



HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE

Bulletin

HIGH HOLY DAYS 5784

Fall Festivals 5784

CONSECRATION

To celebrate the beginning of their Torah learning, all Grade 1 students will receive a mini-Torah of their own.

September 29, 2023, 5:00 pm

SUKKOT

Celebrate the festival of Sukkot with your Holy Blossom community!

Sukkah Decorating:

September 26, 2023, 5:00 pm

Erev Sukkot Service:

September 29, 2023, 6:00 pm

First Day Sukkot Service:

September 30, 2023, 10:00 am

SHEMINI ATZERET

As the festival of Sukkot comes to a close, we will gather for Yom Tov prayers and a Yizkor service.

Erev Shemini Atzeret Service:

October 6, 2023, 6:00 pm

Service and Yizkor:

October 7, 2023, 10:00 am

SIMCHAT TORAH

Celebrate with our many Torah Scrolls as we take them out of the ark and spend the evening dancing, singing, and rejoicing.

Service and Celebration:

October 7, 2023, 7:00 pm

CHANUKAH

First Candle Lighting:

December 7, 2023, evening



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CONTENTS

Rabbinic Reflection	4
From the President	5
From the Executive Director	6
Music: Something for Everyone at HBT	7
Welcoming Avishai Sol as Head Song Leader	8
The Yom Kippur Flute	9
HaYom Harat HaOlam: All the Good to Come	10
From Toddlers to Teshuva	11
From the Development Department	12
From the Education Department	14
From the ECC	15
Presidents, Honourary Presidents, and Wardens	16
High Holy Days 5784	17
On the Horizon	18
In Memoriam	22
Our Congregational Family	23
Our Generous Donors	26

On the cover: Sounding the Shofar at our Summer Tot Shabbat Services! Our Little Blossoms & Young Readers High Holy Day Services are open to all who wish to join us in sacred and joyful prayer! Please invite your extended family and friends to share in the Holy Blossom Temple young families High Holy Days experience. Guests (non-members) will need to register in advance at: holyblossom.org/guestfamilies/

Your family can blossom here!

RABBINIC REFLECTION



Rabbi Yael Splansky
Senior Rabbi
Baskin-Garson Senior
Rabbinic Chair

Because God Loves Stories

“Why were human beings created?” One answer from our tradition asserts: “**Because God loves stories.**”

This summer’s blockbuster hits are filled with Jewish stories. Movie lovers all over the world are flooding theatres and clicking through Netflix to learn the stories of Barbie, Oppenheimer, Golda, and soon, Maestro Bernstein. (Not to mention, Adam Sandler’s *You’re So Not Invited to My Bat Mitzvah*,” which Holy Blossom had a small part in bringing to production.) What makes each of these stories JEWISH stories is an interesting question and up for debate, but beyond a doubt, this season does not only honour the craft of Jewish storytelling, but the stories of Jews, who themselves, through their curiosity, creativity, courage, and commitment, made their marks on the world. Complicated, celebrated, and contested, they made their marks on the world.

Holy Blossom Temple has its own stories to tell. Some are told through architecture – old and sacred, new and inviting. Some of our stories are told through what we study – how we educate our children, invest in our teens, and enrich ourselves with life-long learning. Some of our stories are told through our prayers – private and communal, joyful and sombre. (It is said: “We are what we pray.”) Some Holy Blossom stories are told through the actions of our leadership – volunteers and professionals. Do you know these stories? Our Temple Archives demonstrate how they took a stand on refugee policy and welcomed newcomers, how they protected and provided for Israel every way they knew how from here, how they built bridges of trust and understanding among different faith-communities, how they enlisted and served during WWI and WWII, how they worked tirelessly to bring Soviet Jewry to freedom, how they developed a compassionate response to the AIDS epidemic, how they provided shelter and nourishment for our city’s most vulnerable, how they spoke out

against racism and showed up to combat antisemitism and Islamophobia. Our Temple Archives also testify to the stories of simple joys that come with Shabbat and Festivals, of the fun that is found in putting on plays and winning softball tournaments, of caring for our elderly and raising up our youth.

The High Holydays also come to tell a story. It is a very dramatic story that gets right at the heart of the matter and asks us to confront the most essential questions of life. The prayers of our Machzor (High Holyday prayerbook), the Torah and Haftarah Readings, even the melodies and chants have a story to tell. There are stories of faith and doubt, like Abraham on Mount Moriah; stories of adventure and survival, like Jonah on the run from God; stories of fear and suffering like the haunting prayer-poem of *Unetaneh Tokef*; stories of justice-seeking and spiritual-seeking like the Prophet Isaiah; stories of loss and longing like Hannah; stories of service and self-sacrifice like The High Priest in the Holy of Holies on Yom Kippur; stories of peoplehood and belonging like our ancestors gathered at the foot of Mount Sinai; stories of regret with each pound of the chest and stories of forgiveness with every “Amen.” We are the living repository of these stories. They are our sacred inheritance. They shape us into the people we are becoming...if we let them.

Each of us is a story in-the-making. The High Holydays provide us with the gift to pause. Against the backdrop of the sounds of our tradition and in the good company of fellow Jews, we are granted the sacred setting to reflect on the year now coming to a close, to imagine the year ahead of us, and to set our intentions to match it. Knowing that we are a part of a greater story, the never-ending story of the Jewish People, allows us to write our own with greater confidence and conviction. Only God knows if there will be a sequel to the story we write in this lifetime, so let’s make the very most of every chapter and write ourselves into The Book of Life.

Adam, Avishai, Eli, and Jesse join me in wishing you *L’Shanah Tovah!* May it be a year of blessing.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Phyllis Denaburg, Temple President



You might think that summer is all about vacations, summer camp and study leaves, but at Holy Blossom our professional staff and clergy are busy all year round. There's annual Temple membership renewal, preparations for High Holy

Day services, study leave in Israel and Camp George rotation. As President, I've been saving up a few HBT projects myself, but I am discovering, I may have run out of time!

One of my projects involved reading Ron Wolfson's latest book, *Creating Sacred Communities*. Practitioners leading sacred communities including synagogues, independent minyanim, Hillel, Chabad, and the Saddleback Church shared their experiences. They all spoke about how they engaged their members and welcomed new members.

And what does this mean for Holy Blossom?

Last Fall, at the very beginning of my term as President, I shared one of our key areas of focus for Holy Blossom leadership – welcoming our members back to our physical home and engaging with each other so that our members feel that they belong here.

Belonging, according to recent Clal research, can be viewed along a continuum – Being Noticed, Being Named, and Being Known. Being Known was defined as, “I feel that I can share my authentic self and contribute my talents and skills, and that my fellow community members want to know my story and support my struggles.”

One way we can move along the continuum I explained, is by sharing our stories, formally and informally.

And we have so much to share.

As a young parent, I followed the engagement path – volunteering on family friendly events such as the Purim carnival, or Sukkah decorating, attending family services with other young families, where I began to develop relationships. As our children grew up, my husband Jeff became a religious schoolteacher, and became more involved in Israel advocacy. My engagement evolved from family programming to Tikkun Olam, specifically the Out of the Cold program.

Some of the new members I have met recently joined HBT as single middle-aged adults and have been engaged in Tikkun Olam (Social Justice) and Kehillah Kedosha (Sacred Community) activities, and informally have become a small group that plays pickleball together!

There are so many opportunities for you to get to know our members in a deeper way, so they feel connected on multiple levels through a personal connection with our clergy, our staff, and our leadership, as well as with other members of our community. One strategy to create and strengthen relationships between members is to engage members in small groups with similar interests that would also help members to feel that they are “known,” as described in the research on Belonging.

Because there is no single way to build relationships or engage at Holy Blossom Temple.

In targeted calls to Temple members last year, we identified a number of empty nesters who were interested in finding others who wanted to join a small group to go on day-hikes together, around the GTA. Members of small groups often engage in other HBT activities such as lectures and services together, because of their relationship.

From the youngest child and their YEC parents to our Wisdom Generation and Dorot programming, there are activities unique to Holy Blossom that enable us to connect and socialize – to be welcomed and “known,” and to continue that sense of belonging.

We have a new position, filled by recently-ordained Rabbi Taylor Baruchel, called Director of Outreach & Next Gen Engagement. Her task is to reach out to and engage young families and young professionals, including prospective members, to build community and share with them the cornucopia of opportunities at Holy Blossom.

We want to know you better, so that we can help you become aware of all these opportunities and become “known.” Whether you want to engage (e.g., volunteer, attend programs or services), or form new Temple relationships (e.g., meet others in a small group to study, hike, cycle, or play pickleball), Holy Blossom is the place!

Do you have a friend or family member who is not yet a member of a synagogue? Share your story with them and invite them to become a member and to be “known” at Holy Blossom.

By sharing your stories, we can come to know more about you and your connections to Holy Blossom. I am sure there are many more stories about how people have formed relationships and engagement here. I'd love to hear your Holy Blossom story.

As we embark on a new year filled with potential, I wish you and your families a healthy and happy 5784, and a year filled with goodness, sweetness and meaning. *Shanah Tovah.*

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Rachel Malach, Executive Director

As we approach the sacred and transformative period of the High Holy Days, I am filled with excitement to connect with our amazing congregation as a whole. These days are not only a time of introspection and prayer, but also an opportunity for us to come together as a community, reflecting on the past year and looking forward to the possibilities that lie ahead. Our worship services, led by our dedicated Rabbis and Cantors, provide a space for prayer and reflection, allowing us to come together in unity as we seek forgiveness, and find a renewed sense of purpose.

I am immensely proud of the dedication and unity that our Holy Blossom Temple community has demonstrated throughout the past year. Your support, engagement, and willingness to come together as a family have been truly inspiring. As we look toward 5784, let us continue to nurture these bonds and build our community where everyone feels valued and welcomed.

We have welcomed a few new members to the Holy Blossom Professional Team in recent months. I am delighted to have the opportunity to introduce them to you.



Vered Dvir, Outreach & Engagement Administrator

We are thrilled to welcome Vered Dvir to the HBT Professional Team in the position of Outreach & Engagement Administrator. Vered practiced as an Occupational Therapist (OT) in Israel cultivating relationships with many families. She holds a Master of Arts in Child Development from the University of Haifa and a Bachelor of Science in OT from the same and Technion. Before her time as an OT, she was a Bureau Chief to a Lieutenant Colonel during her military service. Vered started her work at Temple in July and looks forward to meeting our wonderful congregation.



Sarina Shrestha, Assistant Accountant

We are delighted that Sarina Shrestha joined Holy Blossom Temple as our Assistant Accountant in August. Sarina held various accounting/bookkeeping positions in Toronto over the past five years in both accounts receivable and accounts payable functions. She completed a Certificate in Accounting-Finance at Toronto Metropolitan University and holds a Bachelor of Business Studies from Tribhuvan University. She is excited to use her accounting skills in a not-for-profit community organization.



Mercy Afuye, Development Administrator

We are excited to welcome Mercy Afuye to Holy Blossom Temple as our Development Administrator. Mercy holds a Bachelor of Arts in Law & Society from York University and a Bachelor's in Linguistics & African Languages from Obafemi Awolowo University. She brings her experience in customer care, inventory and data management, and administrative support to her new role at Temple as of mid-August. Mercy is eager to support Holy Blossom's mission and vision to serve our congregation and the wider community.

Please join me in giving a warm welcome to our new team members and a big thank you to the entire Holy Blossom Temple Professional Staff who have been hard at work through the summer preparing a meaningful and fantastic year ahead.

I encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities that the High Holy Days present. Let us approach this season with open hearts, a willingness to learn and grow, and a shared commitment to building a brighter future for ourselves, our loved ones, and our wider community.

Wishing you and yours a sweet New Year! May this year bring you joy, happiness, love, and community. *L'Shanah Tovah u'Metukah!*

MUSIC: SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AT HBT

Cantor David Rosen, Senior Cantor



As we prepare to enjoy the sweetness of a new year, I am thrilled to present to you many wonderful, exciting, and dynamic musical events and offerings that will be sure to enlighten your souls and warm your hearts. There really is something for everyone!

Once again, I am grateful to our Musical Heritage Team that continues to work tirelessly to help us create a wonderful concert series. There are four major concerts in the works for this year, each touching upon a particular theme or event. On Sunday, December 3rd, Holy Blossom Temple will again host our annual interfaith “Gifts of Light” concert. This concert is made possible by the generosity of Steven and Gillian Bookman and this year, we will raise awareness and funds for “Ve’ahavta, an incredible organization that is doing everything it can to help those who struggle with housing and hunger.” Our housing crisis in Toronto has become worse than ever and this concert is one way that we can help those who are in tremendous need. Included in our talented line-up of participants, we will also feature some of the city’s top busker musicians. More details to come!

On January 26/27 for Shabbat Shira, we will be welcoming the soulful sounds of Rabbi Micah Lapidus and Gospel singer Melvin Myles. Joining them will be Cantor Tracey Scher and her wonderful choir from the Temple in Atlanta. Join us as we celebrate songs of freedom with some of Rabbi Micah’s original compositions in honour of MLK Shabbat and the Ebenezer Baptist Gospel choir. They will be sure to have you dancing and singing in your seats!

On April 4th, you do not want to miss our gala wine tasting and concert entitled, “Life is a Cabernet.” Four wines, four countries, presented by an expert sommelier, exquisite culinary bites and world music that will surely have something for everyone. I will be joined by my colleagues, Cantor Mo Glazman from Temple Emanuel in NYC, Cantor Tracey Scher from the Temple in Atlanta, our Cantorial Soloist Lindi Rivers, Jason Jestadt and a team of world class

musicians and other special guests. This evening was made possible by the generous sponsorship of Diana Goodman and Steven and Gillian Bookman. There will even be a special wine or two for you to sample before Pesach!

And finally, this coming June we will join with Temple Sinai, Timothy Eaton Memorial Church, and the Kol Zimrah Community choir from Chicago to present a very special afternoon in song. We will celebrate the 90th anniversary of Ernst Bloch’s “Avodat Hakodesh (Sacred Service)” by presenting various excerpts from this exceptional work. We will also celebrate the diversity of these unique choral ensembles and experience the majesty of sacred song with over 120 voices lifting us up with their song.

I could not be more excited for the musical year ahead, but the truth is you don’t have to wait for these fantastic concerts to enjoy great music at HBT. Every Friday night from 6-7 pm at our Kabbalat Shabbat service, I am joined by our musician-in-residence, Jason Jestadt along with a trio of some of the city’s best musicians. With the generous sponsorship of Carole and Jay Sterling and family, we are thrilled to bring you a Friday night worship experience that is truly transformative. Come and see what everyone is talking about!

Looking forward to seeing all of you at HBT at these and at many other touchpoints throughout the year.

From my wife Ilyse, my son Joel and our Shih-tzu Lucy, we wish all of you a *L’Shanah Tovah Tikateivu*.





From the Desk of Cantor Rosen: Welcoming Avishai Sol as Head Song Leader

One of my greatest joys as a Cantor is watching our next generation embrace the musical traditions of the past while creating new ones for the future. For decades, Jewish Summer camp has served as a playground for the birth of new songs and melodies, many of which become part of the fabric within our Shabbat, Holiday, and Weekday worship. These songs have a lot of heart and help many of us to feel a strong connection to the divine and to our own individual Jewish identities. Whenever I have visited Jewish summer camp, I am constantly amazed with the talent and energy that song leaders bring to prayer and song sessions. They create an environment for openness, learning and connection that is truly special. One of these incredible talents is our own Avishai Sol, who as his parents will tell you, was probably holding a guitar almost before he could walk. Many of you have watched Avishai grow up here at Holy Blossom and you have witnessed him learning from some of the best Song Leaders that our community has been blessed to have over the years. From Dr. Mark Weinstock to David Gershon to Mike Morgulis and more, Holy Blossom has been a supporter and fostered the Jewish song leading tradition for many generations.

As Head Song Leader, Avishai will work with and teach students at various stages in their development. This will range from working with students in our Early Childhood Centre, to those in our YEC program JK-Grade 12. Avishai will also be leading many of our monthly Shabbat Family Services with Rabbi McCarroll as well as be our musical leader for Family Services on the High Holy Days. I know all of you will welcome Avishai to his new role and I am so excited for the many possibilities that he will bring to present and future generations.

Here are some words from Avishai that he wanted to express to our community:



We are taught to pass Jewish life down *L'dor Vador* (*from generation to generation*), but for me and my brothers as well, inheriting the texts and traditions of our ancestors has been only a portion, if a vital one of our Jewish upbringing. Through family members, friends, teachers, and role models, our Jewish experience has come from an uncommon angle. Young people grow up and must decide for themselves how they wish to belong to the Jewish world, but for my brothers and me the question was not, “how are you going to live Jewishly”, but “how are you going to lead Jewishly.” I have been raised by Jewish leaders, and am now honoured to become one myself.

The role of the song leader is built upon this philosophy; “it doesn’t matter what I sound like, as long as I get the people singing”. Many play guitar, many have lovely voices, and both of those help but neither are required. If the people sing, the songleader has done their job. Many of our most recognisable Jewish songs and melodies have been written by legendary songleaders such as Debbie Friedman, Jeff Klepper, and Dan Nichols, but the key distinction of the songleader is that they exist solely to raise up the voices of their communities.

For me, songleading isn’t only a method to serve my community, it is also how I create my own personal connection with the divine. When I raise my voice and my guitar I feel my spirit lift, but when I feel that music come back to me a hundredfold by way of my community, I become a conduit for their spirit as well. This exchange of *ruach* and music is how I experience the deepest connection to Judaism, but that personal motivation is always intertwined with the serving of my congregation.

Before the busy year ahead, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Holy Blossom Temple, the clergy team, the board, the religious school teachers, the religious school students, all my song leading mentors, the Camp George community, my family of course, and all who have contributed to making this congregation the beautiful place it is. To nurture it has been to nurture me. I’m very excited to take this new position and help lead the community that means so much to me in song. *Shiru Shir Chadash!*

THE YOM KIPPUR FLUTE

Rabbi Samuel Kaye, Associate Rabbi



The famous story goes that once, years ago, in the old country, there was a father and his son. The father knew only a few words of his tradition, and yet he yearned to pray in the great synagogue on Yom Kippur. His son knew even less but held a deep love for God in his heart. When the father announced that they would go on a journey to the big city for the most sacred of days, the boy grabbed his most precious possession to bring with him- a small reed flute.

That Yom Kippur they entered, with more people than the two had ever seen in their lives, into the great synagogue. It was confusing for the boy as flowery words in a language he only half knew flowed around him. The people, and his father, stood and sat at moments he understood were important but found impossible to predict. He sensed something incredible was happening and was desperate to join in, but he did not know how. Turning to his father, he showed him the small reed flute, “Abba.” He said, “I want to play my flute.”

In Hebrew the way you say you want to play a flute is “*L’Chaleel/להליל*.” It is a very similar to the word desecrate or ruin “*L’Cha-leil/להלל*.” It’s important to know that in the great synagogue, it was forbidden to play or even touch a musical instrument on Yom Kippur. The son held forth his flute and said, “Abba I want to play!” and the father could only hear “Abba, I want to ruin!” So, the father, because he could not touch the flute, grabbed his son’s hand, and held it tight to stop his son from interrupting.

But the hours went on, the prayers continued, the energy built, and in a moment serene and surreal it was too much for both father and son. Hands slipped away, a note of pure innocent sweet love was played aloud on a forbidden reed flute, a hush settled in on the great synagogue. And the Rabbi turned, and smiled, and laughed - clapping hands together joyously. “All day we have prayed with solemn ancient words.” He said, “But the simple yearnings of this young heart, they have lifted all our hopes and confessions directly before the throne of heaven. Surely, we are now inscribed for life.”

There is so much to unpack in this story. About the generational relationship between parents and children, what we hear vs. what is said, Jewish literacy, and even about expectations and intentions when we pray. This story persists, is told and retold, because these are the themes and experiences for so many members of our people during these sacred days. They are the problems we grapple with and the stumbling blocks we overcome on our annual journey back to this sacred time. What is my own place in this great chain of generations? Is there purpose in my coming to synagogue or just obligation? Will I connect with something greater than myself this year? Will I be able to listen, really listen, to what those I love are saying - so that I can forgive them and so that they can forgive me?

Each of us is called to answer these questions, and many more, during this time of *chesbon hanefesh*, the accounting of the soul. Yet, perhaps the most fundamental question of all is this.

What will the High Holy Days mean to you this year?

I look forward to seeing you as we answer that question together.

Shanah Tovah u’Metukah! A sweet and happy new year!

HAYOM HARAT HAOLAM: ALL THE GOOD TO COME

Rabbi Eliza McCarroll, Assistant Rabbi



As we approach the High Holy Days, we remember the famous adage that *HaYom Harat Ha'Olam*, “today (Rosh Hashanah) the world is born”.

It is an optimistic statement, for it suggests the simultaneous potential for renewal and creation.

With renewal, it suggests that each year, as new, brings with it the chance to begin again – and with what better perspective can we take a deep breath, take stock, and look ahead.

With creation, it suggests that, with this fresh start comes the opportunity – perhaps, even the responsibility, in being given this true gift – to craft and work towards something greater than we could ever have imagined beforehand.

Thankfully, there is much to look forward for us all to in the year to come.

I look forward to September 9, when we will hold our first Family Service for the season, and encourage all our families to try this hidden gem of our Temple.

I look forward to September 10, when we welcome our children back to YEC for another amazing year of community, learning, and fostering Jewish identity and friendships.

I look forward to October 15, when we will be continuing our new tradition of the annual Pet Blessing, where adorable animals will abound.

I look forward to October 23, when we will be launching the Holy Blossom Grandparents Project, a once-a-month class based on the wisdom of the Jewish Grandparents Network, which will provide tools and resources for engaging our families in Jewish life and build a cohort of support.

I look forward to October 24, when we will launch our Dorot program for the year, serving our Wisdom Generation better than ever before, thanks to the generous sponsorship of Carole and Jaye Sterling and Family, for which I am beyond grateful.

I look forward to the continued important work of Bikkur Cholim, as we grow and expand our Kugel Kindness program, our retirement home visits, and our capacity for outreach to our congregants, whether by phone, at home, or in hospital.

I look forward to working with Avishai Sol as we integrate him as our new Head Song Leader, with the role of providing a consistent, enthusiastic energy and presence through many of our youth offerings, from ECC to YEC to Family Services on Shabbat morning and at the High Holy Days.

I look forward to further collaboration with Rabbi Baruchel, as we work to ensure our young adult community thrives through fun and meaningful opportunities for engagement.

Not to mention our Luke Sklar Mental Health Initiative Committee, who will continue their critical role in advocating and educating our congregational community about issues regarding mental health, with the goal of stimulating conversation and reducing stigma.

As it is written in our Gates of Repentance machzor, concluding our Rosh Hashana morning service:

Yehi ratzon mil'fanecha, Adonai Eloheinu v'Elohei avoteinu v'imoteinu, she'techadesh aleinu shana tovah u'metukah.

“Eternal God and God of our people, renew us for a good year”.

I look forward to all the good we will do together, in the name of our sacred community, as we renew ourselves for 5784. Amen!

FROM TODDLERS TO TESHUVA: EMBRACING OUR MUCHNESS IN THE DAYS OF AWE

Rabbi Taylor Baruchel, Director of Outreach & Next Gen Engagement



The other day I caught a sweet scene from my three-year-old, Selah: She was standing in front of a mirror, decked out in a neon-tie-dyed paw patrol t-shirt, a superhero cape, pink tutu and with her Minnie Mouse bike helmet on her head.

It was a vibrant mélange of all her favourite things and made for quite the outfit. But what made this truly remarkable was hearing her whisper to herself, after inspecting her image in the mirror, “I look PERFECT.” Indeed, she was peak toddler chic, and peak Selah in that moment. It was heartwarming to see how completely comfortable she is in her own skin.

This also reminded me of a story about the Chassidic Master, Zusia: On his deathbed he began to cry uncontrollably, and his students and disciples tried hard to comfort him. They asked him, “Rabbi, why do you weep? You are nearly as wise as Moses, you are almost as hospitable as Abraham, and surely heaven will judge you favourably.”

Zusia answered them: “It is true. When I get to heaven, I won’t worry so much if God asks me, ‘Zusia, why were you not more like Abraham?’ or ‘Zusia, why were you not more like Moses?’ I know I would be able to answer these questions. But what will I say when God asks me, ‘Zusia, why were you not more like Zusia?’ A wonderful reminder that the best path for each of us to walk is the one we forge for ourselves.

In Deuteronomy 6:4 (from where we get the Shema),

we are commanded to love God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our might...except that last one - in Hebrew *meodecha* (מְּוֹדְעָה) - can really carry the meaning of “much” or “the most”. So, with our Chassidic Rebbe’s story in mind, we can reasonably understand that we love God by being our most authentic self, in all and with all of our “muchness”.

This is an important message to hear this time of year, as we engage in the work of Heshbon HaNefesh (accounting of the soul) and Teshuva (repentance). Not only do we need to be attentive to the places we have missed the mark with others, but also the times when we missed being true to who we really are; all the times we failed to bring our “muchness” to our lived experiences. With this in mind, I want to extend the invitation to our YAD: Next Gen service happening on Yom Kippur morning. There we will reflect and work towards *Teshuva* together through prayer, study, and song. If you are a Young Professional or know and love one who needs a home for the High Holy Days, please have them contact me. We would love to welcome them!

Similarly, our Littlest Blossoms and their grown-ups can look forward to a year filled with rocking Tot Shabbats on the final Fridays of every month, and our exuberant family service every second Saturday. These spaces are intentionally joyful-noise friendly, so our children can truly love God with all their muchness. Tutus, superhero capes and Minnie Mouse helmets are always welcome.

Shanah Tovah, Holy Blossom: May 5784 be filled with sweetness for us all!

HONOUR RABBI BARUCHEL'S INSTALLATION WITH SERVICE, STUDY, AND CELEBRATION!

This special Shabbat will be elevated by Rabbi Baruchel's favourite teacher, Professor Dvora Weisberg, the Rabbi Aaron Panken Professor of Rabbinics and the Director of the Rabbinical School at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Los Angeles.

Friday, November 3, 6:00 pm

Music-filled Kabbalat Shabbat Service, followed by a joyful Congregational Shabbat Dinner for those who register in advance.

Saturday, November 3

9:00 am: Shabbat Morning Torah Study

10:30 am: Service and Installation Ceremony, followed by Congregational lunch for all.

Our learning this Shabbat will be lovingly dedicated to the memory of Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro z"l.

FROM THE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT



Shira Lester, Director of Development and Donor Engagement

Welcome to Annual Campaign 2023/5784! The Campaign will officially launch on Kol Nidre and we have already received many generous gifts in advance of the launch. *Thank you!* Because of our later launch, our Annual Campaign Donor Wall recognizing gifts of \$720 and more will be updated in time for Chanukah. Until then, all Annual Campaign Gifts will be recognized at holyblossom.org.

Why support the 2023 Annual Campaign? Marla Spiegel, VP, Development shares the compelling reasons:

When I joined the Temple’s Board of Directors, I anticipated that I would learn a lot about the inner workings of Temple. Indeed, participating on the Board has opened my eyes to the many, things that our clergy, staff and volunteers do every day to contribute to our thriving Jewish community.

Most Temple members are aware of the high-profile activities - the High Holy Day services, worship and programming around the Jewish calendar, weddings and Bar Mitzvahs, the ECC and the YEC. What is less known is the the extensive web of activities that is needed to make all these public-facing events a reality. Behind each worship service, each outreach, each educational event, is a dedicated and hardworking team that spend countless hours preparing behind the scenes.

For example, a 60-minute Kabbalat Shabbat service led by a Cantor and a Rabbi, involves over a dozen people, and plenty of coordination and careful planning to create this safe and meaningful community gathering.

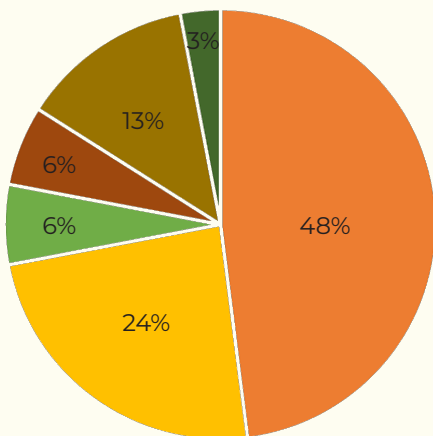
What does it take to run a cemetery? A school? A nursery program? To host over a thousand people in a building? Holy Blossom is fortunate to have a talented team of people who can answer these questions so that we - the congregation - can show up to learn, pray, and be present in the moment, assured that the details have been handled. You can take a look at the pie charts below for an illustration of Holy Blossom by the numbers.

I share this with you to raise awareness of why the Annual Campaign is so important. The money raised through the Annual Campaign funds the foundational pieces and the behind-the-scenes network of activities that are often take for granted, but without which we would not be Holy Blossom!

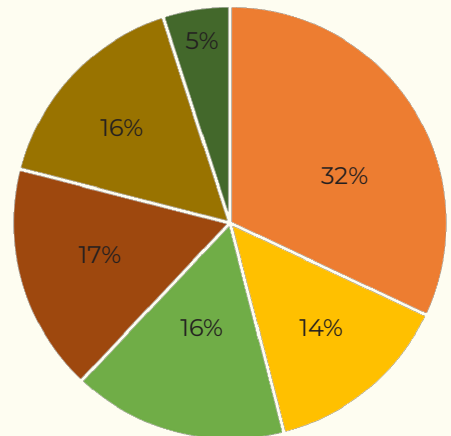
The 2023 Annual Campaign is upon us. Thank you to those who have already contributed. If you have not donated in the past, please consider making a pledge to sustaining our beloved congregation! You can make a gift at holyblossom.org/donate.

HOLY BLOSSOM BY THE NUMBERS

Projected Revenue



Projected Expenses



- Membership Contributions
- Annual Fundraising
- Special Fundraising

- Facilities
- Youth & Adult Education
- Cemetery

- Worship & Programming
- Membership & Development
- Administration & Communication

- Facilities
- Youth & Adult Education
- Cemetery

THANK YOU TO OUR ANNUAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE



MARLA SPIEGEL, VP DEVELOPMENT

I joined Holy Blossom Temple in 2005, the year I was married. We chose Holy Blossom as the place to raise our family because we found the congregation and clergy to be welcoming and inclusive. As VP of Development, I invite you all to get involved in synagogue life and feel the benefit of being part of a community.



ELLEN COLE

I have been at Holy Blossom Temple all my life. I was consecrated, confirmed and married at Holy Blossom. My parents were Temple Singers in the fifties and sixties and now I am a Temple Singer. Music is my passion. I continue to sit on the Board as VP of Membership.



JOAN GARSON

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.



ELANA PAICE LIDSKY

My family joined Holy Blossom Temple when I was seven years old. My mother and I became very active at Temple and it's where I learned to love community. Fundraising for me is comfortable and exciting. It is important for everyone to know that every single gift is meaningful and each one makes the Holy Blossom Annual Campaign stronger.



ALBERT OPPENHEIMER

Originally from Mississippi, Albert comes from a blended background of finance and music and is currently Director of Mortgage Investments at Canada Life. Albert holds an MBA from the Smith School of Business at Queen's University and Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the New England Conservatory. He currently sits on the Queen's MBA Legacy Fund Committee for Smith and advises MBA students at Smith and the Johnson College of Business at Cornell University. When not working, Albert can be found going on adventures in Toronto with his wife Bonnie and daughters Mollie and Aria.



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 have always been a very active volunteer fundraiser and it is my pleasure to bring my experience to Holy Blossom.

SHIRA LESTER, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT & DONOR ENGAGEMENT

I have worked in development in the Jewish Community for more than 20 years. I believe in fostering a culture of philanthropy by building strong, lasting relationships with donors and providing “concierge service” as part of donor cultivation and stewardship. I deeply understand the importance of synagogue life and I am privileged to be part of securing the future for Holy Blossom Temple. I would love to hear from you so please contact me at anytime at slester@holyblossom.org or by phone at 416-789-3291 x 261.

FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Lisa Isen Bauml, Principal of Youth Education & Family Engagement



In the Education offices, we started looking ahead to the upcoming school year the day after our last YEC classes and Youth Activities in the spring!

A New Year brings with it new beginnings, new students, new initiatives, and new excitement!

We are looking forward to sharing new experiences with our students of all ages this year through YEC classes, family events and programs, holiday celebrations, trips and more!

Some highlights that we are excited about in the Youth Education Centre this year include:

- **Updated and new curriculum:** several new curriculum pieces will appear throughout the YEC classes, including a Lifecycle and Jewish Life unit for each grade from Kindergarten through grade 7, a new Jewish Values curriculum for our grades 3-6 classes, and an Israel curriculum which features a unit of study for each grade focusing on a different theme in Contemporary Israel for all learners from kindergarten through to Confirmation.
- **Beit Midrash program** for Senior School: in partnership with the Shalom Hartman Institute, we have developed a Beit Midrash program designed for all students in grades 6-10. Once a month, we will gather as a school community and study texts from Hartman's curriculum on ethics, giving students the opportunity to experience chavruta (small group) text study.

- **Hebrew Through Movement:** two of our teachers are becoming certified to teach Hebrew Through Movement to our younger learners. This will bring excitement and a new way of connecting with the Hebrew language to our learners who are not-yet readers.
- **Hebrew enrichment class:** Mondays @ 5 pm, students in grades 4-6 who want some extra Hebrew learning time are invited to this conversational class.
- **HBTeen Travel:** Last year's successful Teen Israel Trip has paved the way to reinvigorating our travel program. This fall, teens in grades 8 & 9 are invited to travel to Montreal, exploring some of Canada's Jewish history, along with peers from other Toronto Reform Congregations. Teens in grades 10-12 will have the opportunity to participate in *L'Taken* – a large Social Justice seminar in Washington DC run by the Religious Action Center.
- **New HABSTY Lounge format:** HABSTY lounge nights are expanding! Going from 8-9 pm each week, lounge nights will now allow for more programming time, and opportunity to include even more activities. Each month will include teen-led lounge activities, as well as a night in the kitchen, artistic events, 'life-skills' sessions, and more, accompanied by good old 'shmooze' time and of course, snacks!

The YEC faculty are excited to welcome students of all ages for another year full of fun, learning, friendships, and creating positive Jewish moments and memories together.



LOOKING AHEAD INTO 5784



For many of our students, preschool is a unique educational moment and the introduction to a lifetime of learning. It's a time when children are free to focus on building positive relationships and self-esteem and establish a love of learning and a solid Jewish foundation from which they can thrive. In a

warm, nurturing and enriching environment, we work closely with you to honour your child's special talents and needs. Above all, we strive to create a strong sense of community. Holy Blossom Temple is here to be your village.

Our village and the interconnected dynamics allow the child to be exposed to a wide array of knowledge, experience and outlooks. It enables them to learn not just about themselves, but the world they live in. They learn how to interact, communicate and build relationships. The ECC values our partnerships.

Looking ahead to 5784, in addition to the enriched programming lead by our dedicated, experienced classroom and specialty staff, we will continue to build our connection to ECC parents and grandparents, Temple Clergy and Temple professionals.

Grandparents are invited to celebrate Sukkot and Tu B'shevat with their grandchildren. Intergenerational Family Pre-Shabbat, Chanukah, Pesach and end of year celebrations are planned. We welcome parents as visitors to the ECC as Shabbat readers, for birthday celebrations and special day programming.

We invite our ECC families to participate in all Temple holiday celebrations, Tot Shabbat and Family Shabbat.

Our littlest blossoms will continue to enjoy Friday morning music with Dr. Marky Weinstock and a new PJ Plus offering on Sunday mornings.

The sweetness of honey is very symbolic during this High Holiday season. Through meaningful and enriching experiences, may our students develop a sweet taste for learning and for Jewish values and traditions.

On behalf of the ECC, we wish you a sweet New Year.

Shanah Tovah

Wendy Steinberg Himmel
Director, Early Childhood Centre



PRESIDENTS, HONOURARY PRESIDENTS, AND WARDENS

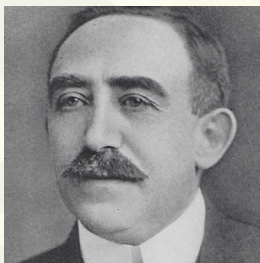
Sheila Smolkin on behalf of the Archives Committee,
Susan Cohen, Michael Cole, Ruth Ellen Greenwood, Susan Mogil, Howard Roger, Judy Winberg

Holy Blossom, like most other synagogues around the world, is managed by a Board of Directors chaired by an elected president of the congregation. We have been fortunate to have had many wise, competent individuals assume the role of president throughout our 170-year history. You may see the presidents' pictures on the corridor wall leading into the Lawrence and Frances Bloomberg and Family Jewish Leadership Centre but let me highlight some interesting aspects of these people.



Our first president was Lewis Samuel. He, with his wife Kate, came to Toronto in the 1850s and it was largely due to his leadership that Holy Blossom was formed and continued to thrive during its first somewhat precarious early years. Samuel was a British

orthodox Jew, and he insisted the congregation follow the norms and traditions of orthodoxy as practiced in his homeland. His control of religious practice continued to his death in 1887.



Most presidents are elected to a 2-year term but in addition to Lewis Samuel, who was president on and off again for many years, a few others held the position for more than the norm. Most notably was Leo Frankel who was president from 1908 to

1928. It was during his term that the congregation made the decision, after the death of Rabbi Jacobs in 1920, to hire Barnett Brickner, a rabbi ordained from the Reform movement's Hebrew Union College. This decision led the way for the congregation to affiliate with the Reform movement a few years later. Unfortunately, the Archives is missing the Board minutes for the years 1910 to 1920 so we cannot report on how Mr. Frankel was able to survive such a long period of leadership.



In more recent years, Avra Rosen served 3 years as president during the most difficult time of Covid.

The first woman to serve as president was Henrietta Chesnie, elected in 1974. Since that time, several other women have held that position. In fact, the last four presidents have all been women including our current President, Phyllis Denaburg.

Every so often, the Board of Directors decides to name an individual Honorary President. This is to acknowledge the extraordinary leadership that person has given to the congregation. To date, the congregation has had six Honorary Presidents, the last being John (Jack) Geller who held the position from 1998 until his death in 2015.



While celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 1956, the congregation established the category of Warden to honour individuals who have given long and devoted service to the synagogue but who have not been president. Members who have been named Warden include, among others, Hortense Geldzaeler, Marilyn Farber, Morris Vigoda, Leonard Levy and David Hart. Today, we have two wardens who exemplify what the honour is all about, Mary Seldon and Gary Posen.

When I joined David Hart on the Archives Committee some 35 years ago, he shared with me his view that Holy Blossom has had the distinguished history that it has because it attracted strong lay leadership to work alongside excellent professional staff. May it continue to be so.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

Selichot, Mishkan & Online 8:00 pm
Study with Prof. Derek Penslar, Havdalah, and Service

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

Kever Avot
First Ceremony 1:00 pm
Holy Blossom Memorial Park, Brimley Rd
Second Ceremony 3:00 pm
Pardes Shalom

Rosh Hashanah

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

Erev Rosh Hashanah, Mishkan
Family Service 7:00 pm

Erev Rosh Hashanah, Sanctuary & Online
Adult Service 7:30 pm
**Followed by a dessert reception*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2023

First Day Rosh Hashanah, Sanctuary & Online
First Adult Service 8:30 am
Second Adult Service 11:30 am

First Day Rosh Hashanah
Philip & Fannie Smith Congregational Hall
First Family Service 9:00 am
Second Family Service 11:30 am

Philip & Fannie Smith Congregational Hall
Little Blossoms Service (age 5 & under) 3:00 pm

Youth Chapel
Young Readers Service (age 6-8) 3:00 pm

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2023

Tashlich, Don River, Glendon Campus Entrance
Ceremony with Shofar & dessert 4:30 pm

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

Second Day Rosh Hashanah, Sanctuary & Online
Adult Service 10:00 am

Second Day Rosh Hashanah, Mishkan
Family Service 10:30 am

Yom Kippur

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2022

Kol Nidre, Sanctuary & Online
First Adult Service 6:00 pm
Second Adult Service 8:45 pm

Kol Nidre, Philip & Fannie Smith Congregational Hall
Family Service 7:00 pm

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2022

Yom Kippur Morning Services
Philip & Fannie Smith Congregational Hall
First Family Service 9:30 am

Yom Kippur Morning Service, Sanctuary & Online
Adult Services 10:00 am

Yom Kippur Morning Services, Mishkan
YAD (20s & 30s) Service 10:15 am

Yom Kippur Morning Services
Philip & Fannie Smith Congregational Hall
Second Family Service 11:30 am

Study Sessions, Various Locations
Teen Experience 1:00 pm
Multiple Sessions 1:30 pm

Philip & Fannie Smith Congregational Hall
Little Blossoms Service (age 5 & under) 2:45 pm

Youth Chapel
Young Readers Service (age 6-8) 2:45 pm

Yom Kippur Afternoon Services, Sanctuary & Online
Mincha/Martyrology Service 3:30 pm

Yizkor Memorial Services
Sanctuary & Online 5:15 pm (approx.)

Neilah Services
Main Sanctuary & Online
Adult Neilah 6:30 pm (approx.)

Mishkan
Family Neilah 6:30 pm

Havdalah & Honey Cake
Bathurst Street Plaza 7:30 pm (approx.)

For more information please visit holyblossom.org/hhd and enter the password provided on your High Holy Day 5784 Ticket
If you require assistance, please contact reception@holyblossom.org or call 416-789-3291 ext. 221



ON THE HORIZON 5784

*For a full listing of our Fall Semester's Offerings,
please see our website*

LIFE-LONG LEARNING

Schwartz/Reisman Centre for Adult Jewish Learning

SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY WITH RABBI Yael SPLANSKY

Shabbat mornings at 9:00 am

Study the weekly Torah portion, and its corresponding commentaries both ancient and modern, and discover their eternal relevance. Experienced students are valued for their accumulation of knowledge, and newcomers for their fresh insight. *Sponsored by Susan & Barry Borden.*

INTRODUCTION TO JEWISH LIFE: WITH RABBI BILL TEPPER

Over the course of approximately 30 weeks of study, students will experience Jewish life, acquire Jewish life skills and participate in congregational life. The course is run by the Reform Rabbis of Greater Toronto whose members teach in the program and mentor individual students. All participants must be sponsored by a member of the Reform Rabbis of Greater Toronto. Introduction to Jewish Life is a prerequisite for individuals who wish to convert under the auspices of the Reform Bet Din (religious court). More information and registration: introtojewishlife@outlook.com.

JEWELS OF ELUL: CREATIVE ACTS OF TESHUVAH: WITH SHARONI SIBONY

Wednesdays in Elul, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Beit Midrash (textual inquiry) meets art-making: we use creative process as a spiritual practice to deepen into the High Holy Days.

BEIT MIDRASH: WITH RABBI SAMUEL KAYE

Wednesdays, October 2023

A two-year journey through Jewish wisdom, text, and history. Members with all levels of knowledge are welcome to study together. Part of our learning will come from the Shalom Hartman Institute's celebrated "Foundations for a Thoughtful Judaism" program! Participants will have the option to be called to the Torah as a Bnai Mitzvah and those who wish can also gain Hebrew and Torah reading skills.

GOOD BOOKS: WHAT CYNTHIA IS READING: WITH CYNTHIA GOOD

Tuesdays, 10:30 am (via Zoom)

Cynthia Good has been a leader in the publishing industry for many years. Join her every second week to hear about the latest great novels she's discovering, the development of contemporary genres, and old favourites. At the end, there's time for you to add your own reading suggestions. Free and open to all.

FILM TALKS: WHAT I'M WATCHING AND WHY: WITH GILLIAN HELFIELD

Monthly, Tuesdays, 10:30 am (via Zoom)

We're living in a Golden Age of television, film, and webisodes, and film professor Gillian Helfield is our intrepid guide through all of it – some speculative, some realistic and some purely escapist! Join her for a monthly check-in to find out what she's watching now and why. At the end, there's time for you to add your own viewing suggestions.

JUDAISM 101: WITH SHARONI SIBONY

Thursdays, October 12 – November 30, 7:00 pm

A lighter intro to Judaism class for everyone, on Zoom, hosted by the Miles Nadal JCC. Taught from a liberal perspective, it introduces people to multi-denominational

resources across the Jewish world, welcoming those who identify as Jewish or not, and those who have prior knowledge of Judaism or don't. Explore the "Jewish bookshelf" and foundational topics of Jewish living, including Shabbat, the year cycle, lifecycle events, synagogue, and spirituality. mnjcc.org.

CONTEMPORARY JEWISH FICTION: WITH CYNTHIA GOOD

October 19 & 26, November 2 & 9, 10:30 am (Hybrid) Join us this fall for our usual lively discussion around two novels with important Jewish content and profound explorations of fate, love and the universe: *Signal Fires* by Dani Shapiro and *After You'd Gone* by Maggie O'Farrell.

THE HOLY BLOSSOM GRANDPARENTS PROJECT: WITH RABBI ELIZA MCCARROLL

Monthly, Mondays, 6:30 pm
We know that grandparents are essential partners in enriching Jewish life. Based on the Jewish Grandparents Network resource, we're bringing Holy Blossom grandparents together once a month to cultivate tools and wisdom to bring Jewish life to your families, to discuss this amazing but challenging life stage, and to infuse your family life with joy and meaning.

ShavuART TOV: SUNDAY SPARKS OF SPIRITUAL CREATIVITY WITH SHARONI SIBONY

Monthly, Sundays, November 19, 10:00 am
Beit Midrash (textual inquiry) meets art-making: we use creative process as a spiritual practice to kickstart our week with fresh insights.

BROTHERHOOD STUDY GROUP, THE BIBLE AS DRAMA – SACRED STORIES TRANSFORMED INTO THEATRE: WITH RABBI BILL TEPPER

Mondays, January 15 – February 5, 7:00 pm
The narratives of the Hebrew Bible continue to serve as dynamic source material for the stage: Joseph, Moses, the Judge Gideon, King David, the Prophet Amos and Queen Esther- among others - have each found their reincarnations in the theatre. During four

hour-long sessions, we will explore various dramatic texts and reflect on how they serve to amplify – or diminish – the power of their Biblical sources.

SPECIAL EVENTS

VINE AWARDS FOR CANADIAN JEWISH LITERATURE: 2023 SHORTLISTED AUTHOR PANELS

September 10, 11:30 am
The Koffler Centre for the Arts and Holy Blossom Temple present a selection of the 2023 shortlisted authors in two lively and insightful panel conversations moderated by Sidura Ludwig and Eric Beck Rubin. The annual Vine Awards for Canadian Jewish Literature recognize the best of contemporary Jewish writing with \$10,000 prizes, bringing attention to Jewish writers and books and supporting literary talent. kofflerarts.org/Events/Vine-Awards.

SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE, PROFESSOR DVORA WEISBERG

November 3-4, 2023
Rabbi Aaron Panken Professor of Rabbinics and the Director of the Rabbinical School at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, to celebrate Rabbi Taylor Baruchel's Installation. *Lovingly dedicated to the memory of Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro z"l*.

THREE MINUTES: A LENGTHENING

November 6, 7:00 pm
Holocaust Education Week Event: Film Screening and Discussion sponsored by Elevation Pictures. Three minutes of recovered, amateur film footage from Nasielsk, Poland, 1938 becomes a full portrait of a Jewish village on the eve of destruction.

IGNITE! TIKKUN LEIL CHANUKAH: A NEW FESTIVAL OF JEWISH CULTURE & LEARNING

December 7, 7:00 pm
Beth Tzedec is host to the second annual IGNITE festival, a choose-your-own-adventure night of arts-based workshops, performances, and Jewish study sessions.

FAMILY PROGRAMMING

FIRST DAY OF YEC OPEN HOUSE FOR FAMILIES

September 10, 9:30 am

SUKKAH DECORATING

Thursday, October 6, 5:00 pm

Come lend a hand to beautify our sukkah in time for the holiday! Family members of all ages can come and help out!

CONSECRATION

September 29, 5:00 pm

PARASHA NOACH PET BLESSING

October 15, 11:30 am

In honour of Parshat Noach come and have your pet blessed by our wonderful clergy.

ECC/YEC CHANNUKAH FAMILY EXPERIENCE

December 10, 10:00 am

TEEN PROGRAMMING

FIRST NIGHT OF YEC SENIOR SCHOOL/ JTEM/HABSTY

September 11, 6:30 pm

For more information, please contact Lisa: lbaumal@holyblossom.org

BAGRUT

Mondays, 6:30 pm

Our senior teens are invited to Join Rabbi Kaye to dive into a thousand-year-old Jewish secret, learn the Torah of Taylor Swift, hang out with our new Shinshin, visit Kensington Market and more! Contact Lisa Isen Baomal to find out if your child qualifies for this special class: lbaumal@holyblossom.org

MUSIC

GIFTS OF LIGHT

December 3, 4:00 pm

Our Fourth Annual Gifts of Light will raise awareness and funds for "Ve'ahavta, an incredible organization that is doing everything it can to help those who struggle with housing and hunger. *Sponsored by Steven & Gillian Bookman.*

SHABBAT SHIRA

January 26-27, 2024

HBT welcomes the soulful sounds of Rabbi Micah Lapidus and Gospel singer Melvin Myles, and Cantor Tracey Scher and her wonderful choir from the Temple in Atlanta. Celebrate songs of freedom with some of Rabbi Micah's original compositions in honour of MLK Shabbat and the Ebinezer Baptist Gospel choir.

ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT

THE DIALOGUE OF CIVILIZATIONS WITH THE ABRAHAM GLOBAL PEACE INITIATIVE & CROSSROADS OF CIVILIZATIONS MUSEUM

October 2, 7:00 pm

Join us for a "fireside chat" with Dr. Avi Abraham Benlolo and H.E. Ahmed Obaid Almansoori. Together they will discuss Israel-Arab relations, the advance of The Abraham Accords, and how promoting Holocaust education in Arab society is one method of countering Arab Antisemitism.

GILAD KARIV: PROTECTING ISRAEL'S DEMOCRACY

October 3, 12:00 pm

Rabbi Gilad Kariv, Member of Keneset, will join us online to discuss the evolving struggle to protect Israel's democracy. He'll share news, stories, and strategies for how we can challenge injustice in the government while remaining good allies to our beloved Israel.

LEADING VOICES FROM ISRAEL

RABBI DALIA MARX, PH.D., SHABBAT SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE

October 13-14, 2023

Rabbi Aaron D. Panken Professor of Liturgy and Midrash at HUC-JIR's Taube Family Campus in Jerusalem. *Anonymously sponsored.*

RABBI LEVI WEIMAN-KELMAN, SHABBAT SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE

November 17-18, 2023

President of Rabbis for Human Rights and Rabbi Emeritus of Congregation Kol Haneshama

RABBA HADAS RON ZARIZ, VISITING SCHOLAR

November 29 - December 2, 2023

Founding member of HaMidrasha, co-director and instructor of Amitei Kehilah

ORLY EREZ-LIKHOVSKI

Guest Lecture: Saving Israel's Democracy

October 18, 7:00 pm

Executive Director of the Israel Reform Action Center

TIKUN OLAM

INTERFAITH HARVEST SOCIAL

November 2, 1:00 pm

Joined by members of the Indigenous community, and other local Toronto faith groups, we will share stories, dances, and a festive meal inspired by our different cultures. Participants of all backgrounds and ages are welcome. Presented by the Holy Blossom Temple Interfaith group. *Olam Hesed Yibaneh!* We will build a kinder world.

OUT OF THE COLD

Out of the Cold returns on November 2nd!

As the winter months begin, we will once again open our doors to those in need of food and warmth, offering a hot delicious meal and a refuge from the cold. Volunteers are always welcome and needed in a variety of roles. Learn more on our website and email ootc@holyblossom.org if you are interested in volunteering. *Sponsored in part in memory of Lloyd J Pollack.*

STOCKING OUR TINY PANTRIES

As food costs continue to climb in Toronto, we know that there are many who are facing food insecurity. Through our tiny pantries, volunteers at Holy Blossom Temple gave thousands of shelf stable food items to those in need. We need your help to keep the good work going! Thank you to MAZON for their generous grant which supported our work through the Summer.

DOROT

Dorot is your place to connect, to be supported and come together with fellow community members in the Wisdom Generation and beyond. We meet your

intellectual and spiritual needs through stimulating and dynamic programming. We are also here to connect and to support you and the generations in your lives with programming geared to connect the community with all generations. We look forward to welcoming everyone back!

Sponsored by Carol & Jay Sterling and Family.

DOROT IN THE SUKKAH!

October 2, 1:00 pm

DOROT FALL LAUNCH

October 24, 11:30 am

DOROT PRESENTS: THE BABYN YAR EXHIBIT AT THE KOFFLER CENTRE OF THE ARTS WITH DOCENT GERI DURBIN

November 8, 1:00 pm

DOROT CHANNUKAH CELEBRATION

December 12, 11:30 am

DOROT GAMES

Weekly, Tuesdays, 1:00 pm

Come to play your favourite games in the Schwartz/Reisman Atrium!

HBTRAVELS

A JOURNEY THROUGH JEWISH MOROCCO

February 18-26, 2024

The minute your feet touch Moroccan soil, you will breathe in a slower, wonderfully relaxed, pace of life. Join Rabbi Splanky for a journey to Morocco's four imperial cities, which all played a crucial role in Morocco's history, offers authenticity, mystique, and passion.

MINCHA/MA'ARIV EVENING SERVICES NOW HYBRID!

October 10, Mondays-Thursdays, 6:00 pm

Attend in person or on Zoom. We'd love to see you at Temple so do consider coming in person!

IN MEMORIAM

Howard Adelman, husband of Nancy Adelman; father of Jeremy Adelman, Shonagh Adelman, Rachel Adelman, Eric Adelman, Daniel Adelman, and Gabriel Adelman

Judith Aiken, wife of Michael Aiken; mother of Gillian Aiken and Miriam Aiken

Freda Bercovici, mother of Mark Bercovici, Vivian Bercovici, Ruth Kraus, and Paul Bercovici

Harvey Bernstein, husband of Joan Bernstein; father of Les Bernstein, Adam Bernstein and Jordanna Bernstein; brother-in-law of Syrelle Bernstein

Shirley Fingold Albright, mother of Lou Dale, Ken Albright and John Albright

Temma Gentles, wife of Paul Kay; mother of Naomi Maharaj, Melanie Gentles, Jeremy Kay, and Tova Kay; sister of Barbara Goodfellow and Marion Gelber

Alyssa Gilbert, daughter of Gael Gilbert and Nathan Gilbert; mother of Devin Gilbert; sister of Amy Gilbert, Annie Mattan, Josh Gilbert, and Jonathan Brown Gilbert

Eunice Harrison, mother of Toby Ellen Harrison and Mitchell Harrison

Sheldon Kovensky, father of Jillian Kovensky; brother of Freda Godby

Herman Krehm, husband of Peggy Krehm; father of Jill Wein and Lisa Lindsay; brother of Harold Krehm

Doreen Kronick, mother of Noah Kronick, Sarah Kronick and Adam Kronick; sister of Barbara Stitt and Bonnie Soupcoff

Larry Kurlender, husband of Joy Lerner; father of Lisa Kurlender and Robert Kurlender; brother of Claudia Blumberger

Monte Kwinter, father of Richard Kwinter, Rob Kwinter, Lisa Rotenberg, and Kathy Kwinter

Erol Margunato, husband of Beti Margunato; father of Cem Margunato and Rayka Aviyente

Roselyn Mason, mother of Steven Mason, Lori Mason and Mark Mason

The Honourable Coulter A. Osborne, husband of Barbara Osborne; father of Katie Osborne, Julie Osborne and Mary Osborne

Frances Petersiel, wife of Mel Petersiel; mother of Eric Petersiel, Judy Petersiel and Susie Berg

Donald Resnick, husband of Fern Resnick; father of Paul Resnick, Ellen Resnick and Carol Weinman

Joy Rosen, wife of Dr. Lawrence Freedman; mother of Erin Freedman, Michaela Freedman and Evan Freedman; daughter of Delores Rosen; sister of Paula Toope and Eric Rosen

Leo Rothman, father of Doreen Saskin, Elissa Weiss and Dr. Steven Rothman; brother of Eleanor Merlin

David Rubin, husband of Patricia Rubin; father of Gerald Morris Gelber Rubin and Noah Joseph Gelber Rubin; brother of Gwen Orriell and Kailah Rubin

Robert Rubin, husband of Merle Rubin; father of Michael Rubin and Lori Kaye; grandfather of Rabbi Samuel Kaye

Helen Rynski, mother of Grace Shafran and Miriam Isenberg

Helen Sherman, mother of Jonathan Sherman and Denise Sherman; sister of Marguerite Goora

Maxine (Mackie) Wasserman, wife of Mel Wasserman; mother of Jonathan Wasserman and Michael Wasserman; sister of Barbara Morrow and Susan Schwab

May 1, 2023 to July 31, 2023

WELCOME TO OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY

WELCOME TO...

Ryan and Aviva Altschuler and children Noam and Eden
Selina Appleby
Eliana Blumenkranc and children Tomas and Mateo
Esti Bonkowski
Shlomi and Mor Bulkowstein and children Amit, Noam, Alon, and Shaked
Ralph and Sheila Cincinatus
Devra Cohen
Karen Cohen
Merav and Iain Cooper and child Etai
Myrna Daniels
Isanne and Ryan Freeman and children Davie and Milo
Allan and Heather Halpert
Debbie Halton-Weiss and Ron Weiss
Chase Halliday
Emily and Noam Hamovitch and children Riley and Casey
Rosanna Honig
Marlene Kadin
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Samuel Rose
Phoebe Rotman
Liam Vrooman
Alex Wasser
Melanie Wasser
Madison Ziedenberg

New members up to August 25, 2023

Mazel tov to...

BIRTHS

Mazel tov to Emma Leese Borodin & Josh Borodin on the birth of their child Mila David Borodin. Proud family includes Rebecca & Michael Herberman, Jill Borodin & Cary Atlas, Talia Borodin, Sara Borodin & Dan Chandler. Proud grandparents are Teri Leese & David Leese z"l and Judy & Allan Borodin.

Mazel tov to Shira Goldberg & Alexander Etkin on the births of their twin daughters, Danielle Blum and Karli Ness Etkin-Goldberg. Proud family includes big brothers Jonah and Jamie; grandparents Linda & Gary, Nancy, and Robert; and great-grandparents Zelda & Henry z"l, David z"l & Karla z"l, Margaret z"l & Norman z"l, Barbara z"l & Irving z"l.

Mazel tov to Danna Goldlist & Ben Hertzman on the birth of their son Julian Shay. Proud family includes brother Oliver, grandparents Rosylin & Gerold Goldlist, David Hertzman, and Jill Hertzman z"l; and, great-grand parent Florence Hertzman.

Mazel tov to Stacey Herberman & Jordan Puritt on the birth of Sienna Jaye Puritt, born December 21, 2022. Proud family includes grandparents Ettie Herberman, Cindy Puritt & Grant Spiegelman, Eric & Heidi Puritt; and great-grandparent Betty Puritt.

Mazel tov to Ali & Josh Lewenberg on the birth of their son Parker Max Lewenberg. Proud grandparents are Jane & Russell Rendely and Florence Lewenberg & Marvin Lewenberg; great-grandparents are Joan & Larry Rendely, Adele Sager z"l & Henry Sager z"l, Rivka Lewenberg & Moshe Lewenberg z"l, and Ida Dreksler & David Dreksler z"l.

Mazel tov to Yonatan Millo & Haley Allison Burkes on the birth of their child Ella Yarden Millo.

Mazel tov to Julia & Elliott Platt on the birth of their son Leo Ezra Platt. Proud family includes brother Daniel and grandparents Rhona Platt, and Maria & Yuriy Akhtemyckuck.

Mazel tov to Shanna & Luke Slan on the birth of their daughter Blake Reide Slan. Proud family includes sister Lennon Emma, grandparents Paul Slan, Perri & Elliot Kirshenblatt, Shawnee & Hersh Glickman, and great-grandparent Roslyn Halbert.

WEDDINGS & ENGAGEMENTS

Mazel tov to Lisa Conway & Ron Goldenberg on their marriage on February 5, 2023, and on the birth of their child Grey Conway Goldenberg. Proud family includes Barbara & Richard Conway and Yael & Shaul Goldenberg.

Mazel tov to Jordan Rain & Jordana Merrick-Eken on their marriage on May 7, 2023. Proud parents are Melanie & Stephen Rain and Heather Merrick & Brian Eker.

Mazel tov to Samantha Mogelonsky & Matthew Calverley on their marriage on May 21, 2023.

Mazel tov to Michelle Holzapfel & Aaron Kronenfeld on their marriage on June 25, 2023. Proud family includes Elaine Herer & Stephen Holzapfel and Nina & Michael Kronenfeld.

Mazel tov to Marlie Smith & Samuel Aldridge on their marriage on June 25, 2023. Proud family includes Howard & Nonnie Smith and Linda & Richard Aldridge.

Mazel tov to Deborah Conway & Jason Michas on their marriage on July 1, 2023. Proud family includes Barbara & Richard Conway and Cayre & Alexis Michas.

Mazel tov to Kayla Drumonde & Ryan Miller on their marriage on August 27, 2023. Proud parents are Shelley & Sharon Miller and Paul & Zora Drumonde.

Mazel tov to Madelyn Rideout & Jared Rosenbaum on their marriage on September 3, 2023. Proud family includes parents Ellen Verkerk & Douglas Rideout and Lili Tanz-Rosenbaum & Steve Rosenbaum; grandparents Glenn & Grace Smith and Mitchell Tanz.

Mazel tov to Kelly Shillington & Aaron Kamin Hart on their marriage on September 10, 2023. Proud parents are Kathryn Benson, John & Johanne Shillington, and Murray Hart & Jill Kamin.

Mazel Tov to Jena Jacobson & Kyle Jackson on their upcoming wedding. Proud family includes Judy Malkin, Elliott Jacobson, Pamela Ruggles, and the late Marylyn Jane Jackson and Barrie William Spinks Jackson.

Mazel Tov to Rachel Jacobson & Colin Kish on their engagement. Proud family includes Judy Malkin, Elliott Jacobson, Pamela Ruggles, Georgiana Beal and the late Albert Kish.

OTHER SMACHOT

Mazel tov to Wendy Eisen on being named for the 2023 Order of Canada.

Mazel tov to Joan Garson on being named for the 2023 Order of Canada.

Mazel tov to our Baskin-Garson Senior Rabbinic Chair, Rabbi Yael Splansky, on celebrating 25 years and counting here at Holy Blossom!

Mazel tov to George Cohon on being appointed to the Companion of the Order of Canada.

Mazel tov to Justice Jill Witkin on being appointed to the Ontario Court of Justice.

B'NEI MITZVAH



Charlotte Tafler
Thursday, June 7, 2023
Daughter of Michelle &
Jonathan Tafler



Eliana Einav
Saturday, June 10, 2023
Daughter of Meaghan
& Arthur Einav



Miles Cooper
Saturday, June 17, 2023
Son of Nicola Simmons
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Keeley Tile
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