vrooman:**  
Anonymous

**In Honour of Judy Winberg:**  
Joan Garson

### **HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE RENEWAL FUND**

**In Memory of Rabbi Bernard  
Baskin:**  
Teresa & Alberto Quiroz  
David & Gillian Rosenberg  
Cheryl Sylvester & Robert Schenk

**In Memory of Marvin Goodman:**  
Sheila Smolkin  
Esther & Marvin Tile

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of  
Joseph Herman:**  
Carole & Bernie Zucker and family

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of  
Rose Herman:**  
Carole & Bernie Zucker and family

**In Honour of Rabbi Eliza  
McCarroll:**  
Helena & David S

**In Appreciation of Carole  
Sterling:**  
Anonymous

# WE THANK OUR GENEROUS DONORS

## HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE SPONSORSHIP

### Flowers

**In Honour of Cara Foster:**  
Cheryl & Eric Foster

**In Honour of Austen Warwick:**  
Lisi Teshler & Rob Warwick

### Programs and events

**AGM breakfast:**  
HBT Brotherhood  
Women of Holy Blossom

**Good Books:**  
Elaine Davis, Lois Fine, Mimi  
Hollenberg and Pauline Toker

**HBT Board Retreat (URJ):**  
Phyllis Segal Denaburg  
Avra Rosen

**Lights of the Temple:**  
Judy & Sam Sapera

**Purim Megillah Reading &  
Talent Show**  
Saul & Viviane Ship

### Shabbat Kiddush Lunch

**Board installation kiddush:**  
Phyllis Segal Denaburg

**In Honour of Ruby Julia Bela  
Century:**  
Eric & Beth Roher and Barbara  
Todd & Michael Century

**The Installation of Assistant  
Rabbi Eliza McCarroll:**  
Karen & Michel Wagner

**In Honour of Dalia Fisher:**  
Elizabeth Maishlish & David Fisher

**In Honour of Noa Morris:**  
Karen Jalon & Moshe Morris

**In Honour of Matan Thompson-  
Berger:**  
Samara Thompson & Shai Berger

**In Honour of Austen Warwick:**  
Lisi Teshler & Rob Warwick

### Shabbat Livestream

**In Honour of Cara Foster:**  
Cheryl & Eric Foster

**In Honour of Austen Warwick:**  
Lisi Teshler & Rob Warwick

### Shacharit Breakfast

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of  
Norman Bager:**  
Steven Bager

**In Memory of Earl Bederman:**  
Ann MacPherson

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of  
Arthur Cole:**  
Michael Cole

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of  
Henry Dan:**  
Susan & Peter Dan

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of  
Michael Garson Davis:**  
Hyla Davis

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of  
Samuel Goodman:**  
Mark Goodman & Avra Rosen

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of Joel  
Greisman:**  
Susan & Peter Segal and family

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of  
Yisrael Moshe Gringorten:**  
Carla Baudot and Reesa  
Gringorten

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of  
Ricu Haras:**  
The Haras family

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of  
Devy Herlin:**  
Sarah Herlin

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of  
Bianca Israeli:**  
Leora MacDonald

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of  
Marcia Koven:**  
Diane Koven

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of  
Mauricio Kuperman:**  
Larissa Kuperman

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of  
Lorraine Learner:**  
Julie Schwartz

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of  
Zeilig Leibovici:**  
Martin & Zulema, and the  
Leibovici family

**In Honour of Jeremi Margunato:**  
Cem Margunato

**In Memory of Maxine Minden:**  
Karen & Harvey Minden Schipper

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of  
Teresa Peralta-Cruz:**  
Teresa & Alberto Quiroz

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of  
Luis Alberto Quiroz:**  
Teresa & Alberto Quiroz

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of Jim  
Ruderman:**  
The Ruderman family

**In Memory of Adele Sager:**  
Sager and Rendely families

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of  
Dorothy Shekter:**  
Mark Shekter, Richard Shekter,  
Lorie Shekter-Wolfson and Rhona  
Shekter Muirhead

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of Bob  
Smolkin:**  
Sheila Smolkin and family

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of Samuel Sterling:**  
The Sterling Family

**Temple Singers**

**In Memory of Elizabeth Blake Bromstein:**  
Ruben Bromstein

## **ISENBERG FUND**

Anonymous

**In Memory of Manny Manis:**  
Anonymous

**In Memory of Arnold Mann:**  
Anonymous

**In Honour of Susan & Allan Shoychet:**  
Anonymous

## **ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT**

Anonymous

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of Cyril Sana Weinstock:**  
Sheila Weinstock

## **JACOB'S TOWER FUND**

**In Memory of Norman Bager:**  
Jill Hertzman

**In Memory of Jacob Hertzman:**  
John & Tobie Lipson

## **JEAN FINE SENIORS FUND**

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of Helen Fogel:**  
John & Rosie Uster and family

**In Memory of Nancy Theimer:**  
Phyllis Rose

## **JOAN KERBEL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FUND**

**In Honour of Aaron & Kelly's Engagement:**  
Jan & Robert Simonsky

**In Honour of Bob Hodes:**  
HBT Judaica and Art Shop

**In Appreciation of the program Lady Justice with Dahlia Lithwick and in conversation with Rabbi Yael Splansky and the Honourable Justice Rosalie Abella:**  
Dawn Bernstein

**In Honour of Wendy Mandelbaum:**  
HBT Judaica and Art Shop

## **LITERARY PROGRAM**

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of Rabbi Bernard Baskin:**  
Cynthia Good & Dan Aronchick

**In Memory of Nancy Theimer:**  
Eleanor Loebel

## **LUKE SKLAR MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE**

Sheila Birenbaum  
Corinne Kalles  
Ellie Morch and Family  
Beth Weingarden  
Anonymous (2)

**In Honour of Lloyd Fogler:**  
Julie Solomon

**In Honour of Stephen Mills:**  
Shelley Birenbaum

**In Memory of Robert Moscovitz:**  
Harriet Wolman

**In Memory of Penny Sklar:**  
Raymond Stein & Nancy Viner

## **MUSIC FUND**

**In Memory of Rabbi Bernard Baskin:**  
Anne Freeman

**In Honour of Rob Herman:**  
David & Maureen Tartick

**In Appreciation of Cantor David Rosen:**  
Jennifer Malvin

**In Memory of Adele Sager:**  
Floyd & Barbara Stern  
Anonymous

**In Memory of Irving Shoichet:**  
Mr. & Mrs Leon Tessler

**In Appreciation of Harriet Wolman:**  
Jennifer Malvin

## **MUSICAL HERITAGE FUND**

Karen & Yoel Abells  
Eleanor Baker  
Drs. Alice & Ron Charach  
Peter Dan  
Hershell Ezrin & Sharyn Salsberg  
Ezrin  
Dan & Yael Kanter  
Robert & Marlene Ruderman  
Janet & Michael Ryval  
Mary Seldon  
Jack & Judy Winberg  
Harriet Wolman  
Anonymous

**In Honour of Dalia Alalouf:**  
Alana & Ady Steen

**In Memory of Fred Baker:**  
Peter Dravers

**In Memory of Rabbi Bernard Baskin:**  
Andy & Sandi Schafer  
Mary Seldon

# WE THANK OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Sharon Smith-Miller & Shelley Miller

**In Appreciation of Susan Baskin:**  
Holy Blossom Ukulele Chavurah

**In Memory of Solomon Charach:**  
Drs. Ron & Alice Charach

**In Memory of Joy Cohen:**  
Susan & Raymond Stancer

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of Arthur Freeman:**  
Anne Freeman

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of Philip Givens:**  
Eleanor Baker

**In Memory of Marvin Goodman:**  
Bambi Katz  
Mary Seldon

**In Memory of Shereen Heichelheim:**  
Joanne Scharf

**In Memory of Michael Orlander:**  
Joanne & Kevin Roher

**In Appreciation of Cantor David Rosen:**  
Phyllis & Jeff Denaburg  
Rachel & Harvin Pitch  
Andy & Sandi Schafer

## OUT OF THE COLD FUND

Ken Hundert  
Ann MacPherson  
Julie Markle & Joel Mickelson and Max and Jonah  
Anonymous

**In Memory of Colin Fruman:**  
Harriette Laing

**In Memory of Marilyn Godel:**  
Anonymous

**In Memory of Marvin Goodman:**  
Art & Shelley Gans

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of Betty Minden:**  
Leslie & Mel Springman

**In Memory of Samya Moranis Chris:**  
Glennie & Nathan Lindenberg  
Steven Moranis

**In Honour of Kevin Roher:**  
Anonymous

**In Memory of Allan Satov:**  
Harriette Laing

**In Memory of Joanie Simkins:**  
Nan Weiner & Issie Lyon  
Anonymous (4)

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of Bob Smolkin:**  
Sheila Smolkin and family

**In Memory of Ransom Vrooman:**  
Elliott Jacobson & Judy Malkin  
Jan & Robert Simonsky

## PRAYER BOOK

**In Memory of Rabbi Bernard Baskin:**  
Michael & Anita Greenstein

**In Memory of Alain Baudot:**  
Michael & Anita Greenstein

**In Honour of Anne Dublin:**  
Michael & Anita Greenstein

**In Honour of Cynthia Good & Dan Aronchick:**  
Michael & Anita Greenstein

**In Memory of Herb Greenstein:**  
Michael & Anita Greenstein

**In Memory of Jean & Syd Greenstein:**  
Michael & Anita Greenstein

**In Memory of Marney Greenstein:**  
Michael & Anita Greenstein

**In Honour of Caroline Ingvaldsen:**  
Michael & Anita Greenstein

**In Honour of Jennifer Malvin:**  
Michael & Anita Greenstein

**In Memory of Chana Mandel and Sid Mandel:**  
Michael & Anita Greenstein

**In Memory of Michael Marrus:**  
Michael & Anita Greenstein

**In Honour of Geraldine Prendergast:**  
Michael & Anita Greenstein

**In Honour of Mari Lynn Russak:**  
Michael & Anita Greenstein

**In Appreciation of Sharon Smith & Shelley Miller:**  
Michael & Anita Greenstein

**In Memory of Adele & Harry Weinstock:**  
Michael & Anita Greenstein

## PROGRAM CONTRIBUTIONS

Mitchell Laurel Rothman  
Adrienne Matus-Schlossberg & Mark Schlossberg  
Tema Title  
Anonymous

**In Appreciation of Cynthia Good:**  
Karyn Allen

## RABBI DOW MARMUR MEMORIAL FUND

**In Memory of Marvin Goodman:**  
Randi & Alan Garfinkel  
Elliott Jacobson & Judy Malkin

**In Memory of Rabbi Emeritus Dow Marmur:**  
Mimi Fullerton Brody  
Doris & Ted Rosenstock

**In Appreciation of Rabbi Bill S. Tepper:**

Sharyn Salsberg Ezrin & Hershell Ezrin

**RABBI MARK DOV SHAPIRO Z'L MEMORIAL LECTURES FUND**

**In Memory of Mark Dov Shapiro:**

Rabbi Bob & Lynn Loewy

**REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT FUND**

MPP Jill Andrew

Joyce Aster

Sidney Aster

Pamela & Joseph Iny

Harriet Wolman

Anonymous (5)

**In Memory of Joy Cohen:**

Sandy Atlin

**In Memory of Esther Cowan:**

Harriet Wolman

**In Memory of Marvin**

**Goodman:**

Sandra Atlin

**In Honour of Alan Heavenrich:**

Anonymous

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of Bianca Israeli:**

Leora MacDonald

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of Rose Kozloff:**

Susan Himel & Neil Kozloff and family

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of Mauricio Kuperman:**

Larissa Kuperman

**SHACHARIT FUND**

The family of the late Marcia Koven

Ann MacPherson

**In Memory of David Abells:**

The Abells family

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of Steven Blumberger:**

Claudia Blumberger & Sidney Troister

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of Jennifer Borins:**

Elaine Borins

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of Stephen Borins:**

Elaine Borins

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of Israel Brodziak:**

Helene Brodziak & Jack Kugelmass

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of Ernest Drucker:**

Anonymous

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of Thelma Dunkelman:**

Evelyn Gardner

**In Memory of Marvin Goodman:**

Janice & Larry Babins

**In Memory of Lawrence Hausman:**

Sharon Gerwitz

**In Memory of Minnie Lavine:**

Myrna Freedman

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of Alex & Diana Lipson:**

Barbara Cooper and John D. Lipson

**In Memory of Sheri Lipson-Korn:**

Larry & Janice Babins

**In Memory of Anna Schafer & Anne Schleissner:**

Mary Seldon

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of Issie Troister:**

Claudia Blumberger & Sidney Troister

**In Honour of the Yahrzeit of Frank Wolff:**

Alison & Gary Polan and family

**WILLIAM ANSHAN YOUTH AWARD FUND**

**In Appreciation of Mark Anshan:**

Anonymous

**YOUTH AWARDS FUND**

**In Appreciation of Deb Bennett:**

Jennifer Malvin

**In Memory of Marvin Goodman:**

John Sweet

**In Appreciation of Mark Schlossberg:**

Jennifer Malvin

**YOUNG ADULT DIVISION (YAD)**

**In Memory of Michael Orlander:**

Joanne & Kevin Roher

**In Honour of Ethan Steen:**

Dalia & Jacob Alalouf

**In Appreciation Cantor David Rosen:**

Rachel & Harvin Pitch

# PURIM 5783 AT HOLY BLOSSOM!

## **Mystery Mordechai Mishloach Manot**

One of the mitzvot of Purim is Mishloach Manot – a basket of goodies exchanged amongst friends, families and neighbours. The Mystery Mordechai Mishloach Manot is open to any household who would like to participate in the mitzvah of mishloach manot! Everyone who signs up will get the name of another family to gift mishloach manot to, as well as be the recipient of mishloach manot from a mystery Holy Blossom family!

## **YEAH Hamantashen Bake and Purim Kef!**

February 26, 12:30 pm  
open to everyone in grades 3-5

## **Purim Carnival!**

March 5, 11:00 am

The Holy Blossom Purim carnival is back in FULL SWING!

*The Purim Carnival is generously sponsored by Carole and Jay Sterling and Family.*

## **Inter-generational Purim Megillah Reading & Talent Show**

March 6, 7:00 pm

Join us for Megillah reading, Costume parade, and Dr. Seuss spoken word Shpiel! Followed by an HBT Talent Show with our own homegrown talents, with hamantaschen and treats in the Atrium.

*The Purim Megillah Reading & Talent Show is sponsored in part by Viviane & Saul Ship.*

Learn more & celebrate with us: [holyblossom.org/purim-hbt/](http://holyblossom.org/purim-hbt/)